

HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELLS IN THE CHRISTIAN

Int.

1. Aim: To show that the only way the Holy spirit influences men today is through the word of God and not directly by some miraculous way.
2. Does the Holy Spirit in some direct way lead us or direct us?
 - a. Many believe that it does.
 - b. Some tell of how the spirit supposedly operates in a vision or experience telling them what they should do.
 - c. Most denominational people believe that the HOLY SPIRIT operates apart from the Word, and influences the sinner and the Christian!
3. This is one of the big differences between the N.T. church and Denominationalism
 - a. The N.T. Church teaches and believes that the Holy Spirit influences or guides only by means of the word of God.
 - b. The N.T. church believes and teaches that the word is God's power through which the Holy Spirit accomplishes his work.
 - c. There is no such thing as the Spirit of God operating away from the Word, separate and apart from the word of God !
4. How does the Holy Spirit dwell in the Christian?

Discussion

I. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT ?

A. The Holy Spirit is Deity

1. He is a part of the Godhead
2. There is one God with one divine nature
3. But there are three persons that possess this divine nature.
 - a. The Father = God the Father - John 3:16
 - b. The Son = John 1:1
 - c. And the Holy Spirit - Acts 5:3
4. Matthew 28:19
5. The Holy Spirit is Deity

B. The Holy Spirit is a person

1. Not just an influence - He is as much of a person as is God the Father and Christ the Son.
2. He is a masculine personality - John 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."
 - a. Seven personal pronouns
 - b. All are masculine - 6 times = "He" 1 Time = Himself

II. HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT COMMUNICATE ? [Words]

- A. He uses the only way to reveal a message = words
1. There are only 5 ways to get a message to our brains
 - a. Seeing
 - b. Hearing
 - c. Tasting
 - d. Smelling
 - e. Feeling
 2. We cannot smell truth, taste truth or feel truth.
 3. Truth can be taught only by seeing and hearing
 4. Words are either heard by our ears or seen by the eyes / or both ways
 5. There is no other way that intelligent communication can be accomplished.
 6. Deaf can use their eyes - blind can use ears or braille, touch -
 7. But words are still the only vehicles of thought
- B. This is the way the Bible talks about the Spirit
1. II Sam. 23:2 NKJV "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue."
 - a. Spirit communicated through David
 - b. He did this by speaking - use of words
 2. 1 Tim. 4:1 NKJV "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,"
 - a. The Spirit informed about some who would go astray
 - b. He did this by speaking words
 - c. Speaketh expressly - plainly or clearly speaking

C. The Holy Spirit's influence is through words !

1. The only way in which the Holy Spirit ever did influence people is through intelligent communications.
2. He never did lead or guide or direct through one's hunches, or so-called inner leadings!
3. The Holy Spirit communicates through words !
4. Rev. 3:6 NKJV "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.."

D. The Holy spirit did not originate any truth - he merely communicated or relayed God's truth !

1. John 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."
2. The Holy Spirit would declare only what had been delivered to Him by God.
3. The Holy Spirit did not originate truth but transmitted it through words to the apostles who wrote the N.T. by inspiration.
4. The message of salvation has never been transmitted by hunches, inner leadings, dreams or imagination, but by use of words.
5. Words are the vehicles of thought.
6. It has never been done in any other way, because there is no other way !!

III. WHAT HAS THE HOLY SPIRIT COMMUNICATED ?

- A. John 16:7-13 - "truth"
 - 1. He would give them all the information they needed
 - 2. The revelation is sufficient - 2 Pet. 1:3
 - 3. This revelation is Complete - lacking nothing
 - a. II Tim. 3:17
 - b. It never needs revision or modernizing.
- B. The Holy Spirit warned of efforts to alter his message - Rev. 22:18, 19

IV. WHERE IS THE HOLY SPIRIT'S COMMUNICATION ?

- A. II Tim. 3:16-17
 - 1. The book is God-breathed = inspired
 - 2. All scripture is inspired not just part of them
 - 3. This message is all we need
- B. But suppose one claims guidance by the HOLY SPIRIT apart from the word. Is there any harm in such a view? What is wrong with a person thinking that his hunches, or so-called inner leadings, are promptings of the Holy Spirit?
 - 1. It is simply not so
 - a. Such a view is opposed to the scriptures
 - b. It leads to more departures from the truth
 - 2. It implies the Bible is not enough
 - a. If we receive influences apart from and in addition to the revealed word, then the Word of God is not sufficient to provide all that God intended for us.

- b. The Bible claims to supply our every need - II Tim. 3:16-17
 - (1) If it does then there are no other influences
 - (2) If it does not then its claims are false.
 - c. If it cannot be trusted in this matter how may it be trusted in any other matter ?
3. Those who claim such guidance deny the teachings of the Holy Spirit
- a. They will teach some doctrines contrary to the Bible
 - b. Their inner leadings and hunches conflict with the N.T. but they follow their professed inner light.
 - c. Gal. 1:8

V. WHEN ARE WE LED BY THE SPIRIT ?

- A. Heb. 4:12 "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 discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
- 1. The word is the instrument the spirit uses to accomplish his mission
 - 2. Illustration - a man uses an ax to chop wood
 - a. Energy is in the man
 - b. The ax is the means of transmitting the energy to the tree
 - 3. The Holy Spirit operates on human hearts
 - a. His instrument is the word - like the ax
 - b. No direct contact of man and wood and no direct contact between spirit and man
 - c. The influence is by means of the word

- d. Eph. 6:17b "...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"

- B. Rom. 8:14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."
 - 1. Those who have followed the teaching of the spirit of are sons of God
 - 2. The way he leads us is by the teachings of the N.T.

VI. WHAT ABOUT THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ?

- A. The fact that the New Testament says that the Spirit is in us does not prove that He is in us directly, immediately and personally.
 - 1. There is no reason to believe that one personality of deity dwells in the believer any differently than the other personalities of deity within the Godhead.
 - 2. In all of the references the same type of statements are made, with the same phraseology, the same language and grammatical construction, and by the same inspired writers.
 - 3. Most who hold to the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit do not hold the view that God or Christ dwells directly, immediately and personally within the believer.

- B. There are 31 references in the N.T. that deal with the indwelling of Deity
 - 1. God ~ 9
 - 2. Christ ~ 16
 - 3. Spirit ~ 6

C. God dwells in us ~ 9

1. II Cor. 6:16 - "I will dwell in them"
2. Eph. 4:6, Phil. 2:13, 1 John 3:24, 1 John 4:4
3. 1 John 4:12, 13, 15, 16

D. Christ Dwells in Us ~ 16

1. John 6:56, 15:4,5 17:23, 26 Rom. 8:10 II cor. 4:10,11 13:5
2. Gal. 2:20 "Christ liveth in me"
3. Gal. 4:19, Eph. 3:17, Phil. 1:20 Col. 1:27, 3:11 1 Pet. 3:15
4. These references state that Christ dwells in the believer! But it does not tell us how or in what sense he is in the believer !

E. Spirit Dwells in the believer ~ 6

1. Rom. 8:9, 11 [2] 1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19
2. II Tim. 1:14 "That good thing which was committed unto thee guard through the Holy Spirit which dwelleth in us."

F. How is the Believer indwelt by God, Christ and Holy Spirit

1. God is not in us personally
 - a. It is through revelation that He dwells within us
 - b. When our lives are godly then it can be said that God dwells in us
2. Christ is in us - not directly or immediately inside of our Body - Gal. 2:20
 - a. Christ dwelt in Paul through revelation
 - b. Christ's instruction was in the thoughts, words and actions

3. The Holy Spirit does not dwell in us personally
 - a. It dwells in us like God and Christ
 - b. To believe otherwise is to be inconsistent and unreasonable.
 - c. The word of God is more powerful than any other words because it is truth!
- G. People have made this matter too difficult
1. It is simple when we look at it correctly
 - a. God in us makes us Godlike
 - b. Christ in us makes us Christlike
 - c. The Holy Spirit in us makes us Spirit like
 2. This is simple - understandable and in harmony with the will of God !
 3. The Holy Spirit indwells us by means of the Word !
- H. Problems of the direct indwelling
1. We would have 2 independent personalities
 - a. We all have a human spirit that dwells within us
 - b. If another spirit enters us, a being who is a divine personality of the Godhead, then do we not have a human being with two personalities, i.e., a divine personality and a human personality.
 2. Consequences of such a theory
 - a. The Divine Spirit would be in control and the human spirit would not have control. The human being is no longer a free moral agent!
 - b. If we sinned then the spirit would be responsible
 - c. Or the impossibility of apostasy would be the result. [Once saved always saved]

VII. QUESTIONS

- A. Some will turn to Romans 8:26 that says: "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."
1. They claim that this verse says that the Holy Spirit operates in some direct way upon us.
 2. The intercession is something the spirit does for us, NOT TO US!
 3. The influence which the spirit makes in intercession is on the Father, NOT ON US !!!
- B. Would not those people who memorize the Bible then be filled with the Spirit ?
1. No.
 2. The Devil quoted scripture but He was not filled with the Spirit. His motive in quoting and his use indicated he did not love nor plan to obey the truth.
 3. In order for the Bible, the word, to do any good, it must be mixed with faith.
 4. Heb. 4:2 "For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it."
 5. Joseph Stalin memorized large portions of the Bible. But it did not profit him because it was not believed by him.

Conclusion

1. The Holy Spirit is able to save you by the engrafted Word - James 1:21 NKJV "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."
2. The Holy Spirit justifies by faith which comes by hearing God's word. Rom. 10:17
3. All we know about how to become a Christian and live the Christian life is set out by the Spirit in the New Testament
4. Acts 20:32 "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."
5. The disciples are admonished to let "the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom" Col. 3:16. No apostle ever admonishes the disciples to let the Holy Spirit personally dwell in them.
6. The Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian through the word.
7. Gal. 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Source consulted - "How the Holy Spirit Dwells in the Christian" - tract by Guy N. Woods

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