

# The Blessed Person and Work of God the Holy Spirit

## Lesson 4--The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit simply means that the Holy Spirit dwells within the believer. He lives within the believer. The believer's heart is His home, where He lives.

### 1. How do I know if the Holy Spirit lives in me?

The answer is found in Romans 8:9--"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the \_\_\_\_\_ of God \_\_\_\_\_ in you. Now if any man have not the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, he is none of His." If a person does not have the Holy Spirit, then he is not His. He does not belong to Christ. He is not a Christian. If I am a saved person, then I have the Holy Spirit. How do I know? **I know so because God says so.** All who believe on Christ have received the Spirit (John 7:39). Paul said, "The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ in us" (2 Timothy 1:14) and this is true of every blood-bought child of God. According to God's definition (1 Cor. 6:19; Rom. 8:9; John 7:39; etc.), a Christian is one who is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and thus has received the Spirit. There is no such thing as a person who is justified by faith but who has not received the Spirit.

The fact that the believer in Christ has received the Spirit and enjoys His indwelling presence is not based on some subjective and questionable experience. It is based upon the plain statements of the Word of God.

**Have you received the Spirit?** Let's go back to the basic question, "Have you received the Spirit?" What is the Bible's answer? In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 we learn that the Corinthians, even the carnal Corinthians (1 Cor. 3:1-3), had the Holy Spirit in them: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which [who] is **in you**, which ye have of [from] God, and ye are not your own?" How could the Holy Spirit have been **in them**? How did they receive Him? Did they receive the Spirit the moment they believed in Christ?

John 7:38-39 is a key passage. Notice carefully what it says about receiving the Spirit. Those who **believe** are those who **receive**. If you have believed on Christ then you have received the Spirit. There is no such thing as a believer who has not received the Spirit. Thus, the key question is not, "Have you received the Spirit?" but it is "Have you received the Lord Jesus Christ?" (see John 1:12). If you have received Christ, then you have the Spirit. There is no such thing as a believer in Christ who does not have the Spirit dwelling within.

### 2. The Uniqueness of the Indwelling of the Spirit

In Old Testament times the Holy Spirit would occasionally come upon men to enable them and empower them for certain tasks. Here are some examples:

Judges 3:10--"And the Spirit of the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ him (Othniel, Israel's judge), and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushan-rishathaim." This judge was empowered by the Spirit of God to win military victories.

Judges 6:34--"But the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abi-ezer was gathered after him." The Spirit of God enabled Gideon and his men to gain the victory over the Midianites.

Judges 11:29--"Then the Spirit of the \_\_\_\_\_ came \_\_\_\_\_ Jephthah..." Again, the Spirit of God enabled Jephthah, another judge of Israel, to conquer the Ammonites.

Judges 14:6--"And the Spirit of the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ mightily \_\_\_\_\_, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done." Samson's amazing strength did not come from himself or from body building exercises, but it came from the Spirit of God being upon him. In this case Samson tore a lion with his bare hands.

Judges 14:19--"And the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ came upon him (Samson), and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle." Here is another example of Samson's feats of strength, enabled by the Spirit of God.

Judges 15:14--"And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands." At least three times we are told that the Spirit of God came upon Samson. This implies that the Spirit's coming upon him was repetitive and not permanent. He came upon Samson, and at a later time He came upon him again, as God deemed necessary. Also, when Samson's hair was cut and he lost his strength, this was an indication that the Spirit of God was not upon him at that time. His power was in the Spirit of God, not in his hair. The hair was merely symbolic.

1 Samuel 10:10--"And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God \_\_\_\_\_ upon him, and he prophesied among them." Saul was anointed as the first king of Israel (1 Sam. 10:1). As Israel's king, the Holy Spirit came upon him in a special way. See also 1 Samuel 11:6. Later, however, due to Saul's disobedience (1 Samuel 15), the Spirit of God left him. 1 Samuel 16:14--"But the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ from Saul, and an evil

spirit from the LORD troubled him."

1 Samuel 16:13--"Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon \_\_\_\_\_ from that day forward." After Saul's disobedience (1 Samuel 15), David was anointed as king and the Holy Spirit came upon him. Later, after David sinned by committing adultery and murder, he prayed these words, "Take not thy \_\_\_\_\_ from me" (Psalm 51:11).

This prayer should never be prayed by a believer living today. In Old Testament times the Holy Spirit would come upon men for certain purposes, but He could also depart from men and leave them. Today the Holy Spirit can be grieved (saddened by our sin), but He will never leave: "And \_\_\_\_\_ not the Holy Spirit of God, by whom ye are \_\_\_\_\_ unto the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30). Jesus promised His disciples that after Pentecost (the day the Holy Spirit came to live in His believers), the Holy Spirit would A \_\_\_\_\_ with them forever (see John 14:16), and that He would be **in them** (John 14:17). It would be a permanent indwelling!

**John 14:16-20** is a key passage in showing the uniqueness of the Spirit's ministry in our day. In verse 16 we learn that the Spirit's coming would be permanent, not intermittent. He would not come and then leave, and then come again and then leave again. No, when He came, He would abide with them \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 16).

In John 14:17 we have a description of the Spirit's ministry before Pentecost and after Pentecost:

The Spirit's Ministry Before Pentecost	The Spirit's Ministry After Pentecost
<p>"He dwelleth _____" (John 14:17)</p> <p>The Holy Spirit was dwelling (living) with the disciples. He was with them. They were enjoying His wonderful presence. He was not absent from their lives. The living God was with them.</p>	<p>"and shall be _____" (John 14:17)</p> <p>This phrase indicates a change in the Spirit's ministry. He was with them, but at Pentecost ("at that day"--verse 20) He would be <b>in them</b>. He would be <b>in</b> His people in a very unique way.</p>

Not only would the Holy Spirit be in them on that day, but Jesus Christ would be in them also (see John 14:20): "At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me and I \_\_\_\_\_." The Spirit of God makes this relationship possible. Compare John 6:56. This relationship is illustrated by the Vine and the branch relationship (John 15:1-6). The Lord Jesus is the Vine (verse 1) and His believers are the branches (verse 5). We are in Him and He is in

us. The branch is in the Vine, connected to Him in a very wonderful way. Also the life of the Vine flows in and through each branch. In John 17:23 and John 17:26 we learn of this unique relationship with the Lord Jesus **in** His believers in a unique way. "**I in them.**"

In Colossians 1:26 Paul speaks of a M\_\_\_\_\_ which had been hidden for ages. Neither Abraham, David, Isaiah or Daniel knew anything about this mystery. Not even John the Baptist knew of this mystery. It was a secret locked up in the loving heart of God and not made known until God wanted to make it known. Is God making known this mystery now to His people (Col. 1:26)? \_\_\_\_\_ In verse 27, Paul reveals what this mystery is. It is something very glorious because he speaks of "the \_\_\_\_\_ of this mystery" (verse 27). It is also something very precious because he speaks of "the \_\_\_\_\_ of the glory of this mystery" (verse 27). He then identifies this mystery as "C\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, the hope of glory" (verse 27). The word "you" is in the plural. Christ is **in** His people. God is indwelling, not a temple made with stones, but a body of believers. He also indwells each believer's body individually (1 Cor. 6:19). My heart is Christ's home!

We never read about Old Testament believers being indwelt by the Spirit of God. However, in the coming kingdom age, under the provisions of the new covenant, God's people are promised a very unique relationship with the Spirit of God, something which Old Testament Jews never had: "And I will put my \_\_\_\_\_ within \_\_\_\_\_" (Ezekiel 36:27). "And shall put my \_\_\_\_\_ in you" (Ezekiel 36:14). Compare Ezekiel 39:29 and Isaiah 44:3.

### 3. The Significance of God's Temple

The temple is where God dwelt and manifested His awesome presence in a most unique way.

#### a. The Tabernacle

"Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ the tabernacle" (Exodus 40:34-35).

God manifested His presence in the tabernacle. God was in the midst of His people, and they all knew it. They could see the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night (the Shekinah glory). The "Shekinah glory" refers to the visible manifestation of God's presence. God was in His sanctuary. God was in His holy place.

#### b. Solomon's Temple

"And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the \_\_\_\_\_ (Shekinah glory) filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD had \_\_\_\_\_ the house of the LORD" (1 Kings 8:10-11).

The tabernacle was a moveable temple; it could go from one place to the next place. Solomon's temple was a permanent temple in Jerusalem which would never be moved. It was one of the most spectacular buildings ever erected. God again manifested His presence from the most holy place in the temple. "I have surely built thee an house to \_\_\_\_\_ in, a settled place for thee to abide in for ever" (1 Kings 8:13). God dwelt in Solomon's temple, but many years later the glory of God departed from the temple because of Israel's disobedience and idolatry. Ezekiel chapter 10 tells the sad account of God's glory departing from the temple (see especially verses 4 and 18; see also Ezekiel 11:22-23).

### **c. The Rebuilt Temple**

Solomon's magnificent temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, in 586 B.C. Later a remnant of Jews returned to the land and rebuilt the temple under the Jewish governor Zerubbabel and the Jewish high priest Joshua (the prophets Haggai and Zechariah also had their ministry at this time). The account of the rebuilding of this temple is found in Ezra, chapters one to six. This second temple was not nearly as magnificent as Solomon's temple, and some of the old men, who still remembered Solomon's temple, were \_\_\_\_\_ as they saw the foundation of Zerubbabel's temple; they knew it would be an inferior building in many ways (Ezra 3:12). Unlike the tabernacle and Solomon's temple, we are never told that the rebuilt temple was filled with God's glory. The glory did not come to this temple until Jesus Christ came to the temple in the first century. Malachi the prophet predicted that the Lord would suddenly come to His \_\_\_\_\_ (Malachi 3:1). The Lord Jesus was full of glory (John 1:14), but most of the time when Jesus walked this earth His glory was veiled. Three of His disciples were privileged to see a full display of His glory on the mount of transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9).

The Lord Jesus was rejected as Israel's King and crucified outside of the gates of Jerusalem on Calvary's cross. Four decades later, in 70 A.D., the rebuilt temple (which had been enlarged and greatly beautified by Herod the Great--John 2:20), was destroyed by the Roman army. Since that time, there has been no Jewish temple on earth. But as we shall see, God does have a temple on earth today, which is indwelt by His Spirit.

### **d. The Tribulation Temple**

At some future time the Jews will again build a temple in their land and will once again offer animal sacrifices which have not been offered since the first century. In Daniel 9:27 we learn about a seven year period which will begin with a treaty that the Antichrist will make with Israel for seven years. In the middle of this seven year period, the Antichrist will break this treaty and will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings (Daniel 9:27). At this time the Antichrist ("the man of sin," "the man of lawlessness," the first "beast" of Revelation 13) will desecrate the temple by exalting himself and claiming to be God and forcing people to worship him (see Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12, Revelation chapter 13). There is no indication in Scripture that God's glory will ever fill this tribulation temple.

### **e. The Millennium Temple**

During the thousand year kingdom of Christ, there will be a magnificent temple described in

great detail in Ezekiel chapters 40-48. In Ezekiel 43:5 we learn that "the G\_\_\_\_\_ of the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ the house (the temple)." God manifested His presence in this temple in a very special way. God would dwell in the midst of His people (Ezekiel 43:7)!

#### f. Will There be a Temple in the Eternal State?

Concerning the eternal city, the new Jerusalem, we read, "And I saw \_\_\_\_\_ in it; for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the \_\_\_\_\_ of it" (Revelation 21:22). God's glory will be there in its fullest manifestation (Rev. 21:23), so that there will be no need of a temple. Compare Revelation 21:3 (God dwelling with His people).

#### g. God's Temple on Earth Today

In Matthew 16:18 the Lord Jesus predicted that He would build a special building: "...and upon this rock I will \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_, and the gates of hell (Hades) shall not prevail against it." When Jesus spoke these words, the building of this church was yet future. He said, "**I will** build (future tense)." He did not say, "I am building." This building project would begin on the day of Pentecost.

In 1 Peter 2:5 we learn that God's building would not be made out of brick or concrete, but made from "lively S \_\_\_\_\_" or "living stones." It would not be a physical house, but a "S \_\_\_\_\_ house" (1 Peter 2:5). Believers in Christ will be the building blocks of this amazing structure!

This building is also mentioned in Ephesians 2:19-22. In verse 21 it is called a building, but it is also called a "H \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord." God inhabits this temple through the S \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 22). The Holy God is in His Holy Temple.

In 1 Timothy 3:15 the church of the living God is called "the H \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_." It is God's house because He lives in it and dwells in it.

There are two key passages which speak of the Holy Spirit indwelling God's temple which is the church: 1) **1 Corinthians 3:16**—"Know ye not that \_\_\_\_\_ are the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, and that the \_\_\_\_\_ of God \_\_\_\_\_ in you." The words "ye" and "you" are both plural, referring to all the Corinthian believers. God dwelt in His believers, in His church, in all the believers. 2) **1 Corinthians 6:19**—"What? Know ye not that your \_\_\_\_\_ is the temple of the \_\_\_\_\_ who is \_\_\_\_\_ you, whom ye have of (from) God, and ye are not your own." In this passage we learn that the individual body of every believer is God's temple, and the Holy Spirit dwells within every child of God.

If someone should argue that not all believers are indwelt by the Spirit, he should be reminded that even the Corinthians, who had serious problems with  **carnality** (1 Cor. 3:1-4), were told, in the two key passages cited in the previous paragraph, that the Holy Spirit lived in them. If a person does not have the Holy Spirit, then he is "**none of His**" (Romans 8:9). This means if he does not have the Holy Spirit then he does not belong to Christ. That is, he is not a Christian. Everyone who has received Christ by faith (John 1:12), has the Holy Spirit also. "But this spoke he of the \_\_\_\_\_, whom they that \_\_\_\_\_ on him should

\_\_\_\_\_ ; for the Holy \_\_\_\_\_ was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified" (John 7:39). The Holy Spirit would be given later, on the Day of Pentecost. John 7:39 teaches that those who believe on Christ will receive the Holy Spirit.

#### 4. What does the Indwelling of the Spirit Mean to Me Personally?

First, just the very thought itself ought to transform me. God is in me! The living God lives in me! God dwells in me. I am God's home and God's temple! What an awesome thought! Every day I should remember this fact: "Christ \_\_\_\_\_ in me" (Galatians 2:20). See the words to the hymn *Christ Liveth in Me*, by Daniel W. Whittle.

Second, this fact ought to encourage me to live the Christian life. The Christian life is a supernatural life. It is an impossible life to live. It is an impossible thing to live as a saint, to walk in holiness, to work worthy of my high calling and to be filled with the Spirit. I need not get discouraged. A supernatural Person lives within me to make the impossible possible! I cannot, but He can! I am unable, but He is able. I have no might or ability, but my eyes are upon Him! I can live the Christian life because of that P \_\_\_\_\_ that works in me (Eph. 3:20).

Third, this fact makes it possible for my life to be a blessing to others. Read John 7:38-39 carefully. God's desire is that my life might overflow to others. Out of my innermost being shall flow rivers of \_\_\_\_\_ (John 7:38)! The Holy Spirit is in me to make this possible. I can be a refreshing believer to all who know me, overflowing with His life.

Fourth, this fact will help us to enjoy true Christian unity: "Endeavoring (making every effort) to keep the unity of the \_\_\_\_\_ in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3). When I realize that the same Spirit who lives in me also lives in each and every child of God, I begin to appreciate the unity that I have with others who are born again. When I am with a fellow believer, I can enjoy a oneness with that person because we both have the Holy Spirit living in us.

Fifth, this fact ought to produce Holy living. What is the leading characteristic of God's house (Psalm 93:5)? \_\_\_\_\_ The Holy One lives in me, and I ought to be holy as He is holy (compare 1 Peter 1:16). I must not do anything that will G \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy One that lives in me (Ephesians 4:30).

Sixth, it ought to change my conduct in the church. The word "Bethel" means "house of God." In Genesis 28, Jacob was awed by the presence of God: "Surely the LORD is in this \_\_\_\_\_ and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful (awesome) is this place! This is none other but the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_" (Genesis 28:16b-17). Jacob named the place "Bethel" or "house of God." In 1 Timothy 3:15 I learn that the church is the house of God; yet how often do I forget that God is in His people? This truth ought to make a huge difference in how I conduct myself.

Seventh, the unsaved ought to know that God is in the midst of His church. Read carefully 1 Corinthians 14:24-25. What impressed this unsaved person the most about the church (verse 25)? \_\_\_\_\_ When believers are well fed, then they will be healthy; when they are healthy, the life of Christ will be manifested and God will make Himself known!

Eighth, this fact ought to give us victory over Satan because "greater is he that is \_\_\_\_\_, than he that is in the world (Satan)" (1 John 4:4).

(Supplemental Material)

## Charismatic Confusion

### 1. Have you received the Holy Spirit?

This is a question Charismatic people often will ask. What they really mean by the question is this: "Have you had the baptism of the Spirit, the Charismatic experience of speaking in tongues, etc.?"

Let's go back to the basic question, "Have you received the Spirit?" What is the Bible answer? In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 we learn that the Corinthians, even the carnal Corinthians (1 Cor. 3:1-3), had the Holy Spirit in them: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which [who] is **IN YOU**, which ye have of [from] God, and ye are not your own?" How could the Holy Spirit have been **in them** if they had not received Him? Obviously they had received the Holy Spirit the moment they were saved.

John 7:38-39 is a key passage. Notice carefully what it says about receiving the Spirit. Those who BELIEVE are those who RECEIVE. If you have believed on Christ then you have received the Spirit. There is no such thing as a believer who has not received the Spirit. Thus, the key question is not, "Have you received the Spirit?" but it is "Have you received the Lord Jesus Christ?" (see John 1:12).

### 2. How do you know that the Holy Spirit dwells within you?

The Charismatic answer:

"How do I know that the Holy Spirit dwells within me?" Charismatic Renewal offers an answer to this question—the baptism of the Holy Spirit, a powerful experience that convinces the recipient that God is real.<sup>1</sup>

In other words, "I know that it is true because I have experienced it. I have felt it. It has happened to me! I have spoken in tongues."

The Biblical answer is found in Romans 8:9--"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now **if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of HIS.**" If a person does not have the Holy Spirit, then he is not His. He does not belong to Christ. He is not a Christian. If I am a saved person, then I have the Holy Spirit. How do I know? **I know so, because god says so!** All who believe on Christ have received the Spirit (John 7:39). Paul said, "The Holy Spirit dwelleth in us" (2 Timothy 1:14) and this is true of every blood-bought child of God. According to God's definition (1 Cor. 6:19; Rom. 8:9; John 7:39; etc.), a Christian is one who is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and thus has received the Spirit. There is no such thing as a person who is justified by faith but who has not received the Spirit.

The fact of the Spirit's reception and indwelling presence is not based on some subjective and questionable experience. It is based upon the plain statements of the Word of God.