

# Fulton County Gospel News

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## The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit Fair Exchange

The purpose of this effort is to encourage you to study the word of God. So often the Bible tells us that God did something, or will do something, without telling us just HOW He does it. We should be satisfied with the fact that he DOES it! When we are baptized by burial in water, after believing, repenting, confessing Christ with the mouth, we KNOW that God forgives our sins! But HOW? What difference does it make? Christ was conceived in the flesh without an earthly father! But HOW? What difference does it make? God said that he was, and told us to BELIEVE it!

### THE HOLY SPIRIT

All enlightened Bible scholars know that only the apostles were baptized with the Holy Spirit and only those on whom the apostles laid their hands could perform miracles. Just the apostles and those on whom they laid their hands, ever performed a miracle.

Now, the Holy Spirit DOES dwell in the hearts of christians. He was not promised, nor does he dwell in the hearts of any one else! The christian is convicted, converted and trained by the word of God, the word of the Holy Spirit, John 14:26; 16:13. As long as one is convicted, converted and governed by the Holy Spirit, the Bible says that the Holy Spirit dwells in Him! THIS WE KNOW! But HOW? This seems to cause a little difference of conclusions. But "conclusions" are not always of faith and when two different people reach two different "conclusions," one or both are necessarily of faith. You will notice that: the Holy Spirit convicts through the word, converts through the word, guides and trains through the word; and of course dwells in us through the word. Is it also a personal indwelling, or is it ONLY through the "agency" of the word? If we will accept all "faith" has to offer, the other will not cause a christian to lose his soul!

### INFORMATION FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT HIMSELF

In Acts 2:38, Peter, guided by the Holy Spirit, promised to those believing Jews, that if they would repent and be baptized they would receive remission of sins and "the gift of the Holy Spirit." So far I know, all serious Bible scholars understand this to mean the "indwelling" of the Holy Spirit in the spiritual heart of

the christian. It is not understood, by serious scholars, to mean either the baptism of the Holy Spirit, or the nine gifts received by the laying on of the apostles hands. To christians, saints, members of the church of God, Paul taught, that, "What know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God, and ye are not your own," I Cor. 6:19. Again, the understanding of serious Bible scholars, is that what ever the christian received in Acts 2:38, is the same of which Paul speaks, here. So, among members of the Lord's church, generally speaking, we accept the fact that the Holy Spirit in some way, or to some degree, dwells in the heart of the christian, without bestowing the miraculous powers of New Testament times.

### YET, THERE IS A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION

One group in the church believes that the Holy Spirit is in the christian only to the extent in which the word of God dwells there and only works through the word, or dwells in the christian "through" the word. The other group believes that the word PREPARES the heart after the christian has obeyed the word, then the Holy Spirit "personally comes to dwell in the heart as long as the individual is controlled by the same word of God. If this sounds confusion to you, please read it again, for this is the heart of the difference. Each thinks the other wrong in his conclusions! What do you think.

### IS THERE REALLY A DIFFERENCE

The Holy Spirit gives to each baptized believer, the "gift" of the Holy Spirit. We know that those who believed and were baptized in Samaria (Acts 8:12), received the "gift," what ever it was, yet they could not perform miracles until Peter and John (apostles) gave them this ability by "laying their hands on them," Acts 8:17-18. So "the gift" is different from the baptism of the Holy Spirit, or that which the early disciples recieved by the apostles hands. So due to the fact that each christian has "the gift" of the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit dwells in each christian, we may safely conclude that the two are "one and the same." The gift

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It seems easier for man to grasp the concept of the decay and death of the material universe than it is for him to appreciate the fact that he will live forever. All of us see the evidence of aging and death about us. And most have heard something of the second law of thermodynamics which means there is a continual decrease of useful energy in the universe and we logically conclude that it must ultimately run down.

But Jesus teaches this is not the destiny of the soul. Unlike those things about us, the soul of man will never die. Speaking of the immortality of the soul the Bible says, "Your heart shall live forever" Psalm 22:26.

Even our physical bodies are subject to death; therefore we read of "your mortal body" in Romans 6:12. Such morality is never attributed to the soul. One who accepts the Scriptures believes that "though our outward man is decaying, yet the inward man is renewed day by day" 2 Corinthians 4:16. Therefore Jesus taught, "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul" Matthew 10:28.

In accepting the truth that the earth with its substance - including even its riches - will at best crumble away and one day be destroyed, Jesus asked the question: "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Matthew 16:26.

It would be trading away the substance for the acquiring of the shadow. The paltry trinkets obtained by the indians from Peter Stuyvesant for the island of Manhattan appear more equipable than the value one gets when he sells his soul for whatever price. Even if he gains the whole world he has cheated himself when his soul is lost.

God help us to believe that nothing is equivalent in value to our souls. That refusal to obey the gospel and to be baptized into Christ, that moment of sinful pleasure, that neglect of worship for entertainment or work - nothing nor all of it combined is fair exchange for losing your soul.

It is better to believe this now and live accordingly than to wait until it is too late. The lost will see the value of the soul in the day of judgment; but it will be to

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EDITORS: Erwin Cowen  
and James E. Henley.

## Returning the Favor

Among the people whom Jesus assisted during his earthly ministry, none is quite so tragic as the demoniac in Mark 4. His home was in the tombs; his neighbors had tried to keep him in chains; his body was scarred from self-inflicted wounds. Jesus dispelled the demons, and the man regained his right mind.

This man was obviously grateful for what Jesus had done. He sought to join the disciples and to accompany the savior in his ministry. But Jesus realized there was a greater work for such a man whose life has been so dramatically changed: "Go to thy house unto thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and how he had mercy on thee." (Mk. 4:19)

The sacrifice that Jesus made cleansing us of our sins is far more significant than restoring a man's sanity. By our accepting the gift of God's love, and thereby being baptized for the remission of sins, God blots our former transgressions. It is cause for great rejoicing.

He has asked assistance in another matter, however: "...preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long suffering and teaching." (II Timothy 4:2)

We must give diligence to return the Lord's favor. He looks for us to teach someone else about God's marvelous love.  
-J. Terry Johnson, O.C.C.

"The trouble with success is that the formula is the same as the one for a nervous breakdown.

Life is an everlasting struggle to keep money coming in, to keep teeth and hair from coming out.

## "Great Preaching Ezekiel!"

Some time back I remember hearing one man tell of the great preaching he had heard just the night before. He told how the preacher had "really got us all". He suggested that the preacher had "not missed anyone". Every preacher has observed that fact that we are most often complimented higher when we preach the really "hard" lessons. While we may at first be flattered by the special compliments, there comes a time when we begin to have second thoughts about constant compliments and no repentance.

Ezekiel had much the same problem. Consider; Ezekiel 33:30-33

"And as for thee, son of man, the children of they people talk of thee by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from Jehovah. And they come unto thee as thy people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but do them not; for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their gain. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument; for they hear thy words, but they do them not. And when this cometh to pass (behold, it cometh), they shall know that a prophet hath been among them."

It may be that we allow ourselves to believe that we have done "penance" by having our sins rebuked. Some seem to delight in telling how the preacher just "walked all over me". This may serve to take the element of hypocrisy out of our shortcomings, but it does not make us right. It is not enough to hear, and even to compliment the preaching of the truth. The Lord spoke on several occasions of those who would hear and fail to do.

### Fair Exchange (Cont.)

no avail. One will have nothing then to give in compensation. To emphasize this, Jesus inquires, "Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matthew 16:26. In eternity when the soul and its well-being is lost, one would give the world, if he owned it, to save his soul; but that price would not be dear enough. The word "exchange" requires "equivalent ransom". Only the death of our Saviour is such a price as to be fair exchange and it must be appropriated through obedient faith and loyalty in this life if we are to have eternal life in the world to come. (Mark 10:29, 30)

—Hardeman Nichols

## The Devil A Serpent?

### THE PURPOSE OF THIS ARTICLE

It shall not be my purpose to prove the origin of the Devil, or where, or how, he receives his power. The Bible would be the only source for this kind of information, and the Bible does not reveal to man this information. Therefore this is impossible to ascertain. Even if we could learn from other sources, it would not be of faith and would profit us nothing!

### WE NEED TO KNOW ALL THE BIBLE TEACHES

Too often we accept tradition, without a closer study to know whether a matter is taught in the Bible. So in this case, many people associate the Devil with a snake! It is interesting to study the origin of this belief. From the King James Version of the Bible we learn that the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which God had made, Gen. 3:1. But there is not agreement on how the word should be translated, from which we get the word "serpent", or what the "serpent" was. The Septuagint which was authorized by Ptolemy Philadelphus in 285 B.C. (so called because it was said seventy men worked on the translation, and is called the LXX (70)), translated the Hebrew word "machash" to be "serpent". Other translations have followed the practice. The word "machash" has at least three meanings, 1—"to view or observe attentively, to divine, use enchantments, etc", 2—it means "brass, brazen" and is also translated "chains, fetters of brass," 2 Sam. 22:35; Job 20:24; Psalms 18:34; also some times "steel", and in Ezek. 16:36 it is translated "filthiness", or "fornication." 3—it means a "serpent" but no one knows what kind! In Job 26:13, it seems to mean a hippopotamus, or whale. So it is easy to understand that the word is vague to say the least. Therefore, due to the fact that it does not concern our salvation, we should not accept tradition and associate the Devil with the snake of today!

### JUST WHAT KIND OF "SERPENT" WAS IT WHICH BEGUILDED EVE?

Well, of course we do know, but the beast must have been an agent through whom the Devil worked, as he entered people in the days of Jesus on earth. It is easy to understand that he could speak and reason as we learn from his conversation with Eve, and that he walked upright. It seems to have been no surprise to Eve that he could speak, and

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# PRAYER

The Greek word which the New Testament most often translates as "pray" comes from a root word which literally means "to ask." Praying is asking. There is a sense in which prayers are not always answered unless receiving is always experienced! However, the asking and the answering is not the asking and receiving in the usual manner. True prayer is asking God for Himself, for a sharing of His Spirit and communion. As someone has said will, "God does not lean forward when we pray just to listen to our list of things. He leans forward to fellowship the one who prays." A man whose life is prayerless is not merely missing out on a little conversation with the Lord. He is not merely failing to be thankful, failing to be praiseful, or failing to be penitent. A prayerless man is failing to be religious. A man who does not live in communion with God, who is not seeking to know and be conformed to the will of God, is the same man as the one who doesn't pray. As J. B. Phillips pointed out in his introduction to Acts, "the early Christians did not say prayers--they prayed."

The quality of faith, worship and religion is directly correlated to the quality of prayer. A man's spiritual life can be no greater than his prayer life. His habits of prayer are an index to his spiritual resources. A sinful man soon quits praying and a praying man quits sinning.

Prayer is reshaping our lives through communion with God, so that we do not seek to change the circumstances so much as to become changed in order to face the circumstances. Prayer is not moving God to where we are. Prayer changes things. More than anything else it changes the one who prays. The very people who do believe that prayer changes things are the same people who know the greatest changes that have occurred are the changes within their own lives. Prayer is not bending God's will to our requests. Prayer is the process by which we come to understand His will and prepare to fulfill it in our lives. People who have changed in praying are the same people who can affect changes by prayer.

In all discussions of prayer Paul's reference to praying in Romans 8:26 must be mentioned. Paul said, "We do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with sighs too deep for words." Prayer is the most humble, dependent, unassuming, submissive, yielding, deferring attitude and experience toward God humanly conceivable. Inasmuch as men do frequently pray with bowed head, bended knee and folded hands, prayer neither

expresses nor suggests a confidence in our own poise, power or efforts in workmanship. However, Paul says when you find yourself in prayer, humbly expressing your sense of need, placing no confidence within yourself or human self effort -- even then you can not do it right without the Holy Spirit. Paul is not implying that this is the only thing you can't do without the Spirit. Paul is suggesting that since you can not enter into this unpretentious, yielding, asking experience, with no attempts to offer or exchange anything, without the Spirit making it come out right, how could you ever expect for anything else that you do to come out right without His Spirit. If this praying can not come off without the Spirit, who are we to think that any service or works ever could. In this same general context Paul says, "You are not in the flesh ('sarx' not soma), you are in thy Spirit, if the Spirit of God really dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him." (Romans 8:9-10)

Since life is a total, continuing, whole experience, Christianity is not merely obedience, acts performed, or rituals kept. Christ came to bring "life and life abundant" (John 10:10). When one examines the Sermon on the Mount, the longest recorded sermon in the Bible, it is very clear that Jesus is attempting to convince His followers that God is concerned about everything involving human life. Christ did not bring mere forgiveness of past sins. He is also concerned about the present, and the future. Jesus' instructions as to how to pray are but a reflection of God's interest and nature. God is concerned about the present. He did not tell them to pray that they might go to heaven later. He said pray, "Thy kingdom come." Christ is now! The Bible is not a story about people "being safe in the sweet by and by." God can reign now. He is concerned about your daily bread and His will being done on earth as in heaven. He also takes care of the past, "forgiving our debts as we forgive our debtors." He also takes care of the future, "leading us away from temptation and delivering us from evil." God knows that man can exist, but can not really live, much less abundantly, by mere action, obedience or performance. Jesus taught that man's existance is lower than an animal or plant state if he toiled, thinking God did not care (Matthew 6:25-33). No, man can not (this is no "must not") live (he may exist) without a whole, complete, continuing, total integrated assurance. Prayer is not legal assurance which comes by "saying five prayers when one has sinned five

## The Indwelling (cont.)

is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. If not, there is no explanation of the gift, for it is neither of the other two mentioned.

### BOTH SAYING THE SAME THING IN DIFFERENT WORDS

One person agrees with the Scriptures, that the Holy Spirit dwells only in baptized believers and can not come into the person without the word of God and obedience to the same word! Then the person is guided by the word of God in all things! This is Bible! The Holy Spirit dwells in the individual through the word and only through the word, not personally.

The other says, Scripturally, that one must obey the word of God or the Spirit can not dwell in him. That the word of God (by obeying it) prepares the heart that the Holy Spirit (personally) may dwell in him. That he is guided always by the word of God and as long as he is so guided, the Holy Spirit dwells in him. Now check closely. Both say, 1--The Spirit dwells ONLY IN THOSE WHO OBEY THE GOSPEL; 2--The individual is guided by the Gospel; 3--The Holy Spirit dwells only as long as one is guided by the Gospel. One says it is a personal indwelling the other; he dwells through the agency of His word. As long as he "dwells" in the heart, does it really matter who is right?

Glynn V. Purdy

P.S.

Of course the family of Cornelius was baptized with the Holy Spirit but no record of them performing miracles.

## STATEMENT

After six years of enjoyable work with the Church in Mammoth Spring, Ark. On July the first I will begin work with the Lords Church in Salem, Arkansas. I want to thank all of you for your support and help with The Fulton County Gospel News, and urge you to continue to support this good work.

Bro. James E. Henley

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Tommy Risnir . . . . .	\$5.00
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times. This utterly destroys the idea of prayer as communion. Assurance and prayer are characteristic of people in union with God.



# Some Big Work

Often people try to excuse themselves from doing any personal work in the Lord's church, i. e. teaching their friends or neighbors the truth, encouraging the weak, visiting the sick, etc., by saying, "If I could do some really big work, something that is truly worthwhile, I would be glad to do it." This reasoning makes each person the standard of determining what is truly worthwhile, what is a big work, what is an important work, and it is too easy for one to conclude that what I could do would not amount to anything, anyway, and thereby justify himself in doing nothing.

But what is a big work? How can we be sure that what we are doing is not worthwhile? You know God has been able to do some tremendously big things using only little people. Consider the young shepherd boy David. God did great things with him.

God demands that we use what we have, that we do what we can. The one talent man was condemned for failing to use what he had, even though his one talent was not nearly so much as the five which another man possessed.

Consider these things and determine whether or not they are big or worthwhile works.

A mother and grandmother took time from their busy lives to teach the word of God to a young son and grandson. How big was that work? Was it really worthwhile? That boy learned the scriptures so well that the first time a preacher came into their city and preached Christ he believed and obeyed the gospel. He became the closest friend of the apostle Paul. He was truly a great worker for the Lord.

Many of the young people who are Christians have helped convert other young people by bringing them to the services with them. Many a boy has converted his girl friend and many a girl has converted her boy friend by bringing them to meetings. Is that a big work? I think so. After all, one soul is worth more than the whole world. **DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT!** There is something you can do, and it may be the biggest, most worthwhile thing in your life. Who knows who will be the next Timothy or who will teach the next Timothy. Who knows who will be the next Andrew to bring one like Peter to Jesus.

My friend, do what you can, use what you have to bring a soul to Christ. It is a **BIG WORK!** It is a work that has its reward. After all, aren't you glad someone taught you about Jesus?

# Please Don't Call Me Reverend!!

BECAUSE, nowhere in the Bible is there an example of any man wearing this title. The only time the word "reverend" appears is in Psalms 111:9 and here it is applied to God—not man. Please don't apply a title to me that belongs to God alone.

BECAUSE wearing such a title is a violation of the spirit of the New Testament. We are all brethren in Christ if we are Christians. Preachers are not a special class of brethren that deserve some sort of title to set them apart. Any preacher who wears such a title is either painfully ignorant of the spirit of the Christian religion or is inexcusably guilty of ignoring its teaching. In either case the offense is the same.

BECAUSE the New Testament makes no distinction between the clergy and the laity. Men make this distinction without the Lord's approval. Christianity is a priesthood of believers: I Peter 2:9; Rev. 1:6. We stand all equal before God and have equal access to the throne of grace.

The Lord has not set some apart as special priests who are to wear title of honor. Some dress themselves in a special garb to set themselves apart from the rest of the flock. Such men lack the humility that should characterize a true servant of God.

BECAUSE such titles are condemned in Matthew 23:8-10. Jesus forbids men being called rabbi, father of master, in a religious sense. Yet this plain commandment is ignored by a great many religious leaders today who not only wear these titles but insist upon others calling them what God forbids. There is no possible way to justify this vain practice.

BECAUSE I am only a man trying to serve God to the best of my ability. The fact that I preach does not make me a "reverend." God has not set me apart from my brethren in a special way. So, please don't call me "reverend."

RLN

## The Devil a Serpent? (cont.)

that she showed no fear of him, but followed his instruction, having believed him; so he must have been doing what was natural for him at that time. Then we really know nothing about what the "serpent" was, through whom the Devil beguiled Eve!

### THIS BEING TRUE, WHY WASTE TIME ON THIS EFFORT?

The answer is simple! It is very important that we know what the Bible **DOES NOT TEACH!** If the whole religious world knew what the Bible does not teach, they would not follow the creeds of men! But being ignorant of the word of God, they will accept the creeds of men as if they were from God. We, as members of the Lord's church, need to learn when to say, "I do not know, for God has not revealed this information!" It will save us a lot of trouble and might even save us our souls! It will create confidence in the hearts of other concerning our integrity! Such matters as, where Cain found his wife, where are the fallen angels held today, just what sin did they commit, were they first human, where did the Devil come from, etc., come into the category of questions which gender strife and could be handled with the greatest discretion. The secret things belong to God and the revealed things belong to man. Therefore, in the mind of God it was not necessary for man to know the secret things and it would not profit him! Let us study the **REVEALED THINGS!**

Glynn V. Purdy

Abraham Lincoln said: "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives; and I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him. Now change that a little. I like to see a man proud of the church where he lives; and I like to see a man live so the congregation will be proud of him.

How is it with you? Are you proud of this congregation? Are you striving to make it something of which we can be proud? Are you proud of its accomplishments? Its attendance? Its giving? Its attitude? Its love and concern for one another? Then, too, are you the type of member that the congregation can be truly proud of? Are you making a real, genuine effort to be worth something to the Cause of Christ at this place? **REMEMBER, WE CAN BE VALUABLE OR VALUELESS!!**

—Selected

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