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SESSION _____

DATE _____

**SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
BIBLE SCHOOL – SECOND EDITION
SESSION 77 – FAITH PART 16
SEVEN STEPS TO THE HIGHEST KIND OF FAITH PART 3**

STEP NUMBER FIVE

KNOW THE REALITY OF THE INDWELLING PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The fifth step in this series of lessons is to know the reality of the indwelling Presence of the Holy Spirit. **1 John 4:4** says, *“...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”* Of all the mighty truths connected with redemption, this is the apex: God Himself, after He recreated us and made us new creatures and made us His own, is actually making our bodies His home!

When you are born again, it is more than an experience. The Holy Ghost, the Third person of the Godhead, a divine Personality, comes to live in you. In fact, the Bible even goes so far as to say that God Himself is living in you.

2 Corinthians 6:16

*“**16...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.**”*

God no longer dwells in the man-made Holy of Hollies. Through the new birth, our bodies have become his temple.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

*“**19 What? Know ye not that YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE of the Holy Ghost which is IN you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.**”*

We need to become “God-inside minded.” In other words, we need to just simply take God at His Word. We need to believe and act like the Bible is true when it says, *“...greater is he that is IN you, than he that is in the world.”* (**1 John 4:4.**)

THE GREATER ONE LIVES IN US

Thank God, God indwells us as believers, through the Person of the Holy Spirit, today too. Because of the indwelling Presence of the Holy Spirit, it should be a common practice in the Church today for believers to say in every crisis of life, "I am more than a conqueror." However, the truth is, making positive confessions based on our rights and privileges in Christ is almost an unknown practice in the church world today.

The Christian's continual confession should be, "I am a victor. The Creator dwells in me; the Greater One lives in me. The person and power of the Holy Ghost dwells in me. Praise God, He can put me over. He can make me a success. I cannot fail because of Him."

Many people think when you say those things that you are bragging on yourself. That is not bragging on you! It is bragging on the Greater One who is in you. Bragging on the Greater One in you will put Him to work for you.

THE POWER SOURCE WITHIN

You must remember that the book of **1 John** and the other epistles were letters written to the churches – to believers. Actually, they were written to folks who are not just born again, but were Spirit filled believers also. It was the exception then for believers not to have received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with supernatural signs and evidence of speaking in other tongues operating in their lives.

We know that often when faced with tests and trials that sometimes people even filled with the Holy Ghost run around like a chicken with its head cut off, trying to find someone who can help them. They don't always realize that within them is that Someone. That someone is the Holy Ghost.

Many times, people just run to someone to find comfort, shed a few tears, quote a few scriptures, and call that praying. Then they wonder why the victory doesn't come. All the time they were trying to find someone to help them, the Greater One was on the inside of them trying to help them and give them their answers.

Many times, people do not realize what they have received and WHO they received when they received the Holy Ghost. Often, they think they simply received a blessing or had some kind of emotional experience.

They entirely miss what the Word of God teaches about being filled with the Holy Spirit. Later when tests and trials come, they believe that if they felt the way they felt when they were first

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filled with the Holy Spirit that they would be victorious. We should not be looking back to that first experience in order to obtain the victory we need today. You do not need to try to have the same kind of “experience” you did when you first received the Holy Spirit. You just need to learn how to tap into His indwelling Presence and power today.

This has not been taught as it should be taught. How many of us have been taught to trust the God who is IN us? I am not talking to sinners. I am talking to Spirit-filled and born-again people. How many of us have been taught that you have in you, ready for use, all the power that you will ever need to put you over in life? No, we have been taught practically everything else but this one vital truth.

Many often say, “We need the power, and if we could just find the power, we would be all right. But we do not have the power. We are still seeking it.”

Actually, the potential of all the divine power there is dwells in us. If we will begin to believe what the bible says and begin to confess what God’s word says, then He will rise up in us and give illumination to our minds and directions to our spirits and health to our bodies. He will help us in every aspect of life. We can be conscious of His indwelling Presence and power every moment.

A woman once went to a meeting and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit from a visiting preacher. A year later that preacher went back to the same place and held another meeting. The woman told him that she had received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit a year earlier but when she went home it was not long before she was down in the valley because of the cares of her life. She said she was so anxious to get back to another meeting to receive another blessing.

Little did she realize that the same Holy Spirit she had received the year before was in her all the time and was just as real at her home every day as He had been in the meetings the year before.

Often people do not feel like they did after they first received the Holy Spirit. They think, “well, He’s gone now. I have lost Him.” But Jesus said in **John 14:16**, **“...I will pray the father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you FOREVER.”**

Jesus did not send the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to be an occasional guest to spend a few days with us. No, praise God, Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would abide with us forever. God intended for the Holy Spirit to come and dwell in us!

BELIEVERS ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST

2 Corinthians 6:14-16

“¹⁴ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what concord hath CHRIST with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶ 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.”

What are these verses saying? They are saying that we as believers are righteousness; we are light, and we are the Body of Christ. Jesus said in **John 15:5**, *“I am the vine, ye are the branches.”*

You don't look at a tree and say the branches on that tree aren't a part of the tree because they are. The tree and the branches are one. We as believers are the Body of Christ. We are the fruit-bearing part of Christ because the branches of a tree are what bear fruit. The bible talks about us bearing fruits of righteousness.

Righteousness means right standing with God. It is a gift, and it is to be received immediately when you accepted Jesus as your Savior (**Romans 5:17**). Righteousness as a stage of spiritual development is a fruit of the born-again recreated human spirit and it takes time for it to grow.

Philippians 1:11

“¹¹ Being filled with the FRUITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

2 Corinthians 9:10

“¹⁰ Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase THE FRUITS OF YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS;

Someone once asked a preacher, “What are fruits of righteousness?” The preacher responded with “The fruits of our righteousness are the products of abiding vitally connected with the Vine.” (**John 15:1-8**). Some think fruits of righteousness mean being good, or just living a good life. And when they think of being good, they think of doing good works, such as giving to the

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poor. Those things are well and good, but actually the fruits of righteousness are doing the works of Jesus. We are to cast out devils, heal the sick, and do the same works Jesus did when He was here on the earth, (**Mark 16:15-20; John 14:12**), because we are the Body of Christ. Fruits of righteousness are also produced as a result of being a doer of the Word (**James 1:22**) and not just a hearer. We are to conform to God's will in every area of our lives.

The point we are making is that Jesus is the Head of His Church, and the Church is His Body (**Colossians 1:18**). We are the Body of Christ. As we said in our last session, your head doesn't go by one name and your body by another. No, you and your body are one body.

Notice in **2 Corinthians 6:16** that it says, ***"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For YE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD..."*** We are the temple of God. God indwells us, not only as the Body of Christ, but God indwells each of us individually.

Let's look at the Amplified version of this verse.

2 Corinthians 6:16 (Amplified)

"¹⁶ What agreement [can there be between] a temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God; even as God said, I will dwell in and with and among them and will walk in and with and among them, and I will be their God and they shall be My people."

We are the temple of the living God, both individually and collectively!

WE HAVE THE HOLY OF HOLIES WITH US

1 Corinthians 3:16 (Amplified)

"¹⁶ Do you not discern and understand that you [the whole church at Corinth] are God's temple (His sanctuary), and that God's Spirit has His permanent dwelling in you – to be at home in you [collectively as a church and also individually]?"

I like that expression, ***"...to be at home in you."*** God is actually making our bodies His home. No longer does God dwell in a man-made Holy of Holies. In the Old Testament, the Presence of God was kept shut up in the Holy of Holies. God's people had to go to the Holy of Holies where the Presence of God was located in the Ark of the Covenant.

Do you remember the story of the woman at the well of Samaria in **John 4:20**? She said to Jesus, ***“the Jews say you have to worship God in Jerusalem, but our forefathers worshipped God in this mountain.”*** Jesus replied with:

John 4:21, 23, 24

***“²¹ Jesus saith unto her, Woman believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall NEITHER IN THIS MOUNTAIN, NOR yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father... ²³ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴ God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*”**

Jesus was indicating that the time would come when man would no longer be confined to worship God in a designated place such as Jerusalem for the Jews, or Mt Gerizim where the Samaritans worshipped God. The day was coming when man would worship God *in his heart*, or spirit, where God would make his abode with man. (**Jeremiah 31:33; John 14:16, 17, 23; Hebrews 8:8-13.**)

You see, in the Old Testament, it was required that every Jewish male present himself at least once a year in Jerusalem before the Lord. Each man had to go to where the Presence of God was kept shut up in the Holy of Holies. But no one dared to approach the Holy Presence of God for himself. Only the high priest could go into the Holy of Holies on behalf of the people, and then he only did so with great precaution. If anyone else intruded into that holy place, he fell dead (**Numbers 3:10**). Some actually did fall dead for wrongfully intruding into that holy place.

Just before Jesus gave up the Ghost and died on the cross, He said, ***“It is finished”*** (**John 19:30**). Jesus was not talking about the New Covenant being finished or ratified, or the plan of redemption being finished because it was not finished just because Jesus died. Jesus had to be raised from the dead and ascend into heaven for the plan of redemption to be completed.

But on the cross, when Jesus said, “It is finished,” Jesus was referring to the fact that the Old Covenant was finished. What does it mean, the Old Covenant was finished? If you will read **Matthew 27** you will find out what happened.

Matthew 27:50-51

“⁵⁰ Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. ⁵¹ And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent.”

On the cross as Jesus cried out those words, the curtain that separated the Holy of Holies was rent in twain or torn in two from top to bottom.

Jewish historians tell us that the curtain was forty feet wide, twenty feet high, and four inches thick. The bible does not say the curtain was torn in two from bottom to top. The bible says it was torn in two from top to bottom. The Presence of God moved out of that man-made Holy of Holies, and God has never dwelt in a man-made Holy of Holies anymore.

A BETTER COVENANT

Thank God, the holy divine Presence of the Holy Spirit indwells us as believers! That Presence lives in me and in you. We have carried many truths from the Old Testament over into the New Testament. We have failed to understand the full truth concerning our redemption and the reality of the indwelling Presence of the Holy Spirit.

Many people, for instance mix the truths of the Old Covenant with the truths of our rights and privileges in Christ in the New Covenant. For example, if you are mixing cement and you do not get the mixture right, it will not work. The cement will crumble. That is what many people have done spiritually speaking. They have carried Old Testament truths over into the New Testament and have not understood their proper relationship with God in the light of the New Covenant.

They have not gotten the mixture right. That is sometimes the reason the circumstances of their lives seem to crumble around them. They have missed what God is saying to them under the New Covenant and are still trying to live under the provisions of the Old Covenant. But **Hebrews 8:6** tells us we have a better covenant based on better promises. God actually dwells in us under the New Covenant! Our bodies are God's temple or house.

GOD DWELLS IN PEOPLE – NOT BUILDINGS

One example of believers trying to live under the provisions of the Old Covenant is believers calling the church building the "house of God." Most church dedication services that have been attended were centered around the idea that the building they were dedicating was the house of God. The ministers usually read about the dedication of Solomon's Temple in the Old Testament. However, this leaves the impression that the church building is a house of God just as Solomon's Temple was a house of God. But nothing could be further from the truth!

Under the New Covenant God dwells in people – not buildings. If people are not careful, they will put too much significance on a place – on buildings and on other material things.

For example, there is a beautiful church in one state, where chiseled across the front of the building at the top is a scripture from the Old Testament about the church being a temple of God. It could provoke a person that knows the truth to drive by that church and say, “Dear God, they have a lie on the front of the church building, and people go there and think it is a holy place.”

If we say any church building is the house of God in the sense that God DWELLS there, we are wrong. In the New Testament, God does not dwell in any building made with human hands.

On the other hand, if we mean that a church building is the house of God because it is dedicated to the Lord and used for worship, that is all right. But we must be careful that we do not get out of line with the Word of God in this area because it is so easy to become taken up with material things in the sense realm – the natural realm which you can see – and miss the spiritual reality.

A preacher held a meeting once in San Diego, California. One night some women from England were present in the service. They had a time of praise and worship, and they sang a few choruses and clapped their hands to keep time to the music. After the service was over these women from England said to the pastor’s wife, “Oh, my, this is the house of God! People should not be clapping their hands in the house of God.” These women were almost talking in a whisper.

Some people think you should sit in church like you had a poker for a backbone and that you had been pickled in vinegar with a sour face. The bible doesn’t say anything about the saints to be pickled. It does say they are to be preserved! Some people think you should sit in a church like you were at a funeral because the church building is so holy. They call that reverencing God. But if you are a Christian, your body is the house of God, not the building where you attend church. This does not mean that you don’t take care of the building properly. You respect it but you do not worship it.

We need to realize that WE are God’s temple – not some church building! A preacher held a meeting in a small church one time, and they were to have dinner on the grounds. It started to rain, and it was suggested that they turn the church benches around and eat inside the church. Some of the church folks said, “Oh, look at those folks eating in the church! Don’t they know that it is the house of God? They got angry and went home. They did not know that the church building was not the house of God at all! Your body is the house of God.

John Wesley and his brother came over to the United States as missionaries to the Indians in Georgia. They were not successful in their attempt to convert the Indians. While traveling back

to their home by boat, the Wesleys learned some deeper truths about God from a group that was present on the boat.

When John Wesley got to England, he was preaching some of these truths and the church leaders put him out of the church right in the middle of his sermon. Wesley wanted to finish that sermon, so he stood on his father's tombstone in the churchyard and preached. As Wesley stood on his father's tombstone outside in the churchyard some of the people came outside and listened. To his surprise, Wesley reportedly said, "To my astonishment, God met us out there. Up till then we did not know God would meet us anywhere except in that building. But God met us out there in the open air."

Later, John Wesley and John Whitfield became the first "field preachers." They had not known God would meet them anywhere else but inside the church building. They had attached great significance to the building. They learned that one can sit and listen in reverence to a service outside in a tent or in an open-air crusade just as well as he can in a church building.

Certainly, people should be taught to be reverent to God while a service is going on or while the Spirit of God is manifesting Himself to minister to people. But if we are not careful, we can attach too much significance to natural places and things and miss the Person of Jesus whom we are actually worshipping. We can miss the reality of our own bodies being the temple of the Holy Spirit.

A preacher was asked once by a man about a meeting he had held. "What kind of church does the pastor have there?"

The preacher responded, "What do you mean?"

The man said, "How many does he run in Sunday school?" So, the preacher told him.

Then the man said, "What kind of a revival did you have there?"

The preacher told him "The building had filled up and we had to borrow a hundred folding chairs and put them down the aisles and we moved the altar bench outside to seat more people."

The man responded with, "You moved the altar outside? I thought you got people saved in that meeting."

The preacher said, "Yes, there were about one hundred people who responded to the call for salvation."

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The man said, "How in the world did you ever get anyone saved without an altar bench?"

The preacher responded with: "I never heard of an altar bench saving anyone yet! I thought Jesus was the One who saves, not the altar bench! There is nothing holy about a piece of furniture. You can make an altar anywhere, isn't that true? I know of people who got saved out in the cotton fields picking cotton. They got saved going down those rows of cotton dragging a cotton sack! They made an "altar" out there on their knees between those rows. I also know of folks who have been saved and who have received the Holy Ghost out behind a barn."

DON'T PLACE TOO MUCH SIGNIFICANCE ON NATURAL THINGS

You see, if we are not careful, we will attach too much significance to natural things and miss the real importance of the message of God.

There is nothing holy about a building or an altar bench for they are natural things. But the bible does say our bodies are holy, for they are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:16, 17

"¹⁶ Know ye not that YE ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? ¹⁷ If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; FOR THE TEMPLE OF GOD IS HOLY, WHICH TEMPLE YE ARE."

THE GREATER ONE THAT IS IN US CAN MAKE IMPOSSIBILITIES POSSIBILITIES

God is actually making our bodies His home, His dwelling place. Now there are very few people who are conscious of God in them, living in our bodies. We cannot be conscious of His living in our bodies and talk as we talk.

What do I mean when I say that? Well, when a need arises, most of us are always quick to say, "No, I can't do that." Why? Because we are trusting in our own sufficiency, and we know we do not have the ability. But if we know He is in us, we know He has the ability. Since He is in us, we can stop saying, "I can't," and begin saying, "I can because I am trusting in Him." We say, "I can because greater is He who is in me that he who is in the world."

I do not care what impossibilities we may each be facing, we can confidently say, "The Greater One will put me over. He will make me a success. The Greater One indwells me." That kind of believing and that kind of talking is faith talking, and it will put God to work for you!

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THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A GENTLEMEN

The sad thing is, the Greater One is in believers, but many believers have ignored Him. They might think that if the Holy Spirit is going to move on their behalf that He will just come in and take over and run their lives for them without them doing anything. But he will not do that.

Let me say it like this. The Holy Spirit is a Gentleman. He is not going to come in you and take you over and run your life on His own. You cannot find that in any scripture to back that teaching up.

Devils, demons, and evil spirits will do that. They will try to make people do things they do not want to do and will try to force them into doing certain things. But throughout the bible, we see that the Holy Ghost leads, guides, prompts, urges, or gives a gentle nudge. But devils and evil spirits drive people and use force and control.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR HELPER

Some Christians ask, “Why doesn’t the Holy Spirit do this?” And “Why doesn’t He do that?” But the Holy Spirit is a gentleman. He will not do anything until you put Him to work for you. And the Holy spirit works in line with God’s Words spoken through your lips.

The Holy Spirit is sent to be your helper. (John 16:7 AMP.) *He is not sent to do the job*, but to *help you* do the job. The Holy Spirit is in us. God is in us. And He is our Helper.

Hebrews 13:5,6

“5...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, or forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, THE LORD IS MY HELPER, and I shall not fear what man shall do unto me.”

Ephesians 3:16-17 Amplified Version

“16 May He grant you out of the rich treasury of His glory to be strengthened and reinforced with mighty power in the inner man by the (Holy) Spirit [Himself] – indwelling your innermost being and personality. 17 May Christ through your faith [actually] dwell – settle down, abide, make His permanent home – in your hearts! May you be rooted deep in love and founded securely on love.”

How does the Holy Spirit permanently make His home in your heart? Through your faith.

Notice Paul was writing to those who were already born again and filled with the Holy Ghost. He wrote ***“May Christ through your faith [actually] dwell – in your hearts ...!”*** (Ephesians 3:17.) That is what folks haven’t allowed Him to do and that is what He wants to do – make His permanent home in our hearts. How does He do that? Through our faith! That is exactly where we are failing in our faith walk. We have not let Christ make His permanent home in our hearts through our faith in His Word.

THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKS THROUGH US AS WE ACT IN FAITH

People are looking on the outside of themselves for God to do something, so they sing, “Come by here, Lord, come by here.” What they are really saying is, “He is not here, but if we could only get Him to come by, He might do something for us.” We sing, “Reach out and touch the Lord as He goes by.” Actually, that idea is based on sense knowledge. It is all based on what we can see on the outside in the physical realm.

Someone said, “didn’t that woman with the issue of blood reach out and touch Jesus?” Yes, but Jesus was there physically on the earth then. Jesus is not here on the earth in the physical now. He is in us through the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17). I don’t have to reach out and touch Him because He is in me. You see, we have missed the truth of the indwelling Presence of the Holy Spirit and that has hindered our faith.

In the natural, in the physical, we struggle and strain, trying to reach God. In other words, we are trying to get Jesus to “come by here.” There is the song that goes something like this: “Just to have a touch, Lord, from You.” Well, what do I want with just a touch when I have Him on the inside of me in my spirit?

So many songs are primarily written from the physical standpoint or from the standpoint of the senses, not from a spiritual standpoint at all. I say that kindly, but it is true. Thank God that God is in me, and He is in you if you are born again. But the fact that God is in you is not going to do you any good unless you know it, believe it, and act upon it. As I said, the Holy Ghost will not just rise up and take over in your life. But when you know the Holy Spirit, the Greater One, is in you, you can act upon God’s Word intelligently, and He will work through you.

I believe “greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world,” don’t you? Is He in you? If you will just put Him to work and trust Him, the Word will work, and the Holy Spirit will move in your life just like the Bible says because the bible is true. Trust the God who is in you. He is in there.

Learn to become God-inside minded. As you do, God will rise up in you and give illumination to your mind, and He will direct your spirit. You can even look death in the face and laugh because God is in you, and you know that he is.

The Lord told a preacher once, “Now you know why I said that all things are possible to him that believes. The scripture declares that with God all things are possible (Matt. 19:26; Mark 9:23). All things that are possible with God are possible to him that believes because the believer has God, the God with whom all things are possible, dwelling in him.”

Now put God and His word to work for you. He will surely rise up in you and give illumination to your mind and directions to your spirit and health to your body. Yes, He will manifest Himself through you even to others and through your hands as you lay them upon others; for the Lord your God, He it is who does dwell in you.

We had said in these sessions on faith that there are seven steps to attaining to the highest kind of faith. Is your faith being helped? Is your faith being built up? Are you being strengthened? This is what God’s word will do for you. God’s Word will build faith.

So, constantly say to yourself, quietly if you are with others, or out loud if you are by yourself: *“Greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world. The Greater One is in me. I am depending on Him. He will live big in me. He will put me over. He will make me a success. He is in me. The Master of all creation is in me. God is making His home in my body.”*

Your poor old natural mind, if it is not educated in the word will not want to accept that. But at the same time your head will give you trouble. If you will look to your spirit, your spirit will rejoice in these facts. Your confession of faith will send a thrill through your spirit.

When others say that they don’t know what they are going to do, you will say, I may be in the same situation, naturally speaking, but the Greater One is in me! He is in me, and I am trusting Him who indwells me. He will put me over.”

Meditate on this truth and feed your spirit on the word of God. Think on the Holy Spirit’s indwelling Presence and see how real the Greater One will become to you!