

THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION:

- A. For many hundred years great and learned men have researched and discussed this topic
- B. Certainly in this outline we do not propose to answer all the questions on the subject, yet I feel that the Bible does make certain things clear concerning this subject and we need to understand as much as possible concerning this subject

DISCUSSION:

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES DWELL WITHIN CHRISTIANS TODAY

- A. It is not the same measure Jesus had (without measure).
- B. It is not the baptism of the Holy Spirit that the apostles had.
- C. It is not the miraculous measure which the apostles gave to others.
- D. And yet, the Holy Spirit does dwell in some way within the Christian today.
 - 1. He was promised to those who would be baptized on Pentecost Acts 2:38 (gift = salvation – because H. S. is in those batiaed)
 - 2. He is given to all those that obey God Acts 5:32
 - 3. Galatians received Holy Spirit by the hearing of faith Gal 3:2,3
 - 4. He dwells in those who make up the church 1Cor 3:16,17
 - 5. He dwells in our bodies 1Cor 6:19,20
- E. God and Christ are also said to dwell in the Christian
 - 1. God dwells in us 1Jhn 4:12-15
 - 2. Christ dwells in us Eph 3:17; Col 1:27

II. HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELL IN THE CHRISTIAN TODAY?

- A. It is hard for anyone to give a satisfactory answer to this question, yet the Bible affirms and everyone agrees that the Holy Spirit does dwell in a person born into the family of God.
- B. How does your spirit (soul) dwell in your mortal body?
 - 1. Have you seen it, can you feel it? **NO!**
 - 2. Yet you accept the fact that it does exist in your body.
 - 3. We know it dwells in the body because we see the results - that is, our body lives.
- C. I don't think anyone can say exactly **HOW** the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian, yet in the same manner that we can tell that **OUR** "human" spirit (the spirit which animates our body) lives in our body, we can tell that the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian: by the results, the individual lives spiritually.

III. THE PRINCIPLE OF THE SEED 1Pet 1:23 (show corn & Bible results)

- A. Seed, regardless of kind, bears in it the spark or the essence of life.
 - 1. Seed itself is not life, yet bears in itself the power to produce life.
 - 2. Conditions must be right before a new form will come forth with life in it.
- B. The word of God is the **SEED** of the kingdom Lk 8:11
 - 1. Bible, the Word of God, is not life, just words on paper - a book.
 - 2. Yet it contains in it the ability to produce life.
 - 3. Certain conditions must be met before this life will be produced.

- C. New life comes about in spiritual realm same as physical realm.
 - 1. The seed must be planted in good soil.
 - 2. There must be a birth or a coming forth of the new life.
 - 3. Seed planted in minds (which is included in birth of the spirit in Jhn 3:5) and then born of water (which is baptism) Jhn 3:5. At this point there is a coming forth of a new man Rom 6:1-6.
- D. God's word is living and powerful Heb 4:12. What makes it living and powerful if it is not the Spirit of God that is therein?
- E. In the physical birth we receive a "human" spirit (the spirit which animates our body) - in the spiritual birth we receive the Holy Spirit.
- F. Never can we find where the Holy Spirit separate from the Word (Seed) ever changed the character of a person - but through the means of the Word, the Holy Spirit operates on the heart of a person and when that person becomes obedient (meets the conditions) the Spirit then enters and a new life is the result.

IV. HOW CAN WE KNOW THAT THE SPIRIT CONTINUES TO DWELL IN US TODAY?

- A. We know that the Holy Spirit enters our lives when we obey the Gospel, because God promised Acts 2:38; 5:32
 - 1. We need no higher assurance.
 - 2. We need no special sign from God.
- B. We can know that the Spirit continues to dwell in us by the signs of life which are manifested by the individual.
 - 1. When our "human" spirit (the spirit which animates our body) leaves our body then the body dies.
 - 2. So, when the Holy Spirit leaves us we die spiritually.
 - 3. The fruit of the Spirit is listed in Gal 5:22,23.
 - 4. When we are alive physically our bodies keep calling for food to sustain us and so it will be with the spiritual body.
 - 5. When we are alive physically we are actively engaged in physical activities and so it will be spiritually - we will be actively engaged in spiritual activities.
 - 6. Are you just barely hanging on spiritually, at point of death with Spirit about to leave body - or are you vibrantly alive, feeding on spiritual food and giving your spiritual body plenty exercise?
- C. It's not hard for us to look at our spiritual lives and see whether we are alive or dead. All that is necessary is for us to examine our activities and see where our interests are.

CONCLUSION:

- A. The Holy Spirit does dwell in a person who has been born into the family of God.
- B. The instrument that the Spirit uses in bringing about life is the Word of God, and for life to continue (that is, for the Holy Spirit to stay in our lives) we must continue to feed on the Word of God and exercise spiritually.
- C. Have you been born into the family of God? If not, then the Spirit of God dies not dwell in your life!