

But almost immediately someone will point to John 14:16-17 and ask, "What about that?"

Let us give this passage two readings, using the same words, and changing only the emphasis:

One Reading of John 14:16-17

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth WITH you, and shall be IN you.

Another Reading of John 14:16-17

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he DWELLETH with you, and SHALL BE in you.

Notice: the wording is the same; only the emphasis is different. The first reading emphasizes a change of location from the outside of Christ's disciples to the inside of them; whereas the second reading emphasizes the assurance that the Holy Spirit who is already dwelling with Christ's disciples will continue to dwell with them even after Christ ascends to heaven.

But someone may ask: "But if Old Testament believers were indwelt by the Holy Spirit, doesn't this imply that they were previously regenerated? The answer is "Yes."

It is pleasant to be able to report that more and more evangelicals are returning to the view that C. I. Scofield expressed in his small work, *Plain Papers on the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit* (published in 1899), when he confidently asserted that Old Testament saints were regenerated by the Holy Spirit:

In the old Testament the Holy Spirit is revealed. . . as a divine Person. As such He is associated in the work of creation . . . strives with sinful man . . . enlightens the spirit of man . . . gives skill of hand . . . bestows physical strength . . . and qualifies the servants of God for a various ministry To this should be added that operation of the Spirit by which the men of faith in the Old Testament ages were regenerated. While this doctrine is not explicitly taught in the Old Testament (except prophetically), our Lord's words in John 3:5 and Luke 13:28, leave no doubt as to the fact itself. Since the new birth is essential to seeing and entering the kingdom of God, and since the Old Testament saints are in that kingdom, it follows necessarily that they were born of the Spirit.

If someone were to ask, "But isn't there some distinction between Old Testament indwelling and New Testament indwelling?" it should be pointed out that there may indeed be some distinctions of degree and perhaps one of kind.