

FROM THE PREACHER

By: Blake Hudson

The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit: The “Same Use of Language” Objection

Last week I mentioned that one of the primary objections to a literal, personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit is that the Bible also says things like “Christ is in you” and “you are in Christ” and we don’t take *those* phrases literally. I think this “same use of language” objection is the best argument against a personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit; nevertheless, I am not convinced by it for the following reasons:

First, this objection is a simple category mistake. It is possible for the same word or phrase to be used in a variety of different ways. After all, just because a dog runs and my nose runs does not mean they both run in the same way. Also, Jesus is described as a lamb, and disciples are described as sheep, but that does not mean we are metaphorical ovines in the same manner. Likewise, figurative use of “dwelling” language regarding Christ does *not* mean “dwelling” language regarding the Holy Spirit must be figurative as well.

Second, and with the above in mind, note the difference in language used. The dwelling language regarding Jesus is figurative, as the Bible itself indicates. I readily admit that the man Jesus does not dwell in me or I in Him, humanly speaking. Jesus is spoken of as our head, as our new Adam; we unite with Jesus when we are baptized, we are in covenant union with Him. These are terms pointing to *relationally* being “in” Christ in a metaphorical way. But, what about the Holy Spirit? Regarding the Holy Spirit, the Bible does not speak in covenantal or headship terms; rather, the Holy Spirit is said to dwell within us to *do something within us* (Rom 8:13–14; Eph 3:16; 2 Thess 2:13; 1 Pet 1:2; see also Ezek 36:27) and to *seal us for salvation* (Eph 1:13–14, 4:30; 2 Cor 5:5; Rom 8:9–15). The most striking difference in language is that the Bible uses *temple imagery* of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us (1 Cor 6:19), but never of Christ. Temple imagery implies God’s actual, personal presence, not metaphorical influence. In the New Testament, the nature of that personal presence is the Spirit dwelling in the believer, making our bodies temples of God.

Third, the objection fails to take the Trinity into full account. Christ is said to be in us by virtue of the Spirit being in us (Rom 8:9–11). It would be strange for the Bible to say that Christ is in us by virtue of His Spirit in us, who does not *actually* dwell within us. With the Trinity in mind, we can say that even though the *persons* of the Father and Son do not dwell within us, they *do* dwell within us to the extent that they are one with the Spirit who is within us.

Finally, the objection fails to actually account for verses such as Rom 8:9–11 and 1 Cor 6:19–20. Rather than address the actual verses, the objection sidesteps those texts and tries to draw a logical conclusion that is then used to cast confusion on such verses. I suggest that such attempts are analogous to those who say Acts 2:38 cannot mean that baptism is for the forgiveness of sins because elsewhere the Bible says if you believe you will be saved. In both cases, the actual text of Scripture is not addressed, it is simply sidestepped and other verses / logic are cast up as a smokescreen. It amounts to obfuscation, not observation.

Again, the “same use of language” objection is the best argument against the literal indwelling of the Holy Spirit I have come across; nevertheless, I believe it falls under scrutiny. Scripture is clear: the Holy Spirit dwells within the believer in a literal and personal manner.

Attention Youth!



The next Teen Devotional will be December 14th, at the home of the Austins. Please, make plans to attend and maybe bring a friend.

Sunday morning's Adult Bible class will be covering... Acts 17: 1-15

Men's Budget Breakfast with a Work Day to follow, will be December 13th. Please make plans to attend.

Ladies' Breakfast

Host: Karen Ratcliff
When: Saturday, December 13th
Time: 10:00am
Where: 2884 Brindle Path Ln.
Friendswood, Tx

thank you We are sad to announce that Curtis Sanford has stepped away from his role as elder of this church. We appreciate both Curtis and Tammy for the many years of dedication and service to this congregation, and we look forward to continuing to work beside them.



My mom and I wish to thank you for the wonderful Thanksgiving meal! It was sooooo good. Angleton Church of Christ is the best. Love Peggy & Pam

A **BIG** “thank you” to all who donated to the college student care packages. They have been mailed out. We appreciate all that you do!

Central Texas Children's Home

Thank You! We appreciate all who contributed to Central Texas Children's Home. Because of your generosity we were able to send them an extra \$1,001 this month.

Together we can make an IMPACT

DOUBLE OUR IMPACT FROM LITTLE TO MUCH **MAGNIFY**

All pledges count as matching funds! Double Our Impact '25 Matching Funds Campaign

Please Pray

Amber Austin, daughter-in-law of Gerry and Sharon Austin, is home following a recent hospitalization for heart issues with her unborn baby...Vickie Fagan, Emma Fagans daughter-in-law, had 3 pins placed in her ankle...Johnny Toone, Karen Lowe’s son, will begin treatment soon

PLEASE REMEMBER:

Len Boling, Dorothy Booth, Shirley Brown, James Carr, Pattie Cooper, Barbara Filipp, Robert Gautney, Jeanie Granger, Cliff Harper, Mona Higgins, Erin West Janik, Karen Lowe, David Johnson, Dorothy King, Marie Leblanc, Charm Moser, Lila Odom, Wayne Satchell, Karen Smith, Paul Stallberg, Andy Tilley, Charles and Elizabeth Street, Ceasar Vereen, Maggie Walker, John Ward