

Let us affirm that there must be a difference, and a very important one. But the difference is not that the Holy Spirit is absent from one person's body and present in the other's!

The difference appears to be one of personal relationship. The Holy Spirit sustains a relationship to the regenerate man that is radically different from the relationship which He sustains to the unregenerate man. The Holy Spirit is savingly related to the believer, but is not savingly related to the non-believer.

The Holy Spirit is present in both the believer and the unbeliever, but He does not indwell the unbeliever. (Some earlier writers in this area said that He is present everywhere, but He is resident only in the believer).

What, then, does indwelling mean?

The Holy Spirit is not welcome in the unbeliever's "house," but is an intruder and an undesirable alien. The Spirit is very welcome in the believer's "house," and is a beloved friend and honored guest.

The Holy Spirit is not "at home" in the unbeliever. He is "at home" in the believer.

The Holy Spirit is present in the unbeliever, but as a "squatter." He is present in the believer, and as a resident.

The Holy Spirit is present in the unbeliever, but does not indwell him. The Holy Spirit is present in the believer, and indwells him.

Whenever we think or speak of the Holy Spirit's ministry of indwelling, we ought to do so against the background of His omnipresence. And we should understand indwelling to mean that the Spirit of God who is present everywhere is present in the believer in the character and relationships of Helper, Friend, Master, Consecrator, Assurer, Comforter, Sanctifier, Energizer, and Sustainer of spiritual life.

Of course, it goes without saying that if indwelling involves the sustaining of spiritual life, then spiritual life must already be present in the person that is indwelt. And thus indwelling presupposes regeneration.

Indwelling is that relationship which the Holy Spirit sustains to the believer subsequent to regeneration, in which relationship He helps, rules, consecrates, assures, comforts, sanctifies, empowers, and sustains the life imparted in regeneration. Indwelling is the Holy Spirit's continuance of that new relationship and ministry begun in regeneration.

In view of the definitions of regeneration and indwelling proposed, it would appear that Old Testament believers were both regenerated and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Old Testament saints, before they became saints, were spiritually