

The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

TEXT: Rom. 8:9

INTRODUCTION:

- A. THE FACT OF THE INDWELLING OF THE SPIRIT IS INDISPUTABLE.
- B. THE NATURE OF THAT INDWELLING IS HOTLY CONTESTED.
- C. WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

I. INDWELLING IS INDISPUTABLE.

- A. GIVEN WHEN WE OBEY (**Acts 5:32**).
- B. THE SPIRIT DWELLS IN THE CHURCH (**1 Cor. 3:16**).
- C. THE SPIRIT DWELLS IN CHRISTIANS (**1 Cor. 6:19-20**).
- D. IT IS A NECESSARY MEASURE OF GENUINE DISCIPLESHIP (**Rom. 8:9**).

II. SOME ARGUE FOR LITERAL OR "PERSONAL" INDWELLING.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- A. CALVINIST VIEW.
 1. Mysterious in Nature – can't be explained.
 2. To empower and enlighten, to instill an unsought faith.

Antithesis of Possession – Direct Operation
 3. God's power is in the Gospel – the Sword of the Spirit (**Eph. 6:16; Rom. 1:16**).
 4. God's power is manifest in the Spirit's work.
- B. THE LITERAL, OR PERSONAL VIEW.
 1. An explanation is most often avoided by statements like, "You know, literal, I mean he's actually in us."
 2. I know what literal means – One inside the Other ... like a tapeworm, in there.
 3. What is he in?
 - a. Our bodies? (**1 Cor. 6:19-20**).
 - b. Our hearts? (**Gal. 4:6**).
 - c. **The difference demands figurative language!**
 4. **Literal Location?** (**Psa. 139:7-10**). He is **Omnipresent** – in the vilest sinner!
 5. It is said of God (**1 John 4:12-15**). God in us – we in Him.
And of Jesus (**Eph. 3:16-17; Rom. 8:10**). Christ in us – we in Him (**Gal. 4:19**).
Mutual Indwelling! Also **demands figurative language.**

And nobody disputes this!

- C. IT HAS BEEN ARGUED THAT THE WORDS "DWELL" AND "INDWELL" MUST BE UNDERSTOOD LITERALLY, AND SINCE THE SPIRIT "INDWELLS" US IT MUST BE A LITERAL "INDWELLING." MUST "DWELL" BE UNDERSTOOD LITERALLY? (**Rom. 8:9, 11**).
 1. Dwell - *oikeo*, "to dwell (from *oikos*, a house), to inhabit as one's abode."
 - a. **1 Tim. 6:16**, God dwelling in light unapproachable.
 - b. **1 Cor. 3:16**, In the church, definitely a figure(**1 Pet. 2:4-5**).
 - c. **Rom. 7:20**, The indwelling of sin, def. fig.
 - d. **Rom. 7:18**, The absence of any good thing in the flesh.

- e. **1 Cor. 7:12-13**. Married people dwelling together, lit.
- 2. Dwell - **katoikeo**, "settle down in a dwelling, to dwell fixedly in a place."
 - a. **Col. 1:19, 2:9**, "Indwelling of the totality of attributes & powers of the Godhead in Christ, fig.
 - b. **Eph. 3:17**, The indwelling of Christ in our hearts, fig.
 - c. **Rev. 2:13**, Where Satan has control.
 - d. **2 Pet. 3:13**, Righteousness dwells literally?
- 3. Indwelling - **eoikeo**, "to dwell in, is used, with a spiritual significance only, of:
 - a. **2 Cor. 6:16**, "the indwelling of God in believers."
 - b. **Rom. 8:11; 2 Tim. 1:14**, "the indwelling of the H. S."
 - c. **Col. 3:16**, "the indwelling word of Christ."
 - d. **2 Tim. 1:5**, "the indwelling of faith."
 - e. **Rom. 7:17**, "the indwelling of sin in the believer."
 - f. **THAYER**: this word is used everywhere **metaphorically**.

A Bogus Argument from not studying!

- D. WHEN PRESSED FOR MEANINGS & MYSTERY, WE CAN'T UNDERSTAND.
 - 1. Mystery, **musterion**, "hidden, not revealed." Not **incomprehensible**!
 - 2. The real mystery: Why argue so vehemently for something when we don't have a clear picture of what it is?
 - 3. **Deut. 29:29. Revealed Things Belong To Us!**
 - 4. Is there something in the Scriptures that tell us the answer?

III. "IN" PASSAGES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

- A. PASSAGES TO NOTE: **Rom. 8:9, 11; 1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Tim. 1:14; Eph. 5:18; John 14:16-17. The Holy Spirit is in us.**
- B. NOTE ALSO: **Eph. 6:18; Rev. 1:10; 1 Cor. 12:3, 13. We are in the Spirit.**
- C. LITERALLY, HOW CAN THE SPIRIT BE IN US & US IN THE SPIRIT?
WHO IS IN WHOM?
- D. 2 PASSAGES THAT HELP:
 - 1. **John 14:10**.
 - a. God is in Jesus and Jesus in the Father.
 - c. Describes their **Working Fellowship**.
 - 2. **John 17:20-21**.
 - a. We are to be one "even **AS** thou, Father, art **in me**, and **I in thee** ..."
 - b. How are **we** to be one? (**Eph. 4:1-16**).
- E. EXPRESSES UNITY (**1 John 3:24**). NOTHING MORE THAN **1:3-7**. See **2:3-6**
- F. FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS IN HIS DEATH (**Rom. 6:3-4**).

IV. IN ANY FELLOWSHIP THERE IS A POINT OF CONTACT.

- A. INDWELLING **RECEIVED UPON OBEYING THE WORD**
(**Acts 5:32; Gal. 3:2**).
- B. OUR POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE SPIRIT IS THE REVEALED WORD.
THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF THE WORD THE SPIRIT DWELLS IN US.
 - 1. Parallel passages (**Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16**).
 - 2. The Bible itself is not the Spirit, but the means by which the Spirit operates on us (**Rom. 8:12-17; Rev. 2:17; John 6:63**).
 - 3. We know we are saved when we obey (**1 John 2:3-5; 3:24**).

- a. **Rom. 8:16**, The Spirit bears witness "with," not "to," our spirit.
 - b. **Eph. 1:13-14; 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5**, "Sealed" with the "earnest" of the Spirit. God's pledge. What is God's pledge to us?
(**Heb. 6:13-20; 2 Tim. 2:11-13 – Heb. 2:3-4**).
4. The "fruit of the Spirit" is seen in our conforming our character to the teaching of the word (**Gal. 5:22-26**).

CONCLUSION:

- A. I CLAIM THE PERSONAL INDWELLING OF THE SPIRIT.
 1. I am a Christian.
 2. I have obeyed the Word.
- B. THE EXPRESSION PERSONAL INDWELLING IS A FIGURE OF SPEECH DENOTING THE FELLOWSHIP THAT I HAVE WITH HIM, AS I ALSO HAVE IT WITH THE FATHER AND THE SON.