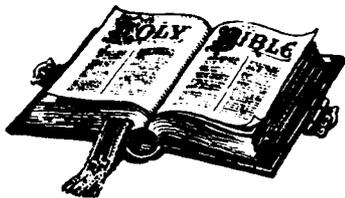


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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*

Volume 26

September, 1989

Number 9

## HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELL WITHIN US?

Recently I received a tape on this subject from a friend requesting that I reply and send my article to brother Carrol Sutton to be placed in THE INSTRUCTOR. My friend had already obtained permission from bro. Sutton to print this article. I will not reveal the name of the preacher who preached the recorded lesson on **the Holy Spirit**, because I do not wish to put him on the spot. He is also a friend and I certainly do not wish to become his enemy. I have too many enemies already. I hope my friend will consider what I have to say and weigh it very carefully.

The tape reveals that my friend agrees with me that the Holy Spirit dwells in Christians. He believes the Spirit dwells in us through the influence of His revealed word. I believe the Holy Spirit dwells in us personally. We both use 1 Cor. 3:16-17; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 2 Tim. 1:14 and other passages to prove the Holy Spirit dwells in us. We both agree the Father dwells in us (2 Cor. 6:16). We both agree that Christ dwells in us (Col. 1:27; Gal. 2:20); and that He dwells in our hearts by faith (Eph. 3:17). My friend believes that God **only** dwells in us through the medium of the word. I agree that God

dwells in Christians through the word, but I also believe that God inhabits (dwells in) us through the medium of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:22). We both agree that the Holy Spirit dwells in us through the word (Eph. 5:18; Col. 3:16); but I do not agree that this is the **only** way the Holy Spirit dwells in us (Eph. 2:22).

My brother and friend argues that God wells in us, but His person is in heaven. He argues that the Holy Spirit dwells in us, but His person is before the throne in heaven. (Rev. 4:3-4; Rev. 7:10 are passages he uses in his effort to prove this). My friend referred to Psalm 139 to show God's presence is everywhere. He used Exo. 33:14 to prove God went with Moses "in presence." He then used Isa. 63:9 to prove God went in presence through an angel. That God was not there in person, but in presence through the angel. I agree with my friend that God did go with Moses through the angel of His presence (Exo. 33:14; Isa. 63:9). I agree God went before them in a pillar of a cloud by day and fire by night. (Exo. 13:21). I agree that God went through the medium of an angel (Exo. 14:19; Exo. 23:20-25). I raise the question

*(Continued on page 3)*

## THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS # 581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 1107 Highway 431 South, in Albertville, Alabama

CARROL R. SUTTON  
Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the editor, 1107 Highway 431 South, Albertville, Alabama 35950.

Second-class postage paid in  
Albertville, AL 35950

### *Editorial . . .*

#### **ONE OR THREE BAPTISMS?**

Some religious people who claim to be "of God" contend that today "there are three basic baptisms for believers." (See A CONTEMPORARY STUDY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT by Bennie S. Triplett, p. 65). This argument is made in an attempt to prove that "believers today receive Holy Spirit baptism" and that "water baptism is not necessary for salvation from alien sins." Are there three basic baptisms for believers today? Do believers today receive Holy Spirit baptism? Are alien sinners saved today without water baptism? These questions can only be truthfully answered by the Word of God. Traditional practices and emotional experiences are **not** authoritative in ascertaining the truth on these or any other subjects. Our appeal must be to the Scriptures. **What saith the Scriptures?** Let us consider the following.

#### **SEVERAL BAPTISMS**

**I. SEVERAL BAPTISMS ARE MENTIONED IN THE SCRIPTURES.**

1. The **baptism unto Moses** is mentioned in I Cor. 10:1-2. This was a one time experience of the Israelites as they crossed the Red Sea.

2. The **baptism of John** is mentioned in Matthew 3:6 as well as in other passages. It was an immersion

in water for remission of sins. (See Mark 1:4-5). It was temporary. It was no longer valid after the cross because it had fulfilled its purpose. (See Luke 1:17; Col. 2:14-16; Eph. 2:14-16 & Acts 19:1-7).

3. **John baptized Jesus** to fulfill all righteousness. (See Matthew 3:13-17). This was a one time act not to be repeated.

4. The **baptism in water that Christ had His disciples administer during His personal ministry** on earth is mentioned in John 3:22 and 4:1-2.

5. The **suffering that Jesus and His disciples would go through** was spoken of (figuratively) as a baptism. (See Matthew 20:22-23 & Luke 12:50).

6. The **baptism that Christ commanded His disciples to administer when He gave the worldwide and age-lasting commission** is an immersion in water **for the remission of sins**. This baptism is to last just as long as sinners need to be saved. (See Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47; Acts 2:36-41; Acts 8:35-38; Acts 10:47-48; 1 Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3-4; Acts 22:16 & Galatians 3:26-27).

7. There are two **recorded cases of Holy Spirit baptism** in the New Testament. The apostles on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2 and Cornelius and "his kinsmen and near friends" as recorded in Act 10 and 11 received Holy Spirit baptism.

Jesus had promised the apostles that the Holy Spirit would come upon them to "teach" them "all things", and "bring all things" to their "remembrance" that Jesus had said unto them. (See John 14:26). The Holy Spirit would come upon them to "guide" them "into all truth" and "show" them "things to come." (See John 16:13). In Acts 1:1-8 Jesus promised that the apostles would be "baptized with the Holy Ghost" within a few days. The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles (on Pentecost)

*(Continued on page 3)*

## ARE THERE THREE BAPTISMS TODAY?

*(Continued from page 2)*

as Jesus had promised. (See Acts 2). They **were** guided into all truth. They were enabled to perform **miracles** to confirm the **word** they were preaching. (See Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:3-4; Galatians 3:15; 2 Cor. 12:12). The Holy Spirit came upon the Gentiles in Acts 10 & 11 to **bare witness that the Gentiles were gospel subjects**. (See Acts 10:45-47; Acts 11:15-18 & Acts 15:8-9).

II. BY THE TIME THAT THE APOSTLE PENNED EPHESIANS 4:4-6 (which was about 64 A.D. according to most scholars) THERE WAS ONLY "ONE BAPTISM". A careful study of the baptisms mentioned in the New Testament will reveal that the "ONE BAPTISM" of Ephesians 4:5 IS the immersion in water of a penitent believer for the remission of sins that Jesus commanded when He gave the worldwide commission in Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15-16.

III. NO PERSON WHO TRULY UNDERSTANDS AND BELIEVES THE SCRIPTURES WILL CONTEND THAT "There are three basic baptisms for believers" TODAY because the apostle Paul declared: "ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM". (Eph. 4:5). One simply *cannot* accept Eph. 4:5 and consistently contend for more than "ONE BAPTISM"!

To be consistent those who practice **water baptism** as commanded by Jesus Christ **cannot** claim to be recipients of **Holy Spirit baptism**. Neither will consistency **allow** those who claim to be the recipients of **Holy Spirit baptism** to practice **water baptism**.

There is **one baptism** for believers today. It is an immersion in water for the remission of sins! The teaching that there is more than **one baptism** today is **not "of God"**. IT IS FALSE!

(CRS)

## HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELL WITHIN US?

"Why?" Why did God go only through the medium of the angel and not **personally**? Was it because God's person is always in heaven and He **never** comes to the earth except representatively? Verily, verily I say unto you, **no!** In Exo. 33:2 God said He would send an angel before them. In Exo. 33:3 God said: "**I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiff-necked people: lest I consume thee in the way.**" I know that as a rule God is in heaven. This does not mean that He **never** leaves. It does not mean He **never** was personally on earth! My friend said "How can God be everywhere if He's on His throne in heaven?" Well, how could Christ be personally on earth talking to Nicodemus and at the same time be in heaven (John 3:13)? How could Christ be in two places at the same time? How can God be in hell in presence and in Spirit (Psa. 139:7-8)? How can God get a camel through the eye of a needle (Mt. 19:24)? "**With men this is impossible; but with God ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE**" (Mt. 19:26). I have no bigger problem believing that God can personally be in two places at the same time than I do with His getting that camel through the eye of a needle. Did God **in person** come to the earth and talk face to face with Moses? (Exo. 33:11-23). Did God **in person** come to Mt. Sinai and deliver the ten commandments with His own voice (Exo. 29:11, 18, 19, 20, 24; Exo. 20:19-21)? Did God **in person** come down and see whether Sodom had done altogether according to the cry of it, which came to Him (Gen. 18:21)? God said He would then **KNOW!** Do we not know what we personally see? If He came only through an angel would it not be faith instead of knowledge?

*(Continued on page 4)*

## PREACHER'S POINT

*"I would rather have thousands to say to me at the judgment, "We heard you preach, and you hurt our feelings," than to have just one lost soul to say, "I heard you preach, but you did not tell me the truth."*

— John T. Lewis



## HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DWELL WITHIN US?

*(Continued from page 3)*

However, all of this is beside the point. Neither of us believe the Father personally inhabits us. I believe the Father inhabits us through the Spirit (Eph. 2:22) and he doesn't believe this.

Windell Wiser

*(To be continued)*

Sutton-Merideth debate is scheduled for Sept. 4-8, 1989. For more information call Ray Madrigal at 502/554-7539.

A series of GOSPEL MEETINGS will be conducted here OCT. 29-NOV. 3, 1989. E. R. HALL of WISE, VA will be preaching. COME!

## — SENTENCE SERMONS —

He who truly fears God does not need to fear any man.

\* \* \* \* \*

One who shares his blessings will surely be blessed.

\* \* \* \* \*

You may be lost, but there is no reason for you to remain lost.

\* \* \* \* \*

It matters not what you lose if you save your soul.

\* \* \* \* \*

It matters not what you save if you lose your soul.

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

1107 Highway 431 South

Albertville, Alabama 35950