

What is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?"

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the action by which God takes up permanent residence in the body of a believer in Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament, the Spirit would come and go from the saints, empowering them for service but not necessarily remaining with them (see Judges 15:14; 1 Chronicles 12:18; Psalm 51:11; Ezekiel 11:5). Jesus revealed to His disciples the new role the Spirit of Truth would play in their lives: "He lives with you and will be in you" (John 14:17). The apostle Paul wrote, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19–20).

As the Holy Spirit lives in the believer, He brings about some life-changing results:

- 1) The indwelling Spirit comes to a soul dead in sin and creates new life (Titus 3:5). This is the new birth Jesus spoke of in (John 3:1–8).
- 2) The indwelling Spirit confirms to the believer that he belongs to the Lord and is an heir of God and fellow-heir with Christ (Romans 8:15–17).
- 3) The indwelling Spirit installs the new believer as a member of Christ's universal church. This is the baptism of the Spirit, according to 1 Corinthians 12:13.
- 4) The indwelling Spirit gives spiritual gifts (God-given abilities for service) to the believer to edify the church and serve the Lord effectively for His glory (1 Corinthians 12:11).
- 5) The indwelling Spirit helps the believer understand and apply the Scripture to his daily life (1 Corinthians 2:12).
- 6) The indwelling Spirit enriches the believer's prayer life and intercedes for him in prayer (Romans 8:26–27).
- 7) The indwelling Holy Spirit empowers the yielded believer to live for Christ to do His will (Galatians 5:16). The Spirit leads the believer in paths of righteousness (Romans 8:14).
- 8) The indwelling Spirit gives evidence of new life by producing the fruit of the Spirit in the believer's life (Galatians 5:22–23).
- 9) The indwelling Spirit is grieved when the believer sins (Ephesians 4:30), and He convicts the believer to confess his sin to the Lord so that fellowship is restored (1 John 1:9).
- 10) The indwelling Spirit seals the believer unto the day of redemption so that the believer's arrival in the Lord's presence is guaranteed after this life (Ephesians 1:13–14).

When you accept Christ as your Savior (Romans 10:9–13), the Holy Spirit takes up residence in your heart, bringing with Him an entirely new life of love, relationship, and service to the Lord.