

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.

If you would like to have this series in running format (without bulletin heading, etc. on each part) please let me know (U.S. mail or I can send it pdf by email. You may read them on our website at: www.mission-usa.org under “Sound Words.” ♥



“Hold fast the form of sound words”

SW

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



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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?