
Spirit's Day Studies

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Acts 5:32
And we are his witnesses...and so is also
the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given
to them that obey Him.

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How Far Did They Go?

Of whom the world was not worthy.
(Hebrews 11:38)

The Indwelling Christ Part 2

Modern sermons often point out that Christians on this side of the cross have it much better than Old Covenant believers—who did not have the benefit of the Holy Spirit as an indwelling presence. And though it is true that the Spirit of the Resurrected Christ was not given to any until AFTER Jesus was crucified, resurrected, ascended, and glorified¹—yet the Old Testament saints² indeed achieved a great deal of holiness during their lives³—perhaps even more than many Christians today.

How Far Did the Old Testament Saints Go?

If, as the previous studies have pointed out, the Holy Spirit is not of necessity given to a soul, as a permanent and indwelling presence, immediately upon true conversion to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the question is: *What kind of Christian could possibly be produced without an Indwelling Holy Spirit?* That is, *How far can a Christian go in the faith without the Indwelling Spirit of Christ?* Answer: A VERY LONG WAY! We need only look at the lives of the Old Testament saints:

- ♦ Consider Abel, who offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.⁴ God declared him a *righteous man*⁵—yet Abel had no Indwelling Holy Spirit!
- ♦ Consider Enoch, who walked with God so intimately, that it pleased God to remove him from this world without experiencing death⁶—yet Enoch had no Indwelling Holy Spirit!
- ♦ Consider Abraham, chosen by God to be the Father of the Faithful.⁷ He believed God *before* he even knew who God was⁸—yet at the time Abram⁹ had no Indwelling Holy Spirit!
- ♦ Consider that virtuous woman Ruth, the great-grandmother of King David,¹⁰ who left her nation and her people to follow the God of Israel.¹¹ She has the great honor of being one of only five women listed in the genealogy of Jesus Christ¹²—yet she had no Indwelling Holy Spirit!

Consider the many other Old Testament saints, who subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword; out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of their enemies. Women received their dead raised to life again. Some were tortured, not accepting

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deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.¹³ Others had trials of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, of bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, sawn asunder, tempted, and slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, and tormented. They wandered in deserts, and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. All these, having obtained a good report through faith—and yet they had no *Indwelling Holy Spirit!*

Even without the Holy Spirit as a permanent indwelling presence, countless Old Testament saints were holy, obedient, loyal, and did many great deeds. They proved faithful in persecution, torture, and even death. Their lives were a constant demonstration of the depths of their love for God, and the extent of their gratitude.¹⁴ Yet these all died in faith, having not received the Promise;¹⁵ but having seen it afar off, they were persuaded, and embraced it. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God.¹⁶ And to their great honor the Bible testifies that ***this world was not worthy of them.***¹⁷

Christians without the Holy Spirit?

Question: *Can someone be a true Christian without the Indwelling Holy Spirit?* Answer: Peter was. James and John were. So were Lazarus, Mary, and Martha: For they all believed in Jesus as their Messiah, their Savior—even though they had yet to receive the Indwelling Holy Spirit! And while it is true that the early disciples weren't called "Christians" until several years after Jesus returned to the Father¹⁸—yet they were Christians nonetheless; for they were *followers* of *Christ*. They believed in Jesus as the Lamb of God who would take away their sins, and the sins of the whole world.

In the plainest sense of the word, a *Christian* is a *disciple* of Jesus Christ. Therefore it is entirely proper to say that a Christian is a *follower* of Jesus. However, it is not entirely correct to state that a Christian is one who is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Some are; some are not. Some have the Holy Spirit *with them*; others have the Holy Spirit *in them*. And many more do not have the Holy Spirit at all. Some are merely historical Christians, who only believe in Jesus as a figure who appeared on Earth and died for the sins of the world; but they have no need for a Jesus that is anything more than that. Others are Christians in Name Only (CINO's), who practice a certain measure of faith and obedience, but are compromised in their dedication.¹⁹

Question: *If (as so many teach) it is the Holy Spirit that saves—then how could the Old Testament believers be saved—if they had no Holy Spirit available to them?* Answer: Old Testament believers were saved in the same way that New Testament believers are saved: By grace through faith.²⁰

Some may say: *I love Jesus and gave my life to Him. I turned from my sins, stopped my gross habits, joined a church, study my Bible, give tithes, feed the hungry, visit the sick, pray for my enemies—all which things I never could have done before I was saved. Is this not proof that the Holy Spirit is dwelling within me?* Answer: Consider that many Old Testament saints were just as faithful and obedient, and performed many marvelous works as well—and yet they had no *indwelling* Spirit of Christ! The Holy Spirit *with you* is evidence of your conversion.²¹ The Holy Spirit *in you* is evidence of His *inward resurrection* in your mortal flesh!²² Conversion gives you entrance into the Kingdom. The Spirit of the Indwelling Christ is given to make you a Son of God!²³

How Far Will You Go?

The Christian today has the potential to be, *at the very least*, as holy, faithful, trusting, loving, obedient, righteous, and virtuous as the Old Testament Saints. Therefore it is quite possible to progress a great distance with the Holy Spirit being *with you* but not yet *in you*. Faith, obedience, devotion, and natural ability can go a very long way—when motivated by true love for God. And yet this is still not the full extent of what God desires to give you through the Gift of the Indwelling Resurrected Christ!

To be continued...

NOTES & SCRIPTURES

Scriptures are from the King James Bible

- 1** But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified. (Joh 7:39)
- 2** "Saint" in both Hebrew and Greek means godly, good, holy one, blameless, consecrated to God, etc. (Strong's H2623, H6922 & G40)

In the Scripture sense a saint is one who is a faithful follower of Jehovah (Old Testament), or a faithful follower of Jesus Christ (New Testament).
- 3** Blessed *is* the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit *there is* no guile. (Psa 32:2)
- 4** By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. (Heb 11:4)
- 5** Saved, or justified.
- 6** By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. (Heb 11:5)
- 7** Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (Rom 4:16)

Men *and* brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent. (Act 13:26)
- 8** Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. (Gen 12:1-3)

And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, *even* Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods. And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac. (Jos 24:2-3)

- 9** As a prophet Abram received the Spirit when his name was changed to "Abraham."
- 10** So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife...and she bare a son...And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it...and they called his name Obed: he *is* the father of Jesse, the father of David. (Rth 4:13-17)
- 11** And Ruth said [to Naomi], Intreat me not to leave thee, *or* to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people *shall be* my people, and thy God my God: (Rth 1:16)
- 12** And Salmon begat Boaz of Rahab; and Boaz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; And Jesse begat David the king. (Mat 1:5-6)
- 13** And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God: (Job 19:26)

To bring back his soul from the pit, to be enlightened with the light of the living. (Job 33:30)

After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. (Hos 6:2)

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt. (Dan 12:2)
- 14** Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. (Psa 1:1)

Blessed *is* the man *that* feareth the LORD, *that* delighteth greatly in his commandments. (Psa 112:1)

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Blessed *is* the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. (Jer 17:7)

15 And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: (Joe 2:28)

16 Hebrews 11:13.

17 Hebrews 11:33-39.

18 And when [Barnabas] had found [Saul], he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. (Act 11:26)

19 Why call me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? (Luk 6:46)

Except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. (Mat 5:20)

20 And [Abraham] believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. (Gen 15:6)

Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw *it*, and was glad. (Joh 8:56)

But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. (Rom 4:5)

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Eph 2:8-9)

21 *Even* the Spirit of Truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. (Joh 14:17)

22 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: (Col 1:27)

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; (Php 3:10)

Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. (Rev 20:6)

23 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: (Joh 1:12)

And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Gal 3:29)

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of his resurrection: (Rom 6:5)

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. (Php 3:10-11)

Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. (Rev 20:6)