

In the following verses, what does the word of God - which was divinely and directly dictated by the Holy Spirit Himself (II Tim. 3:16-17; I Ptr. 1:20-21) – say about Jesus in spiritual form dwelling in God’s children in some fashion?

1. *He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified (John 7:38-39):*

--Those believing in Him, after His ascension would receive what, and receive it to where? _____

2. *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:16-17):*

--Where does Jesus, who was living with them then, indicate His Spirit would later dwell? _____

3. *At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you (John 14:20):*

--Where does Jesus say He would be? _____

4. *Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him (John 14:23):*

--Where would God and Jesus make their home? _____

5. *Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing (John 15:4-5):*

--Where does Jesus say He must dwell if the fruit (of the Spirit – Gal. 5:22-25) is to be forthcoming? _____

6. *I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me (John 17:23):*

--This verse says God was in Christ; is that true (2 Cor. 5:19; Col. 1:19)? _____

--Isn't it also true that this verse specifically says that Jesus would likewise live in His disciples? _____

7. *And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them” (John 17:26):*

--Where does Jesus in this verse say He would be? _____

8. *Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." Then those who gladly received his word were baptized (Acts 2:37-41):*

--After having already received the word (vss. 37 & 41), what were these people told they would receive upon their repentance and baptism for the forgiveness of their sins? _____.

Would that Spirit live outside them, or inside them? _____.

9. *And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him” (Acts 5:32):*

--Whom (NOTE: not “what” – such as ‘the word,’ but “Whom” such as a Being) do the apostles say God has given to those who obey Him? _____.

10. *Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them (Acts 6:3-6):*

--Before these men had the apostles’ hands laid on them to pass along the miraculous gift abilities of the Holy Spirit (See Acts 8:18) what does the Bible say these men were already full of (or had dwelling within them)? _____

11. *And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:52):*

--Did the Holy Spirit literally live within them according to this verse? _____.

12. *Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us (Romans 5:5):*

--Was the Holy Spirit given to individuals to live and pour out the love of God in their hearts or not? _____.

13. *But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His (Romans 8:9):*

--One is considered by God to be "in the Spirit, if indeed the _____
_____ _____ them."

--If, as some may have been taught, the Spirit of God/Spirit of Christ DOES NOT indwell them, then what does THIS verse say, about THAT person? _____
_____.

14. *And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness (Romans 8:10):*

--Please note: The "Spirit of God" and the "Spirit of Christ" from verse 9, are referred to as Whom here in Verse 10? _____ Himself.

--Do the first six words of this verse indicate that Christ Himself truly lives in the hearts of His people or not? _____.

15. *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you (Romans 8:11):*

--Can this verse mean anything other than that the Spirit of God **must** dwell in those who are His? _____.

If so, then how so, without violating the words of this verse? _____
_____.

16. *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors--not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God... (Romans 8:12-16):*

--Is the Holy Spirit Himself, the Spirit of God or Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9), Christ Himself (Romans 8:10) – or however you wish to refer to Them – received to live within the Christian in spiritual form alongside and with their spirit, according to the very words of this passage, or not? _____.

17. ***Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you (1 Corinthians 3:16)?***

--Well, I would merely ask the same question... Do you or not? _____.

18. ***Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's (1 Corinthians 6:16-20).***

--Please finish this sentence by filling in the blanks properly from the above verse: ***Or do you not know that your body is the _____ of the Holy Spirit _____ is _____ you...?***

--Again I would merely ask the same Scriptural question: Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you? _____.

19. ***There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all... (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).***

--According to this verse, does God work from *within* the Christian through His Spirit that was given to each one and now dwells there (Compare John 14:16-23 and Ephesians 3:16-21)? _____.

20. *Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee (2 Corinthians 5:5).*

--God has given us what? _____.

--And just exactly where did He place this gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38) of Christ (Romans 8:9-10) which He has given to obedient Christians as a guarantee, according to II Corinthians 1:22 which says, *Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee?* _____.

21. *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me (Galatians 2:20).*

--Where exactly does this favorite oft-sung and oft-quoted verse say that Christ lives? _____.

22. *And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out "Abba, Father" (Galatians 4:6)!*

--Where does this verse very clearly and concisely say that "God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son?" _____.

--Therefore, where does the Son's Spirit specifically live? _____.

23. *For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height -- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be*

*filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to **the power that works in us**, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen (Eph 3:14-21).*

--According to verse 16, we are to be *strengthened with might through His Spirit* which dwells where? _____.

--According to verse 17, where does Paul wish Christ to dwell? _____.

--According to verse 20, where is one place that God's power works from? _____.

24. Where do the following five verses very clearly and specifically claim that Christ, in the form of the Holy Spirit, literally lives?

Colossians 3:11: ...where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and **in** all.

II Timothy 1:14: That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells **in** us. _____.

I John 3:24: Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He **in** him. And by this we **know that He abides in us**, by the Spirit whom He has given us. _____.

I John 4:4: You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is **in you** is greater than he who is in the world. _____.

I John 4:13: By this we know that we abide in Him, and **He in us**, because He has given us of His Spirit. _____.

25. *These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit (Jude 1:19).*

--For those who claim the Spirit does not dwell within those who have been washed of their sins so He can live within them, this verse explains – similarly to Romans 8:9 - that if one does NOT have the Spirit, they are sensual and therefore do not belong to Christ, doesn't it? _____.

IN CONCLUSION:

One reason I've heard from opponents of what these verses say as they seek to defend and justify their conclusion that Jesus' Holy Spirit still could not actually live within us, is that if He did, then they could not possibly sin. But consider:

According to divine writ, both the Old Testament prophets as well as the New Testament apostles had the Holy Spirit within them, did they not? (See 1 Ptr 1:10-12 & 2 Ptr 1:20-21.) Yes. Could/did they still sin? YES! For example, Numbers 11:24-30 as well as Isaiah 63:8-12 tell us that the great man of God Moses had the Spirit of God upon/within Him, as did many of the other leaders of the people of God in Moses' day. Could/did Moses still sin? YES! Remember his 'striking' instead of 'speaking' to the rock as God commanded; the sin that caused him not to enter the Promised Land (Numbers 20:7-12)?

And what about David? 1 Samuel 16:13, 2 Samuel 23:1-2, Mark 12:36, Acts 1:16 and other passages all confirm that David had the Holy Spirit of God within Him. Could/did David still sin? YES! Do the names 'Bathsheba' or 'Uriah' ring a bell (2 Samuel 11 & 12)?

Did the Apostle Paul have the Holy Spirit? YES! (See Romans 8:9 & 1 Cor. 7:40!) He had both the miraculous as well as the non-miraculous gift or manifestation of the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:4-12, 20:7-12, 22:16; Romans 1:11; 1 Corinthians 14:18; 2 Corinthians 12:11-13; and etc.)! And yet, even he still struggled with sin. Read Romans 7!

And what about the Apostle Peter? He certainly had the Holy Spirit within Him (John 20:19-23; Acts 2:1-4). Yet he still sinned (See Galatians 2:11-13).

And so, the only conclusion I can possibly come to based on all of the above, is that yes, those who believed, repented, and were baptized for the forgiveness of

their sins on the Day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2, as well as all of those who have followed that same divine pattern and promise right up to the present moment, received the non-miraculous gift or manifestation of the Holy Spirit. And although they CAN still sin, the whole point is that Jesus' Spirit within those who have repented, confessed Him, obeyed Him, and been cleansed of their sins and received Him, CAN help them to then sin LESS, and therefore avoid letting sin "reign over them" as they strive to "walk in newness of life" (See Romans 6) - if they will allow Him to. This is what Galatians 5:16-25, Ephesians 4:17-5:21 and other such passages are addressing: Blood-bought and washed children of God, choosing to allow His Holy Spirit within them to dominate and overrule their fleshly spirit that constantly wants to sin and win instead.

BUT – AND THIS IS CRITICAL TO UNDERSTAND: The Holy Spirit, within the blood washed and forgiven Christian, NEVER, EVER, EVER, IN ANY WAY, SHAPE, OR FORM, works independently of, differently than, or contrary to, what that same exact Holy Spirit perfectly and completely laid down in the Holy Scriptures – EVER (2 Timothy 3:16-4:2; 2 Peter 1:16-21)!!!

As we study and grow in God's Holy Spirit-declared word, His Spirit within us is there to help us (Romans 8:1-17, 26-27) – but only as much as we allow Him to – to carry out what He said in His word and thereby produce Christ-like fruit in our lives. Just as any electric appliance is inwardly wired to perform certain tasks but cannot do so until properly plugged in to the correct power source, so too, are we as Christians. When we repent and are baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, or 'inward empowerment,' to better perform certain good and Christ-like tasks, and to therefore produce good and Christ-like fruit (Galatians 5:22-25) if we will - and that's all. That's how I currently understand it based on the above.

In closing, after having honestly, sincerely, and objectively studied these passages from the very word of God Himself, how is it possible to say that God/Christ in Spiritual form does NOT live in the heart of a cleansed and faithful child of God? I certainly can't. Other helpful verses for study include: Lk. 11:13; Jn. 1:1-14, 3:3-6; Ro. 8:26-27; II Cor. 3:17-18; Gal. 3:2; Eph. 4:30, & etc.