

Does The Spirit Dwell In Me Today?

The Holy Spirit certainly dwells in the Christian. Paul wrote, "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?" (1 Cor. 6:19). To the Romans he affirmed, "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you" (Rom. 8:11). The real question is not "if," but "how" and "why?"

Does Paul's language in the above passages demand a literal, personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit? Before we accept such a conclusion, however, we must note that the Scriptures also teach that both the Father and the Son "dwell" or "abide" in the Christian (Rom. 8:10; Eph. 3:17; 1 John 4:12, 15). It is possible for sin to dwell in a man or, in contrast, for truth to dwell in a man (Rom. 7:17-20; 2 John 2). Paul exhorted his readers to "let the word of Christ dwell in you" (Col. 3:16). Jesus stated that Satan dwelt at Pergamos (Rev. 2:13). These passages illustrate that the words "dwell" and "abide" can refer to relationship and influence rather than location. The word of Christ, the truth, dwells in us when we study it, meditate on it and are controlled by it. Sin dwells in a man when he is controlled by it. Satan did not literally live in the city of Pergamos; rather his influence was over it and was keenly felt there. The Father and the Son dwell in us when they control our lives.

If such an understanding can be applied to these other passages which speak of various things or persons dwelling in a person, why can we not understand the passages which speak of the Holy Spirit dwelling within the Christian in the same fashion? I know of no passage which demands a literal, personal indwelling of the Spirit in the Christian. The Spirit dwells in us when we form and maintain a relationship of fellowship with Him and we do so by letting the influence of the Word work in our lives.

What does the Spirit do for us? We must harmonize our understanding of the indwelling of the Spirit with what the Bible says about the function of the Word. The Scriptures are sufficient for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and instruction in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16). The Word of God is the means by which God's people are sanctified (John 17:17).

Even if there remains some mystery surrounding the means by which the Holy Spirit dwells in us, we must remember that such is a fact. The indwelling of the Spirit, however, was not intended by the apostles to foster controversy. Instead it emphasizes the closeness of our relationship with Deity when we live as Christians. What a wonderful thought - God abides with me and I with Him!

- by Allen Dvorak

Husbands

One of the most touching remarks about a woman's basic needs was spoken by Jacob's unloved wife Leah. Upon giving birth to her firstborn son, she said, "surely now my husband will love me" (Gen.29:32). What Leah yearned for is actually the birthright of every wife, that is, to be loved by her husband. No believing wife with a believing husband should ever feel compelled to say about this subject, "surely now..."

According to the Bible, a husband's love is not measured out, based on his wife's performance. It is a constant anchor in a covenant relationship, expressed in word and deed.

It is an easy thing to love someone on your wedding day. In the first bloom of marriage, who cannot obey the wise man and "rejoice in the wife of your youth" (Proverbs 5:18)? But honeymoons give way to anniversaries, and children's birthdays soon supersede them both. Over time, expensive weddings can not mask cheap marriages. And over time, husbands can forget what God says about loving their wives.

A husband must leave and cleave (Genesis 2:24), but it is much more than merely sticking with the marriage arrangement. In fact, God has so defined a husband's love that we husbands should squirm uncomfortably when we read it.

Elkanah claimed to treat Hannah better than ten sons would treat her (1 Samuel 1:8). But neither Elkanah, nor Abraham, nor Peter are our models as husbands. Our model is how Jesus (the husband) loves the church (His bride).

Paul insists that we love our wives as our own bodies - as ourselves. It is a self-sacrificing

love, independent of her response and attitude, that many men are just not willing to give (Ephesians 5:25ff).

Look closely at how you treat your wife. If the words “nourish and cherish” don’t come to mind, perhaps you need to repent. Perhaps most of us should!

- by **Jim King**

Complexity of Design in Creation

Imagine this conversation in the tiny bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio, managed by Orville and Wilbur Wright . . .

Orville: “Hey, Wilbur, I’ve invented an engine. Let’s go flying!”

Wilbur: “Well, what does the engine do?”

Orville: “It just runs.”

Wilbur: “Does it power anything – like maybe a propeller or anything?”

Orville: “I haven’t developed a propeller yet.”

Wilbur: “Well, what about wings? Have you figured that out yet?”

Orville: “Nope. Just an engine.”

Of course, such a conversation would be utterly ridiculous. When the Wright brothers made their famous flight at Kitty Hawk, NC, they had to have all the parts perfected simultaneously. One part without all the others would have resulted in complete failure.

Now, apply this simple principle to our natural world and all the living things in it. For instance, could an eagle have begun its living history with wings, but no eyes? Could a man start out with a heart, but no liver or kidneys? The answers are obvious.

What we are describing here is a concept called ‘irreducible complexity’. This phrase was coined by author Michael Behe in a book entitled Darwin’s Black Box. He powerfully argued that all of nature shows evidence of design, and thus a designer. Various components of complex living organisms could not have evolved separately. They all had to come together at once – by design.

We know that the designer and creator of all things is God. The proof for His supernatural creation is all around us. Examining this proof also delivers a death blow to the anti-scientific theory of evolution. Think!

- by **Greg Gwin**