

dead and morally depraved and needed the Spirit's impartation of spiritual life in order to become spiritually alive. And the new life that was created in them had to be sustained in them by the Holy Spirit (they could not keep themselves spiritually alive by their own power any more than they could keep themselves physically alive by their own power). Thus the Holy Spirit was related to the Old Testament saints in regard to the sustaining of regeneration.

**But this is nothing less than indwelling!**

Now there may have been differences in degree between Old and New Testament indwelling, and at least one difference in kind (the Spirit's ministry as Comforter and Helper to Christ's immediate disciples following His departure), but the basic concept of indwelling is present in both testaments.

As far as ministries of the Spirit are concerned, it is fascinating to note that Scripture has more to say about filling than about regeneration and indwelling. Yet here again, clear definitions are difficult to find.

At the outset, let us make an important distinction between filling and fullness. But before we establish the basis for this distinction, let us formulate a definition of filling.

**The Holy Spirit's ministry of filling refers to His temporary control or possession of the faculties and powers of a person's being, in order to enable that person to accomplish some specific task or service for God.**

(Under "faculties of a person's being" we would include the intellect, the emotions, the will, the conscience, and the senses. Under "powers of a person's being" we would include believing, thinking, reasoning, knowing, discriminating, feeling, desiring, purposing, deciding, evaluating, judging, and contacting and manipulating the physical world.)

Notice that this proposed definition says nothing about the spiritual condition of the person who is filled. It does not specify that the person must be regenerate, or indwelt by the Spirit, or advanced in his or her sanctification. Whether any of these qualifiers should be added to the definition is a matter to be decided on the basis of scriptural usage.

**The fullness of the Spirit refers to the indwelling Spirit's continuous control, in varying degrees and to varying extents, of the moral and spiritual development and mode of expression, internal and external, of a person's faculties and powers.**

Upon reflection, this definition is seen to have particular relevance for the scriptural teaching on progressive sanctification, in which regenerated human