

**The Spirit of Truth – Part 1
God’s Presence Finds Rest**

2 Cor. 6:16: *“And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”*

■ *Under the Old Covenant, God’s presence was experienced in the two tabernacles and the Temple.*

■ *The Temple ultimately became the central focus of Israel’s existence as a people and the people of God.*

It was because of the presence of the One Who inhabited the Temple and not the Temple that distinguished them as God’s people.

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We see in **1 Samuel 4** and **Ezekiel 10** that idolatry, rebellion, and unrepentant deception caused God’s presence to leave and never return!

■ *His presence never returned until Jesus birth.*

■ *The prophets prophesied about the return of God’s presence in Messiah.*

But even in Jesus’ day, they equated the building with God’s presence...they had a building, but no presence.

We can have His presence and no building!

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Holy Spirit – God’s Restored Presence:

■ The outpouring of the Holy Spirit fulfills three prophetic expectations from Old Testament scripture and prophecy:

■ *The coming of the Holy Spirit is directly related to the New Covenant.*

■ *The promises of God not only to be “with” us but to dwell “in” us are fulfilled in the Holy Spirit’s coming.*

■ *The association of the coming of the Holy Spirit and the church as God’s “Temple” fulfill God’s promises of restoration.*

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Holy Spirit – God’s Restored Presence:

- *The Holy Spirit’s presence is now God’s way of being present on the earth.*
 - *The temple was always understood as the place of God’s dwelling and the place of His glory.*
 - *In Paul’s writings, the presence of the Holy Spirit in the church is now God’s fulfillment of dwelling in His holy temple.*
 - *This “dwelling” takes place both individually in the believer and also more manifestly in the gathered community.*

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The Holy Spirit is the New Covenant realization.

- *God promised to give His people a “new heart” (Jer. 31:31-33) and a “new spirit” (Ezek. 36:26) is now fulfilled in the Spirit’s presence.*
 - **2 Cor. 3:3,6:** *“clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart...who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit....”*

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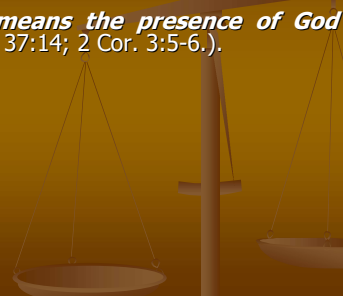
The Holy Spirit is the New Covenant realization.

- *This “new spirit” is none other than God’s Spirit, who enables us to follow His decrees and obey Him (Ezek. 36:27).*
 - **Deut. 30:6:** *“And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.”* **Romans 2:28-29:** *“For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter....”*

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The Holy Spirit is the New Covenant realization.

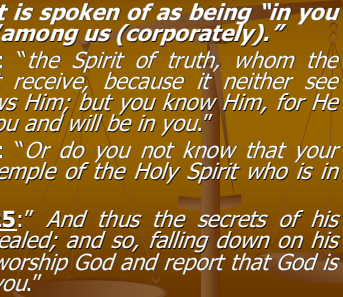
- **God's Spirit means the presence of God Himself** (Ezek. 37:14; 2 Cor. 3:5-6.).



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The Indwelling Spirit:

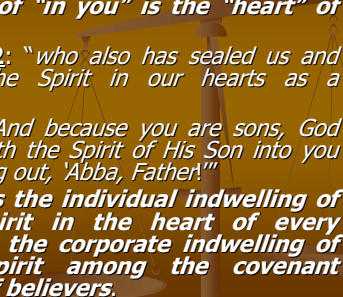
- **The Holy Spirit is spoken of as being "in you (individually)/among us (corporately)."**
 - **John 14:17:** "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither see Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."
 - **1 Cor. 6:19:** "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you...?"
 - **1 Cor. 14:25:** "And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you."



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The Indwelling Spirit:

- **The location of "in you" is the "heart" of the believer.**
 - **2 Cor. 1:22:** "who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee."
 - **Gal. 4:6:** "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into you hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'"
- **Thus, there is the individual indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the heart of every believer, and the corporate indwelling of the Holy Spirit among the covenant community of believers.**



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The Individual as the Temple of God:

- **1 Cor. 6:19-20:** *"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."*
- **The goal of the indwelling, filling, and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, individually, is not to be a beautiful self-absorbed trophy, but it is to manifest the character and nature of Christ in our lives, and reproduce it in others.**

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God's Corporate Dwelling Place:

- **1 Cor. 3:16:** *"Do you (corporately) not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"* (Paraphrasing, this might say, "Do you not know what kind of building you are? 'God's temple at Corinth!'")
 - *As God's gathered community of believers, they are the one true temple of God's presence, as the distinct alternative to the countless pagan temples found throughout the Roman empire.*
 - *They are to now come out of the world's idolatry and purify themselves from every defilement BECAUSE THEY ARE GOD'S TEMPLE, not because they can become God's temple (2 Cor. 6:16-7:1).*

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The "promised Holy Spirit," is the fulfillment of all the hopes and desires associated with the New Covenant and a relationship with the living God.

- **The lost Ark, His manifest presence, has now been restored with the outpouring of the God's Spirit.**
