

## **The Christian And The Holy Spirit**

No. 33

### **Introduction.**

I. Today I would like for us to discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian. This is a subject that has been long neglected in our time. Preachers and teachers have presented very few lessons on this vital theme. As the result of the neglect, most Christians do not understand the part or role the Holy Spirit has in their lives. Some Christians are like the men Paul found, at Ephesus, who did not even know the Holy Spirit was given. (Acts 19:2).

II. Some years ago Carl Spain, a professor at Abilene Christian University, made this provocative statement in a lecture.

“I have selected this text (Acts 2:38) because it not only contains what many people consider to be our strong emphasis, but it also contains a great truth which is probably the most neglected and least emphasized truth among us, i.e., ‘the gift of the Holy Spirit.’ There are two precious promises in this sacred text: the remission of sins, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. On the first promise we have been most vociferous (loud). But on the second our voices have been weak and timid. We have been loud and sure in our emphasis on the relationship between baptism and the remission of sins. But our voices have dropped to a whisper, or we have read hurriedly and nervously over the rest of the verse lest we become involved in a point which we do not care to fully investigate or discuss. We have placed too little emphasis on the vital relationship between remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

I supplied the definition of vociferous (loud) in this reading since this word is not commonly use.

III. I agree with brother Spain that we have placed too little emphasis on “the gift of the Holy Spirit.” We have been mostly silent on the subject of “The Christian and The Holy Spirit.” This had led to ignorance and many false teachings. It is vital that we carefully look at what God’s word teaches on this subject.

I. **Holy Spirit Dwells In The Christian** - The fact that the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian is set forth in a number of scriptures.

**JOH 7:37 Now on the last day, the great {day} of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.**

**JOH 7:38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'"**

**JOH 7:39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet {given,} because Jesus was not yet glorified.**

**Acts 2:38; 1 John 3:24.**

**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 And 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 indwells you.

**ROM 8:12** ¶ So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh--

**ROM 8:13** for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

**ROM 8:14** For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

**ROM 8:15** For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

**ROM 8:16** The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

**ROM 8:17** and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with {Him} in order that we may also be glorified with {Him.}

A. These scriptures show that each Christian has received "the gift of the Holy Spirit." In fact, the scriptures state if the Spirit does not dwell in us we are "none of His," that is, we do not belong to Christ. (Rom. 8:9).

B. This is not a gift from the Holy Spirit, but is the Holy Spirit Himself.

1. **J.W. McGarvey**, in his commentary on Acts, says,

"The expression means the Holy Spirit as a gift; and the reference is that indwelling of the Holy Spirit by which we bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, and without which we are not of Christ."

2. Peter shows this is the correct interpretation. (Acts 5:32).

## II. How Does The Holy Spirit Dwell In Christians?

A. The question is often raised, "How does the Holy Spirit dwell in the Christian?"

1. This is a very controversial subject in the religious world and in our brotherhood today. There are some who maintain that the Spirit dwells in the Christian through the word of God and through the word alone. Others maintain that the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian personally.

2. As far as I can determine from reading the scriptures, they do not answer this question. They clearly affirm the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian, but they never tell us how the Spirit dwells in us. They do not affirm the Holy Spirit dwells in us personally, or through the word only, or by faith. The scriptures simply do not say. We should not argue on the mode of His indwelling, but rather accept the fact He dwells in us.

B. Actually the Bible informs us that all three members of the Godhead dwell in us.

1. The Bible is very clear that God dwells in us. (1 Jn. 4:12).

2. The Bible teaches us that Christ dwells in us. (Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:27).

3. We have already seen that the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit dwells in us.

4. The scriptures then set forth that all three members of the Godhead dwell in the Christian. We do not have to be able to fully understand it, but we can still accept this awesome fact.

## III. What Is The Purpose Of The Indwelling Of The Holy Spirit?

A. The question should be raised now, "What is the purpose of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?" To answer this question it will help us first to consider several things the Holy Spirit does not do.

1. The Holy Spirit dwelling in the Christian **does not give him a special strength to live the Christian life.**

- a. If this were the case a Christian could blame the Holy Spirit for his spiritual failure. He could say, “The Spirit did not give me enough strength so I fell away.”
- b. The Spirit strengthens us, but not directly in some miraculous way as we shall see later in our lesson.

2. The Holy Spirit **does not give the Christian miraculous power.**

- a. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit differs from the miraculous measures of the Spirit given to the apostles and others in the early church.
- b. This is proven by the **Jews on the day of Pentecost**. Some 3,000 of them repented and were baptized for the remission of sins and that they might receive “the gift of the Holy Spirit.” The only ones performing miracles were the apostles. Those receiving “the gift of the Holy Spirit” were not able to perform miracles.
- c. This is proven by the **conversion of the Samaritans** recorded in Acts the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter. When they had been baptized, they received the gift (the indwelling of the Holy Spirit) just as Peter had promised in Acts 2:38. They were not able to perform a single miracle. It was necessary for the apostles to come to the Samaritans and impart the miraculous measure of the Holy Spirit to them. Only then were they able to perform miracles. (Acts 8:17).

3. The Spirit does **not give the Christian some strange and mysterious feeling.**

- a. It is only through God’s revelation that we know that the Spirit dwells in us just as it is only by revelation that our immortal spirit dwells in us.
- b. Neither the Holy Spirit or our human spirit give us a strange, inexplicable feeling.

B. Now that we have seen what the indwelling of the Holy Spirit does not do for the Christian, let us discuss in explicit and unambiguous terms the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian.

1. The Holy Spirit **led us to Christ by the word of God, the truth, the gospel.** (Rom. 1:16; 10:17; 1 Cor. 4:15; Jas. 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:23).

2. The Holy Spirit is **a sign of our sonship.** (Gal. 4:6; Rom. 8:16).

- a. In Ephesians 1:13 we are told that the Spirit is a “seal” of our salvation.
- b. The word “seal” often means “ownership.” The Spirit is a sign that we are owned of God and will be redeemed in that last day.

3. The Holy Spirit is **“an earnest of our inheritance.”** (Eph. 1:14).

- a. The word “earnest” comes from a Greek word which means “pledge”. The Holy Spirit is a “pledge” or a “promise” that our future inheritance is sure.
- b. The **Twentieth Century New Testament** says: “The Spirit is a pledge of our future heritage.”

4. The Holy Spirit is a pledge of our resurrection.

- a. Listen to these words of Paul in Romans 8:11.

**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 indwells you.**

- b. Paul tells that the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead and the Holy Spirit “will also give life” to our “our mortal bodies.”
- c. It is the Holy Spirit who will bring about the sweet and precious promise. (1 Cor. 15:50-53).

5. The Holy Spirit **helps us to pray as we ought**. (Rom. 8:26, 27).

**ROM 8:26 And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for {us} with groanings too deep for words;**

**ROM 8:27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to {the will of} God.**

- a. As mortals we do not always know how we should pray. Sometimes we have wants and needs that we are not able to put in words. When this happens, the Spirit comes to our rescue and makes intercession for us according to the will of God.
- b. He takes our groanings, things we cannot put words, and presents them to God. God who knows what the Spirit means by these groanings answers our prayers. This is on thing the Spirit does for us apart from the word of God alone, but even this is always in harmony with God’s word.

6. The Holy Spirit is **an incentive to holiness**. (1 Cor. 6:19, 20).

- a. How exciting and humbling it is to know the Spirit dwell in us. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- b. The realization that our bodies are the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit should motivate us to keep our bodies pure and not to defile them in any way. Those who use their bodies for fornication and abuse their bodies in other ways simply do not understand and appreciate the sacredness of their bodies.

7. The Holy Spirit **strengthens this inner man**. (Eph. 3:16).

- a. In Ephesians 6:17 we learn how the Spirit strengthens us.
- b. He does not it directly, but He strengthens the Christian through the word of God, the sword of the Spirit which is “living and active, and sharper than any two edged sword.” (Heb. 4:12).
- c. This is why God’s children are encouraged to grow in knowledge of God’s word and to store up God’s word in their hearts. (1 Pet. 3:18; Psa. 119:11).

8. The Holy Spirit **produces the fruit of the Spirit**.

- a. The Holy Spirit never produces lying, cheating, strife, immorality, and other works of the flesh in us.
- b. The Holy Spirit, through God’s word, leads us to walk close to the Master and produces this harvest in us. (Gal. 5:22, 23).
  - 1) Anyone can claim the indwelling of the Spirit and many do.
  - 2) Only those who exhibit these 9 characteristics manifest the presence of the Holy Spirit.

### **Conclusion.**

- I. As we have seen in this lesson the Holy Spirit plays a very important part in the life of the Christian. We may not fully understand or be able to fully explain everything the Holy Spirit does, but we should never be guilty of overlooking or de-emphasizing the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We should give thanks that the Holy Spirit dwells

in us and live a life that glorifies God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

- II. In order for a person to have this gift of the Holy Spirit and the remission of sins, it is necessary for him “to repent and be baptized” according to Acts 2:38. These great blessings will be yours if you will submit to the Lord in baptism. Come to Jesus today as we stand and sing.

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