

Major Bible Themes

52 Vital Doctrines of the Scriptures Simplified and Explained

Adapted from the book *Major Bible Themes*
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God the Holy Spirit: His Indwelling and Sealing

- A New Feature of the Present Age
 - Although the Spirit of God was with men in the O.T., the source of their new life, and the means of spiritual victory, there is no evidence that all believers were indwelt by Him.
 - Jesus Christ expressly taught this in the upper room discourse, contrasting the O.T. situation with the present age, when He said, “He abides with you and will be in you” (John 14:17).
 - The indwelling of the Spirit in every believer is a distinctive feature of the present age which is repeated in the millennial kingdom, but is found in no other period of history.
- The Universal Indwelling of the Spirit in Believers
 - Although Christians may vary greatly in manifesting the fruit of the Spirit, Scripture teaches plainly that every believer since Pentecost is indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
 - The temporary delays in indwelling seen in a few instances in Acts 8:14-17 and 19:1-6 were unusual instances, not normative, and due to the transitional nature of the Book of Acts.
 - The following passages make it clear that prior to the day of Pentecost the O.T. order – in which only some were indwelt – was still in effect, but after Pentecost the normal work of the Spirit has been to indwell every Christian (John 7:37-39; Acts 11:15-17; Rom 5:5; 8:9-11; 1 Co 2:12; 6:19-20; 12:13; 2 Co 5:5; Gal 3:2; 4:6; 1 John 3:24; 4:13).
- Challenges to the Doctrine of Indwelling
 - Some believe that the Holy Spirit can be taken away based upon 1 Sam 16:14 and Ps 51:11, but these passages refer to the O.T. order where indwelling was not universal or permanent.
 - Some claim that the Holy Spirit is given only to faithful believers based upon Acts 5:32, but the obedience described in that verse is obedience to the gospel unto salvation.
 - Some use Acts 8:17 and 19:6 to claim that the laying on of hands is necessary to receive the Spirit, but Scripture records many who received the Spirit apart from laying on of hands.
 - Some point to 1 John 2:20, 27 and say that a separate process of anointing is required, but a study of this anointing makes it clear that this is an initial act at the moment of salvation.
- The Indwelling of the Spirit vs. Other Ministries
 - Because a number of works of the Spirit occur simultaneously at the moment of the new birth of the believer, careful distinctions must be made between these different activities.

- Regeneration, baptism, and filling are distinct from indwelling, whereas sealing is related and anointing is identical.
- By the indwelling of the Spirit believers are set apart for God and this was typified by the anointing oil in the O.T.
 - ✦ Anything touched with the oil was sanctified (Ex 40:9-15) as the Spirit now sanctifies (Rom 15:16; 1 Cor 6:11; 2 Th 2:13; 1 Pet 1:2).
 - ✦ The prophet was sanctified with oil (1 Kings 19:16) as Jesus was a prophet by the Spirit (Luke 4:18).
 - ✦ The oil of joy (Ps 45:7) is now the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22).
- The Sealing of the Spirit
 - At the moment of salvation God places His seal upon the believer (Eph 1:13; 4:30) and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit represents His pledge (2 Cor 1:22).
 - This seal is entirely the work of God and symbolizes the finished transaction that took place the moment we placed our faith in Jesus Christ and God performed the work of salvation.
 - This seal signifies that...
 - ✦ We are God's possession.
 - ✦ We are secure until the day we are taken up into glory.
 - ✦ We are protected from being tampered with by our adversaries.

- Questions
 - What evidence supports the conclusion that the indwelling of the Spirit in every believer is a distinctive feature of the present age?

 - What important passages in the New Testament unquestionably teach the universal indwelling of the Holy Spirit in believers?

 - How may the anointing of the Spirit be defined?

 - What questions about indwelling are raised by 1 Sam 16:14 and Psalm 51:11?

 - What is the explanation of Acts 5:32 in relation to the universal indwelling of the Spirit?

 - How can the indwelling of the Spirit be contrasted with regeneration?

 - How can the indwelling of the Spirit be contrasted with the baptism of the Spirit?

 - How can the indwelling of the Spirit be contrasted with the filling of the Spirit?

 - How does the anointing oil of the O.T. typify the work of the Holy Spirit?

 - What is the relationship between the indwelling and sealing of the Spirit?

 - How does the sealing of the Spirit relate to eternal security?