# Holy Spirit – His Indwelling

## Introduction

There is a Christian doctrine which tells us that the Holy Spirit indwells all Christian believers, that He was given to us by Jesus, and that He did not indwell any believers prior to this. This latter despite some evidence to the contrary. As I discovered in seminary, this can turn into a very contentious situation for anyone who would dare disagree, or even ask questions in that regard. The doctrine is pretty cut and dried; Old Testament believers did not have the Holy Spirit, New Testament believers all have the Holy Spirit.

Over the years, as I've worked around this subject, I've tried to be less pedantic, less confrontational. Mostly because there is much to learn with an open mind. Is it one way? Or the other? Or, are there some alternative explanations to what we see in the Bible? Let the fun begin!

## **Old Testament View of the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit**

As I pointed out last week, there are many references that basically say; *the Spirit of God came upon him.* Here are but a few references; Exodus 31:3, 35:31, Numbers 11:17, 11:25, 11:26, 11:29, 24:2, 27:18, Judges 3:10, 6:34, 11:29, 13:25, 14:6, 14:19, 15:14, etc.

Let's look at a few examples;

### Exodus 35:30-35

<sup>30</sup> Then Moses said to the sons of Israel, "See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. <sup>31</sup> "And He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge and in all craftsmanship; <sup>32</sup> to make designs for working in gold and in silver and in bronze, <sup>33</sup> and in the cutting of stones for settings and in the carving of wood, so as to perform in every inventive work. <sup>34</sup> "He also has put in his heart to teach, both he and Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. <sup>35</sup> "He has filled them with skill to perform every work of an engraver and of a designer and of an embroiderer, in blue and in purple *and* in scarlet *material*, and in fine linen, and of a weaver, as performers of every work and makers of designs. (NASB)

Bezalel was filled with a spirit of understanding, knowledge, and craftsmanship in the fabricating of metal, stone and wood for the purposes of building the tabernacle. When the tabernacle was completed did Bezalel lose all of that understanding, knowledge and craftsmanship? Did God power him up like a puppet, or like a robot, until the project was completed? And then depart from him? That must have left an empty spot in there somewhere. Moving on;

## Numbers 11:16-17

<sup>16</sup> The LORD therefore said to Moses, "Gather for Me seventy men from the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and their officers and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. <sup>17</sup> "Then I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit who is upon you, and will put *Him* upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you will not bear *it* all alone. (NASB)

Moses had a problem. He was put in charge of several million problematic Israelites, having taken them up out of Egypt. And every day they would bring their difficulties and strife to him to adjudicate (to judge) a solution for them. It took so much time and effort that it was eating him alive. When Jethro, his father-in-law, pointed out that Moses needed to delegate some of this authority, Moses took it to God, who agreed.

But notice what is said, God took the Spirit which had been placed upon Moses and He shared it out amongst all of the seventy chosen officials. In that way, they would have the authority and power to judge the people along with Moses. But there was some minor confusion over what this meant;

## Numbers 11:25-30

<sup>25</sup> Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him; and He took of the Spirit who was upon him and placed *Him* upon the seventy elders. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do *it* again. <sup>26</sup> But two men had remained in the camp; the name of one was Eldad and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them (now they were among those who had been registered, but had not gone out to the tent), and they prophesied in the camp. <sup>27</sup> So a young man ran and told Moses and said, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." <sup>28</sup> Then Joshua the son of Nun, the attendant of Moses from his youth, said, "Moses, my lord, restrain them." <sup>29</sup> But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD'S people were prophets, that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!" <sup>30</sup> Then Moses returned to the camp, *both* he and the elders of Israel. (NASB)

Two very interesting facts emerge from this section. First, that the Holy Spirit was upon at least seventy-one individuals in the Israelite camp. From first glance, it looks like on a fairly permanent basis. And second, all of the rest of the Israelite camp did not have the Holy Spirit upon them! As we continue looking in the Old Testament we find the story of Balaam;

## Numbers 24:2-5

<sup>2</sup> And Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe; and the Spirit of God came upon him. <sup>3</sup> He took up his discourse and said, "The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, And the oracle of the man whose eye is opened; <sup>4</sup> The oracle of him who hears the words of God, Who sees the vision of the Almighty, Falling down, yet having his eyes uncovered, <sup>5</sup> How fair are your tents, O Jacob, Your dwellings, O Israel! (NASB)

This, of course, was one of three instances in which Balaam (a false prophet?) gave a blessing to Israel instead of a curse. King Balak was livid that he dared do so. He was hired to curse them, not bless them!

But notice that the Spirit of God came down upon Balaam who had questionable motives, uncertain faith. I would argue that Balaam used God as just another tool in his toolbelt. In other words, he believed in God, but considered Him as just another of many gods/godettes. And whatever knowledge he had about God, he used it for hire. And even though God hates prophets for hire, He still used Balaam for His own purposes.

But there were others whom God filled with His Spirit, this to perform specific jobs, to accomplish tasks which God set out for them. For instance, God instructs Moses to;

## Numbers 27:18-20

<sup>18</sup> ... "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; <sup>19</sup> and have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and commission him in their sight. <sup>20</sup> "You shall put some of your authority on him, in order that all the congregation of the sons of Israel may obey *him*. (NASB)

A man in whom is the Spirit. Hmmmm, that seems pretty cut and dried. Joshua was not a prophet, whom God gave His Word and His leading. He was not a warrior, in whom God gave strength and courage (we'll see that in a moment). But Joshua was a servant of Moses who would shortly inherit his leadership position over all of Israel. Seems that Joshua already had the Spirit, and that he would continue to be indwelled from that point forward.

God did infuse His warriors (judges) with His Spirit for very specific tasks. For instance we have Othniel;

## Judges 3:10

<sup>10</sup> The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel. When he went out to war, the LORD gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand, so that he prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim. (NASB)

There was Gideon:

## Judges 6:34

<sup>34</sup> So the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; and he blew a trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called together to follow him. (NASB)

Jephthah enters the limelight, and God's Spirit indeed witnesses his vow. Bad news, Jephthah;

## Judges 11:29-31

<sup>29</sup> Now the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, so that he passed through Gilead and Manasseh; then he passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he went on to the sons of Ammon. <sup>30</sup> Jephthah made a vow to the LORD and said, "If You will indeed give the sons of Ammon into my hand, <sup>31</sup> then it shall be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the sons of Ammon, it shall be the LORD'S, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering." (NASB)

We see Samson, many times;

### Judges 13:25

<sup>25</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol. (NASB)

There was, for good or ill, King Saul;

#### 1 Samuel 10:6-8

<sup>6</sup> "Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you mightily, and you shall prophesy with them and be changed into another man. <sup>7</sup> "It shall be when these signs come to you, do for yourself what the occasion requires, for God is with you. <sup>8</sup> "And you shall go down before me to Gilgal; and behold, I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and sacrifice peace offerings. You shall wait seven days until I come to you and show you what you should do." (NASB)

Then we see David, and Saul together, yet separated. Notice that David becomes *indwelled* with the Spirit, and God takes His Spirit away from Saul. Very interesting;

#### 1 Samuel 16:13-15

<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah. <sup>14</sup> Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him. <sup>15</sup> Saul's servants then said to him, "Behold now, an evil spirit from God is terrorizing you. (NASB)

We used this reference last week;

### 2 Samuel 23:1-3

<sup>1</sup> Now these are the last words of David. David the son of Jesse declares, The man who was raised on high declares, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel, <sup>2</sup> "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue. <sup>3</sup> "The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me, 'He who rules over men righteously, Who rules in the fear of God ... (NASB)

David in the role of prophet, in which God speaks through him. The following is another reference from last week;

#### 1 Kings 22:24

<sup>24</sup> Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near and struck Micaiah on the cheek and said, "How did the Spirit of the LORD pass from me to speak to you?" (NASB)

And finally, we have Jahaziel;

#### 2 Chronicles 20:14-15

<sup>14</sup> Then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite of the sons of Asaph; <sup>15</sup> and he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's. (NASB)

So what have we learned? That God's Spirit, indeed, was active in believers (and nonbelievers?) throughout Old Testament times. That He indwelled certain people, mostly to accomplish some specific task at hand. Bezalel and building the tabernacle. Moses and leading God's chosen people. The seventy (including those who did not attend the ordination ceremony) to help Moses as judges. Joshua, as Moses' servant and successor. Assorted men (Othniel, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson, et.al.) as warriors and judges. Saul, David and others as kings of the country. Balaam and Jahaziel as God's prophets (plus Elijah, Elisha, and many others).

At this point I would suggest, God does not change, so why would He treat His chosen people differently than He treats us? Let's compare this to New Testament Scripture.

# New Testament View of the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

Christian doctrine tells us that, at our confession of faith, we are indwelled with the Spirit. We get this teaching when Jesus told His disciples;

### John 14:16-17

<sup>16</sup> "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; <sup>17</sup> *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. (NASB)

There are a couple considerations to keep in mind. First, that Jesus told this to His disciples, not to the church in general. How can I make this distinction? Look what He says in;

**John 14:26** <sup>26</sup> "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. (NASB)

Also look at John 15:26 & John 16:13. This doesn't mean that we are not indwelled with God's Spirit, all it means is that we need to dig deeper to find what we know to be true. After Jesus was raised from the dead, He visited the disciples and told them;

### John 20:20-23

<sup>20</sup> And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> So Jesus said to them again, "Peace *be* with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." <sup>22</sup> And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> "If you forgive the sins of any, *their sins* have been forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they have been retained." (NASB)

*Receive the Holy Spirit*,  $\pi \nu \in \hat{\nu} \mu \alpha$  (pneuma). *And He blew upon them*. Was this a play on words (like a pun)? Since *spirit* and *breath* are the same word in Koine Greek? Was He being literal? This will take some careful thought.

In the very early church Jesus told His followers (beginning in v.4);

### Acts 1:1-9

<sup>1</sup> The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup> until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. <sup>3</sup> To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup> Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." <sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; <sup>8</sup> but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." <sup>9</sup> And after He had said these things. He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. (NASB)

The Holy Spirit gave power to the saints. They were baptized *in Him*. He would come to them shortly (at Pentecost, actually). What we can take away here is that the Holy Spirit was not in them before, but afterwards He was. If we keep an earlier verse in mind (John 14:26), one of the specific tasks of His Holy Spirit was to bring understanding, wisdom, and knowledge to the disciples. So, before they received the Spirit, they did not understand all that Jesus had told them. After, they did. So here's an interesting thought, did God keep His Spirit away from them for that very purpose?

Anyway, at Pentecost, the Spirit descended upon them, thus bringing in the Church Age;

### Acts 2:1-8

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. <sup>5</sup> Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup> They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup> "And how is it that we each hear *them* in our own language to which we were born?

Speaking in tongues, as it was originally described, consisted of the Galileans speaking and everyone else hearing it in their own language. Certainly not the way it is practiced today. The practice as found in 1 Corinthians 14 bears a close resemblance to the current version of speaking in tongues. Charismatic churches base much of their theology and polity on the sign gifts (tongues, healing, prophecy, etc.) as outward signs that the Holy Spirit, indeed, is indwelling the believer. Unfortunately, much of this can be faked. Sigh.

We do see New Testament evidence that the Holy Spirit acts/reacts much the same as in the Old Testament;

## Acts 4:8-9

<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people, <sup>9</sup> if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well ... (NASB)

God filled Peter with His Spirit for a purpose, but it doesn't stop with Peter;

Acts 4:31 <sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and *began* to speak the word of God with boldness. (NASB)

Peter, in facing the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem, gives us more information about the Spirit of God;

### Acts 5:29-32

<sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup> "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. <sup>31</sup> "He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> "And we are witnesses of these things; and *so is* the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him." (NASB)

The Spirit is given to those who obey God, particularly, who believe unto Jesus Christ as their Lord & Savior. Peter's claim, with which I heartily agree, was that the early church was filled with the Spirit while the Jewish leadership at the time, was not. Their immediate reaction was to kill the apostles just as they had killed Jesus. A bit later we find Stephen who was filled with the Holy Spirit;

## Acts 6:5

<sup>5</sup> The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. (NASB)

We could go on, but where does this leave us? I would suggest that God does not change. He treats all of His people in a similar fashion given what they believe, given His purpose for their lives. Does He indwell His New Testament believers? Absolutely! Look at what happens in;

### Acts 8:14-17

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, <sup>15</sup> who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup> For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Then they *began* laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit. (NASB)

These were believers in Samaria who had heard about Jesus. When Peter and John came to them, laid hands on them, and prayed for them, they then received the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit also was instrumental in changing minds and hearts. Look at what happened in;

## Acts 9:17-20

<sup>17</sup> So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup> And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized; <sup>19</sup> and he took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus, <sup>20</sup> and immediately he *began* to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." (NASB)

This, of course, is Saul/Paul who became one of the preeminent Christian theologians of the time. In another example of the Spirit working in the immediate life of a believer, we see that He changed the hearts of believers;

### Acts 10:19-22

<sup>19</sup> While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. <sup>20</sup> "But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself." <sup>21</sup> Peter went down to the men and said, "Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?" <sup>22</sup> They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was *divinely* directed by a holy angel to send for you *to come* to his house and hear a message from you." (NASB)

It is through God's Spirit that elders/leaders in the church retain their power and authority;

## Acts 20:28

<sup>28</sup> "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (NASB)

Just as Jesus told His disciples, the Spirit was given to us to guide, to help, to correct;

### Romans 5:3-5

<sup>3</sup> And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; <sup>4</sup> and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; <sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (NASB)

And the Bible is very specific on this subject, we must have the Spirit to be believers in Jesus Christ;

#### Romans 8:9

<sup>9</sup> However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. (NASB)

And it is also clear that the Spirit inhabits His temple, which is us (also 1 Corinthians 6:19);

#### 1 Corinthians 3:16

<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? (NASB)

#### 2 Timothy 1:14

<sup>14</sup> Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to *you.* (NASB)

The Spirit works for the unity and growth of the body, that is the church (this would be Spiritual gifts);

**1 Corinthians 12:7** <sup>7</sup> But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (NASB)

#### Hebrews 2:4

<sup>4</sup> God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will. (NASB)

The Spirit provides guidance and direction in our day to day lives;

#### Galatians 5:22-26

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another. (NASB)

#### Ephesians 4:30-32

<sup>30</sup> Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. (NASB)

His Holy Spirit brings us great joy;

#### 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7

<sup>6</sup> You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup> so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. (NASB)

God's Spirit was instrumental (essential) in the writing of Scripture;

#### 2 Peter 1:20-21

<sup>20</sup> But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (NASB)

## **Revelation 22:6**

<sup>6</sup> And he said to me, "These words are faithful and true"; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place. (NASB)

His Spirit speaks directly to the churches;

#### **Revelation 2:7**

<sup>7</sup> 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.' (NASB)

<<<<<Will need a closing argument.>>>>

## Questions

- 1. Did God indwell His believers with His Spirit in the Old Testament? How do you know this?
- 2. What was the purpose(s) of indwelling by the Holy Spirit?
- 3. Are New Testament believers indwelled by the Holy Spirit? What is God's purpose for doing so?

### **Memory Verses**

I feel that it is important to memorize as much of the Bible as possible. So each lesson will include a set of memory verses. Maybe we will include prizes for those who memorize the most verses each week. Here is an example:

### Numbers 11:25-30

<sup>25</sup> Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him; and He took of the Spirit who was upon him and placed *Him* upon the seventy elders. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do *it* again. (NASB)

## **Read Your Bible**

Have you *Read Your Bible* this week? It takes us just a few minutes each day. Your Bible contains the authoritative, inerrant, infallible and non-contradictory Word of God! Often there is no other source for this information than in your Bible!

Further, if something in this study seems wrong, then it probably is because the author made a mistake! This is another reason to read your Bible, check statements made in this study against that stated in the Bible. *Read your Bible!* 

# **Closing Prayer**

Lord God, we thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to dwell among us. We thank you that we are the temples in which He resides. Be with us today, we pray. Let Your Spirit be known to us today. We pray this in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord & Savior. Amen.