

Does the Spirit Dwell in You?

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.
Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.
Romans 8:9

REVIEW

I. **OPTIONS** – “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit.”

- A. The Bible presents 2 options and no more. There is no third like “on the fence.”
- B. Before we look at those 2 options, let's note that that's the message of the Great Commission: It's *this* or it's *that* with God. For or against. Acceptance or rejection. Reconciliation or enmity. Yea or nay. Gather or scatter. We have many issues before us in life – job, house, marriage, school, finances, relationships, weather – but all shrink and pale before saying yes or no to what God is presenting. Are you in the flesh, or are you in the spirit?
- C. Really, we see the theme of 2 options throughout the Bible.
 - 1. Psalm 1 – 2 roads in life: blessing or cursing
 - 2. Gen. 1:1 – Creation or evolution
 - 3. Cain or Abel – unacceptable or acceptable worship
 - 4. Noah or world – safety or exposure to God's wrath
 - 5. Jacob or Esau – loved or hated of God
 - 6. Egypt or the Promised Land
 - 7. Suffer affliction with God's people (Moses) or enjoy pleasures of sin for a season
 - 8. Believe evil report of the 10 spies or the good report of Joshua and Caleb
 - 9. Samson or the Philistines, David or Goliath, Elijah or Jezebel, Jesus or Barabbas . . .
 - 10. In the flesh . . . or in the Spirit?
- D. Meaning of these phrases – a human being is either under the influence of, directed, or guided by the desires and passions of the corrupt flesh or the desires and passions of the Spirit of God.
 - 1. That's the question before us today, friends.
 - 2. We see the importance of our answer at the verse end. Sharp, solemn statement this!

II. **OCCUPIED** – “if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.”

- A. The GK verb translated “dwell” means just what you might think: “to dwell in a house.” It means to reside, to inhabit. Who knows how to explain this phenomenon physically, but we should stay close to the obvious interpretation because of
 - 1. The verb, with its simple, clear meaning.

2. The repeated message (See, for ex., I Cor 3:16 – “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”; II Cor. 6:16, Gal. 4:6, Eph. 2:22, II Tim. 1:14, etc.)
3. The Old Testament picture – Tabernacle - Ex. 40:34-35, Temple - I Ki. 8:10-11; Isa. 6:1-5.

B. This Holy Spirit occupation is a *unique privilege* for believers in this age!

1. There were Old Testament men given the special privilege of Holy Spirit indwelling.
 - a. Joseph – Gen. 41:38
 - b. Skilled craftsmen – Ex. 28:3, 31:3-5
 - c. Moses and the 70 – Num. 11:17, 25
 - d. Gideon – Judges 6:34
 - e. Samson – Judges 13:25, 14:6, 15:14
 - f. Saul – I Sam. 10:9-10
 - g. David – I Sam. 16:13
 - h. Daniel – Dan. 4:8, 5:14
2. Features of the Holy Spirit Indwelling in the Old Testament
 - a. The indwelling was not universal among believers.
 1. Countless were saved yet never were under Holy Spirit control as are believers today.
 2. This was a special, limited privilege brought not by merit but by God's sovereign act.
 - b. The indwelling was usually temporary.
 1. Samson – Judges 16:20 (“He wist not that the LORD was departed from him.”)
 2. Saul – I Sam. 16:14 (“The Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul.”)
 3. David's concern – Ps. 51:11 (“Take not thy holy spirit from me.”)
 - c. The indwelling was to empower for a special service.
 1. Lead, fight, prophecy, construct, etc.
 2. Hence it was much more limited than in the church age, not leading to intimacy with Christ, forming His character in the person, etc.
3. Thus we see 3 immediate contrasts with the church age indwelling of the HS:
 - a. The indwelling is universal for all believers – Rom. 8:9
 - b. The duration is forever – John 14:16 (“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.”)
 - c. The powers are much broadier. (See list.)

C. The transition to this unique privilege was foretold.

1. See John 14:17 – “dwelleth with” (Old Testament) vs. “shall be in” (church age)
2. See John 7:37-39 – anticipates something entirely new and different. For example:
 - a. Virtue – Gal. 5:22-23 (fruit of the spirit: love, joy, etc.)
 - b. Satisfaction – John 4:14 (drink this, and you “shall never thirst.”)
 - c. Regeneration, adoption, sealing, illumination, sanctification, comfort

[This condition will be understood more as we go to our third word ...]

III. OWNED – I Cor. 6:19-20

A. Sinful flesh is “sold.”

1. “Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD.” (I Ki. 21:20)
2. “For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.” (Rom. 7:14)

B. Redemption means “to buy back.”

1. “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law.” (Gal. 3:13)

C. So now we are not our own. We have been bought with a price.

1. Review Romans 6:16-19. Apply to all our “members.”

IV. OVERWHELMED – “if any man have ... the spirit of Christ”

A. If a soul is not influenced by the meek, pure spirit of Christ, not being conformed to His image; if one's life doesn't more and more resemble the Savior's, he is a stranger to God.

B. Put another way, the redeemed are spirited as Christ – meek, humble, peaceable, patient, charitable.

C. We are to be swept off our feet, taken up in the wave, thoroughly impacted as a glove by a hand.

DISCUSSION

1. Have you run up against this theme of “only two options” in your life? Discuss.
2. Explain the difference between Old Testament and church age indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
3. List some of the top privileges you have had in life. Explain in detail how having the Holy Spirit of God indwell you is one of those privileges.
4. Explain this idea that if indeed the Spirit of Jesus Christ dwells within a person, in time there should be real, observable change in the heart and life of the person.