

HOLY SPIRIT: INDWELLING

The clear teaching of the New Testament is that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer. Several decades ago it was taught by certain holiness groups that the Holy Spirit was received as a second work of grace. It is important to understand the indwelling to avoid doctrinal error concerning the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. There is no such thing as a believer who is not indwelt by the Holy Spirit. It is also important not to confuse the indwelling with the baptism, the sealing, and the filling of the Holy Spirit. These doctrines are related, but they are not the same. We are living in the dispensation of the Spirit. The Holy spirit is sufficient for the power and guidance of God during this age. Life in the Spirit is contrasted to living under the Law. "But now we have been delivered from the law...so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter" (Romans 7:6). Life under the law and life in the spirit are two different principles for living out faith. Therefore, "if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law" (Galatians 5:18). The indwelling of the Spirit is not the same as the filling of the Spirit. The Spirit indwells us at salvation. He is received once for all. There are many fillings of the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). The Spirit is received at the same time we are saved. The indwelling of the Spirit is an answer to the prayer of Jesus. "And I will pray the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth...He dwells with you and will be in you" (John 14:16-17). His presence is never removed. He remains in believers forever.