

THE INDWELLING SPIRIT'S WORK

INTRODUCTION

(Eph. 3:16) ... to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man ..."

To be understood, I'll state what the personal indwelling Spirit **does not imply:**

1. That the Word of God, the Spirit's sword, is insufficient.

It's His sword that tells me that He dwells within and what His work is.
(Rms. 8:11; 1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Tim. 1:13-14; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)

2. That the Word of God is incomplete.

The indwelling Spirit brings no new revelation. (Jude v3)
The Spirit's sword furnishes us completely with information about His work.

3. That sinners can be converted apart from the Word.

All conversions (convictions) are completed by the power of the revealed Word.
The so-called direct working of the Holy Spirit in conversion is not told to us.

4. That the miraculous manifestations are possible today.

We must make a distinction between the indwelling gift of the HS and gifts of the HS.

5. That the Spirit will lead a Christian who neglects the Word.

The Spirit works with His sword, the word of God.
Neglecting the word will "grieve the Spirit" (Eph.4:30); ultimately "quench the Spirit" (1 Thess. 5:19)

SO, WHAT DOES THE INDWELLING SPIRIT DO FOR US?

1. REPRESENTS THE GODHEAD

The Spirit dwells in us directly: (Acts 2:38; Acts 5:32; 1 Cor. 6:19)

The Spirit represents God in our body: (Eph. 2:22)

The Spirit represents Christ in us: (1 John 3:24)

2. IS PROOF OF OUR SONSHIP, "A SEAL"

(Eph. 1: 13) ... ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise"

A seal was a sign of ownership, a guarantee of something genuine; therefore, we are God's possession,
(Eph. 4:30) ... the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption"

(Gal. 4:6-7) ... God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts ... a son ...••

(Rms. 8:14-16) "... ye have received the Spirit of adoption ... that we are the children of God ... "

3. IS GOD'S "EARNEST OF OUR INHERITANCE"

Stated 3 times: (2 Cor. 1:22; 2 Cor. 5:5; Eph. 1:21-22)

"earnest" - earnest-money deposited by the purchaser and forfeited if the purchase was not completed.

(Rms. 15:13) ... that ye may abound in hope, in the power of the Holy Spirit"

Song: Blessed Assurance

(Indwelling Spirit, continued)

4. PROVIDES COMFORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO CHURCHES

(Acts 9:31) "Then had the churches rest (peace) throughout ... and were edified (built up); and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort (consolation) of the Holy Spirit, were multiplied"

"comfort" - a calling to one's side; consolation; encouragement; giving aid.
How? (Acts 20:32; Ecc. 12:13; 1 Thess. 4:18)

5. IS AN INCENTIVE TO HOLINESS (RIGHT LIVING)

(1 Cor. 6:19-20) " ... your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit ... ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body "" "

(Gal. 5: 16) "Walk by the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lusts thereof"
(Psalm 119: 11) "thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee"

6. PRODUCES SPIRITUAL FRUIT

(Gal. 5:22-24) "the fruit of the Spirit is ... and they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit!"

We live a changed life directed by the Spirit's sword: (Rms. 12: 1-2) " ... not conformed to the world ..."

7. PROVIDES US WITH ACCESS & ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP

(John 4:24) "God is Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth"
"in truth" - acceptable worship is accomplished by doing it in God's revealed manner,
"in spirit" - acceptable worship is accomplished by being a child of God

(Phil. 3:3) "for we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit ..."

(Eph. 5:18-19) " ..• be filled with the Spirit ... singing ... "

(Eph. 6:18) "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit ... "

(Jude v19-20) "... praying in the Holy Spirit

Because of the indwelling Spirit, as children, we are able to give God worship and praise according the Spirit's sword.

8. HELPS OUR INFIRMITY IN PRAYING

(Rms. 8:26-27) "in like manner the Spirit also helps our infirmity: for we know not how to pray as we ought; but the Spirit himself makes intercession for us "" according to the will of God"

There will be times in our life when we want to pray and words fail us in expression; we groan.

9. PROVIDES UNITY AMONG BELIEVERS (the church)

(2 Cor. 13:14) "grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. A-men"

How? (phil. 1:27; Phil. 2:1-2; Gal. 5:25; Eph. 4:3-6)

CLOSE: a "better felt than told" religion is not reliable nor valid. (the sword tells me so)