

THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Many in the religious world (and in the church) teach that the Holy Spirit, as a person and without means, enters into and inhabits the body of a Christian separate and apart from the influence of God's revealed word. I affirm that the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit dwells in Christians ONLY through the medium of the Word of God. We don't seem to have any difficulty understanding how God and Christ dwell in Christians, and I find it hard to understand why people cannot understand that the Holy Spirit dwells in Christians in the very same manner.

Let us now examine this subject carefully in light of Bible teaching on HOW other things dwell in us. I believe when we honestly study the "indwelling" of these other things, it will help us to see how the Holy Spirit dwells in us.

TRUTH DWELLS IN CHRISTIANS

1. John 15: 7 *"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."*
2. I John 2:14 *"I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one."*

CHRISTIANS DWELL IN TRUTH

1. John 8:31 *"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;"*
2. II John 4 *"I rejoice greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father."*

GOD DWELLS IN THE CHRISTIAN

1. Eph. 4:6 *"One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."*
2. II Cor. 6:16 *"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."*

CHRISTIANS DWELL IN GOD

1. I John 4:13 *"Hereby know we that we dwell in Him, and he in us because he hath given us of his Spirit."*
2. I John 4:15 *"Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God."*

CHRIST DWELLS IN THE CHRISTIAN

1. John 6:56 *"He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwellmeth in me, and I in him."*
2. Eph. 3:17 *That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, ..."*

CHRISTIANS DWELL IN CHRIST

1. Gal. 3: 27 *"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."*

2. II Cor. 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLS IN CHRISTIANS

1. Rom. 8:11 "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

2. I Cor. 6: 19 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

CHRISTIANS DWELL IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Gal. 5: 25 "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

2. Gal. 5:16 "This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

THE MIND OF CHRIST IS IN CHRISTIANS

1. Phil. 2:5 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELLS IN CHRISTIANS

1. Col. 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

A SUMMARY

1. TRUTH dwells in Christians. Christians dwell in TRUTH.

2. GOD dwells in Christians. Christians dwell in GOD.

3. CHRIST dwells in Christians. Christians dwell in CHRIST.

4. The HOLY SPIRIT dwells in Christians. Christians dwell in the HOLY SPIRIT.

5. The mind of Christ is in the Christian.

6. The word of Christ is in the Christian.

When one is saved by the gospel, and the gospel (or Word) controls his life, he sustains these relationships.

CONCLUSION

The idea of the Holy Spirit dwelling Christians is that of UNITY. Christ said that the Father was in Him and He was in the Father (John 17:21). Christ said that the Father dwelleth in Him (John 14:10). We do not understand from these passages that there was a literal indwelling, but that UNITY existed between He and the Father. Romans 8:16 teaches that there is to be UNITY between the Holy Spirit and our spirit. When one obeys the gospel revealed by the Holy Spirit and lives in newness of life (Rom. 6:4) UNITY exists between that person and the Holy Spirit; so it can be said that the Holy Spirit dwells in him (I Cor. 6:19) and he dwells in the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:16, 25).

(I am indebted to Bro. Tom O'Neal and Coffman's commentaries for this approach to this study, along with some ideas from the late Bro. Franklin Puckett.) Donald Townsley

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