

2 Timothy 1:14 -- Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

The equation that the Spirit = The Word is spelled out for us in **Ephesians 6:17**:

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword [consisting] of the Spirit which [neuter agreeing with Spirit not sword] is the word of God.

When one thinks of an “indwelling,” it is perceived as an immediate process. However, in the case of Christ dwelling in one, it is described as a gradual process that starts with first putting Him on, and then having Him formed in one by much labor.

Galatians 3:27 -- For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Galatians 4:19 -- My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you.

Eventually, as in Paul’s case, it is a total replacement, not a co-existence. This is also true as one considers what Jesus prayed for concerning His disciples that the Son and the Father are in them and they are dwelling in the Son and the Father (See John 17 below).

Galatians 2:20 -- I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.

John 17:20-21 -- I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me.

The Spirit intercedes for us in prayer (Romans 8:26-27), but it is the same way Christ intercedes for us too (Hebrews 7:25), as Elijah did for Israel (Rom. 11:2). Indwelling is not a mystical possession, but a very practical learning of the Scriptures and applying them to our lives. The more we know, the more the Godhead dwells within us.

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Hebrews 2:4 -- God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

As the opening verse attests to, in the first century the Lord God bore witness to the teachings of inspired men by performing signs, wonders, and miracles. This was to confirm that what was being preached was from the Almighty. But there was to come a time, when the Word would be fully revealed and that spiritual gifts would disappear. Paul writes:

1 Corinthians 13:8-10 -- Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.

However, there are those who believe that we have the miraculous gifts still today, by assuming the word “perfect” refers to Christ. Most translations indicate that perfect is a “that which” and not a “he who.” The context concerns love verses gifts and the concept of Christ is erroneously inserted. Also, “perfect” (or complete) is a substantive and requires the context to furnish the noun it is modifying. Since knowledge and prophecy are the partials, when those are “complete,” that is, when the Bible was completed, those gifts would be “taken away.”

Additionally, tongues were to “cease.” In Hebrews 10:2, it states that sacrifices would have “ceased” if they were able to do their job. The implication is that the word was spread throughout the world, transferred into every language, and thus tongues ceased having accomplished their task.

1. POWER OF THE SPIRIT: THEN AND NOW

One of the obvious problems with the so-called gifts of the Holy Spirit today is their serious lack of divine power: withered limbs are not made whole, the blind are not made to see, the dead are not resurrected. It is claimed that the individual’s lack of faith causes this, but the dead cannot have faith, and the apostles did not have this problem.

Acts 5:15 -- To such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets, and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. And also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits; and they were all being healed.

The verse below is used to prove that tongues are supposed to follow true believers, yet the last part about picking up deadly snakes and drinking poison is quite ignored. If the faith healer balks at the snakes and poison (for fear of testing God), then in truth, the signs do not follow.

