

their OWN doctrines!!! Consider this: “And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, *that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death.*” (Exod. 19:12). Yet the ones who believe in the PI have God, the Holy Spirit, indwelling the physical body of the Christian. How is that? Consider also Exodus 19:21; Genesis 28:16,17; Joshua 5:14,15. It seems to me like it would be better for the Holy Spirit to dwell in the heart (mind) of the Christian (cp. Eph. 3:17) through the Word. And I believe we have Bible for that (Eph. 5:18,19 cp. Col. 3:16).

### **God In The Temple**

Please consider all these verses in this section very carefully as well. “Keep thy foot when thou goest to the **house of God**, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. <sup>2</sup>Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter *any* thing before God: **for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth**: therefore let thy words be few” (Eccl. 5:1). Even during the days of the temple, where was God? Yet God was said to dwell “**between the cherubims**” (1 Sam. 4:4) but was it a literal personal dwelling? You can see that it was not! Consider also Exodus 25:22; 30:6; Leviticus 1:1; 16:2; Numbers 7:89; 2 Samuel 6:2; 2 Kings 19:15; Psalm 80:1; 99:1; Isaiah 37:16.

“Dwell” (**H7931** שָׁכַן *shâkan*) such as is used in Exodus 25:8 of God dwelling among them is used “literally or figuratively.” I clearly believe the verses in this section show that it was figurative, comparable to the burning bush and Mount Sinai (see above).

Space will not allow for dealing extensively on the following two items, but please consider carefully: (1.) **God is a consuming fire** (Deut. 4:24; 9:3; Heb. 12:29; Exod. 24:17). How can such a being literally dwell in man? And IF He did would it not be a miracle? (2.) **Man cannot look upon God and live** (cp. Exod. 33:20). “Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom *be* honour and power everlasting. Amen” (1 Tim. 6:16). “No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us” (1 John 4:12). Yet some would have God literally in you! That is not Bible! ♥

You may send for this complete series of articles or read them on our website at [www.mission-usa.org](http://www.mission-usa.org) under “Sound Words.”



## **“Hold fast the form of sound words”**

ŞW

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

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## **Why God Does Not Literally Dwell In Humans**

(Part 12, Holy Spirit series)

by Perry Sexton

**The Hills Church of Christ of Richland Hills, Texas began using mechanical instruments of music (MIM) in worship** as I noted last month. I found this on their website (10-18-11): “At the point of salvation, the Holy Spirit comes to live in our physical bodies as His home. 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,” yet they began using MIM in worship to God!

It is too bad Abraham did not have this help (PI) and the multitudes of other faithful men and women in the old times! Just a few questions of many that should be asked: (1.) Where is personal indwelling (PI) taught in Scripture? Examine any verses offered very carefully. I do not believe you will ever find one single verse that teaches PI! (2.) What of the many Christians who fall away? Did the Holy Spirit fail (BCV for answer please)? (3.) Just exactly **HOW** do we “allow God's Spirit to help [us] on a daily basis” (BCV)? (4.) **HOW** does the Holy Spirit guide us from within us (BCV)?

### **Here Are Just A Few Biblical Reasons Why I Do Not Believe God Literally Dwells In The Human Body Of A Christian**

**God cannot dwell with evil:** The Bible teaches that we are sinful beings (1 John 1:8,10). “But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags;...” (Isa. 64:6). But of God it is said: “*Thou art of purer eyes* than to behold evil, and **canst not look on**

**iniquity:...**” (Hab. 1:13). Yet some brethren believe God dwells in the bodies of sinful creatures. Amazing!!! Shall we just ignore these biblical principles and believe as the “nations around about us?” We learn further from the Bible: “For thou *art* not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: **neither shall evil dwell with thee**. The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.” (Psa. 5:4,5). “He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight” (Psa. 101:7). Yet some brethren will have God (the Holy Spirit) dwelling in the bodies of such! Have you ever known of any deceitful lying brethren? See “Sound Words” bulletin 8-2011. “And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life” (Rev. 21:27). Even so, some brethren will have the Holy Spirit dwelling in such, i.e., unfaithful brethren. I personally have never seen any of the brethren who believe in PI to answer such as: (1.) Does the Holy Spirit continue to dwell in a child of God when he sins? (2.) Does the Holy Spirit continue to dwell in a child of God if he continues in sin? They need to answer these and many other questions with BCV.

### **The World And Heavens Cannot Contain God**

Note just a few verses which teach that: “But **will God indeed dwell on the earth?** behold, the heaven and **heaven of heavens cannot contain thee;** how much less this house that I have builded” (1 Kings 8:27)? Some brethren brazenly say yes to the first question! “But who is able to build him an house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him ...” (2 Chron. 2:6)? One brother defending PI said that God could dwell in a Coke bottle if He wanted to. Would he also say that God could lie if He wanted to (Titus 1:2)? “But **will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth?** behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built” (2 Chron. 6:18)! Yet some brethren declare that the Holy Spirit (God) dwells in sinful man.

“Thus saith the LORD, **The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool:** where *is* the house that ye build unto me? and where *is* the place of my rest” (Isa. 66:1 cp. Acts 7:48,49)? “The LORD *is* high above all nations, *and* his glory above the heavens. <sup>5</sup> Who *is* like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high,” (Psa. 113:4,5). “Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. **Do not I fill heaven and earth?** saith the LORD” (Jer. 23:24).

If the Holy Spirit literally, personally dwelt in man, would not that be a miracle? Was it a miracle for Jesus to indwell a human body (cp. Phil. 2:7 ASV): “but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men;” or is that natural law?

### **Jesus Was Worshipped Even Though He Was In A Human Body**

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). It took miraculous acts for Jesus to become a man: it must also take miraculous acts for the Holy Spirit to indwell man (IF PI were true), but miracles have ceased. Jesus emptied Himself (Phil. 2:7 ASV, above) to become a man, yet received worship. Why should not the Holy Spirit receive worship in the flesh also? We have no record of the Holy Spirit emptying Himself in order to dwell in the human bodies (IF PI were true).

So Jesus dwelt in the flesh, having “emptied himself,” yet in the flesh He received worship (cp. Matt. 2:11 Cp. Matt. 8:2; 9:18; 14:33; 15:25; 18:26; 28:9,17, etc.). Evidently (IF PI were true), the Holy Spirit in all of His glory dwells in flesh and is not to receive worship according to the ones who believe in PI. Now why is that (BCV)?

Peter, an apostle, and one who received the Holy Spirit (in a sense) did not allow worship directed toward him or his body (cp. Acts 10:25,26). He refused it by saying “I myself also am a man.” He did not continue and say “Just be sure your worship is directed toward the Holy Spirit in my body.” It is a very valid argument that if the Holy Spirit is literally and personally in the Christian, that we should bow down and worship Him. Just because brethren don’t like it and cannot deal with it does not make this argument invalid.

“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all *them that are* about him” (Psa. 89:7). Jesus was worshipped in the flesh, why not the Holy Spirit?

### **God’s Presence Makes It Holy**

“And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy ground” (Exod. 3:5 cp. Acts 7:33 ). And this was not even the very person of God! This was God represented by an angel (Acts 7:30). The angel also represented God on **Mount Sinai** (Acts 7:38). Those who believe in the PI of the Holy Spirit would have you to accept the fact that the Holy Spirit (God) in all His glory is not even to receive worship!!! It is sad, very sad what lengths people will go to in order to promote