

thinking and honest Bible study **IF** we “allow God’s Spirit to dictate our steps” **thinking** the feelings (thoughts, etc.) we have and **our desires** are coming from the Holy Spirit literally and personally within us? On the other hand, **IF** we truly and honestly “desire to follow the Spirit’s lead” we will have clear BCV for our answer to any matter. Is it reasonable that the Holy Spirit would disrupt the unity of the church by adding the MIM to this congregation? How come the Spirit did not lead us all, from the beginning, to use MIM in worship to God?

With the notion of a personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit **do we not all become a standard** (see all the sayings above again)? Consider what Mac Deaver said concerning the influence of the Holy Spirit upon the Christian: (A) “It is as direct as the influence of a demon upon a human spirit possessed by it.” (B) “It is as direct as the influence of the Holy Spirit upon the human spirit of an inspired man.” (C) “It is as direct as the human spirit is upon the human body in which it exists.” [A *Resource and Reference Volume on the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit* by Goebel Music, pages 710-711]. I do not recommend this book. The Bible must be the “Resource and Reference” for us all! I think we can see Deaver’s evolution from PI to where he is now. His statement makes it clear: “I had to as I was understanding some things regarding the work of the indwelling, the direct work of the indwelling Spirit all of this continued to grow” [Vick-Deaver Debate, 10-24-11, Deaver’s second negative]

Don Finto, of the once Belmont Church of Christ in Nashville, Tennessee, said over television that what he was saying was no longer Don Finto, but “I was God in Don Finto.” [PRESENT DAY ILLUMINATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, James W. Boyd, Seek The Old Paths, Vol. 14 No. 12, December, 2003]

The statement I quoted in **part 1 of this series**, which was made by one of our well known preachers and scholars, is a very dangerous statement and seems to me along the same lines as in all the above or certainly can lead to it. **The statement**: “The Spirit leads by his inspired word (Eph. 6:17), and by the mysterious “nudgings” of providence (cf. Acts 14:27; 1 Cor. 16:9).”

Brethren, we know how error leads to more error and I think it is clearly seen concerning the doctrine of PI. ♥

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“Hold fast the form of sound words”

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(II Tim. 1:13 cp. Tit. 1:9; Jude 3)

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The Result Of The Erroneous Belief Of Personal Indwelling Of The Holy Spirit!!!

(Part 11, Holy Spirit series)

by Perry Sexton

Last month I made mention of the two views of **the personal indwelling (PI)**. The **first view** is that the Holy Spirit is literally and personally in us and we can only know this by the Word of God because He does nothing to us (no feelings, nudges, etc.). The **second view** is that the Holy Spirit is literally and personally in us and **DOES** give us feelings, nudges, etc. and even inspires us as much as the apostles were inspired and others have gone so far as to claim that they can perform miracles. The **first view** has the Holy Spirit working only through the Word of God. While the first view is not as serious as the second view, the seed is certainly there in the first view for the second view to bud and fully blossom! And so it has surely done so in many Christians and churches of Christ as we shall see some examples.

But first let us look briefly to the denominations as I full well believe this error (PI) came from them. **Calvinism** teaches that the Holy Spirit acts directly upon the heart. Rubel Shelly, Mac Deaver and many others have gone off the strait and narrow to this extent. I recommend brother Curtis A. Cates book Does The Holy Spirit Operate Upon The Heart Of A Saint? A Review Of Neo-Calvinism Among The Lord's People. **Pentecostalism** teaches truth is subjective and man’s feelings are the highest authority and miracles are for us today. Emotions are a strong characteristic of the **charismatic** along with Holy Spirit baptism, miracles and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Here are some brief quotes from denominational people I found on the internet in just a very brief search (many more were there): “a blissful 'peak experience' moment, a shaken-up charismatic

experience, or a whisper calling to you from inside; The Spirit is at work moving people to compassion for others; In nudges and whispers; it was confirmed to me by the Holy Spirit; Holy Spirit Move Lyrics; The Holy Spirit moves where He is invited; At times the presence of the Holy Spirit was so strong that this minister could not even preach but let the Holy Spirit manifest himself with signs and wonders, words of knowledge, words of wisdom, prophecies, tongues and interpretation of tongues.” The following was on a CD label: “The Holy Spirit brought us together at first to provide the music ministry ... The Holy Spirit soon took over ... We all felt called”

In a two hour study with three Mormon “elders” last year I asked them why they became Mormons and they said it was because they could not understand which church was right until they prayed and were led by the Holy Spirit. See my 2010, 12 Work Report bulletin.

Now let us compare all the above to what some members of the church have said. Here is just a small sample: if we follow through on the leading of God’s spirit within our hearts; I honestly believe that the Spirit has led me to arrive at this conviction; The Spirit is moving in this church; growing passion in this church...I know the Spirit is moving us and will strengthen us; If the Spirit urges you to join someone who is responding, don’t fight it, do it; Do you sense God’s renewing presence in our church?...Be open to the Holy Spirit’s guidance in your life; I would urge you to be thankful that the Spirit of God has put it on your heart to be noticing what He is doing among His people; Every Christian has been gifted by the Holy Spirit to serve in the church. Do you know what your spiritual gift is?; allow the Spirit of God to burn among us! So that we may further fan the flame of the Spirit’s fire; Pray that I keep the Spirit alive in my soul; I ask for prayers for me to have a revival of the Holy Spirit; The flame of the Holy Spirit burns bright within my soul and now I am ready to allow the Holy Spirit to guide me. Pray that I might focus on what he can do through me and that I will follow his “nudge” to do what he wants; the invitation is a very spiritual, very emotional time...Jesus seems nearer then, the Spirit seems to act more then, we feel closer to God. This is a fragile mood and is often broken by some thoughtless act of some neighbor in the pew that distracts us. I don’t believe that these brothers and sisters mean to quench the Spirit, they just are too concerned with their own schedules. [excerpts from Piloting The Strait, by: Dave Miller, copyright 1996, page 373-374]

One brother’s sermon outline included: “If we are trying to follow where He leads we must: ... Listen to the Spirit for

Leadership.” He wrote in an article: “... we must always remember to rely on God’s Spirit to guide our thoughts and actions through His word as the mindset of flesh will lead to death.” Well, he does say “through His word.” I have found that when people use such terms as “God’s Spirit to guide ...” **there is a problem.** I believe sound brethren will be careful to say “God’s Word to guide ...” or else be careful to explain the meaning. **Of course the Christian is guided by God, Christ and the Holy Spirit, but through the Word.** The brother also said: “allow God’s Spirit to dictate our steps” and “desire to follow the Spirit’s lead.” I asked him, “What is your understanding of how the Holy Spirit leads the Christian today?” He never would answer plainly this question or many others I asked, but he did say, “I don’t believe it is through the word only.” I ask anyone, if it is not through the Word only, then how is it? And please give book, chapter and verse (BCV) and please see part 2 of this series.

Just recently I heard a preacher say that he often changed his sermons because it just didn’t “**feel**” right. And that we should let the Spirit lead our lives. He was definitely making a connection between the Spirit and his **feelings!** Oh brethren, have we forgotten so soon Jeremiah 17:9 and the multitudes of sound biblical principles that truly keep us in the strait and narrow?

The Hills Church of Christ of Richland Hills, Texas began using mechanical instruments of music (MIM) in worship and said that it was “the result of three years of study, prayer and fasting” by the congregation’s elders. I think that within just a few weeks of sincere honest study of the subject would reveal clearly God’s will on the matter. And especially so in the case where the instrument had not been used because of biblical principles. Evidently those principles had been lost over the years as the watchers were sleeping (cp. Isa. 56:10). Do you suppose their view of the Holy Spirit had any bearing on the case? I think most surely!

Note on their website (10-18-11) some reveling statements: “At the point of salvation, the Holy Spirit comes to live in our physical bodies as His home [this will be dealt with in part 12, PS]. He provides help to every Christian to do what is right, strength to serve Jesus, and direction for living life God’s way. Every Christian is to allow God’s Spirit to help him on a daily basis.” They claim “guidance of the Spirit of God.” It is most definite that something rather than a thorough and honest study of God’s Word took over in order for them to arrive at the decision to use MIM in worship to God.

Would it not be easy for our feelings to get in the way of rational