

Introduction



His Person



His Works



His Indwelling

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His Baptizing



His Sealing



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His Gifting



His Helping



The Holy Spirit—Our Helper

Bethany Bible Church, Adult Sunday School Class, August 28, 2011

Believers--the Dwelling-Place of God

“The permanent and universal-among-all-believers indwelling ministry of the Spirit is at the heart of the distinctiveness of the Spirit’s work in this church age.” -- Charles C. Ryrie¹

In our last study, we began to consider the Holy Spirit’s indwelling ministry in the life of the believer; and particularly the blessedness of His indwelling ministry. This morning, we consider the persons in whom He graciously indwells.

In a previous study (Lesson #5; *His Work in The Old Testament Era*), we affirmed that the Holy Spirit truly worked in all the Old Testament saints; "because wherever there is spiritual life, there is the work of the Holy Spirit." But we also noted that His work in the Old Testament seemed to be presented in what we might call a “person-specific” way. His work appeared then to have been limited to only certain Old Testament saints for specific ministries, and only for a brief period of time. But while Jesus was still with His disciples, He promised them that Pentecost would bring about a dramatic difference in the way the Holy Spirit would minister toward the saints. Jesus said, "He dwells *with you*"--which summarized the Spirit’s work in Old Testament era; “and will be *in you*”--which summarized the Spirit’s work in the New Testament era (John 14:17, *emphasis added*).²

I. THE INDWELLING MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT IN ALL BELIEVERS IS THE FULFILLMENT OF AN OLD TESTAMENT PROMISE.

- A. At Pentecost, as people gathered to see the remarkable manifestation of the Holy Spirit’s presence in the lives of the Lord’s humble disciples, Peter explained that what they were seeing was “what was spoken by the prophet Joel” (Acts 2:16). He then quoted from Joel 2:28-32; where God promised, “I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh” (v. 28), “And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days” (v. 29).
- B. The Old Testament promises concerning the glories of the New Covenant should be understood in the light of the new nature of the Holy Spirit’s indwelling. With regard to His saints, God promised, “I will put My laws in their minds, and write it on their hearts” (Jeremiah 31:33). He said, “I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them” (32:39); and “I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me” (v. 40). No longer would the dynamic of a walk with God be merely an outward one; but rather an inward one. Thus, as the apostle John wrote, “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” (1 John 3:24).

II. THE INDWELLING MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS UNIVERSAL TO ALL BELIEVERS.

- A. One way that the Bible affirms this to us is ‘negatively’. In Romans 8:9, Paul writes, “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.” This was not to bring into doubt whether or not the Spirit truly dwelt in a genuine believer; but rather to encourage those to whom he wrote to examine themselves and make certain whether or not they were genuinely redeemed. He went on to affirm, “Now if any one does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.” In other words,

everyone who is truly Christ's *is* indwelt by the Holy Spirit. In the book of Jude, those who are "ungodly" and who "deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 4) are said to be persons "not having the Spirit" (v. 19).

- B. The Bible also affirms this to us in 'positive' ways. Paul says that "no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:3). In Acts 5:32, the apostles preached the gospel of Jesus to the officials and said, "And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him" ("obedience" here signifying the act of repenting of unbelief and genuinely believing the gospel; see Acts 6:7). An important affirmation of the Spirit's indwelling of all believers is found in His ministry of "sealing" those who trust in Jesus; "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" (Ephesians 1:13b-14).
- C. This indwelling remains true of Christians who have occasion to stumble in sin and behave in an unchristlike manner. Paul could not speak to the Corinthian believers as he wished, "but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:1); saying, "For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?" (v. 3). Yet, he could rebuke them and call them to obedience by telling them, "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (v. 16). He exhorted them to "flee sexual immorality" (6:18); saying, "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?" (v. 19). He urged the Thessalonian believers toward sexual purity; saying, "For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit" (1 Thessalonians 4:7-8).

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S INDWELLING IS SOMETHING THAT EACH BELIEVER CAN BE ASSURED OF AND CONFIDENT IN.

- A. The most important assurance of this, of course, comes from the promises of God in His word--which very promises we have been studying! But it can also be assured to us by the manifestation of the Spirit's work in us--the most verifiable of which is His "fruit". Paul wrote, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23). As we see increasingly and consistently the fruit of the Holy Spirit manifest in our lives, we can be further assured of the Spirit's presence in us.
- B. The promises of God, however, must take priority over "experience". As Rene Pache wrote, "May we, therefore, learn to believe that the Spirit is in us, children of God, simply because the Bible tells us so. Then, when we have believed (and not before) we shall see this Spirit bring forth in our hearts that love, joy and peace which we had hitherto sought in vain . . ."³

¹Charles C. Ryrie, *The Holy Spirit* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1997), p. 96.

²All Scripture readings are taken from the Holy Bible, New King James Version; copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

³Rene Pache, J.D. Emerson, trans., *The Person and Work of The Holy Spirit* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1954), p. 104.