

THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

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HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELL WITHIN US? (Concluded)

I agree that as a rule Jesus is now in heaven. He was there (John 17:5). He came here (John 13:28). He has returned to heaven (John 17:11). The big questions: Did the Holy Spirit come in person? Jesus said He would send Him (John 15:26). Jesus would pray the Father, and He would give the Holy Spirit as "**another Comforter**" who would abide with them for ever (John 14:16). He would dwell with them and be in them (John 14:17). Now, did the Holy Spirit come personally and abide with them, comfort them, dwell with them and be in them? I believe He did. My brother does not believe He did. In John 14:18 Jesus said "**I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.**" How did Jesus come? Did He not come and dwell in them (John 14:20) through the person of the Holy Spirit? I believe so. Thus both God and Christ dwell in us through the Holy Ghost (Eph. 2:22; John 14: 18-20).

My friend referred to Rev. 2:13 that says "**where Satan's seat is.**" He said: "We don't think Satan literally lives in Pergamos do we?" I ask, where does Satan live personally? Does he like God live in heaven? I don't believe so. Does he live in hell?

I do not believe he is there yet (Rev. 20:10). I believe the devil is personally in the earth (Rev. 12:9; Job 1:7; 2:2; 1 Peter 5:8).

My friend asks what the Holy Spirit does in Christians that is not accomplished by His teaching in the revealed Word? He admits that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us separate and apart from the Word of God (Romans 8:26). He says the Holy Spirit does not do this in the person but in heaven. Of course he has to say this with his assumption that the Holy Spirit dwells personally in heaven and could not come here personally and personally indwell a Christian. However, since God dwells in the Christian through the medium of the Word and through the medium of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:22), then both the Word and the Holy Spirit indwells the Christian. Therefore the Holy Spirit while in the Christian may offer His groanings which the Christian cannot utter to God and make intercession for the Christian. Also the Holy Spirit in the Christian seals the Christian and His personal presence is a guarantee of the inheritance to follow (Eph. 1:13; 4:30; 2 Cor. 1:22).

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Editorial . . .

IS OBEDIENCE ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION?

Many people (including some who claim to be Christians) scoff at the idea that one **MUST OBEY GOD** in order to be saved. Since man cannot direct his own steps (see Jeremiah 10:23) our appeal must be to the Scriptures to learn what we must do in order to be saved. **What is written in God's Word? What saith the Scriptures?**

WHAT IS OBEDIENCE?

Obedience is subjection and submission to the authority of God. It is obeying God's commandments and doing His will. God's commandments and God's will is found in **God's Word**.

OBEDIENCE IS ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED! Only the obedient will enter the kingdom of heaven. Jesus said: **"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."** In order to be blessed, one must **hear and do** that which is contained in **"the perfect law of liberty."** (See James 1:21-25). The apostle Peter shows us that our souls are purified by **obedience to the truth**. In writing to the **"elect according to the foreknowledge of God"** he said: **"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the**

truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." (1 Peter 1:22-23) Paul, an apostle, tells us that we are made free from sin when we **obey from the heart**. Hear him as he wrote to the saints at Rome. **"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.** (Romans 6:17-18). John the revelator said: **"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life and enter in through the gates into the city."** We learn from 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 that the Lord Jesus shall come **"in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and THAT OBEY NOT THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."**

WHAT CONSTITUTES ACCEPTABLE OBEDIENCE? Partial obedience is **not** acceptable to God. When Saul did only **some** of what God said and not **all**, he was rejected from being king. His actions were considered rebellion and stubbornness. They were as witchcraft, iniquity and idolatry. Samuel said to Saul: **"Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."** (See 1 Sam. 15).

Substitution does **not** constitute obedience. Abel's offering was **"by faith"** (see Hebrews 11:4) and thus was

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in compliance with God's will and was accepted by the Lord. Cain's offering may have been a substitution for what God authorized. God had no respect to Cain and to his offering. It was **not** "by faith." Either Cain's offering or the way in which it was offered was a substitution for what was commanded (or authorized). (See Gen. 4:1-6; Romans 10:17). No one today has the right to substitute for what God has commanded.

Addition does **not** constitute obedience to God. When God speaks, we must listen. When He commands, we must obey. We dare **not** ADD to what God has spoken! John said: "**Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.**" (2 John 9). Also see Dt. 4:2; 12:32; Prov. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18-19; Matthew 15:1-9).

Acceptable obedience also includes **hearing and doing God's Will**. Peter said: "**For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from the people.**" (Acts 3:22-23). Jesus said: "**Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**" (Matthew 7:21).

Acceptable obedience also includes **faith** (see Heb. 11:6; Rom. 10:17; 2 Cor. 5:7), **repentance** (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30-31), **confession** (Rom. 10:9-10), and **baptism** (Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27). After one obeys the "first principles" of the doctrine of Christ one **must continue** to worship and serve God. (See Matthew 4:10; 6:24; 1 Cor. 15:58; 1 Cor. 10:12; Matthew 10:22 and Rev. 2:10).

HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELL WITHIN US?

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In the conclusion of his sermon he deals with the "**gift of the Holy Spirit**" in Acts 2:38. I wonder why brethren feel they have to deal with Acts 2:38. After all, he believes Christians receive the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit dwells in Christians. Why does he feel compelled to show it is a gift given by the Spirit and not the Spirit Himself???

He says whatever baptism is for, repentance is for because they are connected by the co-ordinating conjunction "and". He says whatever the gift of the Holy Spirit is, it comes in conjunction with remission of sins. He says, "It's not one and the same", but rather it is in conjunction with. Therefore, he is saying that the gift of the Holy Spirit is not the remission of sins, but it comes in conjunction with the remission of sins. He then turns right around and contradicts himself by saying the promise was not the Holy Spirit Himself but the promise made of salvation through Christ. He says "gift of" is in the genitive case. He says there is a problem here — "Is it a gift given by the Holy Spirit, or is the Holy Spirit the gift"? He tells us scholars say the only way we can tell is from the context. He believes the context proves it is a gift given by the Holy Spirit because of the statement, "**the promise is unto you, . . .**". He emphasizes the promise. He tells us as far as the Jews are concerned the promise is salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. He uses Gal. 3:7-8, 26-29 to prove the underlying promise to the Jews was salvation through Jesus Christ. He emphasizes Galatians 3:14 to prove that the promise of the
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Whether one is obeying the "first principles" or obeying God as a Christian, **his obedience must be prompted by love** (see Gal. 5:6:) **and with the proper motive** (see Mt. 6:1-18; 23:14; Gal. 1:10).

Have you obeyed God? Why tarriest thou?

(CRS)

HEAR THE GOSPEL!

You are cordially invited and we urge you to be present at a series of meetings which has been arranged to be conducted the week of October 29 through November 3, 1989 in Albertville, Alabama.

These meetings will be conducted at 1107 Highway 431 South in Albertville at 7:30 each evening Monday through Friday. On the Lord' Day there will be Bible classes for all ages beginning at 10:00 A.M. and the regular assembly worship begins at 11:00 A.M.

E. R. Hall Jr. of Wise, Virginia will be preaching the **gospel of Jesus Christ which is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.**

The lessons presented will be designed to instruct both sinner and saint in the way of righteousness. The messages will be taken from the scriptures. They will be plainly spoken and thus easily understood.

There will be congregational singing, fervent prayers and preaching which produces faith.

Please make your plans to be with us and tell others about the meetings!

HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELL WITHIN US?

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Spirit was a promise made by the Spirit and that the context shows this to be true. However, he gets himself into trouble when he says the promise of Acts 2:39 was salvation. You say, why? Because if the promise of Acts 2:39 is the same as the promise of Gal. 3:14, and the gift of the Holy Spirit is a gift given by the Spirit then the gift of the Holy Spirit and the promise of the Holy Spirit, namely, salvation, are one and the same. This would mean he contradicts himself because he said, "It's not one and the same, but rather it is in conjunction with."

The truth of the matter is the gift of the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit Himself, because the Father gives the Holy Ghost to those who obey Him (Acts 5:32).

— Windell Wiser, Rt. 2, Box 19,
Athens, AL 35611

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

A kind deed often does more than a large gift.

* * * * *

When you faith stops working — you will lose it.

* * * * *

One who is contented with what he has is truly a rich person.

* * * * *

To truly be a peacemaker, one must first be at peace with God.

* * * * *

Today is ready "CASH" — spend it wisely.

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