

We come this morning to our fifth sermon in a short topical study entitled, The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit. Thus far, we've considered His work in creation and common grace and His work upon Christ (the Head of the New Creation).

This brought us last week, to begin to consider the Spirit's work upon the body (or the church)—His first work is that of conversion, wherein He breaths life into a dead soul, gives the graces of repentance and faith, enabling the soul to turn from himself to Christ.

This brings us to the second sermon on the Spirit's work upon the body and that is, the Spirit's work of indwelling the soul.

- I. When Does the Spirit Indwell us?
- II. How Does the Spirit Indwell us?
- III. Why Does the Spirit Indwell us?

I. When Does the Spirit Indwell us?

1. One the greatest truths in all of Scripture, is that God indwells every Christian, by the Person of the Holy Spirit.
2. And yet, it must be admitted at the outset, that this great truth while clearly taught in Scripture, is rather mysterious.
3. One of the difficulties of the doctrine is determining when exactly the Holy Spirit takes up residency in our hearts.
4. As we learned last week, it's the work of the Spirit to apply the salvation planed by the Father and purchased by the Son.
5. The Holy Spirit regenerates the sinner by breathing spiritual life into the soul and giving the gifts of repentance and faith.
6. Thus, the question is not, at what point is the Spirit at work within the soul applying salvation, but at what point does the Spirit indwell the soul?
7. Now, before I come to answer this question, let me clarify that by "indwelling" I refer to the gift of the Holy Spirit.
8. These are not two separate things but speak of the same thing in different ways—God gives the Spirit who indwells us.
9. That is, the Father, through the Son, gives us the Holy Spirit who inhabits us in a unique way and for specific reasons.
10. Thus, the questions, when does the Spirit indwell us, and when do we receive the Spirit, are one and the same.
11. When does the Holy Spirit take up residence in our hearts! This is the question, and the Scripture is rather clear.
12. Acts 2:38—"Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"
13. Notice, Peter exhorts them to repent and turn to Christ—"and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"—not you may, but you shall.
14. Those who repent and believe receive the Holy Spirit—or put another way, the Spirit only enters the humble heart.
15. Gal.3:2—"This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith (Acts 19:2)"
16. This obviously is a rhetorical question which carries its own answer—Christians receive the Spirit when they believe.
17. Eph.1:13—"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise."

18. Now, some of you might know that there has been some controversy over exactly what Paul meant by "sealing."
19. Most Christians understand this sealing as referring to the comforting work of the Spirit when He indwells the soul.
20. Thus, the sealing of the Spirit takes place when the Spirit indwells the soul—or indwelling and sealing take place at the same time.
21. And notice when the sealing work of the Spirit takes place—"having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit."
22. Thus, the Holy Spirit breathes life into the soul (regeneration), gives repentance and faith (conversion), is received by the soul, and thus indwells the soul.
23. Perhaps we can put it this way—the Spirit first prepares the soul or makes the soul a suitable place for Him to dwell.
24. He recreates the soul, turns it from darkness to light, from unbelief to faith, and then takes up residence within.
25. Another way of saying this—the Holy Spirit does not indwell the darkened, evil, unbelieving hearts of the wicked.
26. Lesson 1—Every Christian has the Spirit—and this means that every Christian is equally indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
27. Now, as we shall see in upcoming studies, this does not deny that Christians are exhorted to be filled with the Spirit.
28. But, whatever this ongoing filling entails, we must not confuse it with indwelling—Christians are indwelt by the Spirit.
29. Rom.8:9—"Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ he is not His"—that is, anyone not indwelt by the Spirit is not a Christian.
30. Now if every Christian is indwelt by the Holy Spirit (and is equally indwelt by the Holy Spirit), this corrects two errors.
31. (a) OT saints were not indwelt by the Spirit—this of course is a common error taught by classic dispensationalism.
32. But surely, we all have to agree, that Old and NT saints were regenerated by the Spirit, converted by the Spirit, and indwelt by the Spirit.
33. If we all agree they were regenerated by the Spirit and converted by the Spirit, then we have to agree they were indwelt by the Spirit.
34. As we shall see later this morning, every aspect of salvation purchased by Christ is applied to our hearts by the Spirit.
35. Fundamental to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, is the Spirit's great work of savingly uniting a soul to Christ.
36. Rom.8:7-9—"The carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you."
37. There are only two types of people—those who are in the flesh and those who are in the Spirit, and only those in the Spirit can please God (and every person in the Spirit is indwelt by the Spirit).
38. A.W. Pink—"That the Holy Spirit indwelt saints under the Legal economy is clear from many considerations: how otherwise could they have been regenerated, had faith, been enabled to perform works acceptable to God? The Spirit prompted true prayer, inspired spiritual worship, produced His fruit in the lives of believers then as much as He does now."
39. And yet, I hear a possible objection—how could OT saints have the Spirit if the Spirit had not yet been given at Pentecost?
40. Well, in answer to this question I would say—in the same way sinners were saved by the blood of Christ before it was shed!
41. As OT saints experienced the blood of Christ before it was shed, so OT saints experienced the Spirit of Christ before He was given.
42. Now, this doesn't deny the possibility that the Spirit is given in greater fullness within the NC than He was in the OC.

43. But it simply asserts that all Christians Old and New Testament, experienced the same salvation, planned by the Father, purchased by the Son, and applied by the Spirit.
44. (b) NT saints need a second blessing by the Spirit—this of course is a common error taught by classic Pentecostalism.
45. Class Pentecostalism teaches that while all Christians receive the Spirit in conversion, the baptism of the Spirit is a second blessing that only some Christians experience.
46. But this is actually contrary to the Scriptures, which speak of baptism of the Spirit as happening in our conversion.
47. 1Cor.12:13—"For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit."
48. Spirit baptism refers to the work of the Spirit in uniting us to Christ and to His body the church, which happens to every Christian (for by one Spirit we were ALL baptized into one body).
49. To be baptized by the Spirit into the body, is to drink of one Spirit—that is, partake of His ministry in our hearts.
50. The work and ministry of the Spirit is likened to a stream of living water, that continually flows within our hearts.
51. Thus, we have learned that every Christian is indwelt by the Spirit, which takes place when they receive Christ.
52. Every person who has Christ has His Spirit—if a person does not have the Spirit then they do not have Christ.
53. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is not something that Christians must seek, but it is something that Christians have.

II. How Does the Spirit Indwell us?

1. Now, before I go any further, I trust it's evident that the nature of the Spirit's indwelling is a very mysterious thing.
2. God the Holy Spirit, indwells or inhabits the human soul—what a profound and glorious truth is presently before us!
3. I suggest the Holy Spirit indwells every Christian—uniquely, vicariously, covenantally, sovereignly, and permanently.
4. (1) Uniquely—by this I mean, that while the Spirit is everywhere present, He is uniquely present in our hearts.
5. Ps.139:7-8—"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there."
6. In other words—there is a real sense in which the Holy Spirit is everywhere present—He dwells in every place.
7. And yet, there is another sense in which the Spirit is uniquely present in the hearts of believers in a way He's not present elsewhere.
8. Isa.57:15—"For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."
9. Here we find two places where God especially dwells—He lives in heaven and He lives in the hearts of His people.
10. There is a place right now where the glorified body of Christ resides, as well as, the perfected souls of Christians.
11. This is called heaven, and it's the place where God uniquely resides—it's the special dwelling place of God Himself.
12. And yet, there's another place where God uniquely resides, and that's within the hearts of His humble and beloved people.
13. (2) Personally—by this I mean, the Holy Spirit not only gives gifts, but He is Himself the Gift of the Father to us.

14. Jn.14:16-18—"I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."
15. It's easy to become so fixed on the work of the Spirit within us, that we forget the Holy Spirit Himself indwells us.
16. God, in the Person of the Spirit, uniquely indwells in us, and thus desires to fellowship and commune with us.
17. Jas.4:5—"Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, 'The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously?'"—that is yearns for us.
18. After warning his readers about friendship with the world, James reminds them of the Spirit who indwells them.
19. For example, think of a woman who has a friend come over to assist her in cleaning the house and doing laundry.
20. The friend would eventually feel slighted, if she was only appreciated for her work, and neglected with regards to her person.
21. So too brethren, we must remember that the Father does not send into our hearts a mere force, power, or worker, but He sends His Spirit.
22. (3) Covenantally—by this I mean, the Holy Spirit indwells our hearts so as to apply the benefits of the New Covenant.
23. As we read through the OT Scriptures, we find that God dwelt among His OC people, in and through the temple.
24. This was God's unique dwelling place on earth—His special and glorious presence resided within the earthly temple.
25. So too, God by the Holy Spirit, indwells His NC temple which is the church—the temple is made up of individual living stones.
26. Thus, the Spirit indwells each living stone, which collectively comprises the church, in which the Spirit resides.
27. Thus, each Christian is described as a temple and the church collectively is the temple, and the Spirit indwells both.
28. 1Cor.6:19—"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God."
29. This temple is far more glorious than Solomon's temple, because it's made of living stones re-created in His image.
30. (4) Sovereignly—by this I mean, the Spirit takes up residence within the heart as the Owner and Master of the home.
31. 1Cor.6:19-20—"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."
32. In other words—the Holy Spirit doesn't mere indwell our hearts as a guest but He indwells us as a Sovereign Lord.
33. For example, think of a very gracious and rich man, who buys a house, and allows a homeless friend to live there.
34. Though the house belongs to the rich man, he allows his friend to live there providing he takes good care of it.
35. Let's say that the rich man decides to visit the home to ensure that his friend is taking proper care of his investment.
36. In one sense the rich man would be a guest, but in another sense, he would also be the owner and master of the house.
37. So too, the Holy Spirit not only indwells us as a Guest, but He also owns us as our Sovereign and Gracious Lord.
38. (5) Permanently—by this of course I mean, when the Spirit enters the heart to dwell, He never leaves that heart.

39. Now, obviously brethren this in no way denies that the Holy Spirit can be grieved, and His influence lessened.
40. Furthermore, this doesn't the need for the ongoing filling of the Spirit, but it simply affirms that the Spirit doesn't grow impatient with His residence.
41. Perhaps you've known people who are always moving—they love to this state and to that state—never settled.
42. But this is unlike the Spirit, for when He moves in He never leaves—He always finishes the task He came to do.
43. Jn.14:15—"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever."

III. Why Does the Spirit Indwell us?

1. Here I want to address the question WHY—Why does the Holy Spirit of God uniquely, vicariously, covenantally, sovereignly, and permanently in dwell believers?
2. I suggest they best way to answer this question is understanding the principle—the Spirit does what He does because of who He is.
3. For example, if I were to move into your house, you would expect me to act in a way consistent with who I am.
4. If I was a lazy slob you would expect me to make a mess, but if I was a clean and helpful person, you would expect me to help clean.
5. Thus, as we examine the Holy Scriptures we find the Spirit is the Spirit of truth, grace, comfort, adoption, and holiness.
6. (1) The Spirit of truth, Jn.14:17—"the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."
7. The Spirit indwells our hearts as the Spirit of truth in that, He teaches us and leads us in the truth of Holy Scripture.
8. (2) The Spirit of grace, Zech.12:10—"I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace (Heb.10:29)."
9. The Holy Spirit provides grace and strength within our hearts—He is the ongoing supplier of grace in the soul.
10. (3) The Spirit of comfort, Jn.14:16—"I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever."
11. It's the Holy Spirit who comes alongside the soul, through the word, encouraging it with fresh supplies of grace.
12. (4) The Spirit of adoption, Rom.8:15-16—"For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, Abba, Father. The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."
13. The Spirit takes up residency within the soul, to ensure the saint that God loves them and accepts them in Christ.
14. (5) The Spirit of holiness, Rom.1:4—"The Spirit of holiness"—that is, He is the Spirit who promotes holiness.
15. Now obviously, the work of the Spirit in promoting holiness is a multi-faceted work with many different aspects.
16. He motivates us to holiness, gives us grace and strength for holiness, and teaches us the true nature of holiness.
17. Perhaps I can say, the work of holiness, from the beginning to the end, is the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.
18. The Holy Spirit takes up residency within our hearts, for the purpose of purifying it from one degree to another.
19. 2Cor.3:18—"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, by the Spirit of the Lord."

20. This is the grand work of the Holy Spirit—to unite us to Christ and to ongoingly transform us into the image of Christ.
21. Ezek.36:27—"I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."
22. The Holy Spirit enables us to walk in God's commands—He enables us, from the heart, to keep them and do them.
23. Gal.5:17—"the Spirit fights against the flesh" Rom.8:13—"it's by the Spirit we put to death the deeds of the flesh."
24. Response 1—let every saint thank God for the Spirit—let us be thankful for Christ and let us be thankful for His Spirit.
25. I personally believe, one of the greatest weaknesses of many Christians, is they fail to thank God for His Spirit.
26. The Father has not only given us Christ as a Gift, but both the Father and Son have given us the Spirit as a Gift.
27. Not merely the Spirit as a Comforter, Illuminator, and Sanctifier, but he Holy Spirit as a Person who indwells us.
28. Response 2—let every saint honor the Spirit—that is, if the Spirit indwells us, then let us keep our soul and body pure.
29. This without doubt is a very important point—if the Spirit lives within us, then we must be sure not to grieve Him.
30. Before I do anything, say anything, or think anything, I must ask myself this question—will it please the Spirit?
31. I have noticed over my 51 years of life, that oftentimes people who live alone can become selfish in their ways.
32. They never have to concern themselves with what others think—they do whatever they want, want they want.
33. But this isn't true for those who share a house, a bedroom, or a bathroom, they have to be sensitive to what others think.
34. Well, before we became Christians there is a sense in which we lived alone—we did what we wanted when we wanted.
35. But his is no longer true of us, because the Holy Spirit of God now lives within us and we are no longer alone.
36. And while in the strictest sense, the Spirit of God lives within our souls, remember, our soul and body are His temple.
37. Thus, everything we think within our hearts He knows it—everything we watch by ourselves He sees it—everything we say in private He hears it.
38. This is a beautiful way to simplify life—is what I'm thinking, saying, watching, hearing, and doing, pleasing to God?
39. Response 3—let every sinner humbly receive the Spirit—and how is the Spirit received but by receiving Christ.
40. In other words, if you come to Christ He will give you His Spirit who will uniquely, personally, sovereignly, covenantally, and permanently indwell you.
41. You can not have the Spirit of God without the Christ of God—if you receive Christ you will then receive His Spirit.