

THE IN-DWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION:

I. Down through the years, there have been religious groups which taught that God sent his Holy Spirit directly out of heaven into their hearts to save them, to guide them in all their decisions, and to be a constant comforter and friend. All of this separate and apart from the Word of God.

A. If the Spirit Operates Directly Upon Our Hearts, With God's Word, There Are a Number of Things to Consider:

1. Why are there no Christians where the Bible has not gone?
2. If God operates directly with the Spirit on some and not on others, this makes God a respecter of persons?
3. If God operates directly on a man's heart to save him by sending the Holy Spirit, then God robs man of his Freedom of Choice?
4. If the Holy Spirit saves man separate and apart from the Word, how can we be judged by the Word in the Last Day?
5. How are we to distinguish between so many different groups who all claim to be led by the Holy Spirit?
6. If the Holy Spirit descends directly to save man and to guide him, then man is relieved of his personal accountability and responsibility?
7. If God saves one man by sending the Holy Spirit directly, then he can save two - two hundred - two million - 20 billion. Not only could he, he would have to do so or be a respecter of persons?

II. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLS IN US.

A. FIRSTLY, The scriptures teach that God dwells in us.

1. 1 John 4:12-15 "No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as

Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God."

2. John 14:23 "Jesus answered and said to 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..'"

B. SECONDLY, We are told that Christ dwells in us.

1. Eph. 3:17 "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith ..."
2. Col. 1:27 "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."
3. Gal. 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me."
4. Rev. 3:20 "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if anyone hears My voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me."
5. Rom. 8:9-11 "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now, if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

C. THIRDLY, We are taught that the Word dwells in us.

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."

D. FOURTHLY, The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit dwells in us.

- 1, Rom. 8:11 "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

2. Gal. 4:6 "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father.'"
3. 1 Thess. 4:8 "Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit."
4. Acts 5:32 "And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."
5. Acts 9:17 "And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.'"
6. Acts 11:22,24 "And they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch ... For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit..."
7. Acts 13:51-52 "But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."
8. 1 John 3:24 "Now He who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us."
9. Romans 8:14-17 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs--heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."
10. I Cor. 3:16-17 "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (Refers to the church collectively.)

NOTE: In Romans 8: The Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of God are used interchangeably with the Holy Spirit.

11. The Title Deed to a place in Heaven is sealed with the Holy Spirit.

- (a) Eph. 1:13-14 "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."
- (b) 2 Cor. 1:22 "Who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a deposit."
- (c) Eph. 4:30 "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."
- (d) 2 Tim. 1:13-14 "Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us."

CONCLUSION:

God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit dwells in us. The great question is HOW THIS IS DONE?

A Quotation From Bro. Foy Wallace, Jr. is in order just here.

“There has been much emphasis and constant stress placed on the statement that the “personal Holy Spirit dwells in us” - but the arrangement of the sentence is subtle. The word “personal” is put on the wrong end - the question is: does the Holy Spirit dwell in us personally. Compare it with the personal God and the personal Christ - they are persons, but it is admitted that neither God nor Christ dwells in us personally. If that is true in regard to God and Christ, why not in reference to the Holy Spirit. God is in us, Christ is in us and the Holy Spirit is in us - but they cannot be separated in the representative medium, the Word of God.

But we are told that this concept puts the Holy Spirit back in heaven doing nothing. Since it is admitted that Christ does not dwell in us personally, but representatively, the same reasoning would put Christ back in heaven doing nothing - if not, why not? It is a poor rule that will not work both ways. The idea that God remained in heaven, that Christ returned to heaven, but the person of the Holy Spirit is in the world buzzing about in all the “activities” that are being imputed to him, separates the Godhead, and is contrary to reason and revelation. The personal God could not enter and dwell in man - it would “burn him up,” for he “only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen nor can see,” said Paul (1 Tim. 6:16) and God said to Moses (Ex. 33:20), “There shall be no man see my face and

live.” The idea of the personal God, the personal Christ or the personal Holy Spirit dwelling in a man is a theological misconception. We receive God spiritually; we receive Christ spiritually; we receive the Holy Spirit spiritually. Here, as Moses, we should stand on holy ground, but this ground is being trampled with hobnail boots.” *The Mission and Medium of Holy Spirit*, pp. 15-16.

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT OPERATES THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD.

A. We received the Spirit by Faith.

1. Gal. 3:1-2 "O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you, that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?"

B. Every effect or emotion that the Holy Spirit generates within us, the Word of God engenders.

1. The Spiritual begetting is with the word.
 - (a) James 1:18 "Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures."
 - (b) 1 Cor. 4:15 "For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel."

NOTE: All life is generated through seed. When the Word - the spiritual - seed is planted in the heart, it germinates on the same principle as the corn that is deposited in the earth.

2. Spiritual Birth springs from the incorruptible and eternal Word.
 - (a) 1 Peter 1:23 "Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever."
3. Spiritual Cleansing comes by the Word of God.
 - (a) John 15:2 "Now you are clean through the word that I have spoken to you."

- (b) Eph. 5:26 "Just as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word."
4. Our Souls are purified by obeying the Truth.
 - (a) 1 Peter 1:22 "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart."
 5. Our Souls are saved by the implanted Word.
 - (a) James 1:21-22 "Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."
 - (b) "Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand; by which also you are saved." 1 Cor. 15:1-4.
 6. We are guided and led by the Word of God.
 - (a) Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my pathway."
 - (b) 2 John 4 "I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father."
 - (c) 3 John 4 "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."
 7. Spiritual growth is by the Word.
 - (a) 1 Peter 2:2 "As newborn babes desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby."
 - (b) Acts 20:32 "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."
 - (c) Col. 1:9-11 "For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will

in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy."

8. The Word of God furnishes comfort.
 - (a) Romans 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."
9. Every ability toward good works comes through the Word of God.
 - (a) 2 Tim. 3:16-17 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
10. Sanctification is by the Word of God.
 - (a) John 17:17 "Sanctify them through Your truth: Your word is truth."
11. The Word is to judge us in the Last Day.
 - (a) John 12:47-48 "And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive my words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."

CONCLUSION:

The Word of God is the medium by which the Holy Spirit accomplishes His work.

God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit dwell in us spiritually.

- (i) Knowledge of God, Christ, Holy Spirit, sin, salvation and heaven and hell comes from God's Word.

- (ii) Instructions on how to live the Christian life comes from God's Word.
- (iii) Obligations to our fellowman come from God's Word.