

# The Indwelling Spirit: All of Him IN All of Me

## Romans 8:9-11

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Steve DeWitt

*"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."*  
(Romans 8:5-11 ESV)

We continue in the treasure trove that is Romans 8. It begins with no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. It concludes with no separation from the love of God for those who are in Christ Jesus. Over and over we hear throughout the chapter the little word,

### **IN**

Let's talk about the word "in." As a father of young daughters, I often hear, what does \_\_\_\_\_ mean? Why? They are learning the English language. It's easy to forget that language has meaning as assigned to certain sounds. Kids are hearing those sounds for the first time and need help associating meaning with those sounds. Over time it becomes so second nature that we miss the marvel of language. Those sounds are given written symbols in written language which is another marvel we take for granted. That brings us back to

### **IN**

"In" is a preposition and Romans loves prepositions. They are more important in Romans than any other book in the Bible. At the head of that list is the word "in." How important can two letters be?

What is the opposite of "in"? Out. We say, *you are either in or you're out*. My family enjoys *Shark Tank*. They have a little scripty saying when the investor is refusing to invest in the company, *and for that reason, I'm out*. I'm out. I'm no longer in. I'm no longer in the game. I'm no longer associated with this endeavor. I'm out.

### **IN**

"In" is the opposite of "out." "In" can mean geographically in. For example, our home state starts with the word "IN." I think the name of our state was supposed to be Diana, but before it was official somebody was asked, "Where are we?" "We are InDiana." It just became Indiana; that's my theory. You won't read that in the history books; you heard it from me first. If you drive an hour north, you are in Michigan. If

you drive a half hour west, you are in Illinois. We live in realms with state lines, county lines, and city limits.

This becomes critical in understanding how God saves sinners. God views us in terms of spiritual spheres within which blessings like justification and eternal life apply to us. And spiritual spheres where they don't. We saw last week in verses 3-8 that the flesh-led life is a sphere outside of God and his blessings. Sin takes us further from God and his good purposes. Sin takes us down the path to hell. Our sinful inward nature hates God's law and is hostile to God.

But the inward motivation of the Christian is very different because in us is the Holy Spirit. Verses 9-11 expand on the Spirit-led life.

### **God "Dwells" in Us**

*"You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him."* (Romans 8:9)

The contrast is between those who are "in the flesh" and those who are "in the Spirit." Here is where I need you to hang on with me. To be "in the Spirit" is the result of the Spirit being in us. And the Holy Spirit is in us as a result of us being in Christ. You hear all these "in's"?

This passage also displays the Trinity like few others. Notice the names assigned to the Holy Spirit.

**8:9**        ***Spirit of God***  
**8:9**        ***Spirit of Christ***  
**8:9,10**    ***Spirit***  
**8:11**      ***Spirit of him (God the Father who raised Jesus)***

He is called the Spirit of God the Father, the Spirit of Christ, and the Holy Spirit all in one passage. We see in this the incredible unity of the Trinity where the Spirit is "of" both other members. This is not to suggest they are not distinct, that's the ancient heresy of modalism. Modalists teach that the Father is Jesus. Jesus is Jesus. The Holy Spirit is Jesus. All unity, no "tri" to the unity.

The members of the Godhead are not all the same. They are equal and share the same divine nature, yet they are distinct. How is the Holy Spirit the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of Christ?

An inadequate illustration is a set of triplets: Marsha, Jan, and Cindy. They are identical triplets yet different. Genetically, they are the same yet distinct persons. Cindy is the sister of Marsha yet the same as Marsha. She is the sister of Jan yet the same as Jan. Within the Trinity, the unity is such that the Spirit is the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of the Son and his own distinct person while completely identical and unified as the one Triune God. It's a mystery for sure, but that's the biblical witness seen quite clearly in this passage.

### **If we are IN Christ, Christ is IN us**

Here is the exciting truth in verse 8: if you are IN Christ, the Spirit is IN you.

*"You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him."* (Romans 8:9)

Us in Christ is eternally wonderful as we are forever under “no condemnation.” Spirit in us is just as wonderful. This is called the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the term is drawn from this very verse. You see that in verse 9, “*if in fact the Spirit dwells in you.*” That same word is used in verse 11—*Dwell*. To dwell somewhere is different from visiting somewhere. One is a hotel, one is home. One is a temporary residence; a dwelling is a permanent residence. That is the sense here.

I think many Christians view the Holy Spirit’s presence like we are his bed and breakfast. We think he comes and visits sometimes, like when we feel a conviction or a spiritual high. We think, *the Spirit showed up!*

We are the permanent address of the Holy Spirit. He doesn’t merely come in times of trouble. He doesn’t just show up when we need a little convicting or just at church. He is dwelling in us all the time. Too many of us view him as an overnight guest. He is the permanent and beloved resident who brings life and peace to the home of our hearts.

One author subtitled his book, *All of Him in All of Me*.<sup>1</sup> So certain is his presence that Paul says, *if we don’t have the Holy Spirit, we aren’t in Christ in the first place*. How do you receive the indwelling Spirit? By receiving Christ as your Savior. You don’t have to pray, *Holy Spirit, I now receive you into my life*. No. You turn to Christ in faith and automatically the Spirit of God takes up a spiritual residence within us.

It’s like getting married. When I got married I didn’t say to Jennifer, *as an additional bonus I’ve decided to welcome you to my home*. I’ve learned, you get married, and there’s a wife in your house. Indwelling is nothing less than God with us and God in us. It’s all of God in terms of his power and presence IN all of me.

Christians will sometimes say, *I need more God in my life*. No. You have all of God in your life 24/7. God may need more of you, but you don’t need more of God. He is all there, all the time, doing his good work in us. Like what?

*“But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”* (Romans 8:10)

It might be helpful to see “*if Christ is in you*” as “*since Christ is in you*” as there are no non-indwelling Spirit Christians. “*Although the body is dead.*” “Dead” here means *mortal*. He says the same in the next verse. All our bodies are mortal and subject to decay. In a sense, we are dead now.

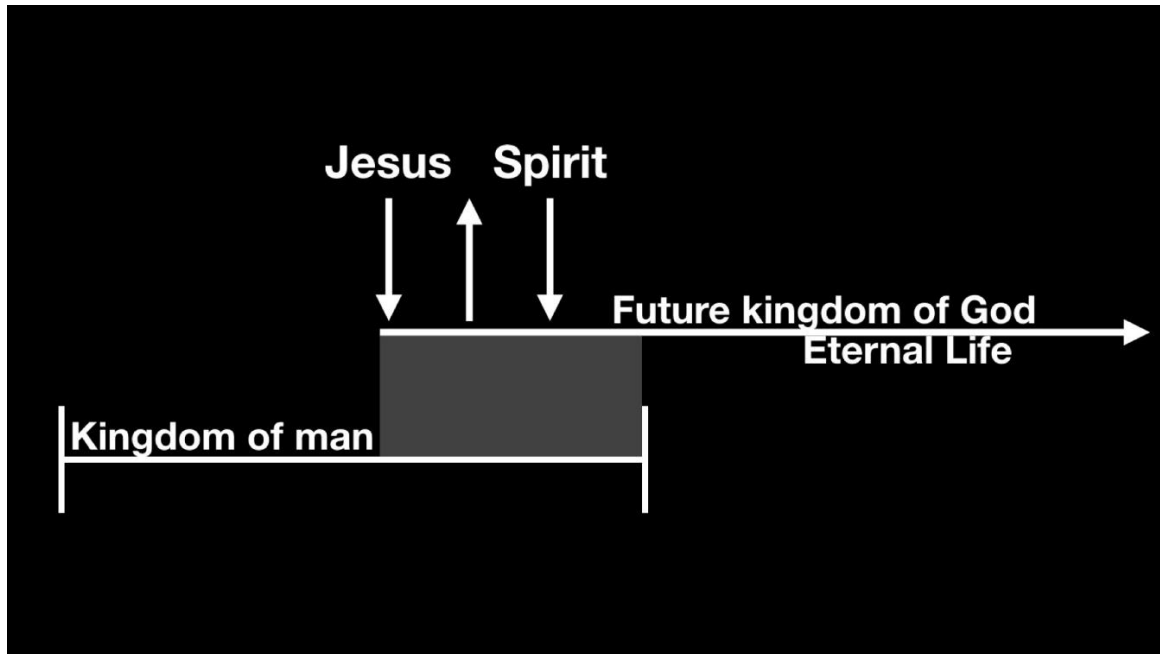
Think of the playground bully who says, *You’re dead!* or *You’re dead meat!* He means, *I’m going to get you!* Mortality means death is going to get us all. But look what the Spirit produces, “*life because of righteousness.*” We’ve learned in Romans that righteousness is not our righteousness. He doesn’t produce life in us because we are morally awesome. No. This is justification. God the Father declares us righteous by faith and the Spirit of God births eternal spiritual life within us.

So, our bodies are dying, but our true spiritual selves are living and will live forever. “*So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.*” (2 Corinthians 4:16) What is the talking about? We have to understand time and history and the future biblically. The Bible’s clock and calendar isn’t BC and AD or

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<sup>1</sup> Ian Thomas, *The Indwelling Life of Christ: All of Him in All of Me*, (2008).

months or years. The Bible looks at time in terms of historical-redemptive eras. Eternity Past. Creation. Fall. Messiah/Savior. Future kingdom.



We moderns prefer clear lines of stops and starts. That's why a million people gather in Times Square to watch the ball drop. That and copious amounts of alcohol. But there's a sense of something stopping and something starting.

The Bible sees everything through the hourglass of what God is doing in redemption. When Jesus came, it represented, as time travel movies describe, a flux in the time continuum. The incarnation was the black hole or time machine that brought the future kingdom of God into the present now. Like the *Back to the Future* movie trilogy which had things from the future (2015) back in time (the 1950s). They seemed so out of place. DeLoreans and hoverboards and modern clothes. Much of the intrigue of those movies was seeing things from the future in the context of the past.

Jesus' miracles and resurrection displayed the power and life of the future kingdom in the here and now. A redemptive time-warp. We must understand that the Holy Spirit indwelling believers is the life and vibrancy of the future in the life of the Christian now. That's why Pentecost was such a big deal when the Spirit came. It was the Holy Spirit's Christmas. The future glorious life of heaven in the here and now. Eternal life is here now as the Holy Spirit indwells us.

Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem, *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* (Acts 1:8) Pentecost was the Holy Spirit's "coming." When a sinner trusts in Jesus, that's their personal Pentecost and the Spirit comes and indwells us. God in us. The unbeliever is dying on the outside and dying on the inside. The Christian is dying on the outside and dancing on the inside. Or at least we should be...

Our experience of this renewal and our awareness of this renewal will ebb and flow. Sin in our lives quenches the Spirit's blessing. God's Word and prayer renew us as the Spirit works through them to energize our spiritual lives. The Holy Spirit is in us to bless us. Resourcing

us. Changing us. Sustaining us. Preparing us for our eternal home and conforming our lives to the likeness of Jesus.

### **The Spirit of Eternal Life**

*"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."* (Romans 8:11)

Verse 9 is the certainty of the Spirit indwelling all Christians. Verse 10 describes the present reality of having the Spirit's empowering presence. Verse 11 looks to the future. Death is an end. Death is a separation. Jesus wept at Lazarus' grave and we all weep at death's terrible effect.

However, here is where "IN" makes all the difference. The unbeliever is in the flesh. The flesh is death. The Christian is not in the flesh. The Christian is in Christ which means the Holy Spirit is in us. Since he is the eternal God, the life he gives us is not dependent on our mortal bodies. Further, we have in us the Spirit of the Father who raised Jesus from the dead. Paul elsewhere says the Spirit is a guarantee that God will resurrect our bodies someday. *"He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee."* (2 Corinthians 5:5) Guarantee of what? *"He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."* (Romans 8:11)

Verse 9 is past tense, we received the Spirit at salvation. Verse 10 is present tense, he dwells in us. Verse 11 is future tense, *"will give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."* How can we be confident that my death is not the end of me nor the end of my bodily existence? The Holy Spirit IN me. He gave life to Jesus' body and he will someday give life to every Christian's body in final resurrection.

How do we know if God can pull that off? He raised Jesus from the dead.

Do you get this? If I am in Christ, the Spirit is in me. The result of having eternal God IN me is I am already living in the realm of eternity; the future kingdom in me now.

Have you seen these? (See below)



These are Russian Matryoshka dolls. If there is anything that is based on the principle of "In-ness," it is these dolls. [Pastor Steve demonstrates – See video at 31:16] The smallest doll is in the slightly larger doll which means that the smaller dolls are also in the larger dolls. The little doll is in the bigger doll, but the bigger doll is in the even bigger doll. We are in Christ and always will be. The Spirit is in us. Whatever happens to the bigger doll, happens to the smaller doll (union with Christ). By union with Christ, the Spirit is IN us.

Since the Holy Spirit is eternal IN us, we are guaranteed to live eternally by the Spirit. So, the question today is, are you in Christ? Don't pray, *Holy Spirit, please be in me*. We must first be in Christ by faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Is that who Jesus is to you? What wonderful realities immediately take place once we are in Christ by faith! We are declared righteous before God forever. Our sins are forgiven. Our guilt is taken away. We are in union with the risen Savior.

But we must not miss the glory that being in Christ means the Spirit is in us. This new, wonderful, God-empowered life by the indwelling Spirit assures all believers that we are citizens of the eternal kingdom and that even the death of our bodies is not the end of us. God raised Jesus from the dead and God will raise us as well. How do we know? Because we have the Holy Spirit in us. All of God in all of me.

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