

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 1

LD 18.46-49

**Singing:** 283:1-3 – 188:1-4 – 384:5 – 385:2 – 160:1-4

Intro: How much is the NT Church in the spirit of Ps. 47?

**The Joy of Christ's Ascension (1)**

I. He ascended to give to us II. He ascended to labor for us

III. He ascended to receive us

I. The Joy of our King's ascension because He ascended to give to us

A. Why explore this 'giving of Christ' first?

B. How do I know I am His? Belong to this majestic King?

1. God anticipated your question

2. God answered your question already

a. not by special or extraordinary visions, visits or voices

b. but by the abundant marks of grace recorded in Scripture

3. One unmistakable mark is the earnest of Spirit: 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5

a. Gift of HS is promised **upon faith**: Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:2; John 7:39

b. This 'gift of HS' is earnest of our inheritance: Eph. 1:13-14

C. How do I know I possess this Spirit as the *earnest* as fruit of Jesus' giving?

1. We know this by the fruit of Spirit's power – activity *within our soul*

a. the test is not in our talk and religion (Matt 7:20-23)

b. the test is in our heart bend and wrestles (Col. 3:1; Phil. 3:20)

2. One caution in reviewing the *unmistakable fingerprints* of Holy Spirit

D. The common marks of the presence of the Holy Spirit in a soul (see also Confession of Faith, art 29; Canons I, 12)

1. What think you of Jesus Christ in all His offices and ministry?

2. What do think of sin in all its shapes and colors?

3. Do you love God in Christ?

4. Is holiness your chief delight?

**Living the truth ...**

A. What if you recognize these workings of the saving Spirit in your heart?

B. What if you are stranger of these marks of the weakest believer in Christ?