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He Walks With Us

By Patrick Swayne, continued from January 22 –Last Installment

DEITY WALKS INSIDE OF THE FAITHFUL

Though the picture of God leading man, walking towards man, walking behind man, and walking intimately beside the faithful is beautiful, it is not complete. There is a picture that is hidden from our view. However, if we could look within the hearts of the faithful we would find that **Deity walks so intimately with the faithful that He walks inside of them.**

Often in the religious world, the Holy Spirit is isolated as being the One member of Deity that dwells within man. The debates rage as to how much He is in there – bodily or figuratively – and as to what He is doing – working miraculously, working non-miraculously apart from the word, or working through the word.

I have no intention in this article to discuss this debate, but if I could give my “two cents” on the issue, it would be that no amount of arguing can change whatever the Spirit is or is not doing. Further, those who focus on these issues seem to forget three things. One, the age of miraculous gifts is over (1 Corinthians 13). Two, the Bible does not say that only the Spirit dwells within the faithful – Christ dwells within them (Colossians 1:27; Ephesians 3:17) and God the Father dwells within them (1 John 4:15). Three, the Bible equally says that faithful man dwells in the Spirit (Galatians 5:25), in Christ (Galatians 3:27), and in God the Father (1 John 2:24; 4:15).

Could it be that the debaters are missing something? Maybe the point of the Bible saying that Deity dwells in us and us in Him is not to indicate some miraculous (or non-miraculous) action but instead to indicate an intimate union. Put yourself into the shoes of an Old Testament Jew or Patriarch. How do you conceive of God? For either the Jew or the Patriarch, God was conceived of as being elsewhere even though they knew He was everywhere. The Patriarchs offered their sacrifices to God from altars at various points throughout the Bible lands. The Jews travelled to the tabernacle and later the temple to contact God. Neither group conceived of themselves as being the altar or the temple.

Now, consider the New Testament picture of a Christian. “And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people” (2 Corinthians 6:16). Whereas before God was elsewhere, now God is so intimately accessible that He is inside of the Christian! What before was not possible because of sin is now possible through the blood of Christ – the intimate union of God and man; total fellowship through the blood of Christ (1 John 1:7). God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit dwell inside the Christian, and the

Christian inside Deity!

HOW CAN I HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

God desires for you to be His friend and for you to walk with Him. He has gone ahead of you not just to prepare a place (John 14:1-3) but to prepare a way, and that way is Jesus Christ (John 14:6). If you will come to Christ through faithful obedience to His commands, He will be your friend and you will be His (John 15:14). If you come to Him, He will come running towards you as the father ran towards the prodigal and receive you with open arms. He will step behind you and unload from you every burden of sin and with His omnipotent hand cast them away “as far as the east is from the west” (Psalm 103:12). He will stand beside you and inside you in total fellowship.

To have a relationship with God, those outside of Christ must put on Christ, a process that begins in hearing (Romans 10:17), believing in Christ as the son of God (John 8:24), repenting of sins (Luke 13:3, 5), confessing His name (Matthew 10:32, 33) and ultimately being baptized into Him (Galatians 3:27). To maintain that beautiful relationship you must continue steadfastly in His truth and allow it to sanctify you from the rest of humanity (John 17:17). As you commit sins, you must confess them to Deity, Who is ready and willing to cleanse them as He did when you were baptized (1 John 1:7-10).

How beautiful it is to walk with God! It is my prayer that you will begin your walk with Him today, or that you will take steps to renew your relationship with Him today. While today Deity walks with man and will forever walk with the faithful, an unfaithful walk will lead us on a different path where He and His love cannot go (Matthew 7:13-14). Walk with God today!