

THE INDWELLING SPIRIT

For years, brethren have been caught up in two (2) “opinions” as to **how** the Holy Spirit dwells in a Christian: (1) **Literal**, and (2) **Representative**. The first means that the Spirit actually, or literally, or personally indwells each true believer, while the second view is that by receiving the word of the Spirit, the word “represents” the Holy Spirit. This writing is not intended to take issue with either of the two opinions, nor to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of either or both of them, but to present a third view, that the expression “indwelling of the Holy Spirit” is simply a **figurative expression**, describing the **“fellowship of the Spirit”** (Phil. 2:1; 2 Cor. 13:14).

Note the following language of scripture, and determine if any are “literal” OR “representative” in nature, **or** is the language “figurative” and the term “figurative language.”

Col. 1:27 “Christ in you.”

Jn. 14:20 “I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.”

1 Jn. 3:24 “he...dwelleth in him and he in him.”

1 Jn. 4:12 “God dwelleth in us.”

1 Jn. 4:13 “we dwell in him and he in us.”

1 Jn. 4:15 “God dwelleth in him and he in God.”

1 Jn. 4:16 “he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him.”

Most everything we do from the time of conversion involves “figurative” results, as shown below.

IN CONVERSION

Baptized into Christ (fig)

Baptized into death of Christ (fig)

Contact the saving blood (fig)

Sins washed away (fig)

IN CHRISTIAN LIVING

Dwelling in God (fig)

Dwelling in Christ (fig)

Christ dwelling in us (fig)

God dwelling in us (fig)

We absolutely **know** that we don't **literally** enter into the above relationships, so the only alternative is a **figurative** action—not “representatively”, but figuratively, in opposition TO the “literal”. Try substituting (lit) or (rep) in **any** of the above points, and see how out of place it is, with all the rest being symbolic.

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