

# **The Holy Spirit**

## **Lesson 7 – Acts 2:38 ½ (The Indwelling)**

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### **Introduction**

There are only four alternatives with our study: The Holy Spirit does not indwell, period. The Holy Spirit indwells representatively via the Word. The Holy Spirit's indwelling is miraculous. The Holy Spirit indwells Christians personally, making them temples of God.

A tidbit:

If you have the Holy Spirit without the Word, you blow up.

If you have the Word without the Holy Spirit you dry up.

If you have both the Word and the Holy Spirit you grow up.

### **I. Various Theories**

- a. The Holy Spirit does not indwell.

This is Deism. God is "out there" but of no use "down here." It is clear in scripture that the Holy Spirit does indwell in His people (Luke 11:13; John 3:34; Acts 5:32; Romans 5:5; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Timothy 1:14; James 4:5). The New Testament unmistakably promises a power beyond our capabilities. Acts 2:38 ½ the gift is the Holy Spirit at baptism.

- b. The Holy Spirit indwells miraculously.

To have the Holy Spirit is not necessarily to have a miracle - John the Baptist performed none. Acts 2:38 <sup>1/2</sup> is a "gift," not the Holy Spirit baptism! The Holy Spirit does not make us deity.

When it came to the apostles and Cornelius and his household the outpoured Spirit was only to glorify Jesus for it had nothing to do with faith, prayer, baptism, or obedience. The outpoured Spirit is the result of Jesus being exalted to the right hand of the Father. The Spirit indwelling is the result of our accepting Him as the Lord of our lives.

- c. The Holy Spirit indwells representatively, through the Word.

Study the following propositions:

1. The hearers received the Word before baptism (Acts 2:22-36).
2. They received the Holy Spirit in obedience of baptism (Acts 2:38; 5:32; Galatians 4:6).
3. They received the Word to become Christians; they received the Holy Spirit because they were Christians (John 14:17).
4. The Holy Spirit operates in conjunction with the Word.

The Word, therefore, is not the agent by which the Spirit dwells in us, for the Word and the Spirit enter the heart at different times. The Word enters our hearts before we are saved, and the Spirit enters after we are forgiven and saved as sons of God.

- d. The Holy Spirit indwells personally.

Consider: John 7:37-39; Romans 8:9,11; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 2 Peter 1:4)

*But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. (Romans 8:11)*

*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)*

Christians are temples of God. A temple is where deity dwells! (2 Peter 1:4)

## **II. The Results**

- a. Christians are the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- b. Christians have assurance (1 John 5:11-13).
- c. The Holy Spirit is a seal (Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 4:30). It is our signet ring of sonship.
- d. The Holy Spirit is our earnest (2 Corinthians 5:5; 1 John 3:24; 4:13; Ephesians 1:6) for eternal life.
- e. We have practical aids and strengths.
  - i. We are not left to our own resources for we have divine aid and power (2 Corinthians 13:14; Romans 8:9,14,16; Ephesians 3:14-21).
  - ii. He moves us to serve (John 14:12).
  - iii. Prayer. He is our intercessor (Romans 8:26).

## **Conclusion**

The New Testament promises a power beyond our capabilities. What an awesome thought! The Holy Spirit is the Christians' Partner! "The great distinction of a Christian is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the great incentive of holiness."