



Filled With The Holy Spirit

Text:

**Ephesians 5:18-19;
Colossians 3:16**

By Nathan L Morrison for Sunday 10/09/2022

All Scripture given is from NASB unless otherwise stated

For further study, or if questions, please Call: 804-277-1983 or Visit:
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Adapted from lesson 8 of *The Holy Spirit* by Heath Rogers

Intro

There is great controversy and misunderstanding in the religious world concerning the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Some call it the “Direct Operation” of the Holy Spirit

- It is not uncommon to hear people claim the Holy Spirit led them to say or do something.
- They believe they are led in a direct manner apart from the written word of God!
- When questioned further about their “experience,” what they usually mean is that they felt a “strong feeling” within that led them to do or say something.

There is great controversy and misunderstanding in the religious world concerning the indwelling of the Holy Spirit

- The denominational world is filled with the teaching and conviction that the Holy Spirit personally and literally dwells within the Christian.
- Some claim this indwelling gives them special benefits such a better understanding of God’s word and miraculous guidance in their daily life.
- Some of these claims become outrageous with people insisting the Holy Spirit keeps them from sinning or unleashes divine power in their life.

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The belief in a literal, personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit (“direct operation”) is not limited to people in denominations.

- Although they may not make the same claims as mentioned above, some brethren believe in a literal indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

- This view is held by some who are sincere and very knowledgeable in the Scriptures, but it is a view which is contrary to the teachings found in the Scriptures!
- There are some things about the Holy Spirit that are difficult to understand. The question of the indwelling is one of these difficult aspects of the Holy Spirit.
- It is not easy to understand the workings of deity and the spiritual world while we are confined to a physical existence.
- Although some things regarding the Holy Spirit are difficult, we must base our understandings of these things upon the teachings of the word of God, not upon feelings, opinions, desires, or denominational doctrines.

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Intro

It is important to test all things against the standard of Scripture (I Thessalonians 5:21; I John 4:1)

Lest we fall under the same condemnation as the false prophets in the days of Ezekiel...

Thus says the Lord GOD, "Woe to the foolish prophets who are following their own spirit and have seen nothing" (Ezekiel 13:3)

1Th 5:21 But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good;

1Jn 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

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Intro

The Holy Spirit dwells in every Christian – Romans 8:9

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him” (Romans 8:9)

How does the Holy Spirit dwell in Christians today?

Rom 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Rom 8:10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

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



The Holy Spirit Dwells in the Christian

- Romans 8:9-11
- I Corinthians 6:19
- II Timothy 1:14
- James 4:5

These verses are not proof texts for a personal, literal indwelling. Not one of these verses tells us ***HOW*** the Spirit dwells in us.

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

1Co 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

2Ti 1:14 Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

Jas 4:5 Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

There is no doubt the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian, but these verses are not proof texts for a personal, literal indwelling.

- Not one of these verses tells us **HOW** the Spirit dwells in us.
- These verses are to be understood symbolically, not literally.
- As such, they emphasize the blessings that Christians enjoy with regards to having fellowship with the Holy Spirit as well as being influenced by the Holy Spirit.



Fellowship

- The Scriptures teach the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian.
- However, the Scriptures also say both the Father and the Son dwell in the Christian
 - I John 4:12-16: God abides in us if we love one another, by His Spirit, when we confess that Jesus is the Son of God and when we abide in love.
 - Eph. 3:17: Jesus abides in us through faith.
- Why is it that people want to emphasize the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, but not that of the Father and the Son?
- The Scriptures also say:
 - The Christian dwells in the Father (I John 4:12-16: The saint abides in God by the Holy Spirit, by confession that Jesus is the Son of God, and by abiding in love).
 - The Christian dwells in the Son (John 6:56: Through the eating of the Lord's Supper: Flesh, the bread; Blood, the fruit of the vine).
 - The Christian dwells in the Son (John 15:3-5, 7, 9-10: As branches without the vine are dead so saints must abide in Christ as branches to His Vine. He says we abide in Him in love and in obedience to His commandments).
 - The Christian dwells in the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:25: When the saint lives and walks in the Spirit).

- One of the rules of Bible study is that a passage is to be taken literally unless there is reason to take it figuratively.
- This teaching is confusing if we take it literally: How can a person dwell in a person who is dwelling within him?

This does not make sense literally, but it makes perfect sense if taken figuratively.

- The figure of deity dwelling in us while we are dwelling in deity emphasizes the closeness of the fellowship we are to have with the Godhead (John 14:19-24).
- This fellowship is so close that each one is described as dwelling in the other.

Influence

- One way a person can be said to “dwell in” another is to the extent that he can exert an influence over that person.
- The Holy Spirit can be seen in those who show the influence of the Holy Spirit in their lives; that is, they are living in the way the Holy Spirit tells them to live.
- Acts 4:13

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Influence

- One way a person can be said to “dwell in” another is to the extent that he can exert an influence over that person.
 - For example, when a man is seen using the same mannerisms or figures of speech used by his father, an observer might say, “I can see your father in you.”
 - This is not understood literally, but figuratively. The observer sees the influence that the man’s father has had on his life.
- The Holy Spirit can be seen in those who show the influence of the Holy Spirit in their lives; that is, they are living in the way the Holy Spirit tells them to live.
- Acts 4:13
 - Peter and John were arrested and later brought before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4).
 - When these two apostles responded to the Jewish leaders in a bold manner, they realized Peter and John had been with Jesus (v. 13).
 - They recognized the influence Jesus had upon their lives.
 - Likewise, when the Bible speaks of the Holy Spirit dwelling in the Christian, it is, in part, emphasizing the influence that the Holy Spirit has upon our lives!

The Spirit and the Word

- The Holy Spirit has an **influence** upon our lives because the Spirit revealed the word unto mankind (I Corinthians 2:10-12, II Peter 1:21).
- As we abide in the word, we maintain our **fellowship** with God (John 14:21, 23).

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The Spirit and the Word

- As we have already noted in our study, there is a connection between the Holy Spirit and the word of God.
- As we read and study the word of God, the Spirit has an influence upon our lives because the Spirit revealed the word unto mankind (I Cor. 2:10-12; II Pet. 1:21).
- As we abide in the word, we maintain our fellowship with God (John 14:21, 23).

How the Holy Spirit Dwells in the Christian

- Christ is said to dwell in our hearts “through faith” (Ephesians 3:17).
- The Galatians received the Holy Spirit “by the hearing of faith” (Galatians 3:2-5).
- Faith comes by hearing the word of God, not by a miraculous work of the Holy Spirit (Romans 10:17).

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How the Holy Spirit Dwells in the Christian

- We considered a number of passages at the beginning of this lesson (Rom. 8:9-11; I Cor. 6:19; II Tim. 1:14; James 4:5) which tell us the Holy Spirit dwells in us, but none of these passages tell us **HOW** the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us.
- Some believe it is a miraculous, literal, personal indwelling that has to have happened.
- However, if we will continue to study the Scriptures, we will see there are passages which state **HOW** deity comes to dwell in the Christian!
 - Christ is said to dwell in our hearts “through faith” (Eph. 3:17).
 - The Galatians received the Holy Spirit “by the hearing of faith” (Gal. 3:2-5).
 - Faith comes by hearing the word of God, not by a miraculous work of the Holy Spirit, apart from the word (Rom. 10:17).



How the Holy Spirit Dwells in the Christian

- Perhaps this connection between the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the word of God is best seen in a comparison of two passages of Scripture.
 - Ephesians 5:18-19: And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but ***be filled with the Spirit***, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.
 - Colossians 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.

The Bible is its own best commentary!

- When we set these two passages side by side we see that to be “filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:18) is the same as letting “the word of Christ dwell in” us richly (Col. 3:16).
- The Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian through the agency of the word of God.
- The blessings of this indwelling (fellowship with and influence from the Holy Spirit) are strengthened as we continue to read and abide in the word of God.

Consequences of a Literal, Personal Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

- The written word becomes insufficient
- A dangerous step towards emotionalism and the charismatic movement

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Consequences of a Literal, Personal Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

- The written word becomes insufficient
 - If a Christian can receive the blessings given in the word of God through some means independent and apart from the word, then the word is no longer necessary.
 - If the indwelling of the Holy Spirit gives us guidance in our life, then we have all we need.
 - While it would appear no one would want to accept this conclusion, it actually plays into the hands of those who
 - 1) prefer emotionalism over reason and logic,
 - 2) are lazy and do not want to study the word of God.
- A dangerous step towards emotionalism and the charismatic movement
 - Strange views are held by those in the denominational world regarding the literal indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
 - Some of them believe they receive extra-biblical guidance and wisdom.
 - They confuse the trained conscience with the speaking of the Spirit (“The Spirit laid this on my heart”, etc.).
 - Some of them insist it is impossible for them to sin because the Spirit dwelling in them would not allow them to sin.
 - Brethren are falling into this kind of thinking, and the plain teaching of the Bible is being abandoned in favor of personal feelings and denominational error.

Consequences of a Literal, Personal Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

- The written word becomes insufficient
- A dangerous step towards emotionalism and the charismatic movement
- The age of miracles has not ended

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Consequences of a Literal, Personal Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

- The age of miracles has not ended
 - God works in this world today through His providence.
 - Any time deity interacts with this physical world in a direct way it is a miracle.
 - For a member of the Godhead to literally and personally dwell in my physical body requires a miracle.
 - Miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit were imparted by the laying on of hands by the apostles as seen in Acts 8. Philip preached to Samaria and could perform miracles. The apostles had laid hands on him in Acts 6:5-6. But when Peter and John arrived they could give the gifts of the Holy Spirit to people by laying their hands on them (Acts 8:14-19).
 - I Corinthians 13:9-13 says spiritual gifts as seen in the 1st c. would cease “when that which is perfect is come.”
 - The question of the ages has been what or Who is the “Perfect?”
 - Let us look at this text in light of the “Charismatic Movement’s Approach” and then the context of I Corinthians 13 and the rest of Scripture!

Consequences of a Literal, Personal Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

Charismatic Position

That which is "perfect" is Christ

1. Doesn't fit the context
2. Involves an insurmountable difficulty

If this is Christ's return, then faith & hope will continue to abide after His return! (13:13)

First Century	Present	Christ's Return
Spiritual Gifts	Spiritual Gifts	
Faith	Faith	Faith
Hope	Hope	Hope
Love	Love	Love

Consequences of a Literal, Personal Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

- The age of miracles has not ended
 - The "Charismatic Movement's Approach" answers this with, the "Perfect" is Jesus Christ so it refers to His 2nd Coming, which means spiritual gifts still exist today!
 - 1) Doesn't fit the context
 - 2) Involves an insurmountable difficulty
 - If this is Christ's return, then faith & hope will continue to abide after His return! (I Corinthians 13:13)
- Notice the difficulty of such a position:
 - Faith will become sight! (Heb. 11:1: Faith is the conviction of what is not seen; I John 3:2: We will see Him just as He is!)
 - Hope will be realized! (Rom. 8:24-25: We hope for what we do not have)
 - The context is of complete revelation (I Cor. 13:9-12)
 - Spiritual gifts cannot be imparted today
 - Imparted by and only by apostles of Christ – Acts 8:14-19; 19:1-7; Rom. 1:11; I Tim. 4:14; II Tim. 1:6
 - There are no apostles today! (Acts 1:21-22, 25-26; I Cor. 15:8) – If there are, that would be a miracle!
 - Therefore, no one today can impart spiritual gifts as it was done in the 1st Century!

Consequences of a Literal, Personal Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

The Truth

1. That which is "perfect" is completed revelation of God
2. Fits the context
3. Involves no Scriptural, or contextual difficulty

First Century	Present	Christ's Return
Spiritual Gifts		
Faith	Faith	
Hope	Hope	
Love	Love	Love

Consequences of a Literal, Personal Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

- The age of miracles has not ended
 - The answer from the context of I Corinthians 13:9-13:
 - 1) That which is "perfect" is completed revelation of God
 - 2) Fits the context
 - 3) Involves no Scriptural, or contextual difficulty
 - The spiritual gifts fulfilled their purpose (Hebrews 2:1-4) and have left behind faith, hope, and love until Christ's return!
- When Jesus returns Faith and Hope will be realized and no longer necessary (I John 3:2; Romans 8:24-25)
- But love will endure! (I Corinthians 13:8; Revelation 21:2: The church pictured as a bride; Ephesians 5:25, 32: Jesus loved the church as a husband is to love his wife)

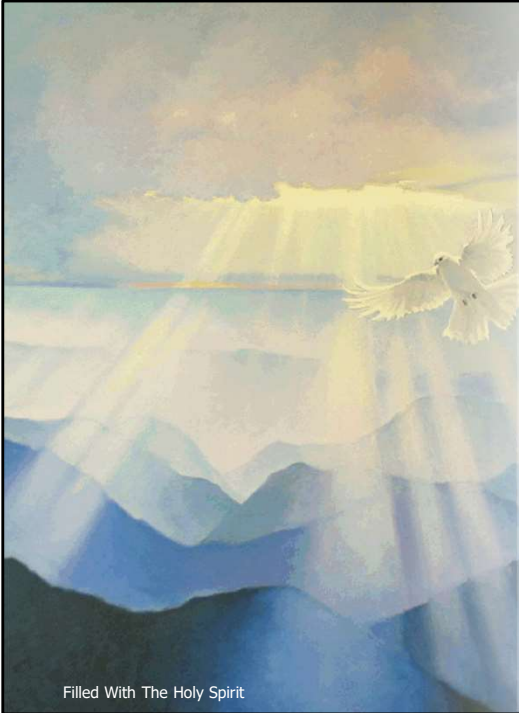
Consequences of a Literal, Personal Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

- The written word becomes insufficient
- A dangerous step towards emotionalism and the charismatic movement
- The age of miracles has not ended
- We are "Immanuel" (Matthew 1:23; Colossians 2:9)

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Consequences of a Literal, Personal Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

- We are Immanuel (Matthew 1:23: "Immanuel" means "God with us"; Colossians 2:9)
 - What made Jesus different than any other man was the fact that deity dwelt in His physical body (Matthew 1:23; Colossians 2:9).
 - If the Holy Spirit literally dwells in me, why wouldn't I also be Immanuel?
 - If the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit dwell directly and literally within my body, then why wouldn't I be the "fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9)?
 - No serious Christian would ever make this kind of a claim, but this is what the literal indwelling of the Holy Spirit would make us!



Conclusion

- The pattern of Scripture is that when the Holy Spirit did speak directly to believers it was in words, spoken and taught by the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 2:12-13)
- The Holy Spirit dwells in us through the Word of God as we walk in the Light of that word (I John 1:6-7)
- The Holy Spirit dwells in us through our faith and acceptance of His word!

Are you filled with the Holy Spirit?

Filled With The Holy Spirit

The pattern of Scripture is that when the Holy Spirit did speak directly to believers it was in words, spoken and taught by the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 2:12-13)

- 1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,
- 1Co 2:13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.
 - Must question those who claim “experiences” contrary to the examples in Scripture!
 - Do not go beyond the teaching of Jesus! (II John 9)

The Holy Spirit dwells in us through the Word of God as we walk in the Light of that word – I John 1:6-7

- 1Jn 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;
- 1Jn 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.
- If we are not dwelling in the word, then the Spirit does not dwell in us, and if the Spirit does not dwell in us, then we do not have God! (Romans 8:9)

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is not an easy subject to understand, but we can understand what has been revealed about this subject.

- No one should deny that the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian.
- The word of God teaches the Holy Spirit dwells in us through our faith and acceptance of His word.
- As we abide in His word, the Holy Spirit exerts an influence upon our lives and we enjoy fellowship with Him.

Are you filled with the Holy Spirit?

“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”

Hear The Gospel (Jn. 5:24; Rom. 10:17)

Believe In Christ (Jn. 3:16-18; Jn. 8:24)

Repent Of Sins (Lk. 13:3-5; Acts 2:38)

Confess Christ (Mt. 10:32; Acts 8:37)

Be Baptized (Mk. 16:16; Acts 22:16)

Remain Faithful (Jn. 8:31; Rev. 2:10)

FOR THE ERRING SAINT:

**Repent (Acts 8:22), Confess (I Jn. 1:9),
Pray (Acts 8:22)**

Conclusion

1. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
2. If a Christian in error, don't wait till it's eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
3. Whatever your requests, let them be made known **NOW** while we stand & sing!