

Holy Spirit: Indwelling

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11:53 AM

I. Introduction

- A. The issue is not "does the Holy Spirit dwell in us?" (Rom. 8:9)
- B. God the Father and Jesus both dwell in us as well
 - 1. 1 Cor. 6:19-20...the Spirit dwells in us
 - 2. Eph. 3:17...Christ dwells in our hearts (also Gal. 2:20; yet Paul also said Jesus was in heaven)
 - 3. 2 Cor. 6:16-18...the Father dwells in us
 - 4. *Deity dwells in the believer in some way*
- C. The question is "*how* does He dwell in us?"
- D. Does the Holy Spirit literally dwell in the body of the believer? The same question can be asked of the Father and the Son. Or is the word "dwell" used in another sense? If the Spirit does dwell in us literally, what does He accomplish that is not accomplished indirectly through His revealed word.

II. How is the word "dwell" used in the Bible:

- A. Used of control and influence (Rom. 7:17-25; notice especially verse 17, "sin dwells in me")
 - 1. 2 John 2...the truth abides/dwells in us (not speaking of memorizing verses; atheists can memorize scripture); John is speaking of those under the influence of truth
 - 2. Revelation 2:13...Satan dwelt in Pergamos; his influence was there
- B. *Both the Father and the Son dwell in us*
 - 1. 2 Cor. 6:16..."I will be their God, and they shall be My people"
 - 2. 2 John 9...We abide in the doctrine of Christ --> relationship, control
 - 3. The persons of deity are not literally in us; the presence may be where His person is not
- C. The Spirit dwells in us by means of His revealed word; the Bible is not the Holy Spirit, but it is the agency by which the Spirit works in us.
 - 1. Illustration of man cutting down a tree (he used a chainsaw); a man flies to Chicago (he didn't flap his arms and fly, but used the means of an airplane)
 - 2. Eph. 6:17...The Sword of the Spirit is the word of God.
 - 3. When we are obedient to the Word, we come under the control of the Spirit
 - 4. 1 Pet. 1:22-23...We're born again when we obey the word.

III. What does the Spirit accomplish in us that is not accomplished through His word?

- A. The Spirit witnesses (Rom. 8:16); the Word witnesses as well (Jn. 5:39)
- B. The Spirit sent to instruct (Neh. 9:20); the Word instructs (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- C. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin (Jn. 16:8); the word convicts (Tit. 1:9)
- D. Born of the Spirit (Jn. 3:5); born by the word of God (1 Pet. 1:23)
- E. God has saved us by renewing of Spirit (Tit. 3:5); the word saves our souls (Jas. 1:21)
- F. Sanctified by the Spirit (1 Cor. 6:11); Sanctified by the word (Jn. 17:17)
- G. Cleansed by Spirit; Cleansed by word (Eph. 5:26)
- H. The Spirit dwells in us (Rom. 8:9); the word dwells in us (Col. 3:16)
- I. The power of the Spirit (Rom. 15:13); The gospel is the power of God (Rom. 1:16)
- J. The sword of the Spirit is the word of God (Eph. 6:17)
- K. When we are obedient to the Spirit's word, there is fellowship between God and man.

IV. The Old Testament Temple

- A. 1 Kings 8:12-13...Solomon is dedicating the temple; vv. 12, the Lord would dwell in the temple; turn to verse 27, "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven, and the heaven of heavens cannot contain you; how much less this temple which I have built." Verse 28 says that God's name would be in the temple; a plea that God would look to the temple. The presence of God was there, but God did not literally dwell there; 9:3, God consecrated the temple to put His name there; His heart was there. It was a holy place.
- B. *Temple language in NT...*

1. We are called by His name (Jas. 2:7; Col. 3:17).
2. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous (1 Pet. 3:12 --> 2:5, we are the temple).
3. God makes His home with those who love Him (Jn. 14:23).
4. God will never leave nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5-6).

V. Conclusion

A. All three persons of deity dwell in us. It is unreasonable to argue that the Spirit dwells in us literally while saying that the Son and Father are in heaven (Rom. 8:9, 10; 2 Cor. 6:16).

B. Again, the contention is not "does the Spirit dwell in us." Certainly, He does, But the question is "how?" And it has been shown in this brief study, that the Spirit dwells in us representatively through the word. He dwell in us in the sense that we have a relationship with Him through the word which He has revealed. The same is true of the Father and the Son.