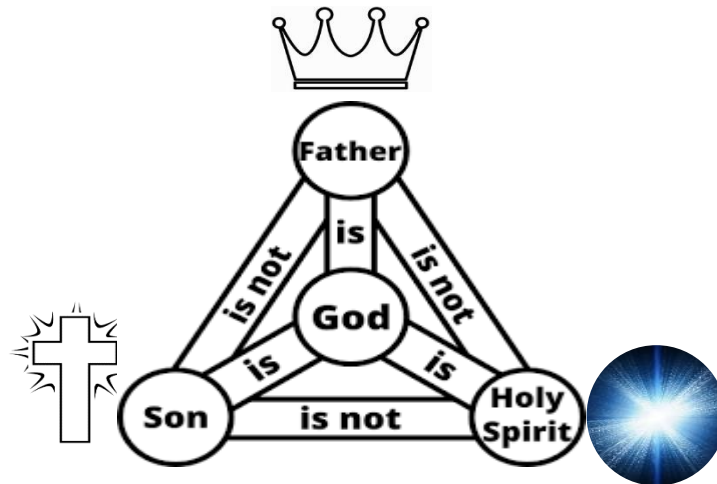


The Book of Ephesians
Ephesians 2:1-2
Session Sixteen: Quickened



This is how we all come into the world, and basically, it is how we grow up in this world.



This man:

- does not have the Spirit of God in him
- is spiritually dead in trespasses & sins

The “junk” you see in him are all of the wrong beliefs, thoughts and behaviors, that the world, flesh and the devil have built into him, along with the mental and physical effects that come from those.

- His status is condemnation

We have been talking about the word “dwell.” The word dwell actually has 9 definitions.

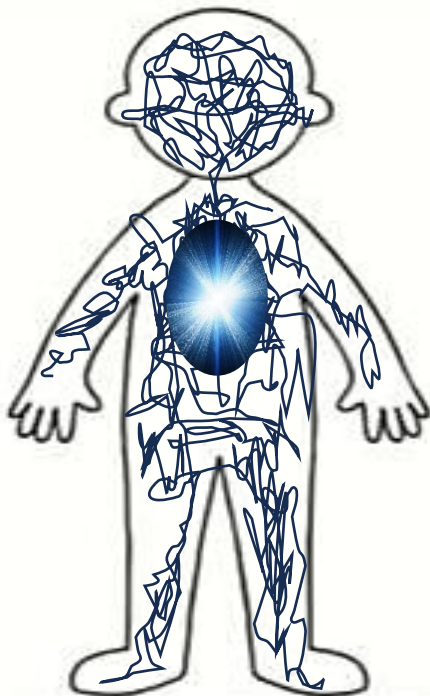
When it comes to the Spirit of God dwelling in us, there are two definitions that we are concerned with:

- 1) The Spirit dwells in every believer in the sense that they have Him permanently residing in their human spirit.

When we trusted Jesus as Savior, the Spirit of God, in the person of the Holy Ghost, was given to us. When we trusted Christ as our Savior, one of the things which took place is that we were quickened; we were made spiritually alive.

Ephesians 2:1 And you ***hath he quickened***, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

And if you recall what “spiritual death” is (separation from God), then you can see that by God sending His Spirit to live in our human spirit, that connection with God was established and we are made spiritually alive.



This man:

- He has the Spirit of God in him
- He is a new creature in Christ
- He is quickened – made spiritually alive
- His status is Justification (Righteous)

But, all the “junk” in him from his past is still there. He is still contending with the same flesh patterns as before he was saved, and this will hinder his edification.

I want to talk about that last thing mentioned in connection with the guy who is saved; things which may seem confusing.

Firstly, he is a new creature in Christ, no doubt. But what does that mean? It means:

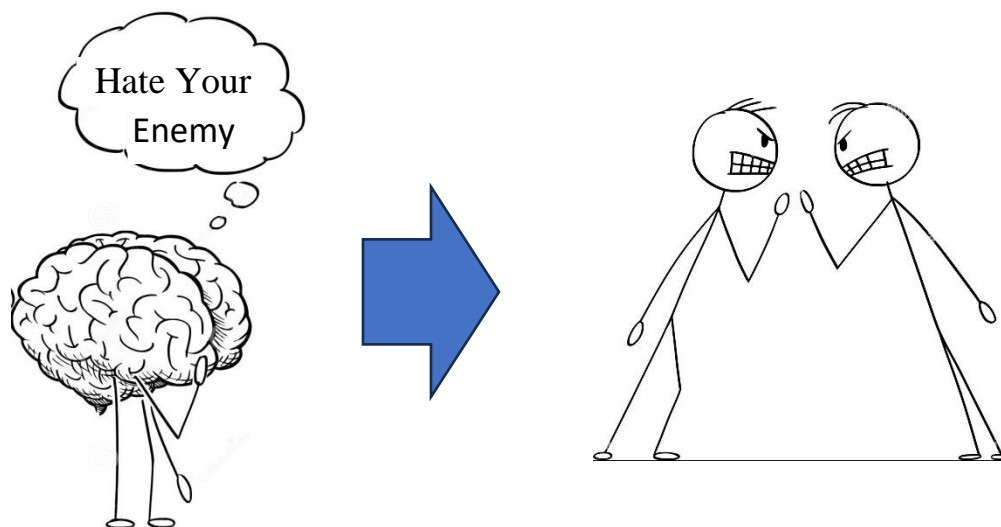
- He has a totally new identity in Christ, all the components of his old identity have been done away with (he has died to his old identity)
- He now has the capacity to live unto God, something He could not previously do, not because of what he did, but because of who he was (in Adam)

It does not mean that his old sin habits or flesh patterns, his old way of thinking, his old likes and dislikes have automatically gone away.

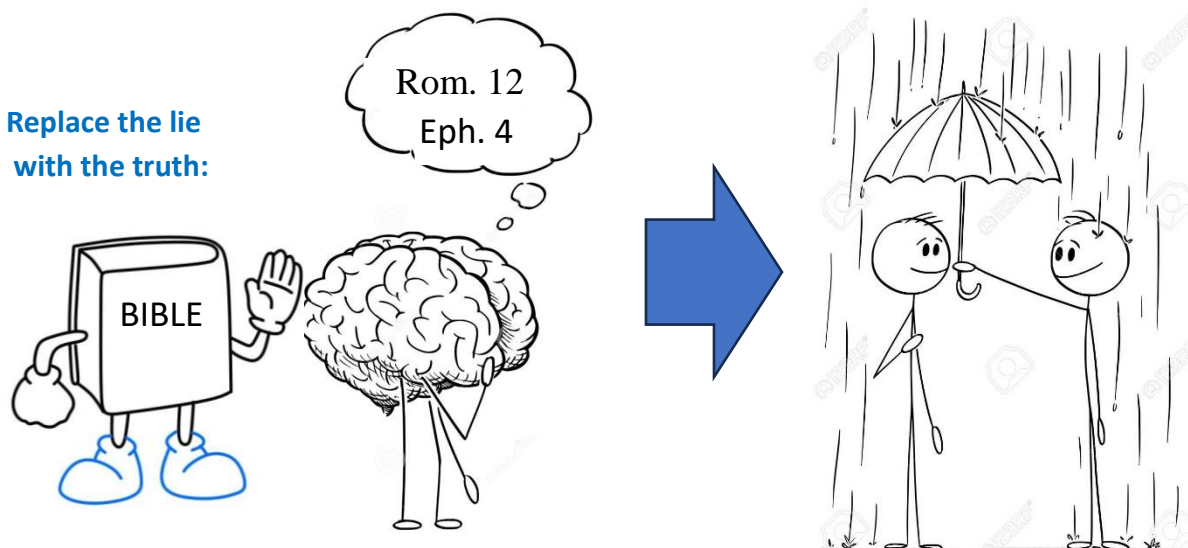
I have heard stories of people who, upon trusting Christ as Savior, immediately gave up some behavior. There are a couple of things about this I am uncomfortable with, but I am only going to talk about one of them today.

This was likely done in the energy of their flesh, and not by the effectual working of God's word, and that's a problem (if you are talking about the power of God doing the work.) Behavioral changes, when done properly, are a result of some truth from God's word which is working in our inner man. Then our behavior begins to line up with our new way of thinking.

Identify the lie:



Replace the lie with the truth:



Romans 12:17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. ²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Ephesians 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: ²⁷ Neither give place to the devil.

We try to modify our behavior without changing the thoughts that are driving that behavior. That is an effort of the flesh, and results in the “wretched-man” syndrome that Paul wrote about in Romans 7. Instead of focusing on the behavior, focus on the erroneous thinking that is driving that behavior. Repent, (change your mind) and believe God’s truth instead.

(There is actually a middle step, which we will cover in our Sonship Transformation study.)

As God’s truth effectually works in you (the renewing of your mind) it transforms you on the inside, producing the character of God’s Son in you, and thusly changing your behavior.

This is why so many people fail to overcome sin, or fail to do what they know they ought to do.

In case you haven’t caught on, I am prepping you for what is coming up in October.

Someone may be listening to this and thinking, what’s the problem? Aren’t you glad that they stopped some kind of bad behavior, even if they did it in the flesh? Short answer: no.

Suppose your family was broke and the house payment is due and you are out of groceries. Things are looking pretty bleak. Then, your teenage son comes in with enough cash to catch the house payment up and buy groceries too! What would you say to him? Where did you get the money? And what if he said, it doesn’t matter, can’t you just be glad I got it?

Just like it matters how he got the money, it matters how we overcome sin or stop bad behavior. We can figure it out now or at the JSOC.

Which is why when we go through the Sonship Transformation, we are going to make sure that the whole process is governed by the Spirit and not our flesh.

Okay, back to our men on the board.

The Spirit of God is in every member of the body of Christ. In that sense, He “dwells” in them.

Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by **the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.**



This man has gone through *The Steps to Transformation*.

He has replaced Satan's strongholds with the truth from God's word.

As a result, He is no longer in bondage to the mental and physical effects which were a result of those strongholds.

He is now ready to start the next phase of his sonship life.

That brings us to the next meaning of "dwell." There is another sense in which the Spirit "dwells" in believers.

- 2) The Spirit dwells in spiritual believers in the sense that He produces something in their unredeemed body whereby it produces fulness of function

What is this fulness of function? Our body has fulness of function when the life of God's Son is being lived through it.

And that leads us to the fourth step in our progression:



As he goes through the forms of doctrine, he is being edified unto godliness.

He is being conformed to the image of God's Son.

Christ is being "formed in him."

The life of Jesus is being made manifest in his mortal flesh; hence, fulness of function.

Which believers have the Spirit dwelling in them like this? Those who submit to the leadership of the Spirit, who walk after the Spirit, who obey the doctrine they know, who are spiritually minded.

Not every person who has the Spirit is being "led by the Spirit". Some believers are not spiritual, they are carnal.

But for those who are walking after the Spirit, the Spirit of God "dwells" in them in the sense that their mortal body is a vehicle for the life of Christ to be lived in them. This is the ultimate goal of our sonship life! The members of their body are being yielded as "instruments of righteousness unto God" (Romans 6:13).

If those who possess the Spirit of God are walking after the Spirit, then the Spirit "dwells" in us to "quicken our mortal bodies" in the sense of rousing them to fullness of function (which is to produce the life of God's Son in us) which is in connection with our functional sanctification.

Romans 8:11 But **if the Spirit** of him that raised up Jesus from the dead **dwell in you**, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also **quicken your mortal bodies** by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, **if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you**. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

The idea here is that the Spirit of God can produce the fruits of the life of Christ in our inner man, in our unredeemed bodies! Let me show you a verse about this.

2 Corinthians 4:10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, **that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.**

Our mortal (which means “subject to death”) bodies have, through the dwelling of the Spirit of God, the ability to produce a perfect righteousness, the righteousness of God Himself. And when they do, that is what it means to be “quickened” in the sense of being “roused to fulness of function.”

This is *quicken* being used in connection with our sanctification. In what way are we being quickened? In our mortal bodies. But, aren’t our bodies already physically alive? Yes. But our mortal bodies are dead to produce righteousness. However, those same bodies are being made to produce righteousness (fully function) by the life of Christ being lived in us.

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, **if so be** that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

There is that conditional “if so be” in vs. 9. Just to remind you, while the word “if” can imply something conditional or not, the particular phrase “if so be” is always conditional, which is why the OED defines that phrase as only conditional in its meaning. (That sheds light on Romans 8:17, doesn’t it?)

That means that the Spirit bringing us to fulness of function in us is not automatic. Although the Spirit is in every believer, that does not mean He is dwelling (2nd definition) in every believer, in the sense that they are walking after Him. And just to drive that point home, look at the last phrase in the verse.

Romans 8:9 But **ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.** Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

So, what is a short definition of what it means for the Spirit of God to dwell in us? It means that we are walking after the Spirit so that the life of Christ is being produced in us. How does that happen? How, specifically, do we walk after the Spirit to have the life of Christ manifest in our mortal flesh? It happens as we do two things: 1) as we fulfill what God is seeking to accomplish by the mystery, and 2) as we faithfully live out Paul’s doctrines in our everyday lives.

This is why the individual forms of doctrine are important, for they are the means by which we are edified and conformed to the image of God’s Son.

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. **Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

There is a difference between “having” the Spirit and the Spirit “dwelling” in us.

For example, take a look at 2 Timothy 2.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. ¹⁶ But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. ¹⁷ And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; ¹⁸ Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some. ¹⁹ Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, **The Lord knoweth them that are his.** And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Who were Hymenaeus and Philetus? They were saved ministers who believed the gospel of grace, but they rejected Paul’s eschatological doctrine concerning the resurrection of the dead. When will we be resurrected? When will those who are members of the body of Christ be raised? At the Blessed Hope. These two guys were teaching that the BH had already taken place. They opposed Paul’s teaching, and by so doing, at the JSoC they will suffer loss.

We will look at this in more detail when we get over to 2 Timothy, but for now, I am showing you that when Paul says about them that “the Lord knoweth them that are his” he is not saying that these two men are not saved, but they “are not his” in the sense of being faithful to Paul’s doctrine. Which is why the following verses in 2 Timothy 2 talk about “vessels of dishonor” and not being “meet for the master’s use.” That is not terminology for people who do not know the Lord, but for those who are not faithful to the mystery and Paul’s doctrine for godliness.

When Paul says “the Lord knoweth them that are His,” he is not talking about a “justification-His” but a functional “sanctification-His.” They are members of His body, who are not “faithful” to Him and who will not reign with Him. In other words, they are not being led by the Spirit.