

THE DEPARTURE OF THE INDWELLING RESTRAINER

II Thes. 2:5-12

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT UNVEILED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:

- A. The Holy Spirit's creative work- planning and creating the universe, participating in every aspect of life on this planet:
- B. The Holy Spirit's work in revealing and recording:
- C. The Holy Spirit's work in relationships- a progressive, selective, but limited work:

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT UNVEILED IN THE CHURCH AGE:

- A. The Holy Spirit's indwelling work in every believer- at the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit indwells every believer including those who are carnal. This has been going on since Pentecost in Acts 2 and will end with the rapture of the church:
- B. The Holy Spirit's sealing work in every believer- once again, at the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit seals every believer into God's forever family, so that he is not only saved but kept by the work of the Holy Spirit. This began at Pentecost in Acts 2 and will continue on until the rapture of the church:
- C. The Holy Spirit's filling work in obedient believers- again, the Holy Spirit is poured into the believer's life at the moment of salvation, but continual feelings are needed since disobedience drains away the powerful impact of the Holy Spirit's progressive work of sanctification. This Spirit filled life or growing spirituality is visible to those around him by his progressive display of the character of Christ, a bold witness for Christ, and a submissive spirit with authority figures, because of Christ. It too began at Pentecost in Acts 2 and concludes with the rapture of the church:

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT UNVEILED IN THE TRIBULATION AND MILLENIAL AGE:

- A. Continuing to call during the tribulation period: *(See II Thes. 2:5-12)*
 - 1. The Restraint's departure- "Since all of the Spirit's ministries to the believer today depend upon His indwelling presence, the absence of this prevents all the dependent ministries to the tribulation saints": vv. 5-7
 - 2. What this all means- the restraining ministry ceases. "When the lawless one is unveiled, lawlessness prevails": vv. 8-9 *(See Dan. 9:27)*

3. The nature of salvation for the tribulation period- "by faith, consistent with the Old Testament saints": (*See Rom. 4:1-5; Heb. 11:1-40*)
4. The strong delusion for those who "needed more proof": vv. 10-12
5. The Restrainer's timeless "calling card": (*Heb. 3:7; 4:12; II Pet. 1:21; Rom. 10:17; Ps. 119:89; Isa. 55:11; Mt. 24:35*)

B. Continuing to call during the millennial period: (*See Rev. 22:17*)

1. The Restrainer's continued absence:
2. The Restrainer's continuous JOINT call:

IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT UNVEILED IN AGES TO COME:

A. The return to the Godhead (*Elohim*) of eternity past: (*Gen. 1:1-2:3*)

B. The reality of the Godhead (*Elohim*) for eternity to come: (*1 Cor. 15:28*)

III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:

(Together becoming "people of the Word" in principle AND in practice)

- A. The Holy Spirit has endowed me with a "*dunamis*" mission, that demands a response today. (*Lk. 10:19; Acts 1:8; Heb. 3:7; Rev. 22:17*)
- B. The Holy Spirit has equipped me with a "*dunamis*" message, that also demands a response today. (*Rom. 1:16, 10:17; Heb. 3:7, 13, 15; 4:7; Deut. 30:15*)