

**(3) David prayed that the Holy Spirit would not be taken from him; no believer today need ever pray this prayer.**

**Two observations are in order regarding these three emphases:**

**First, the distinction between the Holy Spirit being upon believers and being in believers, if understood simply as spatial presence, should be discarded. The Holy Spirit is omnipresent in space; He has always been "in" every human being! Thus John 14:16-17 must be understood in some manner other than spatial, and we need to look at this passage to see what our Lord was teaching.**

**Second, the temporary character of the Spirit's relationship to Old Testament believers appears to rest on two scriptures: Psalm 51:11 and 1 Samuel 16:14. These need to be examined.**

**With regard to John 14:16-17, it is interesting to read the passage from the same version (the Authorized or King James Version) with two different emphases. Listen carefully as I read it twice:**

**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; 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.**

**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; 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.**

**Notice: the wording is exactly the same; only the emphasis is different. The first reading emphasizes a change of location from the outside of Christ's disciples to the inside of them; whereas the second reading emphasizes the assurance that the Holy Spirit who is already dwelling with Christ's disciples will continue to dwell with them even after Christ leaves them and ascends to heaven.**

**Let's put ourselves into the historical situation. Christ was about to depart from His disciples. They were filled with sorrow and apprehension and fear, and felt almost lost at the prospect of being their master and leader. How could they carry on without His presence, without His direction and His example? And so our Lord promised that He would send them the Holy Spirit in the relationship of Comforter and Helper, both to comfort them in their loss of His physical presence**