

The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

Introduction:

A. *It is my conviction that when Jesus left this earth to return to heaven, he requested that another helper be sent who would abide with us through the ages of his absence. That helper came! He is the Holy Spirit.... Let men quibble and dispute about whether the Spirit operates only by citing a passage, or quoting a scripture. I have no time for such debate any longer.... As the Spirit within opens up new insights when I hold the sacred book in my hand and read it, I am drawn ever closer to him who left heaven to become closer to me* (W. Carl Ketcherside, **Mission Messenger** [vol. 23, no. 1. 24,41]).

B. Over the years many faithful brethren have taken the position that the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian directly, apart from the Word, yet nonmiraculously.

C. It is true that the Holy Spirit dwells in every Christian. - Romans 8:9

D. How does the Holy Spirit dwell in Christians today?

I. Does He dwell **directly, apart from** the Word?

A. The consequences of this position or either Calvinism or Pentecostalism (What can the Holy Spirit do for us, separate from the Word, that would not fall into one of these categories?).

1. Pentecostalism: Every New Testament example of the direct reception of the Spirit was miraculous. - Acts 2:1-4; 8:14-17; 10:44-47; 19:1-6

2. Calvinism (“inner light” or “illumination”)

a. **Westminster Confession of Faith** (Presbyterian): *All those whom God hath predestined unto life, and only those, he is pleased, in his appointed and accepted time, effectually to call, by his word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God....*

b. quote from Ketcherside

B. This doctrine contradicts New Testament examples.

1. The Samaritans believed and were baptized, but they had not received the Holy Spirit. - Acts 8:14-17

2. Why did Paul ask the Ephesians if they had received the Holy Spirit, if all disciples receive the direct indwelling of the Holy Spirit? - Acts 19:1-2

II. Does He dwell **through the instrument of the Word**?

A. Dispelling Some Misunderstanding

1. This is not a denial of the **fact** the Holy Spirit dwells in us; it is an explanation of **how**.

2. This is not a denial of the personal interest of God in our lives; it is a partial explanation of **how** He manifests that interest.

3. This is not to say the Spirit and the Word are identical; it is to say the Word is the instrument of the Spirit. - John 6:63

4. This is not a denial of the work of the Holy Spirit; it is an explanation of **how** He works.

B. An Explanation

1. Much of the language of Scripture is figurative. - John 10:9
2. God the Father dwells in (fellowships) the Christian. - Ephesians 2:22; 1 John 4:15; 1:3
3. Christ dwells in (fellowships) the Christian. - Ephesians 3:17; 1 John 2:6; 1:3
4. The Holy Spirit dwells in (fellowships) the Christian. - Ephesians 5:18; 2 Corinthians 13:14

C. Scriptural Proof

1. Major Premise: If a person and an instrument perform the same task, the person is working through the instrument. - e.g., mowing the lawn
2. The Holy Spirit (Person) and the Word (instrument) both dwell in the Christian (same task). - Ephesians 5:18-19; Colossians 3:16
 - a. Both books were written by Paul (Even their introductions are strikingly similar). - Ephesians 1:1-2; Colossians 1:1-2
 - b. The books have parallel themes.
 - (1) Colossians: Christ, the fullness of God. - Colossians 1:19
 - (2) Ephesians: the church the fullness of Christ. - Ephesians 1:22-23
 - c. Many passages in the two books are parallel and explain each other.
 - d. Ephesians 5:18-19 and Colossians 3:16 are parallel.
 - (1) In Ephesians we are told to let the Spirit dwell in us; in Colossians we are told to let the Word dwell in us.
 - (2) The results are the same; we will sing praises to God.

Conclusion:

- A. The Holy Spirit dwells in (has fellowship with) Christians through the instrument of the Word of God as we walk in the light of that Word. - 1 John 1:7
- B. If we have not the Spirit of God, we are none of His. - Romans 8:9
- C. Does the Holy Spirit dwell in you?