

## God Dwells in His Temple in the Gospel Age

In the Gospel Age the church is called God's temple because God the Spirit dwells there: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man defiles the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (1 Co 3:16-17). The truth of the gospel must be protected and false teachers must be exposed, lest God's temple [the church] be desecrated. God still dwells in heaven, but His truth, His mercy, and His glory are manifested by the church.

In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Paul proclaimed that every individual Christian is also God's temple. The Christian is the temple of God because of our close relationship with God. Because the will and work of the Spirit are seen in our lives, God is manifested and glorified! Therefore, His saints must maintain their purity and holiness in this wicked world.

What does it mean for someone to dwell in someone else? Satan is in unbelievers and they are in him (Re 2:13; 1 Jn 4:4; 5:19). Satan does not literally inhabit people, but his sinful attitudes and deeds do. The Holy Spirit dwells in the regenerated man, an intelligent person made in God's image and cleansed of sin. This refers to a relationship in which we follow His word.

Persons do not literally inhabit other persons in terms of geographical location, but one person may be said to dwell in another in terms of relationship, attitudes, and conduct! The Father is in the Son, the Son in the Father, and Christians are in both the Father and the Son (Jn 17:21). The Father is in the Christian and the Christian in the Father (1 Jn 4:12-16), the Son in the Christian and the Christian in the Son (Ep 3:17; Jn 6:56), the Spirit in the Christian and the Christian in the Spirit (Ro 8:9; Ga 5:25). All these refer to our spiritual fellowship, not to geographical location.

The Holy Spirit's role in our salvation was to reveal and confirm "all truth" (Jn 16:13; 2 Ti 3:16-17). He convicts and converts sinners through the divine power of the truth He revealed (Jn 16:7-13). Jesus said sinners must be "born again," "born of water and the Spirit" (Jn 3:3, 5). Peter wrote of men who

were saved by "obeying the truth through the Spirit... being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides forever" (1 Pe 1:22-23). The Spirit operates on the human soul by the power of His word.

In like manner, the Spirit dwells and works in Christians through the revealed word. Jesus said, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (Jn 15:7). Man's fellowship with Christ occurs as his words abide in us. The Spirit convinces both sinners and saints that Jesus Christ is the Son of God through his words, "because the Spirit is truth" (1 Jn 5:6). This means the Spirit uses the agency of truth to operate on sinners and saints. Christians are to be "filled with the Spirit," which is manifested in songs of praise (Ep 5:18-19). In a parallel passage, Paul wrote, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly," which is manifested in songs of worship (Col 3:16). The Spirit revealed "the word of Christ," and those who are truly filled with it are truly "filled with the Spirit."

## The Temple of God Is Holy

Paul wrote, "For the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (1 Co 3:17). When local churches become corrupted with sin and error, they are no longer temples of God imbued with the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is driven out when the truth is driven out.

When urging Christians to not fall into sexual immorality, Paul reminded us that we are temples of the Holy Spirit: "Ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Co 6:18-20). When saints embrace sin, we drive out the Spirit of God, we bring shame rather than glory on God's name, and we invite Satan to fill our souls.

When individual saints and local churches are faithful to God and to His truth, we have fellowship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Our holiness reflects the holiness of the Spirit of God, and thus we, as temples of the Holy Spirit, bring glory to our great God!

– *Truth Magazine, February 2014 (edited for space)*

## ASSEMBLY TIMES

### Sunday

Bible Class 9:30  
Morning Assembly 10:30  
Evening Assembly 5:00

### Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

## RADIO PROGRAM

### The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.  
KURM 790AM

## Downtown Church of Christ

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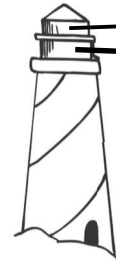
**Christ first.  
Always.**

## ELDERS:

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Perry Johnson  
Ken Parker  
Alan Revier  
GW Walsh

## DEACONS:

TJ Burleson  
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Joel Heiligenthal  
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# DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

**PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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# The Holy Spirit Dwells in Christians

by Ron Halbrook

**“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Co 6:19-20).**

Paul affirms that Christians have a special fellowship with God, and especially with the Holy Spirit – which should inspire us to live holy lives giving glory to God. This beautiful lesson is illustrated and reinforced by introducing the role of the temple in Israel’s history. The temple signified the presence and fellowship of God with His special nation, proclaiming His holiness and glory through the people who worshiped at His temple. By dwelling in the Christian, the Spirit makes the child of God a temple which proclaims His holiness and glory to an unbelieving world. >

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

*Preachers we support:* Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.  
*Sick:* G&K Fletcher, T Tolbert, J&M Swim, J Marshall, G Walsh, L&T Deen  
*Shut-ins:* Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis  
*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**TODAY’S SPEAKERS** – Sam Bunyard (this morning) and Jantsen Lynn (this evening) will be in the pulpit while the King’s are out of town.

**SENTENCE SERMON** – “Happiness and freedom begin with one principle: some things are in your control, and some are not.” -*Epictetus* (see Ph 4:11-13)