

Quotation #1

"In an admirable work on the Spirit, the distinction between the former and the present relation of the Spirit is thus stated: 'In the old dispensation the Holy Spirit wrought upon believers, but did not in his person dwell in believers and abide permanently in them. He appeared unto men; he did not incarnate himself in man. His action was intermittent; he went and came like the dove which Noah sent forth from the ark, and which went to and fro, finding no rest; while in the new dispensation he dwells, he abides in the heart as the dove, his emblem!' "

-- A. J. Gordon, *The Ministry of the Spirit* (Philadelphia: The Judson Press, reprinted 1949), p. 25.

Notice in this quotation two emphases:

- (1) In the old dispensation the Spirit was upon believers; now He is in them.
- (2) In the old dispensation the Spirit came and went; now He abides.

Quotation #2

"The Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, is to abide with God's children for ever. This also is new. In the Old Testament the Spirit of God was with those who believed in the coming of the Messiah, who trusted the Lord. But He was not known as the abiding Spirit. There was no assurance given that He would remain. That is why David prayed in his penitential psalm, 'Take not thy Holy Spirit from me' (Psalm 51:11). No believer in the New Testament needs to pray this prayer."

-- Arno C. Gaebelin, *The Holy Spirit in the New Testament* (New York: "Our Hope" Publication Office, n.d.), p. 25.

Notice the two emphases in this second quotation:

- (1) In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit did not abide; there was no assurance that He would remain; now He abides for ever.
- (2) In the Old Testament David prayed that the Holy Spirit would not be taken from him; in the New Testament no believer need ever pray this prayer.

With regard to the emphases made in these two quotations, some observations would appear to be called for.

First, the distinction between the Holy Spirit being upon believers and being in believers, understood simply in the sense of absence from the space of the body of one and presence in the space of the body of the other, should be dropped and forever discarded! The Holy Spirit is omnipresent in space; in that sense He has always been "in" every human being!