

## 2. Indwelling

Before we proceed to the scriptures that speak of indwelling, we need a working definition. But before we can formulate such a definition, we must briefly review and then enlarge our understanding of the scriptural teaching concerning the omnipresence of the Holy Spirit.

We have discovered that the Spirit of God is an infinite Person who is immense, who fills all space and transcends it, and who is present everywhere at once. He is present in all His perfections in every location in the universe, and fills every bit of space!

Now if the Holy Spirit is present in every bit of space, and not absent from any location in space, then it follows that He occupies the same space that the matter and energy of the universe occupies. This means that He occupies the same space that is occupied by stars and planets and mountains and trees and clouds, and oceans and birds and fish and four-legged animals and buildings and pulpits and human beings and angels and demons. All of these things and beings occupy some space; and the Holy Spirit occupies the same space. He is not excluded from the space that a mountain or tree or pulpit or human being occupies; rather He fills all space. Thus He is present in this building at all times; He is present in the lectern from which I am teaching; He is present in every tree and flower and blade of grass on the grounds of this seminary; and He is present in the body of every human being.

How can the Spirit and a physical object occupy the same space at one time? And if we say they do, is this not to affirm Pantheism?

Let us attempt to get clear on this matter by distinguishing between Deism, Theism, and Pantheism. And let us distinguish between these three theistic views in terms of three components: location, essence, and identity.

In regard to the relationship of God to the universe, Deism holds that, with respect to location, God is absent from the universe. With respect to essence, God and the universe are made of different kinds of stuff. With respect to identity God is not the universe.

Theism holds that, with respect to location, God is present in the universe, but not confined to it. With respect to essence, God and the universe are made of different kinds of stuff. With respect to identity, God is not the universe.

Pantheism holds that, with respect to location, God is present in the universe, and confined to it. With respect to essence, God and the universe are made of the same kind of stuff. With respect to identity, God and the universe are one and the same. The universe is God, and God is the universe.

If we say "God is in this lectern," we have definitely ruled out Deism, but it is not yet clear whether we are espousing Theism or Pantheism, since both views hold that God is present in the universe. However, if we say, "God is this lectern," we are definitely espousing Pantheism. But if we say, "God is in this lectern, but He is not this lectern," then of the three views mentioned, we are definitely espousing Theism.