

**Psalm 51:11 says: " Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me. (NIV)**

1 Samuel 16:14 says: " Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul" (NIV)

Much has been built on these two verses. I believe that much perplexity could have been avoided if interpreters had noted that these two verses speak of the first two kings of Israel – Saul and David – and that these men were anointed with oil as symbolic of the coming on them of the Holy Spirit to equip and empower them for the particular task of ruling over Israel. When Saul was rejected from the kingship for his wicked sin of disobedience to the Lord's explicit command in the matter of the Amalekites, the Holy Spirit as the Anointer for kingly service was withdrawn from him and placed on David. And when David's terrible sins of adultery and murder in the matter of Bathsheba became known, he was fearful of being rejected from the kingship as Saul had been, and so he prayed to the Lord, asking that the Holy Spirit as Anointer for kingly service not be withdrawn from him as He had been withdrawn from his predecessor Saul.

With this understanding, the departure of the Holy Spirit from Saul implies nothing about indwelling, but only implies the rejection of Saul as king, and the loss of the Holy Spirit as Anointer for kingly service. And David's prayer that the Father not take the Holy Spirit from him implies nothing about indwelling, but simply tells us that David was asking not to be rejected as king of Israel, and not to be cast away from God's presence in disfavor.

It appears that Old Testament believers were both regenerated and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Before they became believers, Old Testament persons was spiritually dead and morally depraved, and needed the Holy Spirit's impartation of spiritual life in order to become spiritually alive. And since they could not keep themselves spiritually alive by their own power, the new life created in them had to be sustained in them by the Spirit of God. This is nothing less than indwelling!

This brings us to our third question:

III. HOW DOES INDWELLING RELATE TO SALVATION?

I think we can suggest an answer to this question by enumerating some of the effects of indwelling. And we can make it personal.