

The Truth Project  
Pt 8 "The Truth of God's Indwelling Presence"  
John 14:16-17

As I prepare for our Mexico mission trip in three weeks I've started to get my tools together. One of the things I always take is my "magic" glove. I have seen this glove literally pick things up. For example, many times I've seen it pick up my hammer. I'm going to lay this glove on my hammer and leave them here while stand way over here and I want you to watch this "magic" glove pick up my hammer.

"O.K. glove: pick it up!"

I said, "Glove, pick up my hammer!"

Hmmm. This is embarrassing. I really, honestly have seen my glove pick lots of things up. I just can't figure out why it isn't working this morning.

OH, WAIT A MINUTE! Now I remember! I've always had my hand INSIDE the glove when it picked things up.

See? Now it works great! Having my hand inside makes a BIG difference, doesn't it?!

You know, lots of Christians are just like my empty glove. They try to do things on their own power and can't understand why they fail. They try to resist sin, but they give in to sin. They try to establish disciplines like daily Bible reading or prayer time, but then they don't keep at it. They try to do something for the Lord but they just can't seem to get that something done. Here's the problem:

Jesus said, ".....apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

The good news is, we have the power available to us to do great things.

Look at what else Jesus said:  
Acts 1:8 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you..."

The Holy Spirit is the key to doing great things for the Lord!

Without tapping into the power and presence of the Holy Spirit we are like an empty glove. We may have good intentions, we may be trying to do very good things, our motives may be pure, we're sincerely trying to serve the Lord.....but without God's indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit, we are spiritually powerless.

This morning we are going to talk about the truth of God's indwelling presence. Let's begin by looking at our key verses:  
John 14:16-17

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—  
17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

1. All Christians are indwelt with the Holy Spirit.

Please understand that there is no group of Christians, there is no church or denomination, which has cornered the market on the Holy Spirit.

Every Christian has received the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
If you are a Christian, you have the Holy Spirit living within you.

You may not fully understand it, it may be confusing to you, it may even be a little bit scary. Nonetheless, if you are truly a Christian, you have the Holy Spirit within you.

Look at the very end of our key verses:  
John 14:17 "...for he lives with you and will be in you."

Jesus said that He would send the Holy Spirit, whom He called the Spirit of Truth, whom He also called the Counselor, He said that the Spirit would live WITH you and be IN you!

What a tremendous gift Jesus gives to His followers: the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit!  
The Apostle Peter talked about this gift of the Holy Spirit:

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Notice the phrase, "Every one of you."  
Not just some of you. Not just the super spiritual among you.  
If you want to become a Christian, you must repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.  
Every one of you. No exceptions. But then look what happens.

Notice the phrase, "You WILL receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."  
He didn't say you MIGHT receive it. He didn't say there's a CHANCE you will receive it.  
He said you WILL receive.

Peter says that if you have repented of your sins and have been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, you WILL receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

After Acts 2:38, look at the very next verse:  
Acts 2:39 "The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Notice first of all that Peter says this is a promise.

If you are a Christian, you have been promised the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said that He would send the Holy Spirit, Peter calls this a promise.  
I don't think the Lord breaks His promises, how about you?

I think that if the Lord says it, He'll do it.  
I think that if the Lord says it, you can count on it.  
I think that if the Lord says it, it's going to happen.

Look again at Acts 2:39

Acts 2:39 "The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off-for all whom the Lord our God will call."

After saying that it is a promise, the Apostle Peter says who the promise is for.  
"For you" - That's that generation.  
"For your children" - That's the next generation.  
"For all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call" - That's future generations. That includes YOU!

All Christians have been promised the gift of the indwelling presence of God's Holy Spirit.  
This truth is so vital to your faith that the Apostle Paul makes a very emphatic statement about it:

Romans 8:9 "You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ."

The Bible teaches that if you don't have the Holy Spirit within you, it's because you aren't really a Christian.

If you are really a Christian, you do indeed have the Holy Spirit within you.

When you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit He takes up residence within your body.  
Christ's Spirit lives within you.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Every Christian has received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Just like my hand goes into that glove and empowers it to work, the Holy Spirit goes into your body and empowers it to serve the Lord.

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Earlier this year I went on a very strict diet and lost some weight.

Several of you have asked me why I went on this diet. Here's why:

This all started because one morning I stood in front of the mirror and I struck a pose and said to my wife, "Lisa, Do you realize I have the body of a God?"

She laughed and said, "Yeah, Buddha."

I may not have the body of a God but I DO indeed have the spirit of God in my body.  
And so do you. My body and your body are temples of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 3:16 "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being."

All Christians have received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

What does the Holy Spirit do?

Among other things, He will lead you in the direction you should go.

2. We are to be led by the Holy Spirit.

Christians are led by the Holy Spirit.

That's one of the things the Holy Spirit does.

He leads us. He guides us. He directs us.

Interestingly, we see that the Spirit played this very same role in Jesus' life.

Luke 4:1 "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert."

Right after Jesus was baptized, He was led by the Spirit into the desert.

(By the way, those of you who are on a diet, that word is desert, not dessert!

The Holy Spirit isn't going to lead you into dessert.

I wish that were the case, but that's just not how it works!)

The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert.

We are supposed to allow the spirit to direct us as well.

Galatians 5:25 "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

Keep in step, fall in line, follow His lead...the Holy Spirit is trying to guide us.

It is to our benefit to follow His leading.

The Holy Spirit leads us away from sin and into Holiness.

We are all tempted to sin. No big surprise there.  
The question is, how can you have victory over sin?  
How can you avoid giving into your temptations?  
How can you keep from sinning?

The Holy Spirit will lead you away from sin and into holiness.

Romans 8:13-14

13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,

14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

How do we get sin out of our life?

How do we get rid of sinful attitudes, how do we get rid of sinful thoughts, how do we get rid of sinful actions in our life?

We get sin out of our life by being filled with the Holy Spirit. We need to be so filled with the spirit that there simply isn't any room for sin.

Let me illustrate: How do you get air out of a plastic water bottle?

Could you get some kind of a vacuum and suck all the air out? If you tried that the bottle would collapse in because of the vacuum. You can't shake the air out of a bottle, you can't pour it out, you can't vacuum it out.

How do you get air out of a bottle? It's really very simple. You fill it with water. The water replaces the air.

Likewise: How do you get sin out of your life? You fill your life with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit replaces the sin.

The good news is that the Spirit is already in your life. All Christians have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. All you have to do is allow the spirit to dominate your life.

You have to nurture that spirit, you have to feed that spirit, you have to let that spirit grow in your life so much that it becomes the dominate thing in your life.

The Apostle Paul said it this way: Galatians 5:16 "So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature."

We are to live by, or be led by, the Holy Spirit.

3. Eternal life is given through the Holy Spirit.

Consider the role of the trinity in regards to eternal life:

Eternal life is a gift FROM God the Father. We don't earn it, we don't deserve it, we're not good enough for it. Eternal life is an incredible gift that God gives to us.

Eternal life is made possible BY Jesus Christ. Because of what Jesus Christ did on the cross we can go to Heaven. Eternal life is made possible by Jesus.

Eternal life is a gift FROM God, made possible BY Jesus, but it is given THROUGH the Holy Spirit. Did you know that? Look at this verse:

Romans 8:11 "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you."

Eternal life is a gift FROM God, made possible BY Jesus, given THROUGH the Holy Spirit.

John 3:5-6

5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water

and the Spirit.

6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.”

If you want to have eternal life. If you want to live forever. If you want to go to Heaven. There is only one way to get there. Jesus Christ and Jesus' Holy Spirit are essential if you want to have eternal life.

Acts 4:12 “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

Eternal life is given through the Spirit.

Furthermore: The Holy Spirit testifies that we have eternal life because we are God's children.

Romans 8:15-17

15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

The Holy Spirit testifies that we are children of God.

The good thing about being a child of God is the inheritance. All of God's children share an inheritance from God. The Holy Spirit guarantees our inheritance.

Ephesians 1:13-14

13 Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

What is that inheritance? It is the number one thing mankind most desires. Eternal life. Heaven. Life in God's eternal Kingdom.

Matthew 25:34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.’”

How do you get in on that inheritance? You become a child of God. How do you become a child of God? You receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

John 1:12 “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

Have you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?