Crossroads International Church Singapore Dr. Rick Griffith

30 December 2018 (Our 35th Wedding Anniversary ☺) Message 3 of 3

NLT 50 Minutes

Title

**Immanuel: God in Us**

***Topical Christmas Message***

**Topic:** Indwelling

**Subject:** How can you know God is with you (Immanuel) in the coming year?

**Complement:** God is with us by being in us.

**Purpose:** The listeners will live the coming year in the Spirit’s enabling.

**Attribute:** We worship the Indwelling God

**Reading:** John 1:1-14

**Song:** Holy Spirit Living Breath of God

# Introduction

### Interest: Everyone needs to know that someone wants to be near him or her. This is true of human love—so I am thankful that my wife has wanted to be near me for 35 years now. But how much more so is this true of the one whom we all long for most?

Anniversary

(3 slides)

Immanuel

(2 slides)

#### He said nearly 2000 years ago that he would be "God with us." That is what "Immanuel" means.

#### The word “Immanuel” comes from Isaiah 7:14 where God promised that a virgin would conceive a baby boy. It would be so amazing that he would be called “God with us”!

Isa 7:14

#### God's promise came true 700 years later when Jesus was also called "Immanuel," meaning "God with us."

Matt 1:23

### Need: But do you *sense* God’s presence with you today? Do you *want* to sense God’s presence?

Sense God

#### I dare say, even though we walk through times when it doesn’t seem like God is near, he still is near.

#### Years ago, a Native American tribe had a ritual that they required of every boy turning into a man. The young boy would have to spend the entire night out in the jungle alone. Imagine being exposed to the elements and to any predator that might stalk in the night. Scary! What the boy did not know, though, was his father also spent that night just a stone’s throw away in the dark, bow and arrows ready to protect the young lad.

#### It’s like that with our God. We may not sense his presence, but that does not change the fact that he is ever near—even in the darkness. But…

### Subject: How can you know God is with you (Immanuel) in the coming year? What way can you assure that the Lord will show up in your life?

Subject

### Curiosity: Our three-week Christmas series this month has sought to unpack the meaning of "Immanuel: God with Us” by answering these questions:

Series:   
God in…

#### God in Place was answered the first week. Why Bethlehem? Why did God choose this place for Jesus to arrive? The answer to the “where” question was that Bethlehem was the perfect place for Jesus to enter this world. This town had a positive name—house of bread—but a shameful reputation. But we saw through Bethlehem we see that God transforms our shame into honor.

Bethlehem

(3 slides)

• Place

#### God in Time was last week. Why then? Why did Jesus come at the time he did? Our answer the “When” question was that God’s timing is always perfect.

Time

(2 slides)

#### God in Us is for today. Why within? We will answer the “How” question to see how God works.

Us

### Preview: Today we will reflect back at the Christmas story from the perspective of God’s presence with us. We will first see how the Spirit worked in the OT, then the NT and then see the implications of the Spirit’s indwelling for us today.

Preview

• • •

### Texts: We will look at several texts but I will put them on the screen.

Subject

(So how can you know God is with you [Immanuel] in the coming year? Let’s first see how he was with his people all the way back to the beginning…)

# I. The Spirit in the OT was with God’s people.

MP

[God didn’t abandon Israel but lived *among* them—mainly for power and ministry.]

Gen 1:1

## The Spirit presided over creation (Gen 1:2).

### But what is God’s glory?

### The idea is one of God’s *weight* or God’s *presence.*

## The Spirit filled the tabernacle (Exod 40:34).

Tabernacle

Cloud

Temple

Ezekiel

(9 slides)

Ezekiel

(3 slides)

### God’s glory or presence then appeared at the tabernacle made for him to dwell as king.

Glory

### Here God's presence filled his new palace!

Saul

## The Spirit came upon Saul and David (1 Sam 11:6; 16:12-13).

### Sadly, the Spirit later left Saul, as 1 Sam 16:14 notes, "Now the Spirit of the Lord had left Saul, and the Lord sent a tormenting spirit that filled him with depression and fear."

### “So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes. And the Lord said, This is the one; anoint him.’

David

### So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on. Then Samuel returned to Ramah” (1 Sam 16:12-13).

### Even if we see this as an indwelling, it was temporary. It was also unrelated to a person's spiritual condition, since Jephthah was an idolater and Samson a carnal man

## The Spirit filled the temple (1 Kings 8:10-13).

### After Solomon built the temple, God was pleased to fill it.

### The people could know that God's Spirit lay just behind those doors within his palace to dwell with them as King. Amazing!

## The Spirit left the temple under Ezekiel (Ezek 1, 11).

### Now in Ezekiel 1 we see God’s presence in his glory appearing to Ezekiel.

### Sadly, we see God's glory leave his own temple! “The cherubim were standing at the south end of the Temple when the man went in, and the cloud of glory filled the inner courtyard” (Ezek 10:3 NLT).

(So how can you know God is with you [Immanuel] in the coming year? We saw in the OT that the Spirit was with God’s people. Now let’s now see how he is with us now. This will show what really happened at Pentecost because now…)

MPI

# II. The Spirit for NT believers is in God’s people.

MP

[We have God’s presence not only with us, but *inside* our bodies!]

## Jesus promised that He would live in us (John 14:15-17).

Last Supper

### Imagine being able to physically be with Jesus. You could ask him any question, you could see how he related to people, you could watch his every move.

Blue Jesus

### But then Jesus was suddenly taken away from his disciples—how tragic!

John 14

(4 slides)

### Jesus actually had prepared them for his absence in John 14. He told them that he would send the Spirit!

Indwells

Rom 8:9

### This indwelling is PERMANENT (forever) and for ALL believers!

### The Spirit will come alongside us in the same way as Jesus Himself!

## The Spirit indwells every believer (Rom 8:9, 11; 1 Cor 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16).

### "…those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all… The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you" (Romans 8:9, 11).

### Paul spoke of the Spirit as "dwelling" in or among the people of God (1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16)

1-2 Cor

(4 slides)

### The song “Create in Me” quotes Scripture where David asked God “Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me” so we do not sing it here.

Create

(3 slides)

MPII

(So how can you know God is with you [Immanuel] in the coming year? Because he is IN us! But where does that show up in life?)

# III. The Spirit’s indwelling guarantees our success!

MP

[God’s presence in us will lead to many other benefits.]

Eph 1 & 4

## The Spirit indwelling guarantees our full salvation (Eph 1:13-14; 4:30).

### A seal on an envelope guards the contents and guarantees them until it reaches its destination.

### Likewise, the Spirit is our seal or deposit that guarantees our reward in heaven as our destination.

Rom 8:11

## The Spirit indwelling guarantees our resurrection (Rom 8:11).

### The Spirit gave Jesus a body that cannot die.

### The Spirit will also give you a body that cannot die!

John 16:14

## The Spirit indwelling guides us into all truth (John 16:14).

### We live in a world of lies, so we need to be able to discern truth from lies.

### The Spirit does just that—he guides us into all truth.

## The Spirit indwelling allows us to be controlled by him (Eph 5:18).

### Wine controls those who drink too much, right?

Drunk

### In a similar but better way, the Spirit indwelling allows us to be controlled by him (Eph 5:18).

Eph 5:18

### This has many wonderful results, such as singing, thankfulness, and mutual submission.

Results

Subject

MI

MPIII

Psych

BIID

• Believer

How?

Article

(So how can you know God is with you [Immanuel] in the coming year?)

# Conclusion

### God is with us by being in us (Main Idea).

### Main Points: How has Immanuel applied throughout history?

MPI

#### The Spirit in the OT was with God’s people.

#### The Spirit for NT believers is in God’s people.

MPII

#### The Spirit’s indwelling guarantees our success!

### Did you hear about the woman who wants to be disabled?

#### For most, the idea of being wheelchair bound would be a nightmare. Not so for Chloe Jennings-White. It would be her dream come true. Chloe is a 58-year-old able-bodied woman who longs--yes, longs--to lose the use of her legs. She says she has been dreaming of becoming a paraplegic since she was just four years old, after visiting with a relative who was confined to a wheelchair.

#### So driven is she to become disabled, she has engaged in many dangerous activities, like extreme downhill skiing, in the hopes of accidentally-on-purpose injuring herself. She once even rode her bike off a ledge, injuring herself badly, but not quite badly enough. When she realized that she could have hit her head and died, or broken her neck and lost the use of both legs and arms, she decided to pursue a more controlled means to disability--she sought the help of a surgeon to severe the nerves to her legs. She has found one willing to perform the surgery, but doesn't have the nearly $20K necessary for the operation.

Wheelchair

White

#### She uses a wheelchair, even though her legs are fine!

Standing

#### She can walk as well as the rest of us.

#### Crazy you say? Well, Chloe has indeed been diagnosed with a very rare psychiatric condition called Body Integrity Identity Disorder, or BIID for short. Sufferers believe that permanent disability is their natural, most comfortable state, as well as their destiny.

#### As believers, we are called to "walk in the Spirit." Yet many of us feel more "natural" or "comfortable" walking in the flesh. It's like voluntarily confining ourselves to a wheelchair when we could be climbing on the mountaintops. The notion is as foolish as it is spiritually unhealthy--a virtual form of BIID--"Believer" Integrity Identity Disorder!

#### "So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16).

### Application: How should you respond to the Spirit being in you?

### Let the Spirit control you.

• Control

Puppets

Teach

##### What does it mean to be filled—or controlled by—the Spirit?

##### Does being controlled by (filled with) the Holy Spirit mean that you no longer make any decisions—that you are simply a puppet on strings controlled by the Holy Spirit marionet master?

##### Actually, being controlled by the Spirit means allowing him to control your body—to honor him by treating your body with care since it is his temple.

1 Cor 6:19

##### Also, being controlled by the Spirit means allowing him to control your mind…

Mind

##### Allow him to transform your thinking by renewing your thoughts to be his thoughts!

Rom 12:2

#### Let the Spirit teach you.

##### He will guide you into all truth.

Computers

Dove on White

52-Week Plan

##### But how does he guide us into truth? He uses the Word of God. Are you in the Word every day?

##### Sometimes we get bogged down in certain parts of the Bible when we read straight through. In such cases I suggest that you use the Bible reading plan on the back of your notes. It varies the reading each day but still gets you through the whole Bible in one year. Why not commit to this and start today?

##### Some of us are more inclined to read on our phones. I suggest the YouVersion app, but others are also good.

Phones

##### You might prefer using your computer. Bible.org is a great place to start.

### Prayer

Prayer

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

# Questions

### What does it mean for the Holy Spirit to indwell the believer?

### How long has this taken place?

### What naturally follows from the indwelling? Why is it important?

### Did Joshua have the Holy Spirit indwell him (as in Grudem, *ST*, 637)? No. These verses Grudem notes are not convincing:

#### “The Lord replied, ‘Take Joshua son of Nun, who has the Spirit in him, and lay your hands on him’” (Num 27:18 NLT; cf. NAU) can be read “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is such a spirit” (NIV) as the preceding verses speak of having a pastoral spirit.

#### We also see, “Now Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him” (Deut 34:9 NLT). “But ‘The spirit of wisdom’ may refer to the Holy Spirit (cf. Isa. 11:2) or to Joshua’s inner spirit. Either way, God gave Joshua supernatural skill for leading the Israelites” (BKC).

# Tentative Main Ideas

Text

# Illustrations That Apply

### Text

**Immanuel: God in Us**

***Topical Message on the Spirit’s Indwelling***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The way that “God with us” (Immanuel) shows up now is for the Spirit to indwell believers to guarantee their success.

# I. The Spirit in the OT was with God’s people.

## He presided over creation (Gen 1:2).

## He indwelt the tabernacle (Exod 40:34).

## He came upon Saul and David (1 Sam 11:6; ).

## He indwelt the temple (1 Kings 8:10-13).

## He left the temple under Ezekiel (Ezek 1, 11).

# II. The Spirit for NT believers is in God’s people.

## Jesus promised that He would live in us (John 14:15-17).

## The Spirit indwells every believer (Rom 8:9, 11; 1 Cor 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16).

# III. The Spirit’s indwelling guarantees our success!

## His indwelling guarantees our full salvation (Eph 1:13-14; 4:30).

## His indwelling guarantees our resurrection (Rom 8:11).

## His indwelling guides us into all truth (John 16:14).

## His indwelling allows us to be controlled by him (Eph 5:18).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will live the coming year in the Spirit’s enabling.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: Everyone needs to know that someone wants to be near him or her. This is true of human love—so I am thankful that my wife has wanted to be near me for 35 years now. But how much more so is this true of the one whom we all long for most?

### Need: Do you want to sense God’s presence?

### Subject: How can you know God is with you (Immanuel) in the coming year?

### Curiosity: Our three-week Christmas series this month has sought to unpack the meaning of "Immanuel: God with Us” by answering these questions:

Series:   
God in…

#### God in Place was answered the first week. Why Bethlehem? Why did God choose this place for Jesus to arrive? The answer to the “where” question was that Bethlehem was the perfect place for Jesus to enter this world.

Bethlehem

(3 slides)

• Place

#### God in Time was last week. Why then? Why did Jesus come at the time he did? Our answer the “When” question was that God’s timing is always perfect.

• Time

#### God in Us is for today. Why within? We will answer the “How” question to see how God works.

• Us

### Preview: Today we will reflect back at the Christmas story from the perspective of God’s presence with us. We will first see how the Spirit worked in the OT, then the NT and then see the implications of the Spirit’s indwelling for us today.

Preview

• • •

### Texts: We will look at several texts but I will put them on the screen.

(So how can you know God is with you [Immanuel] in the coming year? Let’s first see how he was with his people all the way back to the beginning…)

# I. The Spirit in the OT was with God’s people.

[God didn’t abandon Israel but lived *among* them—mainly for power and ministry.]

## The Spirit presided over creation (Gen 1:2).

## The Spirit filled the tabernacle (Exod 40:34).

## The Spirit came upon Saul and David (1 Sam 11:6; 16:12-13).

## The Spirit filled the temple (1 Kings 8:10-13).

## The Spirit left the temple under Ezekiel (Ezek 1, 11).

(So how can you know God is with you [Immanuel] in the coming year? Let’s now see how he is with us now…)

# II. The Spirit for NT believers is in God’s people.

[We have God’s presence not only with us, but *inside* our bodies!]

## Jesus promised that He would live in us (John 14:15-17).

## The Spirit indwells every believer (Rom 8:9, 11; 1 Cor 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16).

(So how can you know God is with you [Immanuel] in the coming year?)

# III. The Spirit’s indwelling guarantees our success!

[God’s presence in us will lead to many other benefits.]

## The Spirit indwelling guarantees our full salvation (Eph 1:13-14; 4:30).

## The Spirit indwelling guarantees our resurrection (Rom 8:11).

## The Spirit indwelling guides us into all truth (John 16:14).

## The Spirit indwelling allows us to be controlled by him (Eph 5:18).

(So how can you know God is with you [Immanuel] in the coming year?)

# Conclusion

### God is with us by being in us (Main Idea).

### Main Points: How has Immanuel applied throughout history?

#### The Spirit in the OT was with God’s people.

#### The Spirit for NT believers is in God’s people.

#### The Spirit’s indwelling guarantees our success!

### Application: How should you respond to the Spirit being in you?

#### Let the Spirit control you.

#### Let the Spirit teach you.

### Prayer

****

**Rick Griffith**

30 December 2018

Message 3 of 3

**Immanuel: God in Us**

***Selected Passages***

# Introduction

### Do you want to sense God’s presence?

### How can you know God is with you (Immanuel) in the coming year?

# I. The Spirit in the OT was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s people.

## The Spirit presided over creation (Gen 1:2).

## The Spirit filled the tabernacle (Exod 40:34).

## The Spirit came upon Saul and David (1 Sam 11:6; 16:12-13).

## The Spirit filled the temple (1 Kings 8:10-13).

## The Spirit left the temple under Ezekiel (Ezek 1, 11).

# II. The Spirit for NT believers is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s people.

## Jesus promised that He would live in us (John 14:15-17).

## The Spirit indwells every believer (Rom 8:9, 11; 1 Cor 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16).

# III. The Spirit’s indwelling guarantees our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

## The Spirit indwelling guarantees our full salvation (Eph 1:13-14; 4:30).

## The Spirit indwelling guarantees our resurrection (Rom 8:11).

## The Spirit indwelling guides us into all truth (John 16:14).

## The Spirit indwelling allows us to be controlled by him (Eph 5:18).

# Conclusion

### God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us by being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us (Main Idea).

### How should you respond to the Spirit being in you?

#### Let the Spirit control you.

#### Let the Spirit teach you.

Download this sermon PPT and notes for free at BibleStudyDownloads.org/resource/topical-preaching/

Listen to this message online at cicfamily.com/sermon-listing/

