

# a study of the *Holy Spirit*

## Lesson 11: The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

The present lesson focuses upon "the great mystery" of the Holy Spirit—the Holy Spirit indwells within believers. The "how" of this indwelling is not explained. We have seen that the Holy Spirit does not operate in a miraculous way today. Today the Holy Spirit works *only* in conjunction with and by the Scriptures to lead, direct, and sanctify believers.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a certain fact. Inspiration anticipated the indwelling (Ezekiel 36:27; Zechariah 12:10). Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to obedient saints (John 7:38, 39). The Apostles taught the reality of the indwelling (Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; 6:19, 20; Galatians 4:6; 2 Titus 1:14).

### Four distinctions regarding the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

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- The "incarnation" of Christ is different than the indwelling.
- The "omnipresence" of God is not the same as the indwelling.
- The spiritual gifts are not the same.
- The Word of God is not the indwelling. The Word of God IS NOT the Holy Spirit! Ephesians 6:17 informs us that the Scripture is the "sword of the Spirit." In that metaphor the soldier is the agent and the sword his instrument. The Holy Spirit operates *only* via *but* is not the Word.

### Six Arguments for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit

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- The Holy Spirit indwells only in our attitudes.
- The Holy Spirit indwells in the Church collectively but not in members individually.
- The Holy Spirit indwells through the Word of God alone.
- The Holy Spirit indwells and is evidenced by performing miraculous feats (i.e. healing, tongues).
- The Holy Spirit indwells personally separate and apart from the Word.
- The Holy Spirit indwells personally in some sense and His presence is in conjunction with the amount of Scripture we know and obey.

These theories can be divided into the two classes discussed earlier. Since the "miraculous" has ceased, any theory falling into that class must be rejected. All theories which fall into the "ordinary" or "non-miraculous" class should be considered and accepted as long as no error is found. The ambiguity of Scripture on this point must allow for an accepting latitude of belief as long as Scripture is not violated.

### Understanding the indwelling from a negative perspective

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Without the Spirit's indwelling one:

- Does not have the mind of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:5-8).
- Does not belong to Christ (Romans 8:9).
- Has not been raised from the dead (Romans 8:11).
- Is living according to the flesh (Romans 8:12, 13).

- Does not share in the family of God (Romans 8:14, 15).
- Does not have the witness of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16).
- Does not have the assurance of eternal reward (Romans 8:16, 17).
- Does not have assistance in prayer (Romans 8:26, 27).

#### Understanding the indwelling from a positive perspective

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Without the Spirit's indwelling one possesses:

- An "earnest" of inheritance (Ephesians 1:14; 2 Corinthians 5:5)
- A family union (Galatians 4:6)
- The mind of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9)
- Assurance (Romans 8:14-16; Galatians 4:6; 1 John 3:24; 4:13)
- Strength from divine power (Ephesians 3:14-20; 2 Corinthians 3:17, 18)
- A strong deterrent to sin (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20)
- Great comfort (John 14:26; Acts 9:31; 1 Thessalonians 4:13)
- They possess verification of a covenant union with God (Ephesians 1:13)

#### How can we know that the Holy Spirit dwells within us?

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- Improper ways—Feelings/emotions; Hearing voices speak to them; Miraculous signs; the word of some mortal
- Romans 8:14—being "led" by God
- Acts 5:32— obeying God's Word
- Romans 8:16—confirmed sonship with God (Galatians 4:6)
- Galatians 5:22-24—evident in my thoughts, words, and deeds

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is not something that can be known through emotional experiences; it can only be determined by objective commands that are found in Scripture. Only obedience to these commands will enable us to judge whether we have the Holy Spirit indwelling our lives! The ONLY way to have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us is to allow the Word of God to dwell in us. And this means we must obey God's Word! (1 John 2:3-6).

### Looking Ahead

**Lesson 12:** The Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

**Suggested Reading:** Mark 3:29; Num. 15:29-31;  
Is. 65:7; Rev. 16:9; Tit. 2:5