



The Voice Of Truth

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DOES THE GODHEAD LIVE IN THE CHILD OF GOD?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

One of the most rewarding studies in the Bible is that of the Godhead. There is no subject about whom there has been more confusion, misunderstanding, and religious error than on the subject of the Godhead.

There are three persons in the Godhead. They are God, the Father; Jesus Christ, the Son; and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. Notice several passages in this connection (Acts 17:29; Colossians 2:9; Matthew 28: 19; 2 Corinthians 13: 14). There is one divine nature, but three personalities. How does the Godhead live in the child of God? The Bible teaches that all three persons of the Godhead: God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, dwell in the Christian.

God dwells in Christians. *"No man hath beheld God at any time: if we love one another, God abideth in us, and his love is perfected in us"* (1 John 4:12). *And what agreement hath a temple of God with idols? for we are a temple of the living God; even as God said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people"* (2 Corinthians 6:16). *"Jesus answered and said unto him, if a man love me, he will keep my word: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him"* (John 14:23).

All the foregoing scriptures affirm a fact; they do NOT establish a mode or manner of the indwelling. If He is in us bodily, literally, personally, why do we pray *Our Father who art in heaven*" (Matthew 6:9)? *"That they may all be one; even as thou, Father, (art) in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us: that the world may believe that thou didst send me"* (John 17:21). Yet, Jesus taught them to pray to the Father in heaven, not the Father who is in me. The Father was in Jesus, yet, He spoke of the coming from the Father and His return to the Father (John 7; 29; 14; 28; 20;17). How does God indwell in His children? It is through the word. *"And he that keepeth his commandments abideth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he galle us"* (1 John 3:24).

Christ dwells in Christians. *"To whom God was pleased to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory"* (Colossians 1:27). *"Wherefore if any man is in Christ, (he is) a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new"* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

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He is in us bodily, literally, personally why is Christ said to be in heaven? *"This Jesus did God raise up, whereof we all are witnesses. Being therefore by the right hand of God exalted .. "* (Acts 2:32-33). *"But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God"* (Acts 7:55).

But how does Christ dwell in us? The answer to the question is found in two parallel passages of scripture. Paul tells the disciples to; *" ... but be filled with the Spirit"* (Ephesians 5:18). He then says what the spirit-filled-person should do: *"Speaking one to another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and make melody with your heart to the Lord"* (Ephesians 5: 19). In a parallel verse, Paul tells the disciples to: *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ... "* (Colossians 3: 16) *He then describes what the word-filled-person should do: In all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms (and) hymns (and) spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto God"* (Colossians 3:16).

One verse explains the other. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly is the same as being filled with the Spirit. It follows that when the word of Christ dwells in the believer he is filled with the Spirit. *"That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith ... "* (Ephesians 3: 17). Now, how does faith come? Paul answered: *"So belief (cometh) of hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ"* (Romans 10:17). So, it is not personally, but through the word of God that Christ dwells in the hearts of Christians.

The Holy Spirit dwells in Christians. *"But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you"* (Romans 8:9) *"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwelleth in you, he that raised up Christ Jesus from the dead shall give life also to your mortal bodies through his Spirit that dwelleth in you"* (Romans 8: 11). *"Or know ye not that your body if) a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God? and ye are not your own"* (1 Corinthians 6:19).

These verses affirm a fact; they do NOT establish a mode or manner of the indwelling. The Spirit indwells indirectly, that is, through one's obedience to the word, the same way that God and Christ live in us. If God the Father and Christ the Son of God can indwell Christians without there being a direct, literal, and personal indwelling, and they do, why cannot the Holy Spirit, third person of the Godhead, indwell in children of God without there being a literal and direct indwelling?

Some say, *no one can supply a scripture that locates the Holy Spirit in heaven during the gospel dispensation.* Look at Revelation 1:4: *"I John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from him who is and who was and who is to come; and from the seven Spirits that are before his throne. "* Seven is a number of completion and perfection within the Holy Writ. What better way to describe the third person of the Godhead? Where did John locate the *"seven spirits of God?"* Before the august throne of God, the Almighty.

The personal habitation of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit is in Heaven, and They only dwell in Christians by faith.

What's The Difference?

1. BETWEEN the atheist who would not dream of financially supporting the church and the Christian who will not financially support the Lord's church?
2. BETWEEN the skeptic who does not believe the Bible and the negligent Christian who never reads it?
3. BETWEEN those who do not believe in Bible classes and those who choose never to attend class?
4. BETWEEN the atheist who does nothing to build up the Lord's church and the Christian who finds fault with others, but does nothing himself?
5. BETWEEN a man of the world, and a person in the church who lives like a man in the world?
6. BETWEEN a man of the world who lives for self and a person in the church who lives for self, not God?

These are tough questions for Christians who live in a tough world. The fact is, Christians make no difference until they are different. Again, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17