

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS
LESSON 8



A SUPERNATURAL INDWELLING

Scripture Text: John 14:16-27

Not only does God do a work in the heart, making it alive and holy and taking one into the church, but He also comes into the person to live and work. When He comes in, He bears witness, letting the person know he is a child of God (**Romans 8:16**). There is fellowship with God as well as with His saints. There is an interflow of communion and prayer. There is a power over sin and power in witnessing of Christ. There is love, the love of God shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Ghost.

In five chapters of John are recorded the most intimate conversation and communion of Christ with His twelve disciples. Our lesson is part of that sacred talk.

MEMORY VERSE: *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*

—1 John 4:4

DAILY READINGS:

Mon.—**Ephesians 1:3-19** Wisdom and knowledge of Spirit.

Tue.—**John 16:1-15** The coming of the Spirit.

Wed.—**Acts 4:1-33** The Spirit working.

Thu.—**1 John 4:1-11** True or false spirits.

Fri.—**1 Corinthians 2** True wisdom is the gift of God.

Devotional Reading: John 17:6-26 Church one with Father, Son.

The Comforter in Us

John 14:16-17 When Jesus was about to die, He gathered His twelve disciples in an upper room to strengthen them for the experiences that would try their faith in coming days. He gave a most precious promise. **I will pray the Father**—Jesus never worked independently. The Father would send **another Comforter**, the **Spirit of truth**. His coming was not to be temporary but to **abide with you forever**. Some cannot receive Him. **The world** cannot because they are separated from Him by their sin. Yet He is promised to every person who meets the conditions for receiving Him (**Acts 2:38-39**). The Holy Spirit cannot come into sinful hearts. First, we must be cleansed by faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ as the atonement for sin. The disciples had done this. They knew the Spirit—**he dwelleth with you**. But a greater blessing was to come. He **shall be in you**. First, *with*, then, *in*. On the Day of Pentecost, He came in (**Acts 2**).

Christ in Us

John 14:18-21 Jesus was to leave the earth, but would still be in contact with His people. He would come to them, they would see Him, His life would be theirs, they would be in Him and He in them, He would love them and they, Him, and He would make Himself known to them. **Because I live**—He spoke of a supernatural resurrection and life forevermore. **Ye shall live also**. His eternal life He gives to His people.

To whom does God give eternal life? To those who keep His commandments. Not just the Ten Commandments. Love is shown by obedience to every Word of God (**Luke 4:4**). The disobedient do not love Him. The teaching that one can sin and remain a child of God is false.

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How does one know Jesus is in him and in the Father? How does he know the Bible is true? That Jesus lives and saves sinners? Not only because he reads it in the Bible, but he feels and experiences these. His presence in him gives him proof that is greater than any head belief. It is supernatural knowledge. He feels the supernatural life within him.

The Father in Us

John 14:22-24 The disciples did not understand. If Jesus came physically, would He not be visible to all? **Jesus answered . . . If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will . . . make our abode with him.** Jesus explained that by love and obedience, both He and the Father are brought to abide spiritually in one's heart. They come in the person of the Holy Spirit. Obedient ones see and hear and know God spiritually. Love flows between them. Spiritual things are closed to those who do not love and obey God's Word. They are blind to things of God. They do not know Him. He is not in them.

We must be indwelt to live a full Christian life. For instance, we can expect a cow to fly as much as we can expect an unsaved one to love his enemies. He must first be indwelt by God Who is love. Do not ask, "Is my work great, influential, known, and honored?" But, "Is God in it?" A saved man is a changed man. **All things are become new (2 Corinthians 5:17)**. A saved man is one with supernatural life—eternal life—and power because he is possessed by a supernatural Person. Living water must first flow in before it can flow out. The Spirit of God is that living water (**John 7:38; John 4:14**).

How to Be Indwelt

Jesus said, **If a man love me, he will keep my words: and . . . we will make our abode with him . . . The Father . . . shall give you another Comforter.** The disciples had to wait several days for this Comforter. We do not need to wait, He is here with us now. **Romans 5:1-2** says, we are **justified by faith, and also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand.** First, we must be saved from sin; then, the Spirit of God comes in and gives us the power to stay saved. His indwelling gives one power to keep from committing sin every day (**Titus 2:11-12**). From these and other Scriptures, we conclude that one is filled with the Holy Spirit by first being justified or saved from sin, then by faith opening the heart to receive Him. It cannot be a halfhearted invitation, but a full and complete consecration of all one is and has to His control. It is death to self, crucifying the old man of the flesh (**Romans 6:1-6**). Surrender unconditionally and completely to God to do His will in your life.

Holy Spirit Teaches Spiritual Things

John 14:25-27 Jesus was then present physically, in body. They saw Him with their physical eyes. After His departure, the Holy Spirit would come not as a body but as a Spirit. He would live in their bodies. **He shall teach you . . . bring all things to your remembrance**—give you understanding of spiritual things. Then these strange sayings of Christ would be clear to them. (See **1 Corinthians 2:11-14**.) Spiritual things cannot be understood except by the Spirit of God. **My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth . . .** The world can give material, perishable, outward things. Only God can give eternal things, spiritual things, inward things, which bring peace to the soul. He gives us Himself and with Him comes all that He has (**Romans 8:32**).

JUST A THOUGHT

**It is a bit difficult to sell anyone a product
you have never used or a religion you have never lived.**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.

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