

Concerning the Spirit

By George Fox

A manifestation of the spirit is given to every man to profit withal, 1 Cor 12:7. Now every man profiting is in the *spiritual* things, and the things that are of God, and out of the spirit no man profits, though he profess all the scriptures from Genesis to the Revelation, nor are not likely to see the spirit that gave forth scripture, nor know them, for the spirit is that which does supply every man's need, so all to stand steadfast in one spirit, for in that is the fellowship of the spirit, and the fruit of the spirit is goodness and righteousness. Therefore be you filled with the spirit, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the spirit, by which you war with all, against that which causes the enmity, and by which you are circumcised, who put off the body of sin, and the flesh that is gotten up by the transgression, in which spirit have you the unity and strength, by which spirit you sow to the spirit, and come to reap life eternal, through which spirit you have an habitation in God. Those who are led by the spirit are not under the law, neither do they fulfill the lust of the flesh, which the law takes hold upon, for the spirit does mortify the lust of the flesh, which the law takes hold upon, and that spirit does refresh, and those who are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God. The last Adam was made a quickening spirit, to quicken from that, and out of it, which the first Adam fell into, the earthly, and so by one spirit are you baptized into one body, that plunges that down the many bodies. So being renewed in the spirit of your minds, and filled with the spirit, the fruits of the spirit is goodness, righteousness, and so are made all to drink into one spirit, and all that does drink into this one spirit, come into the manifestation of it in their own particulars; by it they come to know baptism, circumcision, true worship in the spirit and truth, and the Lord God the Father of spirit and truth. By this spirit they know all the seducing spirits, the spirits of error, the spirit of witchcraft, and spirits that be unclean; and by this spirit by which they are led into all truth, they try the spirits that gets the saints' and prophets' words, and is not in the spirit that they were in that gave them forth, and so have not unity with them. By this spirit have the saints discerning, and in it have they fellowship, and in it do they sing, and it gives them the true wisdom, it is called the spirit of wisdom, and in it they come to walk, and so then not to fulfill the lust of the flesh, that be in the transgressing spirit, under the spirit of the power of the air, that rules in the children of disobedience; and those who have not the spirit of Jesus Christ are none of his. In this spirit are the mysteries spoken, and in it is the fight, and that which does unseal and open the spirit of understanding and knowledge, that gives both to understand and know, and this must every man come to know in his own particular, for woe is unto them that are covered, but not with the spirit,

they are covered with transgression, sin, Iniquity, death and darkness, and grieve, vex, quench, and transgress the good spirit of God in their own particulars, and so grow up in the spirit of strife, and hasten and bring forth folly and perverseness, and their own sorrow. It is that spirit that God will cut off, which has kept out the steadfastness from God; and the Lord said, "I will pour out of my spirit on all flesh, and my sons and daughters shall prophesy," and the spirit of the prophets is subject to the prophets, so there is unity; and except a man be born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom, though they may profess all the scripture of the saints, given forth from Genesis to the Revelation. In the first birth following his own spirit he sees nothing; and the apostle said, "pray always in the spirit, by one spirit have access unto the Father, and quench not the spirit, and I will pray with the spirit, and with the understanding, that all supplications, prayers, intercessions, giving of thanks be made for all men, for rulers, and them that be in authority."

The spirit helps our infirmities, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the spirit itself makes intercession for us with groans which cannot be uttered; and he that searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the spirit, because he makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God; so to pray always in the spirit, all supplications, and for the saints. So those who pray not in the spirit, cannot intercede to God the Father of spirits, for it is that which makes intercession, and helps the infirmity; and the flesh is weak, but the spirit is ready. That which is weak lies the infirmity, and men know not what they ought to pray for, but the spirit which gives them the understanding, in which they are to pray, which makes the intercession to God, in which people must pray always; all supplication must be in the spirit, and all giving of thanks for all men, and praying for all rulers that be in authority, and supplication for them, and prayers and thanks. The spirit lets them see their mind, and this prayer in the spirit is acceptable to God, which makes intercession to him the Father of spirits, according to his will. For the spirit is that which helps the infirmity, in which they must pray and make intercession, and give them the understanding to see the flesh is weak; which infirmity of flesh that is weak, they have a form, and its own form of prayer without the spirit, and think to be heard for their many words, which is called babbling by Christ, and not justified, for the justified are in spirit, for it is in it they must pray in, which gives them both the knowledge and understanding, and intercession, and is a helper, which the other praying with death, flesh, out of the spirit, which thinks to be heard with many words, which is called babbling, which makes no intercession to God, and is without the understanding, and this prayer is judged among christians and Jews, by Christ. God overturns, who is a spirit, and must be interceded unto in the spirit, and in the spirit supplication, prayer and thanks is heard of God, for the spirit is the light by which they must see and ask according to *his* will, who would have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth. If all men would come to the knowledge of the truth, they must come to that which reproves

them, and leads them into all truth, and to the Comforter. None can lift up holy hands, and pray without wrath and doubting, but those who are in the spirit that makes intercession to God. Those that do not always pray in the spirit, pray by the letter that kills, and do not pray by what gives life or intercession to God. Neither have they holy hands, but are full of wrath and doubting. Neither are they ministers of the spirit, or do they know the ministration of it, which is more glorious than that of the Old Testament, which was glorious in its place; but the ministers of the letter, that profess themselves beyond the law, and do not pray in the spirit, run all on heaps about the words, out of the spirit, and are the killers. For those who pray in the spirit and sing in it *through* the spirit and the faith, obtain the promise of the living God. Those who are in the spirit, are not under the law, nor under the curse of it, but in that which fulfills it; and the spirit brings them all from the rudiments, traditions, and ordinances that are in the world. Those who walk in the spirit, and are in the spirit, walk over them all, and see over them all; and the prophet says, "you gave them your good spirit, to instruct them, and they rebelled against it," Nehemiah 9:20,26. So those who rebel against God's good spirit, rebel against the God of heaven, the King immortal, and go into error and ignorance, and from the good spirit of God, which would instruct them, and give them understanding, in which they must pray and worship, in which they must have access to God. So these are in the spirit of error, and the spirit of antichrist, and the spirit of bondage, the unclean spirits; and come to be the familiar spirit, and of divination, the proud spirit, and the spirit of whoredom, and perverse spirit, and spirit of jealousy, and come to be the frogs that go abroad to deceive and creep under every mountain, and hill, and rock, croaking with their unclean spirits like frogs, become the evil spirit, which the saints of the living God must try with the living spirit, who have the knowledge, the spirit of judgment, the spirit of meekness, the spirit of understanding, the spirit of glory, the spirit of grace and supplication, to supply the wants of all people that want, whatsoever wants they be; which spirit brings them over all unclean spirits of error from God's good spirit. Nevertheless the spirit of glory rests upon the sufferers that are clothed with a meek spirit, that have a new spirit. But those who be in the spirit of error cannot pray, nor sing, nor praise, nor give thanks, nor make intercession to God the Father of spirits, nor cannot worship God in the spirit, nor have fellowship in the spirit who are erred from it, and such spirits are tried by them that are in the spirit of wisdom, understanding, judgment and knowledge, who pray in the spirit, in which is their fellowship in that, wherein they make intercession to God. They see the needs of all people, through which spirit they make intercession for them, and this tries spirits and hearts, who has a new heart that serves God in a new spirit, and in it are patient, and have the spiritual weapons, filled with the spiritual wisdom, to war with such as have departed from the spirit, and erred from it, being in the spirit of truth, comprehending the spirit of error, which bondages, that are blind from the ways of God and fellowship, that corrupts and cumpers the ground and earth. But people must pray always in the spirit, for the manifestation of it is

given to everyone to profit withal, and the spirit makes intercession to God for them, in that they have profiting in their prayers, and the spirit is the testimony of Jesus the spirit of prophesy, by which they see what they are to pray for, and give the man understanding of the supplication, and necessity, and such come to be sealed with the holy spirit of promise, and filled with both spirit and promise, which those who grieve the spirit, and err from it, and quench it, they cannot pray in, they are not sealed. They do not have their Father's mark in their forehead, and they are not to be believed though they have all scriptures, being erred from the spirit that gave it forth, their spirits are tried not to be spiritual men, but are tried by the spiritual man that tries all things. Those who came to drink of the spiritual rock, Christ, and receive the spiritual gift from God, and are zealous for them, they come to the spiritual body, and to be blessed with spiritual blessings, and to speak to one another with new tongues, and filled with the spirit of understanding, and built up together a spiritual house, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, these know, feel, fathom, try, and understand all the spirits that be in the world, by the spirit of the living God. Those who have erred from his spirit in their own particulars, cannot sing, pray, give thanks acceptable to him, nor worship him, and are out of fellowship with him. They grieve, quench, rebel against the spirit that should give them understanding, and grace, by which they should pray and make intercession unto the Lord for him, in which they should worship God, and in which they should have fellowship. There are the unclean spirits, who like frogs can creep in every hole, rock, and mountain, and bondages both themselves and others, so cannot serve God in the new spirit, but are proved proud, heady, and high-minded, among the spirits of error, drawing and seducing others into their own spirits, without understanding, without wisdom, without fellowship, without the worship of God, without true praying, without true singing, without true giving of thanks, without patience, and meekness of spirit, of grace, and a contrite spirit, without zeal, without promise, and without the truth, and cannot come into it, without the spirit of truth leads into the truth, without fruits of holiness, without love, the true love, in the spirit of slumber, and those who are, err from the spirit of God in their own particulars, need all these things, and are not subject to the Lord, neither to one another. They cannot make supplication and prayer for all men to their conditions, but overthrow their prayers and their spirits, that are erred from his spirit, for those who are joined to the Lord are one spirit, and are in fellowship with the Son, and with the Father, and have the spirit of understanding, and wisdom, patience, and meekness, and are arrayed and adorned with it. Blessed are the poor in spirit, though never so poor, from it you will inherit the blessing and the promise, and it will make intercession for you to God, and that has the promise that makes the intercession to God, and that prayer and supplication is received of God and accepted. That spirit that makes intercession to God, in that he is worshipped and that brings the grace and salvation, and in that spirit that makes intercession to God the spirit, in that spirit is God served in a new life, and things received according to his will, and that gives the spirit of understanding and wisdom to try

other spirits, in that is the fellowship. The spirit which does not make intercession to God, God does not regards their prayers, nor thanks, nor worship, nor fellowship; it is out of the true understanding, knowledge, and wisdom, and the spirit that intercedes to God.