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.

Perhaps it would be helpful to draw a number of contrasts between the relationships the Spirit of God sustains to the unregenerate and those He sustains to the regenerate:

Relationships to the unregenerate	Relationships to the Regenerate
A Stranger	A Trusted Helper
An Enemy	A Friend
An undesirable intruder	A Welcome Guest, Master of the House
A Convincer of God's reality, creatorhood, right to claim worship	A Consecrator, who makes temples of human beings
A Convincer of sin and judgment	An Assurer of salvation
A Convincer of Christ's righteousness	A Comforter, to witness concerning Christ's reality and presence
A Restrainer, who holds back sin	A Sanctifier and Energizer, who cleanses and empowers for godly living
A Convincer of spiritual death	A Sustainer of spiritual life

From the abovementioned scriptures and considerations (especially concerning omnipresence), the following definition of indwelling would appear to be warranted:

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.

Now, however, there is a question which was at least suggested by the inclusion of some Old Testament references in the scriptural evidence for the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit. The question is this: Were Old Testament believers indwelt by the Holy Spirit?

Over the years this question has been raised many times. And many times it has been answered by contrasting the Spirit's ministry in the Old Testament period with His ministry at the present time. Two quotations may suffice to illustrate this emphasis on contrast: