

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 (The Restrainer)

I. Introduction

- A. Spirit of God's primary working in believers—primary group of believers.
1. **OT—Temporary Empowering/Coming Upon (primary group—Israel):** "*And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel...*" (Jdg. 3:10). "*...I have poured out My Spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD*" (Eze. 39:29). "*The Spirit of the Lord came upon*" (5 times), "*the Spirit of God came upon*" (5 times). *Psa. 51:11* says, "*...take not thy Holy Spirit from me.*" *1Sa. 16:14* says, "*But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul...*"
 2. **NT—Permanent Indwelling/Remaining In (primary group—Church):** "*16-And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; 17-Even the Spirit of truth; Whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you*" (John 14:16-17; cf. *Rom. 8:9; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30*).
- B. How does the Imminence of Christ (the fact that the Rapture could occur at any time) make you think you should live your life?
- C. What would you say if someone said you missed the Rapture, that it has already come, and that you have been left behind?

II. Scripture

- A. **2Th. 2:1-12** (Highlights the **Restrainer** versus the **Antichrist/Satan**).
- 1-Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, 2-That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3-Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4-Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 5-Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? 6-And now ye know What withholds that he might be revealed in his time. 7-For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only He who now lets will let, until He be taken out of the way. 8-And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: 9-Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10-And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11-And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12-*

That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

- B. **2:1-3**— "***The day of Christ***" "***shall not come***" until 2 things occur.
- C. First, what is "***the day of Christ***" (**2:2; Php. 1:10; 2:16**)?
- D. What 2 things must occur before this "***day of Christ***" (**2:3**)?
- E. What does "***the falling away***" (KJV) or "***the rebellion***" (NIV) mean (**2:3**)?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
- F. Who is "***the man of sin,***" "***the son of perdition,***" (**2:3**), that one who "***exalts himself***" as and above God, sits "***in the temple***" (**2:4**), who is "***wicked***" (**2:8**), and "***after the working of Satan***" (**2:9**), "***with all deceivableness***" (**2:10**)?
- G. How has and does Satan work in many smaller lesser antichrists today (**1Jo. 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2Jo. 1:7**)?
- H. Who is this Restrainer (the One who "***withholds,***" and "***lets***") or keeps back the Antichrist from appearing (**2:6, 7**)?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.

III. Application

- A. How have I been used by the Spirit to restrain sin (as salt and light) in the lives of those around me (explain)?
- B. How do you feel that "***the day of Christ***" has not happened yet?
- C. If I were Raptured out today, would lawless and sinfulness increase?
- D. Am I even aware of "***the mystery of iniquity***" (defined as the mystery of "***immoral or grossly unfair behavior***") that is already working around me (explain)?