

Sermon: The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:16 (KJV)

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

Introduction:

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a profound and life-transforming reality for believers. In this sermon, we will explore how believers are living temples of God—carrying the Holy Spirit within—and the implications of this truth for our daily lives. Just as the Shekinah glory dwelt in the Holy of Holies in the Old Testament tabernacle, the Spirit of God now abides in believers, guiding, empowering, and sanctifying them for God's purposes.

I. We Are the Temple of the Living God

- 1 Corinthians 3:16 (KJV):

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

Paul's message to the Corinthian church highlights that each believer and the community of believers are now the dwelling place of God. This truth echoes the shift from the Old Covenant, where God's presence dwelt in the tabernacle, to the New Covenant, where God's Spirit resides in His people.

- Ephesians 2:21-22 (KJV):

"In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

Believers are corporately and individually temples of the Holy Spirit, meaning that God's presence is not confined to buildings or special locations but lives within His people.

II. The Parallel of the Shekinah Glory

In the Old Testament, the Shekinah glory—the visible manifestation of God's presence—dwelt in the Holy of Holies within the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34-35). Only the high priest could enter that sacred space, and only once a year (Leviticus 16:2). But in the New Covenant, Jesus Christ tore the veil that separated humanity from God (Matthew 27:51). Now, the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling within every believer.

- Romans 8:9 (KJV):

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.”

The indwelling Spirit means that the intimacy once reserved for the high priest is now available to all believers. We no longer need to go to a physical temple to meet God—He lives within us.

III. The Role of the Holy Spirit in the Believer’s Life

1. Guidance and Truth:

- John 16:13 (KJV):

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth...”

The Holy Spirit leads believers into truth, providing wisdom and discernment for life.

2. Empowerment for Service:

- Acts 1:8 (KJV):

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me...”

The Spirit empowers believers to live out their calling and to bear witness to the gospel with boldness.

3. Sanctification and Holiness:

- Galatians 5:16 (KJV):

“Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”

The Spirit works within believers to produce holiness and transform them into the image of Christ.

4. Comfort and Fellowship:

- John 14:16-17 (KJV):

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth...”

The Holy Spirit is the believer's Comforter, offering encouragement and reminding them of God's promises.

IV. Living as Temples of the Holy Spirit

- 1 Peter 2:5 (KJV):

“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”

As living tabernacles, believers are called to:

1. Offer spiritual sacrifices through worship, prayer, and acts of love.
2. Live in holiness by allowing the Spirit to shape their character.
3. Walk in step with the Spirit by following His guidance and promptings daily.

- Romans 12:1 (KJV):

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

Being a temple of the Spirit involves offering our entire selves—our thoughts, actions, and desires—as worship to God.

V. The Presence of the Spirit Brings Unity

- 1 Corinthians 12:13 (KJV):

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body...”

The Holy Spirit unites believers as one body in Christ, transcending differences and building fellowship within the church.

The Spirit's presence not only transforms us individually but also builds unity in the church as the collective temple of God.

Conclusion: Walking in the Reality of the Indwelling Spirit

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit transforms every believer into a temple of God. We no longer worship God from a distance—He dwells within us, guiding, empowering, and sanctifying us for His

glory. Just as the Shekinah glory rested in the Holy of Holies, God's Spirit now resides within us, enabling us to live in holiness and obedience.

- 2 Corinthians 6:16 (KJV):

“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

As living temples, let us walk in the fullness of the Spirit, offering our lives as living sacrifices and reflecting God's holiness in everything we do.

Prayer:

“Father, thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit, who dwells within us. Help us to live as holy temples, offering our lives in worship and obedience. Empower us to walk in Your truth and reflect Your glory in all that we do. In Jesus' name, Amen.”

This sermon ties together the themes of the indwelling Spirit, holiness, empowerment, and unity, encouraging believers to live out the reality of being God's temple in their daily lives.