



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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## Definitions

relating to the

# Spirit

and the

# Bible.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Definitions Relating to the Spirit and the Bible.

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### Topics.

- Miracles were a sign to testify Jesus was who he claimed to be.
- The Father and the Son will make their home with the faithful.
- Setting the mind on the flesh and setting the mind on the Spirit.
- The Bible (the Spirit word of God).
- God's word coming to the mind of a person.
- Heavenly places.
- Love the highest gift and speaking in the Spirit.

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### THE MEANING OF SPIRIT

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From Strong's Concordance the word Spirit can refer to any of the following:

- A life-giving spirit (i.e., the vital principal of life by which the body is kept alive).
- The disposition or influence which fills and governs the mind.
- The rational spirit, the power by which a human, feels thinks and decides.
- The power of knowing, desiring, deciding and acting.
- The efficient source of any power affection, emotion or desire etc.
- A spirit higher than man, but lower than God (i.e. an angel).
- The divine nature of Christ, of God and the Holy Spirit.
- The spiritual nature of Christ, higher than the highest angels and equal to God.

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### MIRACLES WERE A SIGN TO TESTIFY JESUS WAS WHO HE CLAIMED TO BE

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- **Matthew 11:2-6:** Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

John knowing the Old Testament Scriptures as they had been recorded on scrolls upon hearing the words of Jesus said, "The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have Good News preached to them would have immediately thought of the many Old Testament Scriptures similar to the following ones that echo the coming Messiah and the Christ."

- The LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous (Psalm 146:8).

- In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 29:18-19).
- The eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert (Isaiah 35:5-6).
- Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness (Isaiah 42:1, 7).
- The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me (echoing Jesus) because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favour and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn (Isaiah 61:1-2) (Jesus cites this in Luke 4:18-20).
- In that day, declares the LORD, I will assemble the lame and gather those who have been driven away and those whom I have afflicted and the lame I will make the remnant, and those who were cast off a strong nation; and the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion from this time forth and forevermore (Micah 4:6-7).
- Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth (Zeph. 3:19).

Though some of these verses apply to Israel's deliverance from their seventy-year captivity in Babylon and their triumphant return to Jerusalem and the perfect fulfilment of some will be not be fulfilled until Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of Lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth they all echo Christ's appearing on earth. This is clear because Jesus is the Holy One of God and did open the eyes of the blind, healed the deaf and the lame and the joy of those that were oppressed by the religious leaders were set free from the bondage of their religious and legalistic rule and strictly adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions. All of these Old Testament writings had been preserved on scrolls, it is certain John the Baptist would have read them many times and also known that Isaiah predicted that the Lord:

- Would become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and many would stumble on it and fall and be broken and snared and taken (Isaiah 8:14-15).

Jesus by saying, "The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor have Good News preached to them and the one who is not offended by Jesus is blessed" (Matt. 11:6) is assuring John that he is the:

- The promised seed of the woman in (Genesis 3:15).
- The prophet Moses said was to come like him.
- The promised seed of Abraham.
- The Promised seed of David.
- The one the prophets said was to come.
- The one the Old Testament Scriptures speak of.

Added to all this John would have clearly known that only a man with God's favour and full of God's Spirit without any limitation could raise the dead and do the miracles and wonders Jesus did. The wonders and amazing healing miracles of Jesus were to authenticate that he was the Messiah the Christ the Old Testament Scriptures spoke of and the Son of God loved by God and filled with God's Spirit.

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## THE FATHER AND THE SON WILL MAKE THEIR HOME WITH THE FAITHFUL

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- **John 14:22-23:** Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

Keeping Jesus word carries the following two ideas:

1. Believing the message of the cross and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life and everything Jesus spoke.
2. Obeying Jesus commandment which is to love our neighbour as ourselves (Mark 12:28-31).

Jesus words we will come to him and make our home with him have the following two ideas:

1. Jesus and God will come to those who commit their lives to them through the Holy Spirit and God will pour out His love into the heart of all those who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. If anyone keeps the words of Christ, God and Christ will make a home for them in the future Kingdom.

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## SETTING THE MIND ON THE FLESH AND SETTING THE MIND ON THE SPIRIT

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- **Romans 8:6-8:** To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Setting the mind on the flesh in its widest sense means setting it on the things that gratify self, ego, pride and greed and setting it upon the things of this world, but in the context of this chapter to set the mind on the flesh means setting our mind on earning righteous that leads to eternal life by self-effort and strictly adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions. It means trusting in our own righteousness to save us to eternal life rather than submitting to God's law of righteousness that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Those in the flesh refer to those who set their minds on obtaining righteous by good works or by strictly attending church every Sunday, preaching and teaching the Bible, singing in the church choir, teaching Sunday school, regularly attending Bible classes etc. Though none of these things are wrong in themselves and may bring eternal rewards, they become wrong when we are trusting in them for our righteous. This is because not one of them has any power to make us righteous before God the only thing that has that power is our faith in Christ and God's grace. The reason those who set their mind on the flesh are referred to as being hostile to God is because not one of us can obtain to the perfect standard the law demands or to God's perfect standard of Holiness and to think we can by our own self-effort makes Christ's brutal, bloody and cruel death count for nothing.

This is why those who believe they can obtain to God's perfect standard of holiness by their own self-efforts are referred to as being hostile to God. They are not only denying God's eternal plan of salvation that he planned and purposed in his eternal mind before the foundations of the world, but are also denying His grace. No-one can please God by trusting in their own works since not one of us can obtain to a sin-free state by self-effort and the instant anyone of us believes we can is the instant we nullify everything Christ achieved for us on the cross. Setting the mind on

the flesh is about trusting in our own self-efforts to be counted righteous rather than trusting in Christ and God's grace. Every brother and sister in Christ should be fully assured that God counts them righteous because of their faith in his Son and not because of their own self-effort to obtain righteousness through works and religious duty. Setting the mind on the Spirit in its widest sense means setting the mind on the things of God and on the things that honour him and bring a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, but in the context of this verse to set the mind on the Spirit means to believe that we are counted righteous by faith and by God's grace and not by our own self efforts.

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## **THE BIBLE (THE SPIRIT WORD OF GOD)**

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During the time of Acts there was no Bible in print people had to rely on others that received revelations or had knowledge of the Gospel that is why the apostles and disciple needed the Holy Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit of God embraces the gifts of God which were given to the apostles as a sign to the people that they were chosen of God and proclaimed the message of God. The Bible tells us the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. Today all believers have this same truth available to them in the written word of God. The Bible contains the Spirit word of God for every believer to eat and drink from (read, study and meditate upon). The messages of the prophets, Jesus and the apostles are in print throughout the inspired pages of the Bible. The printed words on the pages of the Bible are Spirit and truth. Reading them is the same as if Jesus and the apostles were alive today speaking them to us.

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## **THE KEY TO THE BIBLE AND THE COMBINATION OF FORT KNOX**

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When the human heart by faith receives Christ's love and grace a spiritual veil of darkness over the mind is taken away and God's light shines in brilliant colour upon the message of the cross, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Scriptures. Until then the beauty, wonder and splendour of the Gospel that leads to eternal life and the glorious spiritual message of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation cannot be perceived in their full glory since faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the key to unlocking its mysteries. Whoever attempts to unlock the wonders of the Bible without Christ dwelling in the mind and the heart is like a man standing at the door of Fort Knox trying to access all its gold and not knowing the combination.

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## **THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD**

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Many people have the mistaken idea that the King James Bible is the only Bible that contains the inspired word of God. This is because they have been wrongly taught that every single word contained in the Scriptures is inspired, but this is a mistaken idea, certainly the Bible contains the inspired word of God, but it is the messages the individual words teach that is inspired not the individual words themselves. Individual words form sentences and paragraphs etc., it is the messages that are taught by these sentences and paragraphs that are inspired. Though there are many Bibles in the world today that use different words they nevertheless teach the same messages and it is these messages that are inspired by God. If it was the individual words that were inspired people from other nations (i.e., China, Thailand, Mexico, Russia etc.), could never read the inspired word of God because these languages do not have the same individual words that the English language does, added to this the original Manuscripts are written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, so none of us would be reading the inspired word of God, but the Good News is that every language on planet earth can use their own language and individual words to translate the inspired messages that God has spoken. For those

who have difficulty reading the King James Bible here is the Good News all well recognised modern Bibles contain the same messages as the King James Bible does. Whichever of these Bibles a person seeking God choses to read there is no doubt if their heart is right before God, they will not only find the way to eternal life, but also find the love and grace of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. A personal suggestion; should a new seeker of God be reading this I would suggest spending all your time in the New Testament until you discover Christ's love for you and God's grace and know that he accepts with open arms all who come to him with an honest and humble heart. Jesus said:

- For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

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## **GOD'S WORD COMING TO THE MIND OF A PERSON**

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A person's mind can believe or be motivated by their own opinion or allow their belief or mind to be inspired by God's wisdom and understanding. Before God's word was in print, this wisdom and understanding of God's purposes came to the mind of the prophets and apostles by the Spirit of God. They then spoke this knowledge of God and His purposes, to the people. Once the cannon of God's word was in print that same wisdom and understanding of God now comes to the mind of a person by the reading, mediation and teaching of His written word in the Bible. Hearing or reading God's word is the same as if Jesus and the apostles were actually speaking it, because it carries and imparts the same messages that they spoke.

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## **SEATED IN HEAVENLY PLACES**

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The expression, "seated in heavenly places," is symbolic terminology which means believers are seen as belonging to Christ who is the head of their race therefore, they are seen seated in righteousness. Jesus is seated in heaven and believers are in him it is in this sense that he is the believer's head. As long as believers are under Christ's headship their place in God's Kingdom is guaranteed.

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## **HEAVENLY PLACES**

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The phrase, "Heavenly places," carries the idea of elevation, being hidden, not yet seen, but has been planned, but is not yet manifest. Since heavenly carries the idea of elevation, in certain contexts the expression, "Heavenly places" can refer to the state of the mind, with the idea being that the mind is lifted up into high places of joy, peace and love by the grace of God, by the love of Christ, by the Gospel of Christ or by a glorious spiritual experience. The mind of every brother and sister in Christ can be lifted up into heavenly places by the wonderful knowledge that their sins are forgiven, they are accepted by God and will be raised to eternal life and everlasting glory. Taking the mind even higher into heavenly places is the truth that they have all this glory because of God's saving grace that He imputes to them as a pure and free gift because of their love and their faith in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. This majestic knowledge elevates the mind into a higher state of joy and well-being. This is one of the reasons it is referred to as being in heavenly places. It is similar to when the world has a great day or wins a lottery and makes the comment; "Wow I'm in heavenly places," it is a spiritual way of saying that the mind is in an elevated place of overwhelming joy and well-being. This is one of the reasons Paul prayed that believes would:

- Know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge so that they may be filled with all the fullness of God (Ephes. 3:19).

Paul understood that it is experiencing and knowing Christ's love that will lift the heart and the mind from the cares and troubles of this world into the heavenly places of God's world far more than a head full of intellectual knowledge can ever do. It could be said that the purpose of all Scriptural knowledge is to bring us into this love since whoever has this love not only has the fullness of God, but will inherit eternal life in everlasting glory.

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## LOVE THE HIGHEST GIFT

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Ever wondered what the spirit and heart of God desires from us? What the most valued spirit and the highest goal God yearns that all in the global family of Christ would seek after? Some might say, Scriptural knowledge, others spiritual gifts, while some might say helping the poor, obviously these are all good to seek after, but what does God consider the highest gift? Consider the following words of the apostle Paul:

- If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal and if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing (1 Cor. 13:1-3).

To highlight God's attitude toward love even more Paul shines a mega floodlight on what God gives the highest priority by finishing his message with the words:

- Faith, hope and love abide, but the greatest of these three is love (1 Cor. 13:13).

Clearly for those in Christ's Kingdom who are seeking to honour God and desiring to hear those comforting words of their Lord, "Well done good and faithful servant." The best advice I could give is to magnify and enlarge love so that it swells to overflowing in the heart because everything that flows out from this Spirit will honour God.

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## SPEAKING IN THE SPIRIT

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Biblical inspiration must be complemented by an interior illumination by the Holy Spirit in order to make that which God has given in the past become His living revealing word today in the heart and mind of the believer. This is generally referred to as the illumination of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit denotes the absence of self, pride and ego, it suggests that the natural or lower nature of a person is not evolved in speech, act, or deed. Speaking in the Spirit could be defined as:

- Speaking God's truth and speaking what God says.
- Speaking from God's viewpoint as opposed to speaking from man's viewpoint.
- Speaking in kindness, mercy and love as opposed to speaking in bitterness, anger and corrupting talk.

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## THE SYMBOLISM OF WIND

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Wind represents the Spirit in the following ways, it is invisible and blows where ever it wills and no one can stop it or see it. It has an influence even though it cannot be seen and no one understands where it comes from or how it works. This influence can be a good influence such as a yacht sailing on a calm sea or spreading seeds containing new life over the face of the earth or bringing cool and refreshing air on a hot day or it can be a

destructive influence such as storms, tornadoes, whirlwinds and such like things and bring about ruin, disaster and death. Likewise, the Spirit and the message of the cross and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ have the unseen power to bring about eternal life or death in the darkness of the grave.

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## BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS

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**Carnal:** refers to the bestial sensual and natural nature of humanity, the lower nature in contrast to the higher nature, the divinely renovated and regenerate nature and supernatural nature.

**Faith in God:** characterises our faith, meaning the faith we believe determines our lifestyle (i.e., if we believe God is love our lifestyle will reflect love, but if our concept of God is of a legal taskmaster our lifestyle will reflect legalism and dogma).

**Faith and law:** by performing the law our faith is characterise. Performing the law means living a lifestyle that brings honour to God and a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith. Obviously, the faith of those who live in this manner is characterised in a good way, while the faith of those who live contrary to it is characterised in a bad way.

**Christ the head:** means the Lord is the head of the second race because he is risen and we are spiritually made alive in him and guaranteed of being resurrected to eternal life in the ages to come. Adam is the head of the natural and first race (i.e., those who deny God and the Lord Jesus Christ).

**Heavenly places:** carries the idea of being hidden, not yet seen, but has been planned, but is not yet manifest.

**Human spirit:** embraces the spirit of the mind and the spirit of heart (the inner most being) together. The human spirit is a person's essence, (i.e. the mind, heart, emotions, thoughts and attitudes looked at together as a complete whole).

**Intellect:** should be subject to God's law and intellect should rule over self.

**In the flesh:** can mean in this body or in this world or refer to living a lifestyle that is driven and controlled by self, ego, pride, greed and such like things.

**The law of God:** refers to the Ten Commandments and the commandment of the Lord Jesus Christ, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37-40) (Mark 12:28-31) (meaning do-good to others and not harm) this is called the royal law in the New Testament (James 2:8) and to the law of love.

**I will never leave you or forsake you:** God made this statement to a collective group of people (the nation of Israel), but by extension it applies to all who belong to the global family of Christ. God did forsake the unfaithful that turned from Him in unbelief, to pagan gods, idols and gross sin, but He will never turn from those who remain faithful.

**Sealed:** is Jewish marketing language, when they brought something from the markets, they would put their seal on it. Kings did the same thing to protect their family or friends. It carries with it the meaning of ownership and protection by the one who put the seal on whatever is being sealed.

**Sealed by the Holy Spirit:** means sealed by God's Spirit of holiness, it refers to that Spirit that makes a person a slave to righteousness. A life of righteousness should be manifested if a person has been sealed by the Holy Spirit. It is this Spirit and life of righteousness that marks a person

as one that has been sealed by the Holy Spirit. This does not mean that those who have been sealed by the Holy Spirit will live a sin-free life, if anyone one of us could attain to that glorious state Christ died for no reason, but it does mean that those who have been sealed will endeavour from the heart to live a lifestyle that brings honour to God and a good testimony to the name of Jesus and the Christian faith.

**Seated in Adam:** carries the idea that Adam is the head of the sinful race and of the sinner, if a person is seated in Adam they are seated in sin, likewise if a person is living a life of sin they are seated in Adam (Eph. 2:6) (Eph. 3:10).

**Seated in heavenly places:** is symbolic terminology which means believers are seen as belonging to Christ who is the head of their race therefore, they are seen by God as being seated in righteousness. Jesus is seated in heaven and believers are in him it is in this sense that he is the believer's head. As long as believers are under Christ's headship their place in the Kingdom of God is guaranteed. In some context heavenly places carries the idea of having an overwhelming feeling of well-being, an abundance of joy, peace and contentment. In modern language we would say I am feeling high, light headed, fantastic the mind is in an elevated state of peace and joy (i.e., heavenly places).

**Spiritual blessing:** are not same as spiritual gifts, spiritual gifts are limited to different people while spiritual blessings are available to all believers. Spiritual blessing refers to forgiveness of sin, salvation, experiencing God's grace, mercy, joy and love and eternal life. There is also spiritual blessing stored in heaven, they are rewards to come that will be realised when Christ returns.

**Spiritual body:** is a body that is controlled by the indwelling Spirit. The indwelling Spirit refers to God's empowering Spirit that guides and helps believers walk in the Spirit.

**Spiritual gifts:** unlike spiritual blessings in which nothing is held back and which are available to every Christian, spiritual gifts are limited and selected to certain callings and to certain people, some are pastor's teacher's prophet etc., while others have the gifts of healing, hospitality and helps etc.

**Spiritual (pure and impure):** spiritual impurity refers to deception, trickery, dishonesty and cunning in contrast to pure spirituality which is honest, sincere and unadulterated.

**Surpassing riches:** refer to God's love revealed to mankind through the sacrifice, death and resurrection of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, the unmerited grace every Christian receives in Christ, the ongoing forgiveness that God grants those who are by faith trusting in Christ. The surpassing riches also embrace all the promises concerning the future Messianic age that is to come and the promise of eternal life in everlasting glory.

**Walking with God and walking in the Spirit:** mean the same thing it means walking in full agreement with God with the Scriptures and being obedient to God, it means keeping the law, obeying God and living according to the law of love and according to Jesus command, "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Matt. 22:37-40) (Mark 12:28-31) meaning do-good and not harm to others. In the New Testament this is called the royal law (James 2:8). This is what walking with God and walking in the Spirit means.