



# The Indwelling Presence of God

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“Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God” (1 John 4:13-15).

The indwelling presence of God is not only an indicator of genuine Christianity but also the secret to a victorious Christian living. It is this unique characteristic that makes Christianity stand out from other religions - that God the creator could condescend to make an abode in His creature.

Our text reveal that:

- 1) We dwell in God and God dwells in us (vs 13)
- 2) We have the ability of knowing that we dwell in God and God dwells in us (vs 13).
- 3) That knowledge is imparted through the Holy Spirit that God has given to every believer (vs 13).
- 4) John and the early apostles saw and testified that the Father sent the Son to be the saviour of the world (vs 14). Their testimony and the witness of the Holy Spirit given by God forms the basis of our knowing these truth (vs 14).
- 5) The path to the indwelling presence of God in a believer is through salvation and confessing that Jesus is the Son of God (vs 15). This is what made the difference between Paul and the seven sons of Sceva when “the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?” (Acts 19:15). This also confirm that evil spirits know when a person is indwelt by Jesus and when s/he is not.

That God should indwell His creature is “the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory**” (Colossians 1:26-27).

**“Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God” (1 John 4:15).**

It puzzled His disciples when Jesus first spoke about this in John 14:20-24 “At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. 21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. 22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, **and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.** 24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me”.

God delights to indwell and fellowship with His children who satisfy the conditions. Continued abiding depends on our co-operation to make our bodies holy temples fit for divine residence. Note the warning Jesus flagged up in Luke 11:23-26 “He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth. **24 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out.** 25 And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. 26 Then goeth he, and taketh [to him] seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first”.

When we make our bodies a fit residence for God, then the Holy Spirit issues a “No Trespass” warning notice to Satan, who dare not come near such residence. “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” (John 8:32,36).