



WOW: Word Of the Week

DWELL

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"In addition, you should accept and use both the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God." (Eph. 6:17).

Familiar Scripture must be restudied, rethought, evaluated, heard. We know this verse so well that we miss it—misunderstood, misapplied.

Think with me.

What does the Holy Spirit do? What does the Holy Spirit do in the New Testament? These biblical texts are not exhaustive—only beginning points. I have written a series of blogs that you may find helpful: <http://www.bobyongresources.com/blog/?cat=46>. The Spirit ministers (John 16:5-15); the Spirit speaks with God's authority, often to confirm (1 Cor. 2; 2 Tim. 3:16-17); the Spirit renews (John 3:1-8; Tit. 3); the Spirit liberates (2 Cor. 3:16-18); the Spirit transforms (Gal. 5:13-26; 2 Cor. 3); the Spirit empowers (Acts 6:1-15); the Spirit equips (1 Cor. 12); the Spirit guides (Acts 16:1-15); the Spirit influences and leads (Eph. 5:15ff); the Spirit unites (Eph. 4:1-3).

How does the Holy Spirit do these things? Many seek some mysterious method. The Spirit is not the Word, but the reading clearly says that the Word is used by the Spirit in his work.

Next steps.

If the Holy Spirit uses the Word of God in his work, what is my role? Do I further the work of the Spirit in my own life if I "dwell" in the Word, or if the "word of Christ dwells abundantly in me"? (Col. 3:16). Do I grieve the Spirit (Eph. 4:30), hinder the Spirit, quench the Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19) by my failure to take up the Word of God?

How will I be able to test the spirits, whether they are from God, if I do not know God's Word? (1 John 4:1) Will the Holy Spirit somehow protect me miraculously? How will I be able to discern when the "angel of light" is really Satan in disguise? (2 Cor. 11:14)

I am constantly amazed by Christians who have high expectations concerning the work of the Holy Spirit in their own lives, but somehow expect the Spirit to minister, comfort, exhort, speak, confirm, renew, transform, guide, influence, and lead totally separate from the Word of God! I grant that the Holy Spirit may at times act apart from the Word (Rom. 8:26-27), but I must not deny that the Holy Spirit also acts by using the Word of God.

Brothers and sisters, friends, listen! Dwell in the Word. Let the Word dwell in you. Store up the word in your heart (Ps. 119:11). Or as Paul writes it—take up, receive, accept, apply the Word of God, because it is the sword used by the Holy Spirit in accomplishing his work and fulfilling God's purpose.

Forty years ago, when some were seeking Christ without the church, it was necessary to establish the clear connection between Christ and the church which is the body of Christ. Christ and the church are not the same, but they are closely connected. Today, when some seek the Holy Spirit without the Word, it is necessary to establish the clear connection between the Spirit and the Word which is the Spirit's sword. The Spirit and the Word are not the same, but they are closely connected.

If you genuinely wish to open wide the door for the Spirit in your life, dwell in the Word, let the Word dwell in you!