

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

SW

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

SW

Church of Christ (Rom. 16:16) Mission USA

Perry Sexton 1763 Highway 166 N. Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474

Email: jpsexton@peoplepc.comWebsite: www.mission-usa.org

2010, 7 bulletin

The Fruits Of Error On The Holy Spirit**(Part 1, Holy Spirit series; will be intermittent)**

by Perry Sexton

One does not have to be a prophet in order to see the dangers that may come about by certain errors. For example, suppose the error is sown in the hearts of men that it really doesn't matter if we use mechanical instruments of music in worship to God. What do you think will follow? It is most obvious isn't it? Furthermore it is factual. Many have done that very thing. A little common sense goes a long way and especially when coupled with truth. For those who believe in a **personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit** the question has long been: “What does the Holy Spirit do for us by personally indwelling our bodies?” Through the years those holding to personal indwelling have been faced with this question and more such as: What does the Holy Spirit do separate and apart from the Word of God? If nothing, as far as what is revealed to us, than why does He personally indwell us? Just what is the Holy Spirit doing in us personally? **To be sure it is a great dilemma.** Does the Holy Spirit dwell in the Christian personally, but does nothing more than what the Word of God does? If so, what a great waste! I don't think anyone can prove that God is a waster and I hope no brother would even attempt to.

So the pressure has been on those (and should be) who promote the personal indwelling, to have the Holy Spirit do something more than what the Word of God does. I am not aware of what all is being taught by brethren, but I have heard some things which are not surprising at all. After all, when you open the flood gates of error, what happens? I will not comment on the hearsays, but I will comment on what one brother wrote to me. I had asked the question back in February 2010: “Please explain exactly how the Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirits.” His statement was in the context of him “**proving**” the personal indwelling. From his forthcoming commentary, part of the brother's copied answer was: “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).” The first part is right, but the second part we had better hold onto our seats awhile longer; don't take any sudden leaps! Now to be sure, I believe in the great providence of God, because we have Bible for such. Please study his statement and verses.

I find no Bible for the “nudgings.” Brethren, should we have Bible for everything we believe? A resounding YES! Please do not swallow every doctrine that comes along by the scholars. Go to the Bible. Yes, brethren can help, but the final word must be God's and **clearly stated**. Look again to his statement; the verses cited by no means prove what the brother states. Feel free to contact me on this matter. ♥

2010, 8 bulletin

Holy Spirit: Study Guidelines And Scholars**(Part 2, Holy Spirit series; will be intermittent)**

by Perry Sexton

Please recall that I had asked a brother the following question back in February 2010: “Please explain exactly how the Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirits.” His statement was in the context of him “**proving**” the personal indwelling. From his forthcoming commentary, part of the brother's copied answer was: “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).” I had asked you to “Please study his statement and verses.” I had concluded the verses cited by him by no means prove what he states. I trust that you came to the same conclusion; I know that many of you did by your answers to me by email.

Brethren, there is a great danger of us taking a scholar’s word for a matter without ever looking at his proof texts for ourselves. It may be someone (or a school) we have great respect for and has a great name in the brotherhood, but that by no means releases us from the divine edict to “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thess. 5:21). Sometimes I think what some brethren say is “proof” enough for some among us. I was made especially aware of this about a year ago when exchanging emails with a fellow preacher who holds to the personal indwelling view. He kept on referring to his “mentors.” The bottom line is he never did answer all of my questions and arguments as he agreed to do up front. In fact, he answered very little. As I asked him: Must we be Greek scholars to understand God’s Word? He did not answer, but my answer is **NO**. I believe doctrinal matters can be proven without the use of Greek. Can the Greek help? Yes, when used correctly. Must we rely on “our scholars” for the answers to our questions? **No**, we all have God’s Word which can be understood. If we must have scholars before we can know the truth on a matter, then how do we know who the real scholars are and of their integrity? And for one to proclaim another to be the brotherhood’s scholar is completely irresponsible. Are some scholars among us trying to take the Bible from us? Advocating, ever so subtly, that we cannot understand the Bible without their help (cp. 2 Cor. 11:13,14; Phil. 3:2; Titus 1:10; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:13, etc.).

Let us consider some verses and points that every one of us would do well to remember and always employ whenever we study any subject:

- 1) Search the Scriptures (Acts 17:11), don’t just assume the references cited prove the writer’s point, etc.
- 2) Have a strong desire for truth (1 Peter 2:2; 3:18; Mat. 5:6; 7:7; 2 Tim. 2:15).
- 3) “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thess. 5:21). Of course, by the Word of God.
- 4) “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; ...” (1 Peter 4:11), not quoting some scholar.
- 5) “... learn not *to go* beyond the things which are written;” (1 Cor. 4:6 ASV 1901); compare: “... learn in us not to think of men above that which is written,” (1 Cor. 4:6 KJV).
- 6) “The secret *things belong* unto the LORD our God: but those *things which are* revealed *belong* unto us ...” (Deut. 29:29). We would do very well to remember this.
- 7) Never add to or take away from the Word of God. Never allow others to do it for you! (Rev. 22:18,19).
- 8) We must have authority for everything we do and teach (Col. 3:17): book, chapter, and verse (BCV).
- 9) We must know **who** is speaking and to **whom** and **how it applies** to us.
- 10) We must remember that Bible times were miraculous times – from cover to cover! It seems many brethren forget this, willingly or otherwise, and thus get caught up in error, especially concerning the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
- 11) As much as we appreciate what the restoration preachers did and the great debt we owe them, we must realize they are not the standard of authority and that they were coming out of denominational error. In my opinion, the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit is one error some never overcame.
- 12) Having studied the Word of God correctly and understanding it, we then must have the courage and love of God to obey Him in all things even if it means standing against brethren and our “scholars.”

We should desire unity (Eph. 4:3), but never at the expense of sound doctrine! Remember: "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son" (2 John 9). ♥

2010, 10 bulletin

Where Is The Bases For The Holy Spirit Personally Indwelling The Christian?

(Part 3, Holy Spirit series; will be intermittent)

by Perry Sexton

In August's issue we looked at a few principles we need to keep in mind in proper Bible study. Now let us see how they relate to the above title. Please refer back to those points which correspond to the following points.

- 1) We should search the Scriptures (Acts 17:11) to see if the references cited prove the writer's point. Often times Romans 8:9,11,16,26,27 are cited in proof of personal indwelling, **but do these verses prove personal indwelling?** Not at all! These verses simply affirm the indwelling, but absolutely nothing about personal indwelling. To affirm these verses teach personal indwelling is to violate at least points 3,4,5,6,7,8 in part 2 of this series and no doubt other principles of Bible interpretation.
- 2) We should have a strong desire for truth and not follow after schools, scholars, family, and friends. The bases must be book, chapter, and verse (**BCV**)! Love God (Matt. 22:37); love His Word (Psa. 119:97).
- 3) A lot of times syllogisms are used to try and prove personal indwelling. Nothing is wrong with formal logic, but where did the apostles or Jesus use formal logic? They certainly used logic as we all do practically every day of our lives. More importantly, the apostles used the Word of God for it is **authoritative**. If we have to use formal logic to prove our doctrinal points, I believe something is wrong. Let me illustrate: Must I have a syllogism to prove baptism is for the remission of sins? No, I need only one verse: Acts 2:38. Must I use a syllogism to prove the first day of the week is the day for Christian worship? No, I need only one verse: Acts 20:7. As you can see many illustrations could be used. By the way, we are to preach the Word of God (2 Tim. 4:2).
- 4) Can anyone authoritatively say the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian literally and personally? If so, where is that authority (BCV)? How can one, without BCV? Is one truly speaking as the oracles of God whenever he teaches personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit? If so, where is BCV? No wonder some of them rely heavily on syllogisms. There is no BCV for the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit. If you think you know of one, please let me know as I sincerely want the truth.
- 5) I like to use both the ASV 1901 and KJV when looking at 1 Corinthians 4:6. It seems to me unless the brethren who hold to personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit can come up with BCV, they have gone beyond that which is written. Proper Bible study dictates we learn of a doctrine from the Word of God, not from men (denominations, etc.) and then go to the Bible and try to prove it. Is this not what the denominations constantly do? Maybe the problem is that some brethren think of men above that which is written. See "mentors" in second paragraph of part 2. It amazes me how that some who came out of most denominational error during the Restoration Movement never came out of the personal indwelling, which has no Bible bases. Even more amazing is the fact that many still hold to that doctrine which is beyond God's Word, i.e. in addition to God's Word.
- 6) Surely, we must all know that there are zillions of things unknown to us and cannot be known, because they are not revealed to us (Duet. 29:29). For example, we know God works providentially in our lives, but the **how** is not revealed to us. If it is not revealed in God's Word, then it is futile to try to find out (**Rom. 11:33**, do all of us believe this verse? It seems some think they know the mind of God – see v.34). Think of the great waste of time and money of those who have spent many years trying to prove personal indwelling, and how much good could have been accomplished in those same years of preaching BCV to the lost and to the church! Why can some not be satisfied with what God has given us (2 Peter 1:3, do all of us believe this verse?). Why do some keep going beyond that which is written (1 Cor. 4:6)? It is high time we hold all brethren to BCV! If they cannot produce BCV then they need to stop teaching the personal indwelling (cp. 1 Peter 4:11). This doctrine has split congregations.

- 7) We may indeed believe a matter because that is what we have been taught since childhood by parents or the congregation we attend, and never dreamed that it may well be in addition to God's Word. Please, let us all hear and obey God: 2 Cor. 13:5 and believe 2 John 1:9. To be sure, a doctrine is either of God or it is not! A doctrine is either of the faith or it is not! A doctrine is either an addition to God's Word or it is not! Is what we believe concerning the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of God, or of man (cp. Matt. 15:9)? If it is of God we will have book, chapter, and verse (BCV) and correctly used (2 Tim. 2:15).
- 8) Have we forgotten Col. 3:17 and the great many lessons from the Old Testament concerning authority which are for our learning (Rom. 15:4)? Where is BCV for personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit?
- 9) In Bible study it is vital that we know **who** is speaking and to **whom** and **how it applies** to us. I believe many passages that are used in support of personal indwelling do not apply to us directly. We will look at some of these in a future article. Please, let us never forget the context.
- 10) Shall we use a passage dealing with the miraculous and apply it to us in proof of personal indwelling? Many do and many have also embraced the miraculous for us today! Wonder where they got their start: from a belief in personal indwelling, or what the Bible teaches?
- 11) Shall we follow the restoration preachers? Is our allegiance to them, or Christ? Do we follow men, or God? See point 5 also on this matter. Shall we follow the multitude (cp. Exod. 23:2) or truth? Does the multitude guarantee the truth? And to what purpose does it serve to gather a registry of brethren who believed/believes in personal indwelling? Is that proof??? Can you think of any faithful man of God in the Bible ever doing such? Wonder how many quotes from bygone preachers have been taken out of context to "prove" or support personal indwelling?
- 12) As seen above the majority is not proof yet many, even in the church, will follow the majority. Let us have a strong love for truth and seek it whole heartily knowing that truth is of God (cp. John 14:6). And then have the courage and love of God to stand for truth even if it means standing against brethren and our "scholars."

I am totally convinced that the literal personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit is from man and not from the Bible. Please understand that I do not claim to know everything or understand all that is revealed on this subject. Some who hold to the personal indwelling seem to have the idea that if one does not know it all, then he has no business in challenging another's (their) doctrine and statements. I wonder if they think deep down they know it all? ♥

2010, 12 bulletin

The "Gift of the Holy Spirit" in Acts 2:38?

(Part 4, Holy Spirit series; will be intermittent)

by Perry Sexton

On that momentous Pentecost, Peter spoke these words by inspiration (as recorded in the King James Version): "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ³⁹For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:38,39). Over the years, different views have been presented as to what this gift is.

Brethren have held to and still do hold to different views as to what the gift is. We are divided on this subject, which is contrary to the Lord's prayer of John 17, namely verses 20 and 21. Furthermore, we have the injunction of the apostle Paul: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10). **These verses should move us to study more and to study together for unities' sake**, seek to understand the passages and therefore be "one" with God and with others who understand the Scriptures. The only way to do this is to study without any prejudices at all as we

must any subject. It is sad that brethren will follow a school, a scholar, a preacher without any real study on their own. Many rely on the scholars among us to interpret the Word of God for them. This is not right! The fact remains: **“the common people heard him [Jesus] gladly”** (Mark 12:37). The word “heard” carries with it the idea of understanding and attending to. We can understand the Bible without being Hebrew and Greek scholars. We must always, in every subject area, use sound principles of interpretation. We must not ignore or violate any sound principle. Others have “counted numbers” who evidently have not learned the lessons of old (cp. Exod. 23:2).

One good and sound principle is to see how the word or phrase under consideration is used elsewhere. **What does the phrase “gift of the Holy Ghost” mean elsewhere?** It is found only in the following two other places (KJV) and it refers to the **miraculous** each time: (1st) “And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was **poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost**” (Acts 10:45). Is this the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit? **No.** Clearly, it is the miraculous gift from the Holy Spirit as seen in verse 46: “For they heard them speak with tongues...” (speaking languages never studied – miraculous). Also note **“poured out,”** that is **Joel’s prophecy and promise** of the miraculous outpouring (Joel 2:28,29) which Peter declared “this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel” (Acts 2:16 context of v.39); (2nd) The phrase, in the plural: “God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and **gifts of the Holy Ghost**, according to his own will?” (Heb. 2:4 cp. 1 Cor. 12). This is the **miraculous** as well. (It seems clear to me that Acts 8:14-21 and Acts 19:1-6 are referring to the same thing [more later].) So by phrase comparison there is very good evidence that the **“gift of the Holy Ghost”** in Acts 2:38 is also the miraculous.

1. In fact, what evidence is there to suggest it would be anything other?
2. Where is a verse comparison showing the phrase ever to be a literal personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the Christian? I have never seen one!
3. Why should anyone think that Acts 2:38 is different from the two other examples of usage of the phrase?
 - a. What is the scriptural bases for such thinking (remember 1 Thess. 5:21)?
4. Is one speaking the oracles of God whenever they have no such bases (1 Peter 4:11)?

I humbly ask for answers. **Please feel free to forward these articles on to those who believe in a literal personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the Christian.** I would love to see their answers to all these questions. I believe these questions are good and deserve serious consideration.

Please keep in mind that those pioneers of the Restoration Movement, who may have believed the phrase meant the Holy Spirit personally dwelling in the Christian, were coming out of denominational error (more on this later). Furthermore, the Restoration preachers are not the standard of authority!

Another good and sound principle is to **always check the context.** Where in the immediate or remote context does it ever suggest a literal personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit? I’ve never seen it though I have asked brethren for it.

The contexts of Acts 2:38,39 concerning the “gift of Holy Ghost” and “the promise.” Please keep in mind that man put in the chapter and verse divisions. It does help our understanding to take away this division on certain passages. Please consider the two verses together: “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive **the gift of the Holy Ghost.** **For the promise** is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call” (Acts 2:38-39). Is not the **“promise”** referring to the **“gift”**? And the “gift,” is the promise of Joel which also, of course, is connected with the Abrahamic promise of Genesis 12. ♥
{More to follow in February 2011, the Lord willing}

Please note: I have chosen to do these articles intermittently for two reasons: First, because I have other things I want to address. Secondly, to give anyone an opportunity who wishes to make comments to do so before the printing of the next article. I do try to keep thoughts together and condensed so it will fit on these pages, which is not easy. For this article I would strongly recommend reading the preceding one on 12-2010.

The “Gift of the Holy Spirit” in Acts 2:38? (continued from 12-2010)

(Part 5, Holy Spirit series; will be intermittent)

by Perry Sexton

The immediate and remote contexts of Acts 2:38, in both directions, strongly show that the “gift of the Holy Ghost” or Spirit is the miraculous:

The **immediate context** of Acts 2:38,39: Please compare Acts 2:33, “Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father **the promise of the Holy Ghost**, he hath shed forth this, which ye **now see and hear.**” What were they **seeing and hearing**? The personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit? **No**, but the “gift of the Holy Spirit” (which is the miraculous) as is clearly seen in the context and declared by the inspired apostle to be “that which was spoken by the prophet Joel” (Acts 2:16) who was also inspired by God. Shall we allow uninspired men to lead us away from these truths???

1. Where in the immediate context of Acts 2:38,39 is the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit mentioned, promised or seen?
2. In fact, where in the whole Bible is the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit mentioned, promised or seen?
3. If no book, chapter and verse (BCV), why should brethren hold on to this doctrine?
4. With just what we have seen so far, what likely was in the people’s mind concerning the “gift” and “promise” of Acts 2:38,39? To see more, read all of Acts 1 and 2.
5. Which was most likely in the peoples mind: 1.) The personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit? Or, 2.) The miraculous outpouring of the Holy Spirit? Please give BCV.
6. It is hard to imagine anyone studying Acts one and two and the statements of Jesus (Mark 16:16-20) and Joel (Joel 2:28,29), coming up with anything but the miraculous.

The respondents (Acts 2:37) certainly did not answer as the Ephesians did in Acts 19:2. **I believe Acts 19:5,6 should give us great insight as to what went on in Acts 2:37-41.** Please remember the immediate and remote context of Acts 2:38,39: Mark 16:16-20; and Heb. 2:4 along with Joel’s promise, Joel 2:28,29.

The **remote context before** Acts 2:38,39. **Joel’s prophecy and promise** included those mentioned in Acts 2:39. Note what Joel said: “And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: ²⁹And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit” (Joel 2:28,29). **Compare** to what Peter said: “But **this is that** which was spoken by the prophet Joel; ¹⁷And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: ¹⁸And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:” (Acts 2:16-18). **Compare:** “Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father **the promise of the Holy Ghost**, he hath shed forth this, which ye **now see and hear**” (v.33). **Compare:** “...and ye shall receive **the gift** of the Holy Ghost. ³⁹For the **promise** is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call” (Acts 2:38,39).

1. Do we ever have an inspired man saying “this is that” concerning the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit?
2. Was Joel speaking of the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit?
3. Was Jesus in Mark 16:16-20 (below) speaking of the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit?
4. Was Peter in Acts 2 speaking of the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit? If so, where is proof or even the slightest suggestion of it?
5. Where was the personal indwelling ever promised?

Keeping Joel’s prophecy in mind let us notice **what our Lord and Master said**: “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. ¹⁷And these **signs** shall follow them that **believe**; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover” (Mark 16:16-18). This latter part is clearly speaking of the **miraculous** and is a repeat of Joel’s prophecy and **promise** in so many words.

Note how Mark’s statements connect to Acts chapter one and two. Mark’s record bears out: “So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven [see Acts 1], and sat on the right hand of God [see Acts 2]. ²⁰And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with **signs** following. Amen” (vs.19,20). Of course, Luke overlaps this record in the book of Acts and gives more detail.

When did what Jesus **promised** begin happening? The same time they started **preaching** and **converting** souls. **A perfect commentary on Acts 2:38,39 is Mark 16:16-20**. The Bible is its own best commentary, not the scholars. Of course some who believe in the personal indwelling will try to discredit this. Some seem to think that with the wave of their hand this argument does not exist, or at least does not connect with Acts 2:38,39, but it is God’s Word! I think anyone who will consider it carefully can see the very strong connection.♥

2011, 4 Bulletin

The “Gift of the Holy Spirit” in Acts 2:38? (continued from 2-2011)

(Part 6, Holy Spirit series; will be intermittent)

by Perry Sexton

As we continue, let us look at the **remote context after** Acts 2:38,39. The case of Steven first: “And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man **full of faith** and of the **Holy Ghost**, and Philip...” (Acts 6:5). **Compare**: “And Stephen, **full of faith and power**, did great wonders and **miracles** among the people” (v.8).

From what we have already seen above and including Acts 10:45,46; Hebrews 2:4, etc., is it not reasonable that the “power” of verse 8 is equivalent to “Holy Ghost” of verse 5? I think it is clear. It is referring to the miraculous gift of the Holy Spirit as was promised in Acts 2:38,39.

For further proof let us examine the case of Philip. **Philip** was one also chosen along with Stephen above in Acts 6:5. I believe it is clear that all seven chosen were “full of faith and power” (v.8 cp. v.3). “Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. ⁶And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, **hearing and seeing the miracles** which he did. ⁷For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed *with them*: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed” (Acts 8:5-7). These miracles were done in order to confirm that Philip was of God and to confirm the Word spoken by him (cp. Mark 16:15-20; Hebrews 2:4). After all, this was the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit.

The account continues:

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: ¹⁵Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: ¹⁶**(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)** ¹⁷Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. ¹⁸And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, ¹⁹Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. ²⁰But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. ²¹Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. ²²Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. (Acts 8:14-22, emp. added, ps)

- A. It seems clear that “received the word of God” in this context is referring to being obedient to the Word of God (cp. Acts 2:41).
- B. And to “receive the Holy Ghost” is speaking of the **miraculous gift from the Holy Spirit**, even Mac Deaver agrees to this. But Mac believes (at least he did when I corresponded with him some years ago) that Acts 2:38 refers to the very person of the Holy Spirit indwelling the Christian.
 1. So Mac has the phrase “**gift of the Holy Spirit**” (Acts 2:38) meaning: (a.) the personal indwelling.
 2. And he has the phrase “**receive the Holy Ghost**” (Acts 8:15ff) as meaning: (b.) the miraculous.
 - a. You know that I do not believe in the personal indwelling for the simple reason that I have never seen Bible to prove it. But if I did believe in the personal indwelling, then it would seem to me by just considering the above phrases in “1.” and “2.” that it would be the opposite of what brother Deaver said.
 - b. **If** I believed in the personal indwelling it would seem that: (a.) should go with “2.” and that (b.) should go with “1.”
 - c. I do firmly believe that both phrases (“1.” and “2.” refer to the miraculous and is seen, I believe, in the contexts.
- C. Notice also the phrase “**gift of God**.”
 1. Is this not referring to the miraculous?
 2. Have you ever heard of someone trying to make the argument that this “gift” is God Himself as they do with the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:38? I have never!
 3. Where is the consistency?
- D. Also, Mac has: “receive the Holy Ghost” as the miraculous in Acts 8:14-19, but in Acts 5:32 as the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit within the Christian.
 1. I do not believe the context of Acts 5:32 will allow for the personal indwelling. Please consider the context and especially backing up to Acts 4:33. We must keep in mind the purpose of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28,29; Mark 16:16-18; Heb. 2:4).
 2. And please consider: How was the Holy Spirit witness of those things? Was it not by the miracles performed proving the Word of God spoken by the apostles?
- E. From the above account (Acts 8:14-22), it should be clear that the Holy Spirit was not given through baptism in any sense: the miraculous or in a non-miraculous measure (personal indwelling).

¹⁶**(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the**

Lord Jesus.) How can one refute that?! And why would anyone want to contradict the Word of God?!

1. The Holy Spirit was not given at baptism in any sense at all. And all the contexts we have looked at so far should prove this to you. In fact, I have never seen a personal indwelling verse, period.
2. I recommend reading Guy N. Woods on this in his “Questions Answers” Vol. 1, page 60. If you do not have it I can forward some quotes to you, just let me know.

F. Please consider this: If the very person of the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian and is given at baptism, it puzzles me **why** the Holy Spirit Himself did not give the miraculous gifts to the Samaritans.

1. If you have any ideas I would love to hear it.
2. If you know of any who believe in the personal indwelling see if they will answer.
3. There are many such problems as this which face those who believe in the personal indwelling.

G. I have seen a similar statement as the following from at least two people who believe in the personal indwelling. They say: “In fact from Acts 2 to Acts 6:6-8, not one miracle was produced by a non-apostle.” This was said in trying to refute the idea that Acts 2:38 is referring to the miraculous. Based on the Scriptures we have seen I think such reasoning is irresponsible and done to promote one’s own agenda of trying to prove the personal indwelling. From the silence of the Scriptures they get what they want: from personal indwelling on, to no one, other than the apostles, receiving the miraculous until Acts 6. I believe it can be proven otherwise. From Acts 2 to Acts 6 is likely about “four or five years” in time since the establishment of the church. [Gospel Advocate Commentary on Acts, page 94]

1. Why would Peter quote to the people of Acts 2:38 Joel’s prophecy (Acts 2:16-18) and it not come to pass upon the people for four years or more?
 - a. If you follow through the text I think you will see it was not four or more years, but on the same day (v.33,38,39).
 - b. Did only the apostles preach and teach in the church these four or five years?
 - c. Was the church only confined to Jerusalem during the first four or more years?
2. In four years or more, many (if not all) of the out of town visitors would likely be gone back to their respective homes far away.
 - a. What would they do to prove the Word?
 - b. What did Jesus say would follow those who “believed” (Mark 16:17)?
 - c. About 3,000 “believed” on Pentecost. Why would it not apply to them? See also Acts 4:4,32; 5:14.
 - d. Are we to believe that what Jesus said (Mark 16:17) would not apply to them, or at least not for four or more years???
3. **Why** would what Jesus said not come true for those who obeyed the gospel for four years or more (Mark 16:16-20)?
4. Such reasoning flies in the face of plain Scripture: Eph. 4:8 “Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.”
 - a. For what purpose were the gifts? To jump start the church (it is very important to read v.11-12 of Eph. 4 and cp. 1 Cor. 12).
 - b. Why would God wait four years or more to give these essential gifts unto the church???

- c. Furthermore, those of Acts 6 **already had the miraculous** (v.3,5,8). The laying on of hands in verse 7 was not to impart the miraculous, but to show approval of the people's choice in this matter (cp. 13:3).

I think Acts 8:14-22 gives great insight on Acts 2:38,39 as well as does the more remote context of Acts 10:44-46; 19:2-6; Hebrews 2:4; Mark 16:16-18; Joel 2:28, 29.

Brethren, I believe this study is very important because more and more you have brethren saying things of **very uncertain sounds** which strongly indicate they believe in a **direct operation of the Holy Spirit** upon the human heart. Later we will look at some of these things. I recommend to you the reading of brother Curtis Cates' book: Does The HOLY SPIRIT Operate Directly Upon The Heart Of A Saint? Brethren, it is high time God's watchmen awake to this matter (cp. Eze. 3:17; Isa. 56; Jude 3, etc.)! I am very thankful for all of God's faithful. ♥

2011, 6 Bulletin

**The "Gift of the Holy Spirit" in Acts 2:38? (continued from 4-2011)
(Part 7, Holy Spirit series; will be intermittent)**

by Perry Sexton

Please read again Acts 2:38,39 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call." Consider the "promise" of verse 39: Was it of a literal personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit? If so, it must be proven by book, chapter and verse (1 Thess. 5:21)! I think I have shown so far that the evidence is strongly against it. Where, before Acts 2:38, was the literal personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit **promised**? I have never seen it and I do not believe anyone else has, or else they would share that verse with us.

For those who believe in a personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit, they must "prove" (1 Thess. 5:21) that a personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit is meant in Acts 2:38 or anywhere else for that matter. Actually, should they not have done so before they believed it? Well, evidently they did prove it to themselves and to some others, but what I have seen is woefully short of "proving" it. Acts 2:38 promises the "gift of the Holy Ghost [Spirit]." Proper hermeneutics suggest that we interpret it according to the immediate context and to the remote context, and **other uses of the phrase** which I have done [see prior articles].

It should not be hard to understand that the gift of the Holy Spirit is the miraculous when considering the **contexts** in both directions of Acts 2:38. It is exactly what **Jesus** said would happen in Mark 16:16-18. And that is in perfect harmony with what Joel prophesied (Joel 2:28,29).

Connect the verses: This can be done in a number of ways, but I will approach it in this manner: "But **this is that** which was spoken by the prophet Joel;" (Acts 2:16). Consider: "**this**" what? The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the apostles (vs.1-4,12). Consider: "**that**" what? "But **this is that** which was spoken by the prophet Joel..." So Peter is declaring, in answer to their question (v.12), that what the apostles received was a part of Joel's prophecy. But that is not all, the prophecy included more than the apostles, it included: "**all flesh**: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy;" (vs.17,18). Why should anyone think that only the apostles received the miraculous outpouring whenever it was clearly promised to others?

Peter said plainly to the people that the outpouring was for others. Is this not also what Jesus said? "...these signs shall follow **them that believe**..." (Mark 16:16-18). Note Peter's reference to the Great Commission included in Joel's prophecy: "And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of

the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21 cp. Joel 2:32). Joel **prophesied** it, Jesus **promised** it and Peter **proclaimed** it to be “this” (the outpouring of the miraculous) on this day of Pentecost. Then Peter begins to proclaim the gospel of Christ (Acts 2:22ff). Why should we allow uninspired men to lead us astray from the plain truth?

What did Jesus say would happen to the believers (Mark 16:17,18)? Do you believe Jesus? And in the midst of Peter’s great declaration (Acts 2) he stated: “Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father **the promise of the Holy Ghost**, he hath shed forth **this, which ye now see and hear**” (Acts 2:33). Clearly this is the **miraculous outpouring** of the Holy Spirit. Compare: “And, behold, I send the **promise** of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with **power** from on high” (Luke 24:49). The promised power was repeated by Luke in Acts 1:4,5,8 and do not ever forget Mark 16:16-20.

Two very important questions were asked by the people. The **first question**: “What meaneth this (v.12)?” They were asking about the **miraculous** events and Peter affirms: “**this is that** which was spoken by the **prophet Joel** (v.16)” and continues speaking of the miraculous in proclaiming the gospel of Christ and finally speaks of the greatest of all miracles – the resurrection of Christ (v.31ff). And then, again, reference to “the promise” spoken by Joel and Jesus “which ye **now see and hear**” (v.33). They were seeing the beginning of the “promise” of the miraculous being fulfilled. But what had Peter said (see vs.16-18 cp. Mark 16:16-18)? And when they asked the **second question** (v.37) what did Peter include???

It should be no surprise whatsoever that Peter would include the miraculous in his answer to their second question! Acts 2 is filled with the miraculous. In fact, every mention of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1 and 2 refers to the miraculous, but some people make verse 38 the exception and claim it is referring the Spirit Himself literally and personally indwelling the Christian. Where is the consistency?

Furthermore, note clearly that the Great Commission and the miraculous went hand in hand during the First Century (Mark 16:15-20; the whole book of Acts; Heb. 2:4, etc). The miraculous was absolutely necessary in order to confirm the gospel of Christ. Please note again (read the contexts): Joel 2:28,32; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:47,49; Acts 2:38,39. Please remember, uninspired man put the verse divisions in.

Some people get hung up on the “afar off” of Acts 2:39 thinking it is referring to people throughout the ages for as long as the world stands. And therefore they are led to believe (by those who teach such) that it is referring to the personal indwelling. But, please note the contrast between “you,” “your” and “afar off.” Joel 2:28,29 “And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon **all flesh**; and **your** sons and **your** daughters shall prophesy, **your** old men shall dream dreams, **your** young men shall see visions: ²⁹And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.” It seems clear that “**your**” equals the **Jews and their** sons, daughters, old men, young men, the servants and the handmaids. And “**all flesh**” specifically includes the **Gentiles**. This is quoted by Peter in Acts 2:16-18. Again note Acts 2:33 “... **the promise** of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which **ye now see and hear**.” Now Acts 2:39 “For the **promise** is unto **you**, and to your children, and to all that are **afar off**, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call.” The “afar off” refers to the **Gentiles** which is included in “all flesh” of Joel 2:28,29 which Peter quoted in Acts 2:16-18.

The “afar off” refers to the Gentiles as it does in Eph. 2:11-19: “Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past **Gentiles** in the flesh, who are called **Uncircumcision** by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; ¹²That at that time ye were without Christ, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel, and **strangers** from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: ¹³But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were **far off** are made nigh by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace, who hath **made both one**, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; ¹⁵Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of **twain one new man**, *so* making peace; ¹⁶And that he might reconcile **both** unto God in one body by the cross, having slain

the enmity thereby: ¹⁷And came and preached peace to you which were **afar off**, and to them that were nigh. ¹⁸For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. ¹⁹Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;"

Concerning the "**afar off**" in Acts 2:39, it was fulfilled in the case of **Cornelius** and his household (Acts 10). Note: "While Peter yet spake these words, the **Holy Ghost fell on** all them which heard the word"(v.44). And other **Gentiles** as well such as in Acts 19:1-6. Remember: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek [**or Gentile**]" (Rom. 1:16).

Immediately following the "afar off" is "**even as many as the Lord our God shall call.**" This also seems to give trouble to some upon a casual reading and especially when already influenced by the doctrine of the personal indwelling. But upon careful consideration in the context the perceived difficulty should be removed. When one has proven that the "promise" is referring to the miraculous it is then easy to see the **limit of** "**even as many as the Lord our God shall call.**" The miraculous was temporary (1 Cor. 13:8-12) and therefore so was those **called for this purpose** limited. This is seen further in Ephesians 4:7-13 where Paul is speaking of the same gifts; they would end when the purpose was fulfilled and so would the recipients of the gifts cease.

In Acts 2:38,39 there is the **command** (cp. Acts 10:48; Mark 16:16) and then there is the "**promise**" (cp. Joel 2:28,29; Mark 16:17,18; Acts 2:16-18, 33,39). Commands are to be obeyed, but promises cannot be obeyed. The command continues for as long as the world stands (cp. Matt. 28:18-20), but the "promise" was limited in scope and time according to its purpose. The miraculous was to prove that the messenger and message were from God (John 3:2; Mark 16:20; Heb. 2:4). This would last until the complete revelation was given (1 Cor. 13:8-12 cp. 2 Peter 1:3; Jude 3). ♥

2011, 7 Bulletin

Personal Indwelling Of The Holy Spirit Advocates Have Many Problems
(How The Godhead Dwells In The Christian Today)
(Part 8, Holy Spirit series; will be intermittent)
by Perry Sexton

The main problem that I see for those who believe that the Holy Spirit **literally and personally dwells in the Christian** (referred to as personal indwelling in these articles) is that they have no Bible for it! This in itself is very serious as we are not "*to go beyond the things which are written*" (1 Cor. 4:6 ASV 1901). If we do so, is it not an addition to God's Word (Rev. 22:18,19)? We are to "speak as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11). If you know of any verse that you think even suggests that the Holy Spirit **literally and personally** dwells in the Christian, please let me know. Again, for the record, I believe that the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian, but not literally and personally. Note what brother **Guy N. Woods wrote**: "He who is able to see in the statement, 'The Spirit dwelleth in you,' (Rom. 8:11), a literal, actual, bodily presence of the Spirit, but in the statement, 'God dwelleth in him,' (1 Jno. 4:15), nothing more than a representative indwelling, confesses to a conceit which we do not covet! The Holy Spirit *dwells* in Christians *today* through the word which he inspired." [Questions and Answers (Vol. 1) by Guy N. Woods, pg. 278, 279].

These verses speak of the **Holy Spirit** dwelling in the Christian: John 14:17; Rom. 8:9,11; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19. These verses speak of **Christ** dwelling in the Christian: 2 Cor. 13:5; Gal. 2:20. These verses speak of **God** dwelling in the Christian: 2 Cor. 6:16; 1 John 4:12,15,16. All these verses speak of the Godhead, each of the three Members individually, dwelling in the Christian. All people that I know of (denominational or brethren) who believe in the personal indwelling say only the Holy Spirit dwells in us literally and personally. Why do they say that in light of these verses? I do not know. It seems very inconsistent to me. These verses simply tell us that the Holy Spirit (for example) dwells in the Christian and I believe it. But these verses do not tell us **HOW** the Spirit dwells in us. It is not up to us to say **how** this is accomplished! We must have BCV for

it. My search of the Scriptures reveals that the Godhead (all three) dwells in us today through the Word of God as we are influenced by the Word. The Spirit dwelt in the early Christians in this same manner, but also in that they had miraculous gifts from the Holy Spirit. I will give more on the miraculous later.

How The Godhead Dwells In The Christian Today

If we find how one Member of the Godhead dwells in us then it is a strong indication that They all dwell in us in the same manner. It is certainly not good interpretation to come up with literal personal indwelling whenever we have no BCV for it. We have BCV concerning Christ dwelling in the Christian through the Word: “That **Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith**; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love” (Eph. 3:17). How does faith come? “So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17).

Now consider: “**Let the word of Christ dwell in you** richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Col. 3:16). Compare the parallel to this: “... but be **filled** with the Spirit; {19} Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Eph. 5:18-19). Ephesians 5:18 says “be **filled** with the Spirit” while Colossians 3:16 says “Let the **word of Christ dwell in you.**” So **how** are we to be “filled with the Spirit”? **By letting** the “word of Christ dwell in us.” As an added note please consider: “This only would I learn of you, **Received ye the Spirit** by the works of the law, **or** by the **hearing of faith**” (Gal. 3:2)?

The above is what the Bible says of one way the Godhead dwells in us. We will talk more of the miraculous later. But now, where are the Bible verses (BCV) for the literal personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit? I find none. For the Bible to say the Holy Spirit “dwelleth with you, and shall be in you” (John 14:17) is not to say **HOW** that will be accomplished. We must find BCV for the **HOW** or just leave it alone (1 Peter 4:11). The preachers who believe in a literal personal indwelling seem to want us to automatically think “literal personal indwelling” every time we see the words “in you” when dealing with the Holy Spirit. Let us think better than that!

Now consider this: These verses speak of **us** dwelling in God: (1 John 4:12-16 cp. John 15). Note: “**we dwell in him**, and **he in us**, because he hath given us of his Spirit.” We dwell in God? Yes. **How?** Through the Word of God: **By** learning and obeying the Word of God! It seems perfectly reasonable that the Godhead (including the Holy Spirit) would dwell in us by the same means (the Word), and especially with the verses we have seen just above. The **Father**, the **Son**, and the **Holy Spirit dwell in us through the Word.**

If the personal indwelling is true, where is the precedence for it? The knowledge that I have of those who believe in the personal indwelling is that they start with Acts 2:38. But Acts 2:38, in my studies, is clearly referring to the miraculous outpouring of the Holy Spirit as is seen in the **contexts** far reaching both ways (see prior articles). Acts 2:38 is not referring to the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit. If so, where is the recorded **promise** (see v.39) or any prior reference to it at all? You find the miraculous throughout the Bible, but no personal indwelling. We find the **promise** of a special outpouring of the miraculous (Joel 2:28,29; Mark 16:15-20), but not of the personal indwelling. Where is the **proclamation** of the personal indwelling? Of the miraculous Peter plainly declares “this is that” (Acts 2:16), but not so of the personal indwelling. There is zero Bible for the personal indwelling. **No precedence, no promise and no proclamation** for the personal indwelling! Why then should any member of the church believe it??? It is borrowed from and left over from the denominations and it has been causing problems in the church for many years by those who go further with this doctrine. ♥

2011, 9 Bulletin

Personal Indwelling Of The Holy Spirit Advocates Have Many Problems (cont. from 7-2011)

(Part 9, Holy Spirit series; will be intermittent)

by Perry Sexton

The personal indwelling advocates claim that “the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38) is “the Holy Spirit as a gift.” But is that what your Bible says? If it does, I believe I can show you other doctrinal problems with that translation as well. The majority of versions that I have seen have it as the King James Version of which 47 of the world’s best scholars translated (and even more true scholars of other reliable versions). Shall we allow one or a few “scholars” rob us of the truth on this subject? Now to be sure, I am not a Greek scholar in any sense and I am certain that I do not have to be in order to know the truth on this matter or any other Bible matter. The Holy Spirit “as a gift” is not supported by the Bible. Check your contexts and see my prior articles.

Can the personal indwelling advocates find where “gift of God” refers to receiving God as a gift? I do not think so (cp. Acts 8:20; Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor. 7:7, etc.). Why do they change Acts 2:38 or allow others to change it for them? Is the “**gift of Christ**,” Christ Himself (Eph. 4:7)? No. Why do they then think Acts 2:38 “the gift of the Holy Ghost” means “the Holy Spirit as a gift?” Oh for consistency! Prior articles show this is not the case (see part 4, etc.).

One brother wrote to me some years ago concerning the personal indwelling: “God says it. I believe it. For me that settles it. To walk by faith (II Cor. 5:7) is to believe what God says and live by it.” It is not strange to me that he never gave one verse for the literal personal indwelling! He just gave the ones about the indwelling. Well the statement he gave is a very good statement **IF** we search the Scriptures with an honest heart to understand what God actually says and means! I have heard that same statement from denominational people in support of some error many times. This brother and others who believe in the personal indwelling want to take the verses which deal with the indwelling and “**think**” it is saying the “very Person of the Holy Spirit literally dwells” in the Christian. The Bible does not say that! “**God says it**” is often applied to that which God did not actually say as in the above case. The verses say “dwell in you,” so I believe it, but I go no further unless the Bible does. Let us try this out: find one person who believes 2 Corinthians 6:16 to be literal, “... for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; ...” Do any of them believe that God is literally **walking** in the Christian? I have never heard of any! Do any of them even believe that God the Father literally dwells in the Christian? I personally have never heard any say that they do.

Yet, they separate the Holy Spirit with identical language and claim that He does dwell in the Christian literally and personally. What consistency!!! Why do they make what they want literal, but other like verses they make figurative at their will? **Does the Bible (or God) actually say that the Holy Spirit literally and personally indwells the Christian? No!** If it did I would believe it. Now again, I believe 2 Corinthians 6:16 as well as Romans chapter 8 and all the Bible and I do not claim perfect understanding of it. But I do believe with consistent and proper study we can know the truth on these matters as much as is revealed to us and that is as far as we should go (2 Tim. 2:15; John 8:31,32; Deut. 29:29; 2 Peter 1:3; 1 Peter 4:11, etc.). Let us look at some of the Scriptures where some say “The Bible says it and I believe it” (**Rom. 8**):

Romans 8 is the strongest support they have for the personal indwelling, according to all that I have heard. Let us look at some key verses they use. But first of all, it is important to understand that Paul was writing to Christians (Rom. 1:7; 8:12). Note: We are to follow the Spirit (Rom. 8:1,4); we do so by following the law which the Spirit gave, speaking of the New Testament (v.2 cp. v.5; Eph. 6:17); verse 6 is a very key verse as explained in verse 7; the advocates of personal indwelling use **verses 9 and 11** very much which states in part: “... **if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you...**” Now doesn’t that sound just a little strange **IF** the personal indwelling is under consideration? Think about it and consider:

(1.) Paul was writing to brethren (baptized people). (2.) Those who believe in the personal indwelling believe the Holy Spirit is given at baptism. (3.) **IF** Paul also believed this, why would Paul, writing to baptized people, say such as “if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you”? Think! Again: (1a.) They were baptized.

(2a.) **IF** the Holy is given at baptism. (3a.) **Then** the Holy Spirit would be in them. Not “if.” To me it is clear that the personal indwelling doctrine is false.

Let us consider more of Romans 8:

(v.1) **How do we follow or “walk...after the Spirit”?** Is it by some “nudging, feeling, voice, etc.” of the Holy Spirit within us? Or is by following the Word of God (cp. Eph. 6:17; Col. 3:16, etc.)? Remember: “The heart is deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9). IF we are receiving “nudgings, feelings and hearing voices from within us, how do we know they are from the Holy Spirit???” BCV? At this point multitudes of irrational things could be relayed concerning those who do claim those miraculous things!

(v.2) Is not the “law of the Spirit” the Word which the Spirit gave (cp. v.5,7; 2 Tim. 3:16,17; Eph. 6:17)?

(v.4) How do we walk “after the Spirit”? Is it by “nudgings, etc.” of the Spirit within us? Or by following the Word which the Spirit gave, speaking of the New Testament (v.2,5,7; Eph. 6:17)?

(v.5) How do we mind “the things of the Spirit? Is it by “nudgings, etc.” of the Spirit within us? Or by following the Word (cp. Eph. 6:17)?

(v.6) What makes us “spiritually minded”? By being aware of subtle “nudges, voices, etc.” from the Holy Spirit within us? No, but by following the law: **v.6 is a very key verse** as explained in **verse 7**.

(v.7) “carnal mind...is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” To follow the law of God, His Word is to follow the Holy Spirit.

(v.8) “in the flesh” = mind the things of the flesh (v.5,6).

(v.9) Read again the two paragraphs beginning with **Romans 8**. (v.9,11) “... **if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you...**” I ask again, doesn’t that sound just a little strange **IF** the personal indwelling is under consideration?

Consider again:

(1.) Paul was writing to brethren, i.e., **baptized** people (v.12).

(2.) Those who believe in the personal indwelling believe the Holy Spirit was/**is** given in **baptism**.

(3.) So, why would Paul, writing to **baptized** people, say such as “**if** so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you”?

(1a.) They were baptized!

(2a.) **IF** the Holy is given at baptism.

(3a.) **Then** the Holy Spirit would be in them. Not “**if**.” To me it is clear that personal indwelling is false.

(v.11) Must the Holy Spirit literally and personally be in us to raise us from the dead? Was the Holy Spirit in Lazarus (John 11:43,44)? **Must the Holy Spirit be in us personally to do anything?** If so, where is BCV? Can the Holy Spirit do all things from the outside of our bodies? Or is His power limited when He is outside of our bodies?

(v.10) How is Christ in us? Through the Word of God: Eph. 3:17 “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith,” cp. Rom. 10:17. The Holy Spirit dwells in us in the same manner. Note these parallel verses:

(Col 3:16) “Let the **word of Christ dwell** in you ... singing”

(Eph. 5:18,19) “... be filled with the Spirit; ... singing”

To have the Word of God in us ruling and directing our lives is to have the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in us.

(v.12) Paul is speaking to “brethren,” i.e., baptized people in the book of Romans. **Context** is always very important to any study.

(v.13) How do we “through the Spirit mortify the deeds of the body”? See contexts: v.1,2,5,7; Eph. 6:17 “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” How did Christ overcome the temptations of Satan (Matt. 4:4,6,10).

(v.14) How are we “led by the Spirit of God”? By following the Word of God (v.1ff).

(v.16) How does the Spirit bear witness with our spirit that we are the children of God?

Then by miraculous deeds which proved the Word (cp. Eph. 1:13,14; Acts 19:1-7 Ephesians’ conversion).

Now by the Word which was confirmed by the miraculous (2 Cor. 13:5, etc.). Certainly not by personal indwelling (PI)! If so, where is BCV? Cp. Jer. 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

(v.26) Is this from within us? If so, where is the proof (1 Thess. 5:21)?

Must the Holy Spirit be in us (PI) to “help” us?

Must the Holy Spirit be in us to make “intercession for us”? Cp. next:

Must Christ be in us to make “intercession for us” (Romans 8:34; Heb. 7:25)? Think and compare to the Holy Spirit.

The error of receiving the Holy Spirit in baptism is answered by the Holy Spirit very well in Acts 8:16 “(For as yet he [the Holy Spirit] was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)” **Brother Guy N. Woods had this to say on the matter:** “It must follow therefore that any theory regarding the reception of the Holy Spirit which alleges that it is automatically *received* in consequence of being baptized in water is in conflict with the facts emerging in this event in Samaria. How is it possible for one seriously to contend that the Samaritans *received* the Holy Spirit *simply* and *solely* because they had been baptized, when the text asserts positively and specifically that they had not?” [Questions and Answers (Vol. 1) by Guy N. Woods, pg. 60]

How did the Holy Spirit dwell in the Christian then? There are only two ways revealed in the Bible:

1. **Miraculous:** Joel 2:28,29; Mark 16:15-20 cp. Luke 24:46-53; Acts 1:1-12; 2:1-4,16,33,38,39; 8:16-18; 10:44-48; 19:1-7, etc.
2. **Through the Word of God.** The same way the Father and Son dwell in the Christian: Eph. 3:17 cp. Rom. 10:17; note parallel verses: Eph 5:18,19 and Col. 3:16 cp. John 15:1-10; 1 John 4:12,13, etc.
 - a. The Godhead dwells in us **now** only through the Word of God.
 - b. If there is any other manner it is not revealed to us (Duet. 29:29: 1 Cor. 4:6; 1 Peter 4:11, etc.). If so, where is BCV?

Study 1 John 4:12,13.

1. What if we do not love one another: Does God continue to dwell in us? See above at *. What about the Holy Spirit (think literal personal indwelling here)? Many such questions can and should be asked, e.g., what about when we sin?
2. How do we dwell in God (a very important question to this subject)? Is it not by and through the Word of God?
3. Is it reasonable to think that God dwells in us in the same manner? I think so.

Study John 15:1-14.

No support for PI here, but there is much support for the Godhead dwelling in us through the Word of God. Concerning the indwelling brother Guy N. Woods stated: “It seems certain that God, Christ and the Holy Spirit dwell in the hearts of faithful disciples in exactly the same manner, i.e., through the word of truth.” [Questions and Answers (Vol. 1) by Guy N. Woods, pg. 278]. Please consider 2 John 9 in this matter as well. ♥

2011, 10 Bulletin

Is The Personal Indwelling Of The Holy Spirit The Earnest Of Our Inheritance?

(Part 10, Holy Spirit series; will be intermittent)

by Perry Sexton

The Greek word ἀρραβών arrhabōn (Strong's number G728) is used three times in the New Testament and is translated "earnest" all three times: **2 Cor. 1:22, 2 Cor. 5:5, Eph. 1:14**. **Thayer's Definition:** "(1) an earnest 1a) money which in purchases is given as a pledge or down payment (emp. added, ps) that the full amount will subsequently be paid." I agree with brother Franklin Camp's statement concerning the words "sealed" and "earnest," he wrote: "Both terms are used in connection with the miraculous operation of the Spirit." Brother Camp then quotes from McClintock and Strong that **2 Cor. 1:22** refers to the miraculous gifts the apostles received from the Holy Spirit and **2 Cor. 5:5, Eph. 1:13,14** refers to the miraculous gifts the First Century Christians received in general through the laying on of the apostles hands. [THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN REDEMPTION, by Franklin Camp, 1972, pages 181 and 182].

Concerning Ephesians 1:13,14

To whom was Paul speaking? To us today or to the Ephesians who lived during miraculous times? See part 2 of this series. Surely, there are none who would say Paul was addressing us today, yet that is the implication of some. Paul was speaking to the **Ephesians** of the Holy Spirit of promise. I know of no promise that the Holy Spirit would literally and personally indwell the Christian (PI). I do know of the promise concerning the miraculous gifts from the Holy Spirit (see parts 4 and 5). I know of no verses that indicate that the Ephesians (or anyone else in Bible times) knew of anything concerning the PI, but I do know of a lot of verses dealing with the miraculous from the Holy Spirit. In many verses the Holy Spirit is used metaphorically in place of the miraculous. Such is clearly seen in Acts 8:15-18; 10:44-48; 19:1-7, etc. Of the verses cited it is clear that the Holy Spirit is used representing the miraculous gifts which come from the Holy Spirit. It is equally clear that the Holy Spirit is not given at baptism as is taught by some brethren. Please read and accept the biblical truth from God on these matters.

How were the Ephesians sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise? By gifts of miraculous power from the Holy Spirit as was **promised** (Joel 2:28,29; Mark 16:16-20; Acts 2:38,39). When did it happen? **Acts 19:1-7 is the biblical record of this**. Verse 6 declares: "And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied." Great, visible (seals are always visible) and undeniable miraculous gifts (cp. Acts 2:33) were received as a down payment for that which is to follow in Heaven. What blessed assurance! I would call that a true "earnest." But if this is true (and I firmly believe it is), what does it mean for us today? Very very much! It is recorded for our benefit and we should believe it as we do any other part of the Word of God such as the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. We should believe it as much as we do our very own salvation which is known to us only by book, chapter and verse, not by our feelings, etc. (cp. Jer. 17:9)! After all, we walk by faith, do we not (2 Cor. 5:7)? But some are walking by feelings, etc., rather than the Word of God. We will look at that in part 11.

Now concerning Acts 19:6, (1.) How did the Ephesians receive the Holy Spirit? (2.) In what sense did they receive the Holy Spirit: literal, personal indwelling (PI) or miraculous powers from the Holy Spirit? (3.) Was the Holy Spirit received at baptism? (4.) What was the result of the Ephesians (not us) receiving the Holy Spirit?

Remember, the Ephesians did not have the New Testament as we have today, but it was being given in part by the miraculous (cp. 1 Cor. 13:9,10) **and it was being certified by the miraculous** such as what the Ephesians received (cp. Eph. 4:7-13; 1 Cor. 12; Heb. 2:4, etc.). The miraculous (which was also a sealing and the earnest) was absolutely necessary then, but not so any longer since the miraculous has accomplished its purpose (Eph. 4:7-13; 1 Cor. 13:8-10).

Well let us take a look at the (PI) personal indwelling (the belief that the Holy Spirit literally and personally dwells in the human body of the Christian) **view of this**. Actually there are two views here (they are not in agreement!): The first view is that the Holy Spirit is literally and personally in us and we can only know this by the Word 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. Brethren, I strongly deny both of these views and I believe all brethren who are not caught up in the direct operation (**second view**) of the Holy Spirit upon the Christian can clearly see the dangers of it! But can you see the dangers of the **first view** which many brethren have held and do hold? The first view, if persisted in, can only lead to the second view! And I believe it has in many cases. Lord willing, we will look at the second view the next time. **For now let us consider the first view in light of Ephesians 1:13,14.**

If the Holy Spirit is literally and personally in us (PI), but does **nothing** to us, I very kindly and sincerely ask what benefit is that to us? One may answer, “Well it is just the knowing that the Holy Spirit is in us.” So that is supposed to make the difference? But does it? Not long ago I had a written discussion with one preacher who believes in the PI (actually the second view of it to some extent, but he was very secretive about it all; I wonder if that was by what he assumed were instructions from the Holy Spirit), but that did not keep him from lying and showing himself to be dishonest (see **False Teachers: Like Father Like Son**, 8-2011 issue, next to the last paragraph). Another brother, who also believes in the PI, lived an active life of fornication and as far as I know, he is still living in adultery while strongly promoting the PI! Multitudes and multitudes of such cases could be cited by faithful brethren. Why did this view of PI fail to keep them pure? Why would the PI view be any more powerful than the knowing, **by the same means (BCV)**, that the “All Seeing Eye” (cp. Prov. 5:21; 15:3; Eccl. 12:14; Rom. 2:16, etc.) is watching and knows our secret thoughts and deeds? I think the PI doctrine has not proven to be any stronger in keeping one from sin than the knowledge of the truth has.

It is clear that Paul was speaking of the miraculous gifts from the Holy Spirit when, by inspiration, he wrote: “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own” (1 Cor. 6:19)? **Check the all important contexts** (the whole book of 1 Corinthians and the whole Bible) and see if you can find anything remotely suggesting PI. Please let me know if you do. On the other hand, the book (as well as the whole Bible) has many references to the miraculous (e.g., 1:7; 2:4; chapter 12, etc.). The point is those brethren had something to sink their teeth into: they knew they had miraculous powers from the Holy Spirit! They “were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,” and had “tasted ... the powers of the world to come” (Heb. 6:4,5). They knew that, to this extent, the Holy Spirit was in them.

Now compare that to those today who believe in the PI (first view)? They believe the Holy Spirit is literally and personally in them, but He does **nothing** to them, i.e., He works only through the Word of God. So now here is the earnest (down payment) of their salvation and they can expect more of the same to follow (see definition at the beginning)! More of what? More of **nothing**! This is not reasonable, but that is exactly the result of the PI doctrine concerning the earnest. How many of you would agree to sell an expensive piece of real estate with a check for the earnest money of **zero** and the promise of more of **the same** when the deal is done? **Think! Brethren, the PI doctrine is false! It is not of God.** If it is, then where is BCV?

The contexts prove that the earnest of Ephesians 1:13,14 is the miraculous. Where is PI in the immediate or even in the remote context? Note in the book of Ephesian verses that has some reference to the miraculous: 1:9,13,14, 17; 3:5; 4:8-13, etc. Now, where is one verse which has reference to the PI?

Let us compare the PI doctrine to what the Bible teaches:

- (1) **PI doctrine**: Eph. 1:13,14 refers to all Christians, but **the Bible teaches**: Eph. 1:13,14 refers to the Ephesians (“ye” cp. 1:1).
- (2) **PI doctrine**: Claim Holy Spirit is given at baptism, but **the Bible teaches**: Acts 8:16 disproves this and Acts 19:1-7 tells us clearly how the Ephesians received the Holy Spirit and exactly what it was referring to – miraculous gifts from the Holy Spirit.

Let us remember 1 Thessalonians 5:21; Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15, etc. May God bless us all in our studies of His Word. ♥

2011, 11 Bulletin

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 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.♥

2011, 12 Bulletin

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. ⁵ 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 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. ²Be 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! ♥

2012, 1 Bulletin

The Sword Of The Spirit

(Part 13, Holy Spirit series)

by Perry Sexton

It seems many who believe in the literal personal indwelling (PI) of the Holy Spirit in the very body of the Christian forget about the all sufficiency of the Word of God. Some go so far as to attack and minimize the all sufficiency of the Word of God.

We know the great work of the Holy Spirit was to deliver God’s Word to mankind. Let us hear the Spirit concerning His work: “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:” (Eph. 6:17). What is the sword of the Spirit? The Word of God! The Holy Spirit works through the Word and we are to take this Word delivered by the Spirit and use in our daily lives both as a defensive and offensive weapon. Much could be said on this and all of the following points, but you can add more to each point of this brief study.

I insert [Word] where appropriate (if it is not already there) showing that it is referring to the Word of God or is accomplished by the Word, etc.

Creation: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” [by the Word] (Gen. 1:1). “God said” [Word] is found 8 times in Genesis 1 concerning creation and “it was so” [by the Word].

Preservation: “Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, ...” (Heb. 1:3). Since God created all things by His Word and all things are sustained by His Word, is it any wonder that His Word is able to save our souls?

Salvation: “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls (James 1:21). And to save our souls, we must do what? “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” (James 1:22). “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will [Word] of my Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 7:21). “... no condemnation ... in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit [Word]” (Rom. 8:1, see part 9 on Romans 8). “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;” (Heb. 5:9). We obey His Word (John 14:15). Why? Because it is God’s power unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (1 Peter 1:23 cp. John 3:3-5). So we are saved by the Word of God, but what keeps us saved?

Preservation: “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel [Word] which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which [Word] also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached [Word] unto you, unless ye have believed in vain” (1 Cor. 15:1,2). “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine [Word]; continue in them [Word]: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear [Word] thee” (1 Tim. 4:16). Note, are there any mention of nudges or feelings from the Holy Spirit in which we are to heed??? “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine [Word] of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine [Word] of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son” (2 John 1:9). “But if we walk in the light [Word], as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). “...the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe [Word]” (1 Thess. 2:13). “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith [Word]; that ye” (Eph. 3:17 cp. Rom. 10:17). “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing” (Col. 3:16). “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will [Word] of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit [by the Word]; Speaking ...” (Eph. 5:17-19). Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:18,19 are parallel verses. Study them carefully. See part 9 (9-2011) of Holy Spirit series concerning Romans 8, etc. [On my website or send for it].

Protection: The Christian armament is certainly sufficient. Let us note **all** of what it consists. “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ¹³Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth [Word, John 17:17], and having on the breastplate of righteousness [Word]; ¹⁵And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel [Word] of peace; ¹⁶Above all, taking the shield of faith [Word], wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation [Word], and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:” (Eph. 6:11-17). What is the sword of the Spirit? The Word of God. Remember this always! The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God.

Fruition: Living the Christian life includes both fruit bearing and resisting temptation.

Fruit bearing: “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²Those by the way side are they that hear [Word]; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. ¹³They on the rock are they, which, when they hear [Word], receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. ¹⁴And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard [Word], go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. ¹⁵But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it [Word], and bring forth fruit with patience” (Luke 8:11-15). The devil took what

away? The Word. Why? Because it is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16.) Was there anything else to be taken away? **No.** Note, there is no mention that the devil took away the Holy Spirit. What bore fruit? “The seed,” which is the Word of God. This is how the Holy Spirit bears fruit in us (cp. Gal. 5:22-25).

Resisting temptation is a must in order to bring the Christian life to a successful conclusion (read Matt. 4:1-11). What did Jesus use to resist temptation? (v.4) “It is written” [Word]; (v.7) “It is written” [Word]; (v.10) “It is written” [Word]. By what are we to live? (v.4) “by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” Compare Psalms 119:11 “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

Action: The Word of God is alive and powerful. It is certainly not a dead letter to the non-Christian or to the Christian. Note but a few passages. “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb. 4:12). “All scripture [Word] is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine [Word], for reproof [Word], for correction [Word], for instruction [Word] in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” [all by the Word] (2 Tim. 3:16,17). “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge [Word] of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: ⁴Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises [Word]: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption [by the Word] that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:3,4).

Conclusion: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments [Word]: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man. ¹⁴For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil (Eccl. 12:13,14). By what shall we be judged? “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books [Word] were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books [Word], according to their works” (Rev. 20:12). “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48).

A few of many other verses that should be studied in this matter include: 2 Timothy 2:15; Romans 10:17; 2 Peter 3:18; James 1:21-25; 1 Timothy 4:16. ♥

2012, 2 Bulletin

The Holy Spirit Works Through The Word

(Part 14, Holy Spirit series)

by Perry Sexton

I have been called many things: some not so good and probably worse things behind my back. Last summer I was teaching a class on the Holy Spirit. We had two visitors from two different out of town churches of Christ. After class I spoke to the visitors and went on out to the foyer to speak with others as they left. I noticed one visitor held back and was out of my sight. I later learned he was backbiting me! When he came by he said I was a false teacher and that the Holy Spirit comforted him. I very nicely and calmly asked him: “How does the Holy Spirit do that?” Amazingly, he never answered, but he said he was going to have his preacher contact me. I told him that would be good and that I was willing to discuss the matter with anyone. It has been many months now and I have not heard from him or his preacher. This did not surprise me at all! I believe it is evident who is holding to error. The other visitor said he believes as I do and that his preacher taught the same thing.

I do not believe, nor did I teach that the Holy Spirit does not comfort the Christian. What prompted this brother to say what he did I have no idea. I wish he, or someone who believes in the literal personal indwelling, would explain to us just how they think the Holy Spirit comforts us separate and apart from the Word! And then give us BCV for their answer. Do they believe the Holy Spirit imparts some kind of warm feeling or

what??? I cannot find that they have Bible on which to stand! And brethren, this is very serious. The Bible still says: "If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God" (1 Peter 4:11). I would have loved for the brother or his preacher to explain by speaking the "oracles of God" just how the Holy Spirit comforts and does all the other things outside the Word of God.

It seems obvious that some are satisfied in believing doctrines without biblical basis (cp. 2 John 9). Brethren let us strive "not to go beyond the things which are written" (1 Cor. 4:6 ASV cp. KJV).

The chart on the inside should be helpful in our studies. Please take all the subjects and Scriptures given in the left column and acknowledge what is taught, but let us never go beyond what is taught. And unless we can find BCV showing how it is accomplished we must stop right where we are (see **Deut. 29:29**)! There are some things not revealed to us.

I, and many others, believe God has revealed in the Bible very plainly how that the Holy Spirit does these things and that is by the Word of God. By inspiration of the Holy Spirit Himself, He tells us what His medium is: "and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph. 6:17, check the context and see last month's article). For example: How are we washed by the Spirit (see chart on page 27)? Is it not logically through the Word which the Spirit brought to mankind? ♥

Consider also:

How The Holy Spirit Converts

Through **earthen** vessels (2 Cor. 4:7; 2 Tim. 2:2).

Through **teaching** (John 6:44,45).

Through the **gospel** (Rom. 1:16).

Through the **Word** of truth (James 1:18,21,22).

Gives light by the **Word** (Psa. 119:105,130).

He begets by the **Word** (1 Pet. 1:23).

Purifies through the **Word** (1 Pet. 1:22).

Quickens by the **Word** (Heb. 4:12; Psa. 119:50).

Cleanses by the **Word** (John 15:3).

Gives faith by the **Word** (Rom. 10:17).

Sanctifies by the **Word** (John 17:17).

Purifies hearts by the **Word** (Acts 15:7-9).

"and the **sword** of the Spirit,
which is the **word** of God" (Eph. 6:17).

{ [See chart on next page](#) }

Questions? The Bible has answers!

The Means By Which The Holy Spirit Works (Part 14, Holy Spirit series)

<u>The Holy Spirit:</u>	If <u>not</u> by His sword the Word, then <u>how</u>? BCV?	<u>The Word:</u>	<u>The Means:</u>
Prompts us to love God (Rom. 5:5)	?	By showing God's love for us (John 3:16)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God
Witnesses (Rom. 8:16; Heb. 10:15)	?	Witnesses (John 5:39)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God
Instructs (Neh. 9:20)	?	Instructs (2 Tim. 3:16)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God
Teaches (John 14:26)	?	Teaches (John 6:45)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God
Convicts (John 16:8)	?	Convicts (Titus 1:9)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God
Begets (2 Cor. 3:6)	?	Begets (James 1:18)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God
Saves (Titus 3:5)	?	Saves (James 1:21)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God
Sanctifies (1 Cor. 6:11; 2 Thess. 2:13)	?	Sanctifies (John 17:17)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God
Justifies (1 Tim. 3:16)	?	Justifies (Rom. 5:1; 10:17)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God
Cleanses (1 Cor. 6:11)	?	Cleanses (John 15:3)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God
Washes (1 Cor. 6:11)	?	Washes (Eph. 5:26)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God
Comforts (Acts 9:31)	?	Comforts (1 Thess. 4:18)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God
Gives Love (Rom. 5:5)	?	Gives Love (1 John 2:5)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God
Leads us as God's sons (Rom. 8:14,16)	?	Leads (Psalm 119:105)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God
Indwelling (Rom. 8:11)	?	Indwelling (Col. 3:16)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God
Strengthens (Eph. 3:16; Rom. 8:11)	?	Strengthens (Acts 20:32; Eph. 6:10-17; 2 Tim. 2:1)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God
Power (Rom. 15:13)	?	Power (Heb. 1:3)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God
In Resurrection (Rom. 8:11)	?	In Resurrection John 5:28-29)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God
Born of the Spirit (John 3:5,8)	?	Born of the Spirit (1 Peter 1:23)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God
Eventually raise us from the dead (Rom. 8:11.)	?	By the Word of Christ (John 5:28,29)	<i>The sword of the Spirit:</i> The Word of God

Contact: Perry Sexton 1763 Highway 166 N. Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474

Email: jpsexton@peoplepc.com Website: www.mission-usa.org

Most references in the chart were taken from a chart by Garland M. Robinson in Seek The Old Paths Vol. 14 No. 12 December, 2003 "Questions on the Holy Spirit," p.90. Website: <http://www.seektheoldpaths.com/stop.htm>

Summary

(Part 15, Holy Spirit series)

by Perry Sexton

As I close this series I want to recap some of the major points for emphasis in each part and add a few new things. I do so under the part it was discussed.

Part 1: Are we ready for “the mysterious ‘nudgings’ of providence” as advocated by a prominent brother among us in his “forthcoming commentary?” From what I have seen since I wrote about this in July 2010, I would have to say many in the church are very eager for this and much more (see part 11).

Part 2: However, I am very thankful that all of you who responded to me about the above matter were in agreement with me. After all, the brother’s proof text did not support what he said at all! Let us all learn from this and be more careful to check the proof text of all things to be certain they are indeed proof texts. Let us truly “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thess. 5:21). And as one of my 12 points states: “learn not *to go* beyond the things which are written” (1 Cor. 4:6 ASV 1901); compare: “learn in us not to think of men above that which is written” (1 Cor. 4:6 KJV). And “not to think *of himself* [ourselves] more highly than he [we] ought to think” (Rom. 12:3).

This is one problem that I have with the personal indwelling (PI) – to think that the holy God would literally and personally dwell in my sinful body (see part 12). You know, that preacher (above) was quite rough with me. He seemed to have the attitude “Who are you to question me!” Maybe that is why he didn’t answer my questions. Hmmmm. Or maybe there was another reason.

Part 3: I tried to make practical applications to those 12 points in relationship to this study.

Part 4 & 5: When we look at the same phrase used in Acts 2:38 “the gift of the Holy Ghost” elsewhere and learn what it means it should help us understand what it means in Acts 2:38. Note Acts 10:45,46: “because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. ⁴⁶For they heard them speak with tongues,…” Clearly this is the miraculous. In Hebrews 2:4 the phrase is used in the plural and is also referring to the miraculous. Furthermore, it is clear that “the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38) is referred to by Joel and Jesus (Joel 2:28,29; Mark 16:16-20). Jesus said it would happen and it happened (read Acts 1 and 2).

Part 6: What does it mean to be full of the Holy Ghost or Spirit? Hear the Word of God and know: “Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost,…” (Acts 6:5). **Compare:** “And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people” (v.8 cp. Acts 10:45,46; Hebrews 2:4).

Part 7: “But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;” (Acts 2:16). This promise included “all flesh” (cp. Acts 2:39). Joel prophesied it, Jesus promised it and Peter proclaimed it to be “this” on this day of Pentecost. What did Jesus say would happen to the believers (Mark 16:17,18)? And it happened (Acts 2:33). See also Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,5,8. I also dealt with the “afar off” of Acts 2:39 which I clearly believe to be the Gentiles and gave Scripture.

Part 8: There is no BCV for the PI. The very scholarly Guy N. Woods believed “The Holy Spirit *dwells* in Christians *today* through the word which he inspired.” Here I deal with how the Godhead dwells in the Christian today. It is not just the Holy Spirit, but the Father and Son also.

Part 9: The personal indwelling advocates claim that “the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38) is “the Holy Spirit as a gift.” But is that what your Bible says? Can the personal indwelling advocates find where “gift of God” refers to receiving God as a gift? I deal with Romans 8 some here because it is the most often used verses

to support PI. How do we follow or “walk...after the Spirit”? Is it by some “nudging, feeling, voice, etc.” of the Holy Spirit within us? Or is it by following the Word of God (cp. Eph. 6:17; Col. 3:16, etc.)?

Part 10: Is the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit the **earnest** of our inheritance (Eph. 1:13,14)? No. The Ephesians were **sealed** with the miraculous from the Holy Spirit as was **promised** (Joel 2:28,29; Mark 16:16-20; Acts 2:38,39). When? Acts 19:1-7.

Part 11: What can be the result of the erroneous belief of personal indwelling (PI) of the Holy Spirit? Nothing good! I gave examples in part 11, but here I want to give two more.

(1.) This took place on 2-4-1969 Open Forum at Henderson church of Christ. Jim Bevis stood at the microphone and made “a constant grown.” This was in response to brother Guy N. Woods’ pressing him to demonstrate what the Holy Spirit was doing for him. Upon more pressing by brother Woods, Bevis “could only continue these weird sounds.” Brother Woods “interrupted this nonsense and asked ‘please show this audience what the Holy Spirit was doing?’” To which “Bevis said, ‘That is what I have been doing.’” [OVER THE VAST HORIZON by Harrell Davidson, 2003, pg.38]

How sad! Brother Woods and others fought valiantly to ward off what we now have in many congregations as seen in part 12.

(2.) Concerning Acts 8 Mac Deaver said “So when Peter and John went down there and prayed, they were not the source of the Holy Spirit coming but they prayed, and then they identified the ones on whom the Spirit was to come and He came and they were ¹baptized in the Holy Spirit.” [Deaver - Vick debate, 10-25-2011, 2nd night, Mac’s 2nd negative] [¹See **Pentecostalism** in part 11]

How sad! So Deaver is now to the point of making out like the Holy Spirit did not know who to come upon without mere mortal and fallible man showing Him!!! Why could not Phillip, who likely did the baptizing, point them out? Must Peter and John come all the way from Jerusalem to Samaria to show the Holy Spirit whom He was to come upon? How would Peter and John know who they were? Who would show them? Remember they were back in Jerusalem when the Samaritans were baptized. Why was not the all knowing Holy Spirit capable of knowing on His own? It seems to me that Mac has God being a failure. If not, why not? What else would it be and BCV for it please?

Mac further said “there is not one case in the book of Acts where the apostles laid their hands on anyone bestowing a miraculous gift.” (Please see part 6 for the truth on this subject). Mac does admit that the concept is in other books. [3rd night] In a letter to me (3-3-03) Mac wrote “The apostles received the Spirit and received miraculous power; they laid their hands on other Christians and dispensed miraculous power as well (Acts 2:1-4; 8:18).” Mac clearly says in the letter “The point of discussion in Acts 8 is with reference to the miraculous endowments.” Since that time **Mac has changed his mind**, in other words **Mac was wrong then** according to Mac.

From what Mac has said (see part 11) I believe Mac thinks he is inspired like the apostles were! At the very least he surely believes in the direct operation of the Holy Spirit. If either one of these is so, why didn’t Mac get it right the first time??? **If he was wrong then, perhaps he is wrong now! Surely he is!** Where will Mac be doctrinally in another ten years from now??? What we see in Mac is **progressive digression**. How sad! He could have done so much good in the church (see point 6 in part 3). Mac is surely destroying the truth he once preached.

Part 12: Here I deal with why God does not literally dwell in humans. I dealt much with the fact that the Godhead dwells in us through the Word of God, but I did not use Philippians 2:5. Please consider it: “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” Is this not what happens in all areas when we let God’s Word rule our lives? And is it not God dwelling in us through His Word?

Part 13: What is the sword of the Spirit? The Word of God! (Eph. 6:17). Many examples are given of the power of the Word of God. The Christian armament (Eph. 6:11-17), fruit bearing (Luke 8:11-15; Gal. 5:22-25) and resisting temptation (Matt. 4:1-11) should be of particular interest to us. It is seen that the PI of the Holy

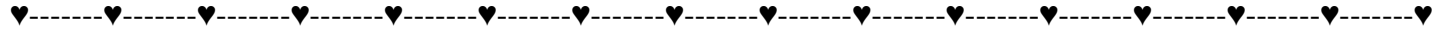
Spirit is not a requirement for Christians to accomplish these things. God helps us His way, not the way man “thinks” He should (cp. 2 Kings 5:11).

Part 14: The Holy Spirit works through the Word. Chart supplied. ♥

♥ You may see this complete series of articles on our website at www.mission-usa.org under “Sound Words.” ♥

If you desire to receive this bulletin via **email** please let us know. To sign up, please send an email to jpsexton@peoplepc.com And please put SW bulletin in the subject line. Or write to us to receive it by U.S. mail.

Please feel free to copy this bulletin and give to others



GOD'S UNCHANGING PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear God's Word (Rom. 10:17)

Believe the truth (Mark 16:15, 16; Heb. 11:6)

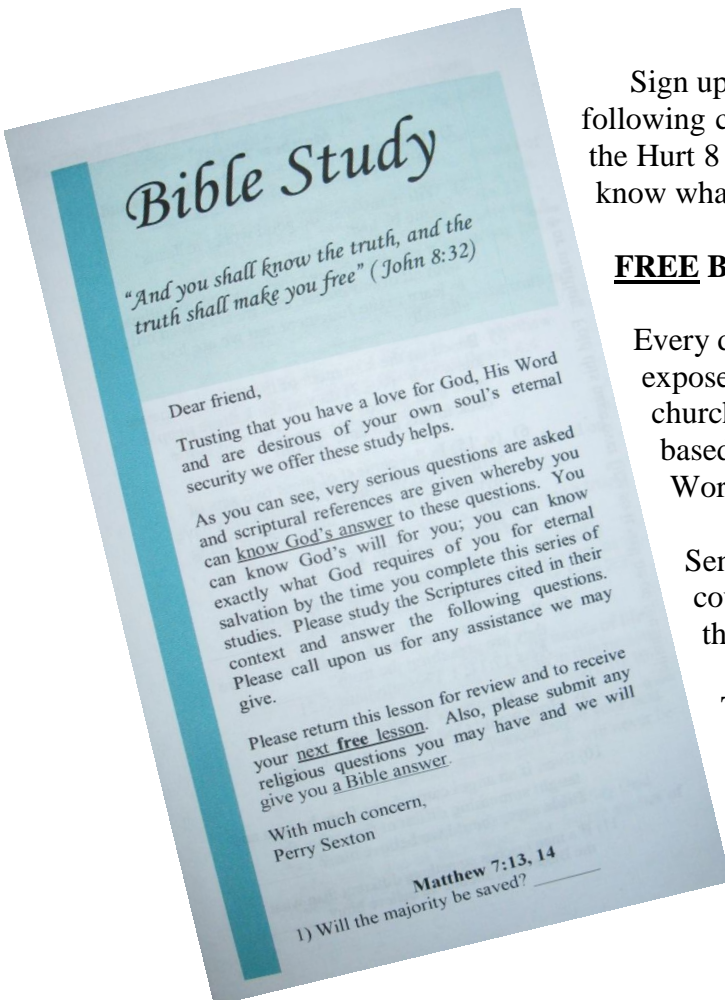
Repent of all sins (Luke 13:3, 5)

Confess that Jesus is the Christ (Matt. 10:32)

Be **baptized** for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)

Live a **faithful** life until death (Rev. 2:10b; 1 Tim. 4:7, 8)

Conversion accounts with some detail: Acts 2:37-42, 47; 8:5-13, 30-39; 9:6-18 cp. 22:16; 10:6, 44-48; 16:14, 15, 30-34. We admonish you: **believe** and **obey** the Lord (Heb. 5:8, 9).



Sign up your denominational friends and family members for the following course. After they complete this course we start them on the Hurt 8 lesson course. Check this course out yourself so you can know what you are recommending to your friends and family.

FREE Bible Correspondence Courses

Every denominational person should take this course as it exposes much error which is taught in the denominational churches of men. When you answer these questions truthfully based upon the Scriptures you can **know** you have God's Word on the matter.

Send your name and address today to receive this **free** course. Our mailing and email addresses are at the top on the first page.

There is much error, division, and confusion in the religious world today (cp. 1 Cor. 1:10-13; 1 John 4:1). This is not pleasing to God. You can know **the saving truth** by studying the Word of God (John 8:31,32). These courses will help you study. Send for your **free** BCC today.