

**2 Timothy 1:14** Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you – guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. (NIV)

**1 John 4:13** We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. (NIV)

Now we need to put together the biblical truth of the Holy Spirit's omnipresence and these scriptures that speak of His indwelling.

In the sense of space, the Holy Spirit is always present in every human being's body, including the bodies of unbelievers! In the sense of space, the Holy Spirit is just as present in the unregenerate person's body as in the regenerate person's body. And this has always been true!

What does this do to our conception of indwelling? Well, we see that it can't mean that the Holy Spirit is present in the space that a believer's body occupies, since the Spirit of God occupies all space. Therefore indwelling can't mean that for an unbeliever the Holy Spirit is "outside" his or her body, but for a believer the Holy Spirit is "inside." The fact is that, as far as spatial presence is concerned, the Holy Spirit is "inside" the body of every human being as well as "outside" it.

What then can indwelling mean? It must have some meaning! And surely there must be some sort of difference between the way the Spirit of God is present in the unbeliever and the way He is present in the believer.

There is a very important difference! But it is not that the Holy Spirit is absent from the unbeliever's body and present in the believer's body.

I would suggest that the difference is one of relationship. The Holy Spirit sustains a relationship to the regenerate person that is radically different from the relationship He sustains to the unregenerate. The Holy Spirit is savingly related to the believer, but is not savingly related to the unbeliever. He does not indwell the unbeliever. Although He is present everywhere, He is resident only in the believer.

A series of contrasts between the relationships the Spirit of God sustains to the unregenerate and the relationships He sustains to the regenerate might be helpful: