

First John Chapter Three Verse Twenty Four
1Jno.3:24

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1Jno.3:24: “And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.”

1. This is the first actual mention of the Holy Spirit in the Epistle of 1Jno., though the “unction from the Holy One,” and “the anointing which ye have received” mentioned in 1Jno.2:20,27, were references to his Person and work in believers by means of miraculous spiritual gifts.
2. This part of V.24 declares three things:
 - a. God abides in us; that is, in believers.
 - b. We have actual knowledge of his abiding presence.
 - c. We possess this knowledge by means of the Spirit which God has given us.
3. This verse does not reveal to us the manner of the entrance, nor the mode of the Spirit’s dwelling, but the *fact* of it being given to us, whereby we know that God abides in us.
4. The assertion that the Spirit dwells in the faithful child of God does not justify the assumption that his indwelling is personal, immediate, direct, separate and apart from the word of God any more than the assertion that both the Father and the Son dwell in us and that we dwell in them justifies such a conclusion. *Example:*
 - a. Both the Father and the Son are said to come unto and make their abode with him that loves the Lord and keep his words, Jno.14:23; Cf. 1Jno.3:24.
 - (1) Is that a personal indwelling?
 - (2) An immediate indwelling?
 - (3) A direct indwelling?
 - b. 2Cor.6:16, “As God has said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them.”
 - (1) Is that a personal indwelling of God in the believer?
 - (2) An immediate indwelling, apart from the word?
 - (3) A direct indwelling?

- c. “That Christ may dwell in your hearts,” Eph.3:17; Cf. Col.1:27.
 - (1) Is that a personal indwelling of the Son in the believer?
 - (2) An immediate indwelling, though no medium? Direct?
 - (3) How? Eph.3:17 says, it’s “by faith” that he dwells in us. Cf. Rom.10:17. How was the word received? Rom.10:9-18; Jno.14,15,16; 17:20,21; Ac.1,2; Eph.3:1-5; Gal.1.
 - d. Saints are said to be “in Christ,” Phil.1:1; Col.1:2. How?
 - e. God dwells in us, and we dwell in him, 1Jno.3:24; 4:12,13,15,16. Again, how?
 - f. From these, are we justified in inferring that God, in some mysterious, incomprehensible, direct way, has, in his own person, taken up his abode in us, or that we in the same kind of way have taken up our abode in him and his Son?
 - g. why, then, should we fall into similar error with reference to the Holy Spirit, the 3rd Person of the Godhead?
 - h. Furthermore, if we have either one of the three Persons of the Godhead personally indwelling us, then we are inspired! If not, why not?
5. How, then, does the Holy Spirit indwell us by which we know that God abides in us when we keep his commandments? The answer is three-fold in nature from Pentecost to the present for you and me. The 1st two applied to those of N.T. days, the 3rd applied to us today.
- a. 1st, Through the spoken word of God personally preached by the Holy-Spirit- inspired and Spirit-guided apostles fulfilling their mission as Christ’s sent ones, Jno.14:26; 15:26,27; 16:7,13-15; 17:8,18,20,21; 20:19-23; Mt.28:18-20; Mk.16:14-20; Lk.24:45-49; Ac.1:1-8; 2:1-4; Eph.3:1-5; 1Jno.1:1-3; See Mt.16:16-19; 18:18; 2Cor.5:17-20; 2Cor.12:12.
 - b. 2nd, Through miraculous spiritual gifts given to baptized believers in the early church through the laying on of the apostle’s hands prior to the complete and fully written revelation of the word of God to be used by them in the application of the word, and to expose false teachers, when an apostle of Christ was not present with the saints in a certain place, 1Cor.12,13,14; 1Jno.2:20,27; 1Jno.4:1; See Ac.8:18; 19:5,6; Rom.1:11; 2Tim.1:6. Also, see 1Cor.13:8-10.
 - c. 3rd, Now it is through faith in and obedience to the word of God revealed through and written in the N.T. by the Spirit-filled and Spirit-guided apostles of Jesus Christ, the only motivating force in immediate contact with the individual believer, Eph.3:1-11; 5:17; 1Jno.1:1-4; 2:1-3.

- (1) Cf. Jno.8:31,32; Col.3:16; Psa.19:11; Ac.11:14; Heb.4:12
- (2) This is true because:
 - (a) The Apostles of Christ no longer live in person to continue their personal work here on earth.
 - (b) Spiritual gifts have ceased to be given or to function, having served their purpose and their time, 1Cor.13:8-10.