

[Sami L. Wilberforce](#)

[January 5 at 8:03pm](#)

THOUGHTS: IN WHICH WAY WAS CHRIST IN THE FATHER AND THE FATHER IN CHRIST? IF WE CAN UNLOCK THE FOLLOWING VERSES, THEN WE KNOW HOW CHRIST DWELLS IN US COZ CHRIST WAS NOT LITERALLY IN THE FATHER NEITHER WAS THE FATHER LITERALLY IN CHRIST. CHRIST BEING IN THE FATHER WAS BY CHRIST SUBJECTING HIS WILL TO THE WILL OF THE FATHER AND THE FATHER BEING IN CHRIST WAS THE FATHER'S PERFECT WILL BEING MANIFESTED IN CHRIST: John 14:17-20

“Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I AM IN MY FATHER, AND YE IN ME, AND I IN YOU.”

COMPARE THEN

HOW CHRIST DWELLS IN US AND HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKS - The Spirit of God does not create new faculties in the converted man, but works a decided change in the employment of those faculties. When mind and heart and soul are changed, man is not given a new conscience, but his will is submitted to a conscience renewed, a conscience whose dormant sensibilities are aroused by the working of the Holy Spirit. {OHC 104.2}

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[Nabil Gabriel Mansour](#), [Greg Stewart](#), [Andrew Fraser](#) and [2 others](#) like this.

Comments



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) [Sami L. Wilberforce](#), you're onto the money question here!

The Father IN Christ
Christ IN the Father
Christ IN me
Me IN Christ

These must all be understood in an equivalent sense. Thankfully the Bible interprets itself:

Joh 15:7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Joh 8:31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,

And Ellen White says it clearly:

It is through the word that Christ abides in His followers. This is the same vital union that

is represented by eating His flesh and drinking His blood. The words of Christ are spirit and life. Receiving them, you receive the life of the Vine. You live "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4. The life of Christ in you produces the same fruits as in Him. Living in Christ, adhering to Christ, supported by Christ, drawing nourishment from Christ, you bear fruit after the similitude of Christ. {DA 677.1}

The Word of Christ is the bread of life that is furnished for every soul that liveth. To refuse to eat this bread is death. He that neglects to partake of the Word of God shall not see life. Receiving the Word is believing the Word, and this is eating Christ's flesh, drinking His blood. To dwell and abide in Christ is to dwell and abide in His Word; it is to bring heart and character into conformity to His commands. In the parable of the vine and the branches, Jesus shows the vital connection that must exist between Himself and His followers. He says: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." {SW 52.1}

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[Sami L. Wilberforce](#) THE HOLY SPIRIT AS A DIVINE GRACE: "The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fullness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of DIVINE GRACE to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour. There are three living persons of the heavenly trio. In the name of these three powers,--the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will cooperate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ. {BTS, March 1, 1906 par. 2}"

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[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) How are you going reading the Pantheism book of emails? In that, both sides are fairly represented through their own words. I'm happy to engage with you on any questions you have regarding what I have presented.

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[Sami L. Wilberforce](#) I have reached page 105 now

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Write a reply...



[Sami L. Wilberforce](#) Am starting to read it today 2pm, i was busy at work. Also i was looking into Luther Cohen's response to Jerry Moon. By the way i have updated my question as follows:

[#Brendan](#), I want to be sure I understand you this time.

1. Hope you agree that the Holy Spirit is not words
2. The Holy Spirit has the fullness of Godhead. Does it mean it has divine nature and does it mean it is a deity or what does it mean?
3. If the Holy Spirit has the fullness of Godhead, when we are filled with it, do we become part of deity, or divine, Christlike or puppets that just respond to what's inside us?
4. Now it has been said amongst us including me that The Holy Spirit is Christ divested of humanity or the presence of God due to the following quotes but you have labeled us as teaching some form of subtle pantheism although I made it clear in Correy's book that my belief of how Christ dwells in us is different from yours and other non-Trinitarians. You give an impression it's words which you again you deny, others say its a part of Christ while I say the word accepted brings the Holy Spirit which is full of Godhead and dwells in us. The Holy Spirit is the DIVINE GRACE, it doesn't replace our conscience but works for it's consecration and perfection changing our mind not into deity but divine nature. It's a Gift which carries all the character of Jesus,, Christ implants in us his nature through his word. Show me where we part.

Colporteur Ministry, p 107

“The Lord Jesus standing by the side of the canvasser, walking with them, is the chief worker. If we recognize Christ as the One who is with us to prepare the way, the Holy Spirit by our side will make impressions in just the lines needed.”

The Lord says this because He knows it is for our good. He would build a wall around us, to keep us from transgression, so that His blessing and love may be bestowed on us in rich measure. This is the reason we have established a school here. The Lord instructed us that this was the place in which we should locate, and we have had every reason to think that we are in the right place. We have been brought together as a school, and we need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds, that the Lord God is our keeper, and helper. He hears every word we utter and knows every thought of the mind.--Ms 66, 1899, p. 4. (Talk, April 15, 1899).

Tell me I pray, "The Lord Jesus standing by the side - the Holy Spirit by our side - walking through these grounds - IS THIS TO BE TAKEN METAPHORICALLY OR LITERALLY. If literal, is the Holy Spirit walking, standing by our side an invisible projection of Christ who is physically in heaven, or is it the presence of the angels? This is like an invisible personating of Christ to me. If its metaphorical, the we have a problem, the words spoken becomes unreal. Don't use the skype example, I mean well when I say that.

5. 1888 Materials, p 58, 59

“Could our eyes have been opened, we could have seen Jesus in our midst with His holy angels. Many felt His grace and His presence in rich measure.... We knew that the sin

pardoning Saviour was in our midst...I knew that Jesus was in our midst.

Could our eyes be open, in a spiritual sense. The visible Jesus, where his divine nature took on fallen human nature, is in the literal heaven, where Jesus and his literal Father live. So what do we see walking in our midst if our spiritual eyes could be open? Does Jesus sometimes leave heaven and come on earth or we will just see his visual projection as if it were a vision?

6. I only have a seventh grade education so you will do better to come to my level and simply all your response. Am sorry you keep complaining of my grammar and spelling but I know I may be hard to understand. I don't know if that's why Correy couldn't answer my review. Tag Marvin, I can't do that with my phone. Godspeed

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[Sami L. Wilberforce](#) Please deal with the above, the book will be clear from the answers you give. Dont get tired of repeating yourself. You approach your answers as a theologian and i need it in layman language so that i can explain it to my fellows in the village i live

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[Sami L. Wilberforce](#) Continued:

They are also able to project a visible representation of a form anywhere they are not spatially located (Vision of Jesus to Saul, Light in form of dove at Jesus' baptism, tongues of fire at Pentecost).

7. # Brendan, do I have to understand the above in light of the following?

1888 Materials, p 58, 59

“Could our eyes have been opened, we could have seen Jesus in our midst with His holy angels. Many felt His grace and His presence in rich measure.... We knew that the sin pardoning Saviour was in our midst...I knew that Jesus was in our midst.”

For God and Christ are spoken of as being personally present in wherever they can "see" (have knowledge of) and act (The "seven spirits "in Revelation 5:6 are the sum total of the "seven eyes" and "seven horns"). Because They have an unobstructed knowledge everywhere and an unimpeded ability to act immediately everywhere, they are said to be present everywhere. Their Words, coming from Their minds, also carry a sense of Their presence/influence/character/personality/intelligence.

8. Also #Brendan, you say that when we are given the Holy Spirit, it is not a part of God or Christ if I got you right. Suppose I had \$1000 and took from it \$100 and gave you, is not what I have given you part of what has been left which is mine or part of me?

#Brendan, you say:

C - Biblical View - God is said to be present where He can see/know and act in power (which is everywhere) and He always acts in power through the Word, though that power needs to be unlocked through Faith by intelligent beings.

9. Since the way the spirit enters and acts upon man is the same to the other creation, tell

me, the animals and trees don't have faith, how do they unlock the essence of the spirit which sustains them? Or does God do believing for them?

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[Sami L. Wilberforce](#) 10. Any thoughts on this:

In the tenth chapter of Romans, as already noted, we learn that Christ is in every man, "a very present help in trouble." He is in the sinner, in order that the sinner may have every incentive and facility for turning from sin to righteousness. He is "the way, the truth, and the life." John 14:6. There is no other life than His. He is the life. But, although He is in every man, not every man has His righteousness manifested in his life; for some "hold down the truth in unrighteousness." Rom. 1:18, R.V. Now Paul's inspired prayer was that we might be strengthened with might by the Spirit of God in the inner man, "that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;" "that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." Eph. 3:16-19. The difference, then, between the sinner and the Christian is this: that, whereas Christ crucified and risen is in every man, in the sinner He is there unrecognized and ignored, while in the Christian He dwells there by faith. {1900 EJW, GTI 88.3}

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[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Hi [Sami L. Wilberforce](#), I'll be away for the morning, but I will get to your excellent questions later today smile emoticon

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) Hey [Sami L. Wilberforce](#), im following your reasoning and have many things to say but wil hold my peace as I am interested in what [Brendan](#), will share. BUT number 10 written by EJW is Error!complete Heresy!

Christ is not in every man! The way EJW writes this to me is even worst than Kellogg's original theology.

This is exactly what Oprah and the new age system teaches.

This theology ends with well if the sinner has Christ within then satan does also! taken to the logical conclusion this is going to be the result. I have seen some non-trinitarians so caught up on EJW that they make him infallible taking statements like these as if given by Christ through a Prophet.

When I first heard this statement from EJW I was so appalled. I actually hate this statement. It is so utterly contrary to the truth..

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[Sami L. Wilberforce](#) #Emmanuel, thanks for seeing that, i suspected the quote coz the Bible is clear that light and darkness cannot cohabit even though God sends rain to all also Ellen says that God does not dwell in a sinner its the enemy that dwells there though God sustains everyone

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Write a reply...



[Greg Stewart](#) "The Spirit of God does not create new faculties in the converted man, but works a decided change in the employment of those faculties. When mind and heart and soul are changed, man is not given a new conscience, but his will is submitted to a conscience renewed, a conscience whose dormant sensibilities are aroused by the working of the Holy Spirit."

===== And
 how does this happen? ::::: And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. (John 8:9)

What did they hear that affected their conscience?
 What did the converted man hear that affect his conscience?

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[Greg Stewart](#) [Sami L. Wilberforce](#), How do you understand the term: "Influence of association"?

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[Greg Stewart](#) [Sami L. Wilberforce](#), When we by FAITH associates with Christ, we are influenced by His words, his Life. This is how I believe [Brendan](#) is attempting to describe the Holy Spirit coming to us by way of the words, of Christ. I personally don't see it as mere words, but a divine influence which transcends our feeble capability to fully grasp what it mean by Christ being in us through his words. [Brendan](#) please feel free to correct me if I am wrong....

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[Greg Stewart](#) If I may barrow a few words from inspiration; while Christ is ministering in the sanctuary above He is by FAITH with us, and in us (obviously not in a literal sense) BY or THROUGH His words, though they were spoken 2000+ years ago, He influences our lives through his words, spoken, preached, taught, the still small voice of our consciences, etc. This is how I understand Christ being in us, and truthfully I owe understanding this (in the words of a brother of mine) "beautifully simple truth" to [Brendan](#). smile emoticon As I once too believe the pantheistic view of 'God in us'.

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) [Greg](#), is this an EGW quote? you said "If I may borrow a few words from inspiration"

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[Greg Stewart](#) [Emmanuel O'Neale](#) , Yes but not the EXACT quote, hence the reason, I said a FEW WORDS.

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[Greg Stewart](#) "Much thought and labor are given to the circulation of the printed page. This is well, and efforts along this line are never to be permitted to slacken; but if more of an effort than is now put forth were given to the sending out of the living missionary to preach the truth, many, many souls would be aroused and won to Christ. While Jesus ministers in the true sanctuary above, he is by his Holy Spirit working through his earthly messengers. The word of the living preacher will often accomplish even more than the printed page. As the Lord's servants go forth trusting in divine power, the Master of the vineyard will work through his chosen ministers, bestowing upon them his Spirit, and fulfilling to them the assurance, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." [The Review and Herald, April 7, 1910]

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) might be better suited to post the quote in its original context as to not unintentionally mislead.. In the effort to rightly divide and to give every statements and verse its proper weight it may be better to post the quotes you reference as to not skew the minds of some. This is clearly a very delicate topic and a proper understanding of this topic may lead to other gross errors or beautiful truths.

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[Greg Stewart](#) Brother [O'Neale](#), What was it in my comment was misleading, I posted the quote and gave the citation, read it for yourself brother.

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) thanks for the quote..

Hmm, from the quote I don't gather what you have concluded in your previous post ("while Christ is ministering in the sanctuary above He is by FAITH with us, and in us (obviously not in a literal sense) BY or THROUGH His words") but im going to assume it is a collective group of verses and scriptures and not this one alone that has led you to your statements because this one does not seem to say what has been paraphrased.

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[Sami L. Wilberforce](#) No one is allowed to weave in the testimony what they believe will make it clear, testimonies must interpret testimonies as even the Bible should interpret the Bible

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[Greg Stewart](#) Bro [Sami](#) and [Emmanuel](#), All I did was literary barrowed from Ellen White, If I am guilty of that she is also just as guilty, I did not plagiarized her, I admitted that I was barrowing a few words. What I said is inline with what she said. Read the quote and compare what I said.

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Write a reply...



[Sami L. Wilberforce](#) [#Greg](#), i beg you try to leave the name of anyone who has not commented here out of the thread, i dont mean evil but whats happening in the background is much. I would like us just to deal with the content presented. Put blank where you are forced to refer to a name. People are hurting, prejudice exists and enmity is developing, i dont want to start a war. There are many people i would have tagged but i dont want to see emotions or tears, i just want [#Brendan](#) to be precise because his reasoning has been different with mine though almost same. There are some who have gone to extremes discarding the spirit while others doing away with the word, am between. The word is the mechanism of the Spirit but there is a way the spirit also activates that word, its not just a one way traffic. The spirit is A substance from God but not a part of him. Am yet to put together what i believe

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[Greg Stewart](#) [Sami L. Wilberforce](#), I purposely did not TAG his name Bro. I have as much respect for Elder Clayton as I do Brendan, He even baptized my children , so it is not out of ill will that I mentioned his name. There are things that he taught that I do find a valuable as anyone who teaches the word in truth.

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[Sami L. Wilberforce](#) [#Greg](#), i understand brother but i hope you know whats going on, the less you try to make this people meet on this particular thread the better, i just want hear [#Brendan](#) view alone first then [#Marvin](#) had promised to catch up n now we have you and [#Emmanuel](#). I think it will be better that way, i request am not commanding or hindering you. There are alot of people am speaking with in the inbox and my timeline, they are not interested in this issues yet they are concerned

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[Greg Stewart](#) I wiil edit the comment and remove his name, for the sake of peace, It was out of admiration of his quote why I mentioned it. Thanks for your concerns though, as my goal also is to se unity between brethren.

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[Sami L. Wilberforce](#) Thanks alot

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 7 at 7:37am](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) no problem man!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 7 at 7:38am](#)



Write a reply...



[Emmanuel O'Neale Greg](#), you said:

"Christ is ministering in the sanctuary above He is by FAITH with us"

But the EGW quote reads:

"While Jesus ministers in the true sanctuary above, he is by his Holy Spirit working through his earthly messengers."

These 2 statements are not at all the same in my current understanding..

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[Greg Stewart](#) The focus was on HOW Christ is with us, "she said the words of the Preacher". Read it again....

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) I see how you can get that from the Quote.. But it seems she is simply speaking about how the Holy Spirit works through the minister to the listener. the focus does not seem to be on "HOW Christ is with us" but Rather HOW Christ uses us..

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[Greg Stewart](#) Read the quote again Brother [Emmanuel O'Neale](#), It is extremely clear what she is saying, she even quote Matthew 28:20 so as to have no one misunderstanding what she was saying.

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) I read it.. what stops this quote from saying what your former belief was? that it is Christ in the invisible manifestation working in the believer?

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[Greg Stewart](#) True, But how did she say he was manifested?

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) the invisible presence of Christ unseen by the world but known by the believers who had once walked with Him..

The (in my understanding, LITERAL) presence of Christ.. Meaning Christ Literally Present in a non-bodily manifestation

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[Greg Stewart](#) And how is Christ spiritually manifested?

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) by His Spirit hence the term SPIRITually the unseen presence of Christ.. the Omnipresence of God..

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 7 at 7:42am](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) So are you saying that Christ Spirit is divisible from his person?

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) from His body?

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) when you say person in this context do you mean body

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[Greg Stewart](#) SOP encourage us to pay close attention to the 6th chapter of John for a reason. Notice at the end of this quote she quotes, question is what is the mystery of godliness? =====

"Study the Word, which God in His wisdom and love and goodness has made so plain and simple. The sixth chapter of John tells us that (what) is meant by a study of the Word. The principles revealed in the Scriptures are to be brought home to the soul. We are to eat the Word of God, that is, we are not to depart from its precepts. We are to bring its truths into our daily lives, grasping the mysteries of godliness." [Lt 241, 1903]

<http://text.egwwritings.org/publication.php...>



[Lt 241, 1903](#)

Study the Word, which God in His wisdom and love and goodness has made so plain and...

text.egwwritings.org

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[Greg Stewart](#) No, not just body, because body does not necessarily necessitates person...

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Write a reply...



[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) "That Christ should manifest Himself to them, and yet be invisible to the world, was a mystery to the disciples. They could not understand the words of Christ in their spiritual sense. They were thinking of the outward, visible manifestation. They could not take in the fact that they could have the presence of Christ with them, and yet He be unseen by the world. They did not understand the meaning of a spiritual manifestation". {RC 129.2}

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[Greg Stewart](#) Spiritual manifestation is through the words of Christ accepted and acted out in FAITH. Study John 6.

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Write a reply...



[Emmanuel O'Neale Greg](#),

what do you get from this quotation regarding Christ Spirit?

"It is not essential for you to know and be able to define just what the Holy Spirit is. Christ tells us that the Holy Spirit is the Comforter, and the Comforter is the Holy Ghost, "the Spirit of truth, which the Father shall send in My name." "I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" [John 14:16, 17]. THIS REFERS TO THE OMNIPRESENCE OF THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST, CALLED THE COMFORTER". {14MR 179.2}

Here's what I got:

Christ Spirit unlike ours has the ability to be Omnipresent.. In other word Christ has a body yet is not contained therein; as does God have a Body and is not contained therein.

Paul said:

1 Corinthians 5:3

For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

An impossibility for humanity yet I believe it actually shows clearly what God is capable of.. Paul said "as though I were present" but Christ I believe IS LITERALLY PRESENT..

HENCE:

That Christ should manifest Himself to them, and yet be invisible to the world, was a mystery to the disciples. They could not understand the words of Christ in their spiritual sense. They were thinking of the outward, visible manifestation. They could not take in the fact that they could have the presence of Christ with them, and yet He be unseen by the world. They did not understand the meaning of a spiritual manifestation. {RC 129.2}

Now I may surely be wrong but from what I have seen it seems clear and NOT Pantheistic to believe that God and Christ are really Omnipresent having bodies yet not contained by them..

1 Kings 8:27

But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?

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[Emmanuel O'Neale Greg](#), please reply to the post above

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[Greg Stewart](#) Brother [Emmanuel O'Neale](#), Christ IS the comforter, but while He is bodily present in the sanctuary above, he comes to us Spiritually through His words, he said it in John 14, see verse 21.

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[Greg Stewart](#) Brother [Emmanuel O'Neale](#), Christ IS the comforter, but while He is bodily present in the sanctuary above, he comes to us Spiritually through His words, he said it in John 14, see verse 21.

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) so the Holy Spirit is NOT His Omnipresence? His ability to be Present yet unseen?

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[Greg Stewart](#) Absolutely it is, but it come to us through Christ's words, See John 6:63, John 14:21-23

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) so He is Present Literally yet unseen through His Word?

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[Greg Stewart](#) No, spiritual, that is what Christ said, the flesh profits nothing, the words I speak they are spirit and life, couple that with all the other verses prior to verse 63.

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[Greg Stewart](#) it can't be literal and spiritual at the same time, when he was bodily here on earth that was literal.

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) couple that with John 1:1..
when He walked here He was Literally here VISIBLY,,
When He ascended He returned Literally INVISIBLY

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[Greg Stewart](#) you mean spiritually invisible?

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[Greg Stewart](#) When he talks about eating his flesh, was that being literal or spiritual?

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) no i mean Literally Invisibly which is what I beleive He meant by a
Spiritual Manifestation

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) No I mean Literally Unseen which is what I believe He meant by a
Spiritual manifestation .. the invisible presence of Christ is Him here Spiritually..

Spiritually vs Bodily

Invisibly vs Visibly

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[Greg Stewart](#) Brother [Emmanuel O'Neale](#), It's getting late here and I have work early in
the morning, thank you for being graciously engaging. We can continue this tomorrow if
you like. Goodnight and God's speed. smile emoticon

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) Spiritual is to Bodily
as Invisible presence is to Visible

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) ok my brother take care good night

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[Sami L. Wilberforce](#) Continued:

I finished reading the email exchanges, it was saddening in some parts but when Your
wife talked bout giving up on Adventism and Christianity, I literally cried . I remembered
Psalms 119:5, 6 - O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from
thee. Let not them that wait on thee, O Lord GOD of hosts, be ashamed for my sake: let
not those that seek thee be confounded for my sake, O God of Israel.

Everybody wants to defend what they know, nobody wants to learn anymore. This is
Laodicea

Psa 139:8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, thou art there. NOW LETS TAKE THIS STATEMENT ON ITS OWN MERIT. IF GOD IS SAID TO BE IN HEAVEN AND ALSO THE SAME WORD IS USED TO SAY HE IS ON EARTH THEN THEN WE HAVE TO CONCEDE THAT FACT. FOR HE IS NOT IN HEAVEN BY POWER BUT IT'S A REALITY SO HIM BEING ON EARTH MUST NOT BE TAKEN AS POWER BUT AS A REALITY

11. [#Brendan](#), suppose I believe that the spirit is not part of God but a power, presence and divine nature activated by faith in the word of God, is there in any sense Christ is in me yet not him for he is not the spirit and what is that that I have?

12. Finally, I would like to say from reading your whole analysis, this is how I see things. The Holy Spirit then is a chip designed from/of/for a certain Hardware who happens to be Jesus Christ. The hardware can function independent of that chip coz the hardware already has the same chip. But this other chip, when it comes into contact with the hardware via either laser beams or infrared which equals to the Word of God, it becomes active and carries the very identity of the hardware and pass it to the place the chip is located. Therefore, the chip is not part of the hardware but inherently has the components of the hardware and when activated, it can pass the hardware's components to the person having it and also relate back to the hardware what is in its presence. I do computers so I hope you understand my use of that analogy. Is this what you are saying or am I lost dead wrong of what you are saying?

GODSPEED.

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[Greg Stewart](#) Good morning Brother [Sami L. Wilberforce](#), I pray your day is going well. I think you may be thinking too hard on how it is that Christ dwells in us. Let me say based on Christ's own words in John 6:63, word and spirit is akin to each other, at least in...[See More](#)

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[Sami L. Wilberforce](#) Hello [#Greg](#), my day was tough, my evening is caught in traffic, two things that i dont enjoy. Blessings

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Write a reply...



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Thank you for your excellent questions, [Sami L. Wilberforce](#) and for your patience as I have been busy the last few days.

Sami question:

1. Hope you agree that the Holy Spirit is not words

Yes, Sami. I have never taught that the Holy Spirit = Words. The Holy Spirit COMES THROUGH God's Word. Imagine the Word as a vehicle, like a car. The Holy Spirit, God's personally directed power, is the passenger which travels IN the Word. Ellen White say that the Holy Spirit is "IN" the Word frequently.

Sami question:

2. The Holy Spirit has the fullness of Godhead. Does it mean it has divine nature and does it mean it is a deity or what does it mean?

I am not aware of any inspiration which states that the Holy Spirit HAS the fullness of the Godhead. Inspiration says that "The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit IN all the fullness of the Godhead, making manifest THE POWER OF DIVINE GRACE to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour." The Spirit doesn't HAVE divine nature, but it IS divine nature - the power of God which personally directed by the will of God.

Sami question:

3. If the Holy Spirit has the fullness of Godhead, when we are filled with it, do we become part of deity, or divine, Christlike or puppets that just respond to what's inside us?

Not at all, we do not become part of Deity or partially Divine. We do become "Christlike" as we have "Christ formed within". Do a search for that phrase within Ellen White and you will find even "Christ formed within, the hope of glory", but this does not make us puppets. Jesus died to preserve our free will, He did not die to take away our free will. The Holy Spirit restores us to the Imago Dei that we were created to be.

Ellen White uses the analogy of a "transfusion". If I am giving you a blood transfusion, my blood, which the Bible says contains my "life" would be "in" you. There is a sense that you could say I am "in" you because it originated as a part of me, but we know that once my blood leaves my body, it is no longer "me" in any sense. Remember that a PERSON according to Scripture is substance and mind. I can give you a "piece of my mind" but it doesn't mean that I am independently thinking IN you. Here is what Ellen White says:

The Lord Jesus loves his people, and when they put their trust in him, depending wholly upon him, HE STRENGTHENS THEM. HE WILL LIVE THROUGH THEM, GIVING THEM THE INSPIRATION OF HIS SANCTIFYING SPIRIT, IMPARTING TO THE SOULA VITAL TRANSFUSION OF HIMSELF. HE ACTS THROUGH THEIR FACULTIES, AND CAUSES THEM TO CHOOSE HIS WILL AND TO ACT OUT HIS CHARACTER. With the apostle Paul they then may say. "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Christ IMPRESSES UPON THE MIND OF BELIEVERS the fact that they are to have the glory which the Father has given him, in order that all who love and serve him may be one with God. "For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they

have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. . . . And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory [character], which thou hast given me; for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." {SSW, February 1, 1896 par. 3}

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[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Continued

Sami question:

4. Now it has been said amongst us including me that The Holy Spirit is Christ divested of humanity or the presence of God due to the following quotes but you have labeled us as teaching some form of subtle pantheism although I made it clear in Correy's book that my belief of how Christ dwells in us is different from yours and other non-Trinitarians. You give an impression it's words which you again you deny, others say its a part of Christ while I say the word accepted brings the Holy Spirit which is full of Godhead and dwells in us. The Holy Spirit is the DIVINE GRACE, it doesn't replace our conscience but works for it's consecration and perfection changing our mind not into deity but divine nature. It's a Gift which carries all the character of Jesus,, Christ implants in us his nature through his word. Show me where we part.

Colporteur Ministry, p 107

“The Lord Jesus standing by the side of the canvasser, walking with them, is the chief worker. If we recognize Christ as the One who is with us to prepare the way, the Holy Spirit by our side will make impressions in just the lines needed.”

The Lord says this because He knows it is for our good. He would build a wall around us, to keep us from transgression, so that His blessing and love may be bestowed on us in rich measure. This is the reason we have established a school here. The Lord instructed us that this was the place in which we should locate, and we have had every reason to think that we are in the right place. We have been brought together as a school, and we need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds, that the Lord God is our keeper, and helper. He hears every word we utter and knows every thought of the mind.--Ms 66, 1899, p. 4. (Talk, April 15, 1899).

Tell me I pray, "The Lord Jesus standing by the side - the Holy Spirit by our side - walking through these grounds - IS THIS TO BE TAKEN METAPHORICALLY OR LITERALLY. If literal, is the Holy Spirit walking, standing by our side an invisible projection of Christ who is physically in heaven, or is it the presence of the angels? This is like an invisible personating of Christ to me. If its metaphorical, the we have a problem, the words spoken becomes unreal. Don't use the skype example, I mean well when I say that.

In your first paragraph above, I see nothing objectionable. I fully agree that the Holy

Spirit is "the power of divine grace", personally directed as God wills. Words carry character. Words are a manifestation of the inward thoughts. Therefore as any man speaks out loud his thoughts, so is he revealing his character (Proverbs 23:7). It is the same with God's Word which is found in the Bible, in the still, small voice, in nature, etc. This Word is a revelation of God's character and as we behold it and meditate on this Word, we learn more of His character and His character comes to be formed within.

I do deny that I have ever taught that the Spirit IS Words. There is a CONNECTION between the Word of God and the Spirit of God, but I have made it clear what that connection is. It is a vehicular connection where the Word CARRIES the Spirit. Ellen White said it clearly when she said:

"The word of God is the seed. Every seed has in itself a germinating principle. In it the life of the plant is enfolded. So there is life in God's word. Christ says, "The words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life." John 6:63. "He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life." John 5:24. In every command and in every promise of the word of God is the power, the very life of God, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God." (COL 38)

Ellen White uses the analogy of a seed. This is in complete agreement with the Vehicle analogy. Note that she says that the Word contains "the power, the very life of God" and "the very life and character of God". That shows that the Spirit is not some physical substance that we receive, for it comes through a Word. Rather, the Spirit is the power of God that brings His presence.

Jesus or the Holy Spirit "walking" or "standing by" our side is to be taken metaphorically. It isn't through the presence of the angels. It is because God SEES and ACTS everywhere. Now, I am not saying it is metaphorical based upon my own opinion or private interpretation. Inspiration EXPLAINS ITSELF. Note this:

"Christ is SPOKEN OF as walking in the midst of the golden candlesticks. Thus is SYMBOLIZED His relation to the churches. He is in constant communication with His people. He knows their true state. He observes their order, their piety, their devotion. ALTHOUGH HE IS high priest and mediator in the sanctuary above, YET HE IS REPRESENTED AS walking up and down in the midst of His churches on the earth. With untiring wakefulness and unremitting vigilance, He watches to see whether the light of any of His sentinels is burning dim or going out. If the candlesticks were left to mere human care, the flickering flame would languish and die; but He is the true watchman in the Lord's house, the true warden of the temple courts. His continued care and sustaining grace are the source of life and light. Christ is REPRESENTED AS holding the seven stars in His right hand. This assures us that no church faithful to its trust need fear coming to nought, for not a star that has the protection of Omnipotence can be plucked out of the hand of Christ." (AA, p. 586)

Notice that Inspiration CLEARLY explains that Christ is PHYSICALLY located in Heaven, but that because Jesus is watching and acting on behalf of the Church on earth, He is REPRESENTED or SYMBOLIZED as walking. Isn't it great when Inspiration interprets and explains itself? We need to be sure to let Inspiration interpret itself and also

to take note of the GENRE that Inspiration takes (prophecy and poetry are usually metaphoric).

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[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Continued

Sami question:

5. 1888 Materials, p 58, 59

“Could our eyes have been opened, we could have seen Jesus in our midst with His holy angels. Many felt His grace and His presence in rich measure.... We knew that the sin pardoning Saviour was in our midst...I knew that Jesus was in our midst.

Could our eyes be open, in a spiritual sense. The visible Jesus, where his divine nature took on fallen human nature, is in the literal heaven, where Jesus and his literal Father live. So what do we see walking in our midst if our spiritual eyes could be open? Does Jesus sometimes leave heaven and come on earth or we will just see his visual projection as if it were a vision?

Again, "Jesus in our midst" needs to be understood in terms of DIVINE ACTIVITY. Jesus cannot physically leave the Heavenly Sanctuary until the work of Judgement is finished. There are times when Jesus PROJECTS an image, such as a vision. This is how He appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus. This is how He frequently appeared to Ellen White. But we know that there is no leaving of the Most Holy Place until His work there is finished. God and Christ are said to be "present" where They can SEE and ACT. This is the key. Look at the full context of the above statement and you see phrases which show that Ellen White is speaking of DIVINE ACTIVITY:

"They declared that they were indeed receiving afresh the converting power of God, and many testimonies of confession, and of victories gained were then made."

"Many felt his grace and his presence in rich measure."

"This season marked by so much of the power of God to those present, we could never forget."

"My faith fastened upon the promises of God, and our prayers were answered, for there was the revealing of his presence, and his power."

Notice also the context of searching for and humbling before God's Word:

"Again and again I have been shown the high attainments which the Lord's people may reach, but many have talked THE TRUTH, have preached THE TRUTH, while they were not sanctified through the truth. They did not bring THE TRUTH into their daily life and weave THE PRINCIPLES OF THE TRUTH into their characters."

"A MESSAGE must be given to our churches to arouse them to seek the Lord, now while he is to be found, to draw nigh unto him that he may draw nigh unto them."

"The Lord has A SPECIAL MESSAGE for his people; precious GEMS OF TRUTH which have been hidden under the rubbish are to be revealed. The Lord would have his people search for TRUTH as for hidden treasure. The shaft must sink deep in THE MINE

OF GOD'S WORD which is rich with precious jewels of undiscovered TRUTH, that needs to be brought out and placed before the people."

So once again, we see the Word-Spirit connection.

Sami question:

6. I only have a seventh grade education so you will do better to come to my level and simply all your response. Am sorry you keep complaining of my grammar and spelling but I know I may be hard to understand. I don't know if that's why Correy couldn't answer my review. Tag Marvin, I can't do that with my phone. Godspeed

You have been doing much better. Just read your words out loud before you press send and you will be able to proof read them.

Sami question:

They are also able to project a visible representation of a form anywhere they are not spatially located (Vision of Jesus to Saul, Light in form of dove at Jesus' baptism, tongues of fire at Pentecost).

7. # Brendan, do I have to understand the above in light of the following?

1888 Materials, p 58, 59

"Could our eyes have been opened, we could have seen Jesus in our midst with His holy angels. Many felt His grace and His presence in rich measure.... We knew that the sin pardoning Saviour was in our midst...I knew that Jesus was in our midst."

Sami, I believe I answered this above under questions 4 and 5. Please let me know if there is anything that you feel I haven't covered there.

For God and Christ are spoken of as being personally present in wherever they can "see" (have knowledge of) and act (The "seven spirits "in Revelation 5:6 are the sum total of the "seven eyes" and "seven horns"). Because They have an unobstructed knowledge everywhere and an unimpeded ability to act immediately everywhere, they are said to be present everywhere. Their Words, coming from Their minds, also carry a sense of Their presence/influence/character/personality/intelligence.

Sami question:

8. Also [#Brendan](#), you say that when we are given the Holy Spirit, it is not a part of God or Christ if I got you right. Suppose I had \$1000 and took from it \$100 and gave you, is not what I have given you part of what has been left which is mine or part of me?

Your example is flawed. The \$1000 was never a part of you. Yes, you would have given me a part of your money, but that is not an equivalent to a part of yourself.

Again, look at the blood transfusion analogy. Jesus gives us a part of Himself, His power which originates within Him. Yet once it has left Him, that part of Him doesn't independently think on its own. Jesus is directing it according to His will from where He is physically located.

Another analogy is the River of Life which flows from the throne of God and the Lamb. The River of Life is not God. But it does COME FROM God.

Sami question:

#Brendan, you say:

C - Biblical View - God is said to be present where He can see/know and act in power (which is everywhere) and He always acts in power through the Word, though that power needs to be unlocked through Faith by intelligent beings.

9. Since the way the spirit enters and acts upon man is the same to the other creation, tell me, the animals and trees don't have faith, how do they unlock the essence of the spirit which sustains them? Or does God do believing for them?

The animals and trees do not have faith because they do not have sentient wills. Only beings with WILL must unlock God's power to work in their HEARTS. I will talk a bit more about this in the next question.

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[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Continued

Sami question:

10. Any thoughts on this:

In the tenth chapter of Romans, as already noted, we learn that Christ is in every man, "a very present help in trouble." He is in the sinner, in order that the sinner may have every incentive and facility for turning from sin to righteousness. He is "the way, the truth, and the life." John 14:6. There is no other life than His. He is the life. But, although He is in every man, not every man has His righteousness manifested in his life; for some "hold down the truth in unrighteousness." Rom. 1:18, R.V. Now Paul's inspired prayer was that we might be strengthened with might by the Spirit of God in the inner man, "that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;" "that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." Eph. 3:16-19. The difference, then, between the sinner and the Christian is this: that, whereas Christ crucified and risen is in every man, in the sinner He is there unrecognized and ignored, while in the Christian He dwells there by faith. {1900 EJW, GTI 88.3}

By 1897, Waggoner had imbibed a lot of pantheistic sentiments. I would be very cautious with everything he wrote and taught from the mid-1890s onwards.

I think one of the reasons people get so confused about this matter is that they forget to factor in the Adventist doctrine of the nature of man and being. Man is a 3-part being.

Genesis 2 teaches that Body + Spirit = Soul. Yet we also know that all three are listed as separate parts of the human being (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Also, there is a division between Spirit and Soul, which only the Word of God can make (Hebrews 4:12). Ellen White frequently lists these three parts as physical (body), intellectual/mental (spirit) and moral (soul). These three parts are like the three sections of the Tabernacle - Courtyard, Holy Place and Most Holy Place. In fact, just as the Spirit and the Soul are intimately connected, so too are the Holy and Most Holy Places as part of the one structure. To divide the Spirit and Soul according to how Hebrews 4:12 to describe it is to see the Spirit as our THOUGHTS and the Soul as our MOTIVATIONS or WILL.

Now, keeping in mind that there are three parts to a person's being, let's look at the Body. The Body performs many functions SUBCONSCIOUSLY. This means that processes like our respiratory and circulatory and digestive and nervous systems operate without our having to think or will them to operate. This means that for those processes which are responsible for the regular maintenance operate IRRESPECTIVE of our will and thoughts. Just like the planets in their motions around the sun, just like the movements of atoms, just like the unintelligent animals and trees and inanimate nature, the processes of our physical bodies operate without our will, but according to the will of God. Now, there ARE some things we have control over, such as what we put INTO our bodies, etc., how much exercise we do, etc. But there are far more things that operate outside of this. These subconscious processes run according to PRE-PROGRAMMED LANGUAGE of and in our DNA. This programming was written by God, which means it is another manifestation of His Word and through which His power can operate.

But God's work in the Body is not the same as His working on our Heart or Mind. This requires the acceptance of our Will through Faith. Ellen White speaks of God's working through the bodily functions of all men (sinners or redeemed) but makes it clear that ONLY IN THE REDEEMED does God operate in the hearts and minds. Note these statements:

"But the power of God is still exercised in upholding the objects of His creation. It is not because the mechanism once set in motion continues to act by its own inherent energy that the pulse beats, and breath follows breath. Every breath, every pulsation of the heart, is an evidence of the care of Him in whom we live and move and have our being. From the smallest insect to man, every living creature is daily dependent upon His providence." (Ed, p. 131)

"The mechanism of the human body cannot be fully understood; it presents mysteries that baffle the most intelligent. It is not as the result of a mechanism, which, once set in motion, continues its work, that the pulse beats and breath follows breath. In God we live and move and have our being. The beating heart, the throbbing pulse, every nerve and muscle in the living organism, is kept in order and activity by the power of an ever-present God." (MH, p. 417)

"Nature testifies of an intelligence, a presence, an active energy, that works in and through her laws. There is in nature the continual working of the Father and the Son. Christ says, 'My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.' John 5:17. The Levites, in their hymn recorded by Nehemiah, sang, 'Thou, even Thou, art Lord alone; Thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things therein, . . . and Thou preservest them all.' Nehemiah 9:6. As regards this world, God's work of creation is

completed. For 'the works were finished from the foundation of the world.' Hebrews 4:3. But His energy is still exerted in upholding the objects of His creation. It is not because the mechanism that has once been set in motion continues to act by its own inherent energy that the pulse beats and breath follows breath; but every breath, every pulsation of the heart, is an evidence of the all-pervading care of Him in whom 'we live, and move, and have our being.' Acts 17:28." (PP, p. 115-116)

Now compare with this

"Thus I worked and suffered in my girlhood. And all through my life I have had the same errors to meet, though not always in the same form. In Living Temple the assertion is made that God is in the flower, in the leaf, in the sinner. But God does not live in the sinner. The Word declares that He abides only in the hearts of those who love Him and do righteousness. God does not abide in the heart of the sinner; it is the enemy who abides there." (1SAT, p. 343)

See that Ellen White makes clear that "the power of an ever-present God" is at work in "the mechanism of the human BODY". She says this is testimony of "an intelligence, a presence, an active energy" working "in and through" the laws of nature. The Laws of nature, including DNA are a manifestation of the Word of God, which Ellen White elsewhere calls the "Book of Nature". Ellen White is clear that God works in the BODY of every man ("every living creature"). However, she makes it clear in the last quote that "God does not live in the sinner". She goes on to clarify that it is the "heart" she is talking about, saying "God does not abide in the HEART of the sinner". So we see that if we simply keep before our minds the basics of that oft-neglected doctrine on the nature of man, we will not go astray in this matter. Waggoner and Kellogg forgot this truth and thus they blurred their understanding of man and as we see in the quote from Glad Tidings, Waggoner spoke of God being in the sinner in their "inner man" which is utter heresy.

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[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Concluded

Sami question:

Psa 139:8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, thou art there. NOW LETS TAKE THIS STATEMENT ON ITS OWN MERIT. IF GOD IS SAID TO BE IN HEAVEN AND ALSO THE SAME WORD IS USED TO SAY HE IS ON EARTH THEN THEN WE HAVE TO CONCEDE THAT FACT. FOR HE IS NOT IN HEAVEN BY POWER BUT IT'S A REALITY SO HIM BEING ON EARTH MUST NOT BE TAKEN AS POWER BUT AS A REALITY

11. [#Brendan](#), suppose I believe that the spirit is not part of God but a power, presence and divine nature activated by faith in the word of God, is there in any sense Christ is in me yet not him for he is not the spirit and what is that that I have?

First, I'm happy to look at Psalm 139 anytime. This Psalm backs up what I am teaching 100%. I'm more than happy to take verse 8 on "its own merit". Please note that in the verse you have quoted in isolation, it says "thou art there" to TWO PLACES:

1. Heaven.
2. Sheol.

Do you know what Sheol is, Sami? It is the grave. Is God dead? Is God in the grave? Are you really going to build a doctrine on what is **FIRSTLY** a **POETIC** statement in a **SONG** (remember how we need to be careful of the genre we are reading) and **SECONDLY** where it parallels God's being "there" in Heaven as well as in the grave? This is scary. God is not dead. God is not literally "there" in the grave. What David is saying is that God's **POWER** can act even in the grave just as readily as it can in Heaven.

Sami, the Spirit is the "power and presence of God" (ST, November 23, 1891) and because the Spirit is the divine activity of God and Christ where They are not bodily located, it is spoken of in two ways. On the one hand, it is spoken of as distinct, in terms of being different from the work They are each occupied in where They are bodily located. Yet because it is controlled by Their will, it is also spoken of as Either or Both of Them in terms of the identity **BEHIND** the Spirit. This power is unlocked **IN THE HEART** through Faith and because this power comes from Christ, we can say that Christ is "in" us in the same way that we are "in" Christ - through His Word.

As we contemplate the Word through Faith, that Word takes a supernatural power which **TRANSFORMS** us into the image of Christ. I could quite easily put several Biblical references for every clause in the last sentence I just wrote. This is the clear teaching of Scripture.

Sami question:

12. Finally, I would like to say from reading your whole analysis, this is how I see things. The Holy Spirit then is a chip designed from/of/for a certain Hardware who happens to be Jesus Christ. The hardware can function independent of that chip coz the hardware already has the same chip. But this other chip, when it comes into contact with the hardware via either laser beams or infrared which equals to the Word of God, it becomes active and carries the very identity of the hardware and pass it to the place the chip is located. Therefore, the chip is not part of the hardware but inherently has the components of the hardware and when activated, it can pass the hardware's components to the person having it and also relate back to the hardware what is in its presence. I do computers so I hope you understand my use of that analogy. Is this what you are saying or am I lost dead wrong of what you are saying?

I'm not quite sure I follow your particular analogy. For me, there is no one analogy that sums up the Holy Spirit in entirety. The ones I know of are:

- The Holy Spirit is like the wind... It is something we discern through its **EFFECTS**.
- The Holy Spirit is like sap... it flows through the vine out to the branches.
- The Holy Spirit is like the life of Christ that is transfused into us. It originates within His being and flows into our being.
- The Holy Spirit is a passenger within the Word of God which is like a Seed.
- The Holy Spirit ("seven spirits) is the sum total of Divine omniscience ("seven eyes") and omnipotence ("seven horns").

- The Holy Spirit is like God's infinite Skype through which He "presents" Himself in all places by being able to see and act.
- The Holy Spirit is like God's infinite Avatar through which He engages with and in the world He has created.

Thank you for taking time to read the collection of emails and for your questions. I hope these answers are satisfactory in clarification and I am happy to engage more where you still have questions.

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[Greg Stewart](#) [Brendan](#), It's always a pleasure reading your comments, for they are so clear and well explained. Continue to proclaim Him!

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[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Thank you as always for your encouragement in the Spirit, brother [Greg Stewart](#). Praise God for all the gifts He gives us!

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) [Brendan](#) in all sincerity I'm still quite confused what you actually believe..

Can you make a few short sentences as to what you believe very very plainly.

In that explanation please answer: is the Holy Spirit the literal presence and person of God and Christ.

Have you seen the presentation by Imad "a person within"?

What part do you disagree with? Is this presentation in your opinion pantheism.?

To me it glorifies Christ completely and make Him everything.. it confirms that in us there is no good thing that is in our flesh but through the indwelling Christ we become partakers of EVERYTHING because Christ Himself is our righteousness. It's not simply that we have Christ righteousness apart from Christ it seems to be clear that when we possess Christ not merely by belief but rather the same way the earthly tabernacle had the literal presence of God and Christ so the body (the true tabernacle) also must have this reality actually even to the greater degree.

Why would this be pantheistic?

Was it also pantheistic that God and Christ had form in OT yet were present in an earthly tabernacle a burning bush etc...

Brendan please make what you believe simple for the babies who do the possess a theologians mindset.

Speak in terms that can not be misunderstood..

What actually do you believe and where exactly do you differ with our position.?

Thanks

Please just a few short sentences and then if you want to expound post below it.. thanks

[Greg](#), feel free to explain in a few short sentences as well..

This is really important to me as a wrong understanding to this seems to hold tremendous consequences.

Blessings as we reason together

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 9 at 6:08pm](#) · [Edited](#)



[Curtis Kline](#) Hi [Emmanuel O'Neale](#) although your thread was addressed to Brendan and I'm definitely not trying to answer for Brendan I did want to share one thought. Regardless of what Brandon's thoughts are on the subject I don't see how you can harmonize The Ellen White quotes that [Brendan Paul Valiant](#) has shared with the Imads position. When you read the first few chapters of Christ object lessons and the chapter in desire of ages the crisis in Galilee it's very clear through the spirit of prophecy how we receive the life of Christ it can't be controverted.

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[Curtis Kline](#) For the sake of Time I will share some of the quotes I speak of without commentary

Every true searcher of the Word lifts his heart to God, imploring the aid of the Spirit. And he soon discovers that which carried him above all the fictitious statements of the would-be teacher, whose weak, tottering theories are not sustained by the Word of the living God. These theories were invented by men who had not learned the first great lesson, that God's Spirit and life are in His Word. If they had received in the heart the eternal element contained in the Word of God, they would see how tame and expressionless are all efforts to get something new to create a sensation. They need to learn the very first principles of the Word of God; they would then have the word of life for the people, who will soon distinguish the chaff from the wheat, for Jesus left His promise with His disciples.—
Letter 132, 1900. {2SM 39.2}

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[Curtis Kline](#) The word of God is the seed. Every seed has in itself a germinating principle. In it the life of the plant is enfolded. So there is life in God's word. Christ says, "The words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life." John 6:63. "He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life." John 5:24. In every command and in every promise of the word of God is the power, the very life of God, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God. {COL 38.1}

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [January 9 at 7:09pm](#)



[Curtis Kline](#) The life of Christ that gives life to the world is in His word. It was by His word that Jesus healed disease and cast out demons; by His word He stilled the sea, and raised the dead; and the people bore witness that His word was with power. He spoke the word of God, as He had spoken through all the prophets and teachers of the Old

Testament. The whole Bible is a manifestation of Christ, and the Saviour desired to fix the faith of His followers on the word. When His visible presence should be withdrawn, the word must be their source of power. Like their Master, they were to live "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4. {DA 390.3}

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[Curtis Kline](#) As our physical life is sustained by food, so our spiritual life is sustained by the word of God. And every soul is to receive life from God's word for himself. As we must eat for ourselves in order to receive nourishment, so we must receive the word for ourselves. We are not to obtain it merely through the medium of another's mind. We should carefully study the Bible, asking God for the aid of the Holy Spirit, that we may understand His word. We should take one verse, and concentrate the mind on the task of ascertaining the thought which God has put in that verse for us. We should dwell upon the thought until it becomes our own, and we know "what saith the Lord." {DA 390.4}

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[Curtis Kline](#) Anyway there is more but I hope these help, and I hope you and your family are well brother.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [January 9 at 7:13pm](#)



[Curtis Kline](#) One more thought, every teacher of the opposing position I have personally heard say that the life of God is not transmitted through the word. Forget the SOP even Christ said "The words I speak to you are spirit and life". I understand them to be saying that Christ's omniscient mind is operating outside of his physical body, which at the end of the day is connected with pantheism because it connects with your understanding of his omnipresence which would put him in all places and in all things.

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[Curtis Kline](#) I personally believe that because of this particular problem this is why Christ specifically started the Lord's prayer "our Father who art in heaven", Why did he not say "our Father who fills all space"

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [January 9 at 7:21pm](#)



[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) I'm looking for a few sentences that clearly defined what the difference is and what you guys believe..

Not a rebuttal a simple answer to what you guys believe in short so I can investigate without being confused to your true position. Thanks..

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [January 9 at 7:34pm](#)



[Curtis Kline](#) Sorry I wasn't addressing that part of your message I was addressing the part concerning what Imad is teaching. It seems you endorsed his teaching and I don't see how it can be harmonized with the spirit of prophecy.

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) And one thing [Curtis Kline](#), I have not heard anyone say that God is in all things actually I have seen this from the opposing side a few times.. This is Kelloggs problem..

The bible states that God is everywhere present not that He is IN EVERYTHING there is a huge huge huge difference..

The bible also states that His body does not limit His ability to be omnipresent and unseen by human eyes..

The real question is is God's omnipresence Himself present or is something it something else? In other words is God kept contained within His physical form?

I wish we could have a group gather for Skype or phone study on this topic instead of texting..

Let me know if you guys would make yourselves available for such a meeting. Thx.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 9 at 7:45pm](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) God is everywhere present BY or THOUGH his WORD, whether it is given through Prophets, Angels, etc. This is how God is omnipresent, BY way of the WORD or as [Brendan](#) put it by the VEHICLE of the WORD. smile emoticon

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Write a reply...



[Curtis Kline](#) Yes I would make myself available and we could hear these things out hopefully in the right spirit just for the record I don't know that Brandon and myself believe the same way, I know there are similarities but I don't want to be stigmatized into a general category

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[Greg Stewart](#) [Curtis Kline](#), Thanks for sharing those quotes! smile emoticon

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [January 9 at 10:09pm](#)



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) [Emmanuel O'Neale](#), below is my best attempt to answer your request for a simple explanation of what God's Spirit is. Please realise though that the Holy Spirit is a complex Biblical doctrine, so there will inevitably be aspects that I will not address in a short, simple explanation. A more complete discussion can be found in the first email I contributed to start the email discussion in the book I posted.

God is SAID TO BE PRESENT by His REPRESENTATIVE "HOLY SPIRIT" wherever

He can (1) SEE and have knowledge of and (2) ACT through His power. The Holy Spirit is an ECONOMIC PERSON and describes DIVINE ACTIVITY AND WORK distinct from where God the Father and Christ are bodily located but which is DIRECTED BY THEIR WILL. The Father and Son perform this work in absentia BY THEIR POWER WHICH COMES AND WORKS ONLY THROUGH THEIR WORD. (The Word of God is broad and includes (a) the Life and Example of Christ, (b) the Scriptures and other inspired writings, (c) the Book of nature, (d) the Book of human experiences and testimonies of what God has done in history, (e) the Word carried through intermediaries such as Angels, Human agencies, etc, (f) the still small voice to the heart, (g) the audible, direct spoken Word of God, (h) truth diluted through corrupt traditions.)

That's about as succinct as I can get it, but again, there will be aspects such as the glory, etc.

You asked about [Imad Awde](#)'s presentations. I have seen many of his presentations where he falsely represents the position I hold. He presents a straw man claiming that the belief he is opposing is that the Spirit is just words. This is comparable to the trinitarian falsely saying that we believe Jesus is created. I am not aware of anyone who teaches what he is opposing.

Imad wants to have his cake and eat it too. He wants Christ to literally be IN us, but tries to avoid the fact that being consistent, Christ would have to also literally be EVERYWHERE. Let me explain why this is consistent reasoning.

The Bible and Ellen White say that God and Christ are "in" us through the Holy Spirit. I think you would agree with that. I agree with that. The Bible and Ellen White also teach that the Holy Spirit is everywhere. If you have any problems with these two premises, we can discuss them further, but they are Biblical truth. Now, unless we believe in two different definitions of Holy Spirit, it would be consistent to conclude that however we understand God and Christ to be "in" us through the Spirit is how we should understand God and Christ to be "everywhere" by the same Spirit. That is, if we understand God and Christ to be literally, substantially and physically "IN" us, then we MUST understand God and Christ to be literally, substantially and physically EVERYWHERE.

Imad avoids stating this conclusion, and instead says that God and Christ CAN be everywhere or anywhere. In doing so, he dodges the plain teaching of Scripture and Ellen White. In fact, Imad refuses to accept Ellen White on this or any topic anymore as being a consideration he should factor into his beliefs as like [David Clayton](#) before him, he has moved down the path of rejecting her writings. So while Imad avoids the precise language Kellogg used in the Living Temple, his presentations verily contain the same pantheistic ideas of Kellogg.

The first time Ellen White spoke out against the "alpha" of pantheistic sentiments was not, in fact, regarding Kellogg or the Living Temple. It was in opposition to sermons preached by Waggoner and Prescott in 1901 at the General Conference session. Imad's view, which might be called "Pantheism-lite" is extremely similar to what Prescott preached on this occasion.

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[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Continued

You say:

To me it glorifies Christ completely and make Him everything.. it confirms that in us there is no good thing that is in our flesh but through the indwelling Christ we become partakers of EVERYTHING because Christ Himself is our righteousness. It's not simply that we have Christ righteousness apart from Christ it seems to be clear that when we possess Christ not merely by belief but rather the same way the earthly tabernacle had the literal presence of God and Christ so the body (the true tabernacle) also must have this reality actually even to the greater degree.

[Emmanuel O'Neale](#), I understand your pitch here. It all SOUNDS good, but my view does not take anything substantial away from the above. Just because I demonstrate that Christ comes to us AS POWER CONTAINED IN THE WORD does not take anything away from Christ. We cannot unlock the power in this Word without FAITH IN THE CHRIST FROM WHOM IT COMES. Christ is COMPLETELY glorified in this view as we rely WHOLLY upon what He has given us through His Word and not upon our flesh.

In my view, Christ is also our righteousness and once again this righteousness comes THROUGH THE WORD which FORMS Christ within us. The Word is the only way we have knowledge of God and Christ and this Word TRANSFORMS us. We cannot have Christ's righteousness apart from Christ, for the Word COMES FROM CHRIST.

The body is not actually the "true tabernacle", brother, but Hebrews tells us that the Heavenly Sanctuary is the "true tabernacle". However, the Body is LIKENED to the the tabernacle. The earthly tabernacle did not have God the Father, but Christ was BODILY the Shekinah. That is, Christ was BODILY present in the earthly tabernacle. Christ is not BODILY within us as He is BODILY in the Heavenly Sanctuary ministering.

Jesus said in the same breath that He would be "in" us and that we would be "in" Him. We should understand these two thoughts consistently. That is, however Christ is "in" us is how we are "in" Christ. This is what [Sami L. Wilberforce](#) was saying in the original post.

If Christ is LITERALLY "in" us, then we would need to be consistent and say that we are LITERALLY "in" Christ. This is absurd. However, if we let Scripture interpret itself, we at once have the solution:

Christ's Words are "in" us
We are "in" Christ's Words

John 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

John 8:31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in My Word, you are truly My disciples,"

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[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Continued

You said:

Why would this be pantheistic?

Was it also pantheistic that God and Christ had form in OT yet were present in a earthly tabernacle a burning bush etc...

The reason that the view you are describing is pantheistic is because it is not allowing Inspiration to interpret the expressions you are upholding, but are privately interpreting it in the most literal way. As soon as you consistently apply your reasoning regarding the indwelling Christ to the everywhere-presence of God, you will discern the pantheistic elements in your understanding.

It is not at all pantheistic that God and Christ have a form. Jesus was a High Priest from the moment mankind sinned. From the fall until Pentecost, Christ's ministry was in the antitypical COURTYARD, which is the earth. The burning bush was the BODILY presence of Christ. The pillar of smoke/fire was the BODILY presence of Christ. The Shekinah was the BODILY presence of Christ. What I mean by this is that in these occasions as well as all the "Angel of the LORD" or "Captain of the LORD's armies" appearances is that this is where Christ was ACTUALLY, BODILY, PHYSICALLY present on these occasions.

With Christ's appearance to Paul, though, on the road to Damascus, it was more of a "vision" - a projection of Christ's bodily presence.

Anyway, I hope this answers your questions.

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[Dejan Andov](#) Brother Brendan, where EGW spoke against Waggoner's pantheism?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 9 at 10:50pm](#)



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) [Dejan Andov](#), here is where Ellen White spoke of warning Waggoner and Prescott at the 1901 GC Session:

Extreme views of sanctification which lead men to suppose they are appointed to criticize and condemn their brethren are to be feared and shunned. During the General Conference of 1901, the Lord warned me against sentiments that were being gathered and then held by Brethren Prescott and [E. J.] Waggoner. Instruction was given me that these sentiments received have been as leaven put into meal. Many minds have received them. The ideas of some regarding a great experience called and supposed to be sanctification, have been the alpha of a train of deception which will deceive and ruin the souls of those who receive them. Because of some overdrawn expressions frequently used by Brother E. J. Waggoner at the conference, I was led to speak words intended to counteract their influence. If ever there was a time when our brethren should blend in unity it is now. You are engaged in an important work in Washington. I am very anxious that the work in that

place shall be carried forward exactly as the Lord would have it. But Satan is surely presenting some false theories which you must not receive. Elders Waggoner and Prescott are out of the way.--Letter 269, 1903, pp. 1, 2 (Dec. 14, 1903). {10MR 356.4}

From my research, [Dejan Andov](#), Waggoner was teaching pantheistic principles from AT LEAST as early as 1897. Kellogg thanked BOTH Waggoner and Jones for CONTRIBUTING to the thoughts he presented in Living Temple. Some of the thoughts in the Living Temple are from Waggoner's teachings from as early as 1897.

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[Dejan Andov](#) Thank you. I know Waggoner was teaching pantheism but I needed EGW statement against his views.

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[Curtis Kline](#) I think at the heart of this issue is your understanding of how to lay a biblical foundation for your beliefs and your acceptance of the Spirit of Prophecy. The reason I say that is that even Kellogg thought that him and Ellen white was saying the same thing and in some instances they were verbally saying the same thing but based on their understanding and foundation it was different

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[Curtis Kline](#) A good practical example is the verse in Jeremiah that's being used about God filling all space I don't think the way they're using it is the way Jeremiah used it

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[Greg Stewart](#) Brother [Emmanuel O'Neale](#),

To be quite honest, I don't see a difference in the teaching that Christ is literally in us between the Trinitarian teaching that God is three persons in one. Especially when that teaching brought out to it's logical conclusion.

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[Greg Stewart](#) That is why the Trinitarian teaching is pantheistic in nature.

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[Greg Stewart](#) Remember that Kellogg once stood on the platform of truth, but once he started entertaining these spiritualistic theories, his own fanciful logics eventually lead him to give up the truths he once held dear and became a Trinitarian.

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) Seems to me to be alot of philosophy rather than a clear explaination of clear bible verses.. I don't mean to be inflammatory in any regard only to say the language of the bible is very clear than Christ is IN the believer..

It's also clear that Christ and God have the ability to be omnipresent.

if the beleiver is incircled in the presence of God and Christ then it is also clear [Brendan](#), that the believer is in Christ.. that though we be in the world that is surrounded by earthly

influences we called to be not of the world. We should be IN God's presence in a reality and we are told that Christ is also IN US..

Again I bring the mind back to the earthly tabernacle where the presence of God Literally dwelt.. we being the temple of God calls to reason that the presence of God is within us. Panthiesm teaches that God is essentially in everything and in fact everything by default is God.. the tree becomes God and the boot becomes God..

The bible says that Jesus ascended that He may FILL the entire universe it also says that all the heavens the entire universe itself can not contain God.. yet we know that in some place in this universe God Himself has a physical visible form as does Christ..

These words speak directly to His omnipresent qualities. HE is bigger and greater than all creation yet He presents Himself bodily within it.

The idea that Christ being literally in us being pantheism is strange.. you guys seem to be saying that:

- 1.Christ is not omnipresent
- 2.The Holy Spirit is not a person a entity in which you come directly in contact with God and Christ not simply their word or Power but literally them.

Another point which I would like insight is do you guys beleive that when a demon posses a man or woman that the demon literally goes INSIDE of the individual? Or is it a demonic influence or the word and power of Satan.

Thanks [Greg](#), and Brendan.. for your responses..

I ask alot of questions because I want to be clear and I want to also weigh the evidence and persepective of other honest seekers of the truth.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 10 at 12:26am](#)



[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=dYPjCm3RufQ>

[Greg](#), [Brendan](#), [Curtis](#),

If you have time take a look at this let me know the specific points of the presentation that you find hard to agree with and why. Thanks



[A Person Within - Imad Awde](#)

Does Jesus truly dwell in the believer or is it only a metaphor? What did John mean...
youtube.com

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[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Finally started having a look at this sermon by [Imad Awde](#), [Emmanuel O'Neale](#). In the first few minutes, Imad says something that I found curious. He said that the Righteousness by Faith Message is founded on the idea of a PERSON WITHIN us. Well, I've been looking through everything written by Jones and Waggoner in the years surrounding 1888 (5 years either side) and I cannot find ANYTHING to support this contention. This seems to have been pulled out of thin air.

It seems strange that he would reference the Righteousness by Faith message when he has seemingly ignored any study of the Kellogg Crisis.

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Write a reply...



[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) [Brendan](#), you said:

"The Bible and Ellen White say that God and Christ are "in" us through the Holy Spirit. I think you would agree with that. I agree with that. The Bible and Ellen White also teach that the Holy Spirit is everywhere. If you have any problems with these two premises, we can discuss them further, but they are Biblical truth. Now, unless we believe in two different definitions of Holy Spirit, it would be consistent to conclude that however we understand God and Christ to be "in" us through the Spirit is how we should understand God and Christ to be "everywhere" by the same Spirit. That is, if we understand God and Christ to be literally, substantially and physically "IN" us, then we MUST understand God and Christ to be literally, substantially and physically EVERYWHERE."

Wow.. I hope this is not an accurate depiction of what you see David Clayton, Imad and other teach and many believe..

I have NEVER heard a sermon nor read any presentation from these brethren nor any others that say we believe and they teach that God and Christ are IN US "PHYSICALLY" .. The reality of what is taught is that Christ and God are IN US "SPIRITUALLY" in an unseen manifestation of themselves.. it would be complete pantheism to believe God and Christ were in us physically/bodily..

NO brother this is not what is being said.

What IS being said is that Christ is not limited to a Body or physical Form and can be present with us literally yet not bodily in the unseen manifestation of His literal presence called the Holy Spirit. So when we have the indwelling Christ we actually have Christ literally not Bodily but literally His person His Spirit, His Omnipresence..

In other words He is literally able to be in us in His unseen invisible form/manifestation yet not bodily.. He is physically in heaven in the heavenly sanctuary where He possesses a literal physical body. Yet He is spiritually present in our bodies which is the temple of the Holy Spirit the temple of the unseen literal presence of GOD and Christ.

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) I'm going to spend some time with this issue. I will take a look more closely at the SOP quotes you have referenced in your email [Brendan](#). Thanks for your prayers as I consider these things more closely. blessings

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [January 10 at 1:49am](#)



[Imad Awde](#) Dear brethren in Christ, I am glad to see someone post my presentation in here. Thank you [Emmanuel O'Neale](#) for stating what you did. Of course neither I nor anyone I know believe that God and Christ are in us physically. This is not the first time I have been falsely accused of something I do not believe and it won't be the last. Just like the accusation about me not accepting EGW's writings on this topic. Men are free to believe whatever they want.

Unfortunately, SDAs have reached a place where if you tell them let us see what the bible says first, they interpret this to mean "I don't accept EGW". I guess when you can't find evidence for what you believe in the bible, you will have to resort to such tactics of false accusations and misinterpretations.

I have shared in couple of presentations I did last year the difference between the Spirit of God and the upholding power of God. Satan is upheld by the power of God, hence he is alive, but does this mean that the spirit of God is in Satan? The animals and trees and upheld by the power of God, but does this mean that the spirit of God is in the tree and animals? Do we have in us anything or anyone that Satan and the animals do not have? Is there a difference?

The bible is clear on what or who the Holy Spirit is? And so is EGW and the pioneers. It is a very simple and logical process.

If the bible says that the Holy spirit is the spirit or life of Christ, as a matter of fact the bible says that "the Lord (Jesus) is that spirit"

And the bible says that the spirit is in us "because ye are sons God has sent forth the spirit of His Son into your hearts"

Then why can't I believe what the bible says that "Christ in you is the hope of Glory"
Why can't I believe that when I accept Christ, I no longer live, but "Christ liveth in me"
Why can't I believe that "the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh."

Am I a pantheist for believing the bible? Am I a pantheist for believe that Jesus Christ is in me? If so, then I am happy to be called a pantheist.

Anyway, all what I have said and much more is in the presentation that Emmanuel posted already and in the following 2 presentations which may add some information that is not in "A person within":

1. Because I live <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPcCljudBWg>
2. Christ in You <https://www.youtube.com/embed/rWG-hwQjgMQ?rel=0>

I am not interesting in debating; I am interested in studying the scriptures. If anyone would like to study this topic further with me, here is my email address (imadawde@gmail.com). I will be writing a paper about this topic and will share it on FB when it is done.

Let it be known publicly. I stand on the bible and the bible alone. I believe EGW is a prophet of God and accept her writings, that is why I believe what she said in the following statements:

"The testimonies of Sister White should not be carried to the front. God's Word is the

unerring standard. The Testimonies are not to take the place of the Word.” (Ellen G. White, Letter 12, 1890, as quoted in Evangelism page 256)

“Let all prove their positions from the Scriptures and substantiate every point they claim as truth from the revealed Word of God.” (Ibid)

But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines, and the basis of all re-forms. . . . Before accepting any doctrine or pre-cept, we should demand a plain "Thus saith the Lord" in its support.—The Great Controversy, p. 595.

I am fully in harmony with you in your work when you present the Bible, and the Bible alone, as the foundation of our faith.—Selected Messages, book 2, p. 85.

In the work of teaching the truth it is necessary that the important points of our position be well fortified with Scripture evidences.—Testimonies, vol. 1, pp. 447, 448.

All should be careful about presenting new views of Scripture before they have given these points thorough study, and are fully prepared to sustain them from the Bible.—Testimonies to Ministers, p. 106.

Our position and faith is in the Bible. And never do we want any soul to bring in the Testimonies ahead of the Bible. Manuscript 7, 1894 (January 28, 1894) par. 2)

I appeal to all SDA to learn how to prove their point from the scriptures and how to stand on the scriptures. If we are to share the gospel with the world, how are we going to do it? Are we going to search EGW CD for some key words and then copy past many statements to them? Come on people, wake up to yourselves. It is not about us. It is not about SDAs! We are to be the light to the world. Let us break out of this bubble we are living in and prepare ourselves for our mission.



[Because I live, ye shall live also](#)

Why did Jesus say “Because I live ye shall live also”? What life was He talking about...
youtube.com

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[Curtis Kline](#) Ok Imad here's a plain thus saith the Lord Literally "The words I speak to you are spirit and life" There's the bible. Ellen White as a prophet elaborates on what these words mean in the following quotes

Every true searcher of the Word lifts his heart to God, imploring the aid of the Spirit. And

he soon discovers that which carried him above all the fictitious statements of the would-be teacher, whose weak, tottering theories are not sustained by the Word of the living God. These theories were invented by men who had not learned the first great lesson, that God's Spirit and life are in His Word. If they had received in the heart the eternal element contained in the Word of God, they would see how tame and expressionless are all efforts to get something new to create a sensation. They need to learn the very first principles of the Word of God; they would then have the word of life for the people, who will soon distinguish the chaff from the wheat, for Jesus left His promise with His disciples.—
Letter 132, 1900. {2SM 39.2}

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[Curtis Kline](#) The word of God is the seed. Every seed has in itself a germinating principle. In it the life of the plant is enfolded. So there is life in God's word. Christ says, "The words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life." John 6:63. "He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life." John 5:24. In every command and in every promise of the word of God is the power, the very life of God, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God. {COL 38.1}

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[Curtis Kline](#) The life of Christ that gives life to the world is in His word. It was by His word that Jesus healed disease and cast out demons; by His word He stilled the sea, and raised the dead; and the people bore witness that His word was with power. He spoke the word of God, as He had spoken through all the prophets and teachers of the Old Testament. The whole Bible is a manifestation of Christ, and the Saviour desired to fix the faith of His followers on the word. When His visible presence should be withdrawn, the word must be their source of power. Like their Master, they were to live "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4. {DA 390.3}

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[Curtis Kline](#) As our physical life is sustained by food, so our spiritual life is sustained by the word of God. And every soul is to receive life from God's word for himself. As we must eat for ourselves in order to receive nourishment, so we must receive the word for ourselves. We are not to obtain it merely through the medium of another's mind. We should carefully study the Bible, asking God for the aid of the Holy Spirit, that we may understand His word. We should take one verse, and concentrate the mind on the task of ascertaining the thought which God has put in that verse for us. We should dwell upon the thought until it becomes our own, and we know "what saith the Lord." {DA 390.4}

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [January 10 at 2:21am](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) Greeting in Christ brother [Imad Awde](#), brother [Emmanuel O'Neale](#) stated several times within this discussion that Christ dwells in us LITERALLY, is this also your stance and is there a difference between Christ dwelling literally in us and Christ dwelling physically in us?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 10 at 2:22am](#)



[Curtis Kline](#) In your video you speak against the there being life in the Word. I can cut and paste the segments if you wish. Could you please speak to this subject in reference to the Bible quote I quoted above and the elaboration on that Biblical foundation that Ellen White the Prophet followed up on, Thanks.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [January 10 at 2:23am](#)



[Curtis Kline](#) I agree with you Greg, the question that would narrow down the understanding is, is Christ's Omniscient mind and conscienceness leaving his physical body and entering the believer, or is the Life that is being transmitted, being transmitted through the vehicle of his words.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [January 10 at 2:26am](#)



[Curtis Kline](#) BTW these quotes of Ellen White that are pointing people back to the bible are being used out of context.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 10 at 2:28am](#)



[Curtis Kline](#) she says these very men haven't learned what she calls "THE FIRST GREAT LESSON" that "GOD'S SPIRIT AND LIFE ARE IN HIS WORD"

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [January 10 at 2:31am](#)



[Curtis Kline](#) Satan is ... constantly pressing in the spurious—to lead away from the truth. The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God’s remnant people in the true testimony.—Letter 12, 1890. {1SM 48.3} There will be a hatred kindled against the testimonies which is satanic. The workings of Satan will be to unsettle the faith of the churches in them, for this reason: Satan cannot have so clear a track to bring in his deceptions and bind up souls in his delusions if the warnings and reproofs and counsels of the Spirit of God are heeded.—Letter 40, 1890. {1SM 48.4}

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [January 10 at 2:36am](#)



[Curtis Kline](#) I think it's totally shameless to make a compilation of the writings of Ellen White (which she said not to do for this reason, because it gives a force to what she was saying) in refrencing people back to the bible and using these very quotes to unsettle the faith of people in her very Writings.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 10 at 2:38am](#) · [Edited](#)



[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) When I say Christ dwells in us "literally" I mean it to say very plainly that the Holy Spirit IS the Person of God and Christ..

When we receive the Holy SPIRIT it is not simply the mind of God nor simply the divinity if God nor simply the character of God nor simply the power of God; it is ALL of these things and much more.. it is the very unseen presence of God..

Not His "Physical" presence!

But rather His Unseen spiritual presence His Omnipresence..

[Curtis](#), you wrote:

I agree with you Greg, the question that would narrow down the understanding is, is Christ's Omniscient mind and conscienceness leaving his physical body and entering the believer, or is the Life that is being transmitted, being transmitted through the vehicle of his words."

Hmmmm..

Christ Omnipresence is Himself present via the unseen agency of the Holy Spirit.. it is not simply conscienceness nor simply mind nor simply the Power in the word.. It is Himself literally present here.. at least this is what I understand..

For clarity it is not Him IN EVERYTHING it is Him present in His followers this seems to be plain in the language of John 14..

So to answer you [Greg](#) from my understanding Physical and Literal are not synonymous.. Christ can be present literally in physical Form OR in unseen spiritual form via His Omnipresence and this ability of His spirit which our spirit does not have is called "the Comforter"

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 10 at 2:51am](#) · [Edited](#)



[Curtis Kline](#) Christ is "the Word"

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [January 10 at 2:42am](#)



[Curtis Kline](#) It's their (the disciples) belief in his words that brought the comfort. This is why Christ said "I tell you these things now so when they come to pass you may believe. In other words he knew they weren't believing them when he spoke them. This is why Ellen White said that when Christ died on the cross the disciples hopes had been so totally crushed as if he never told them this was going to happen.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 10 at 2:44am](#)



[Curtis Kline](#) This is why he had to ratify the covenant in order to get them into a position where they could believe "his word"

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 10 at 2:45am](#)



[Curtis Kline](#) It is in this sense that we are living in the dispensation of the new covenant

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 10 at 2:46am](#)



[Curtis Kline](#) Though this covenant was made with Adam and renewed to Abraham, it could not be ratified until the death of Christ. It had existed by the promise of God since the first intimation of redemption had been given; it had been accepted by faith; yet when ratified by Christ, it is called a new covenant. The law of God was the basis of this covenant, which was simply an arrangement for bringing men again into harmony with the divine will, placing them where they could obey God's law. {PP 370.4}

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 10 at 2:47am](#)



[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) I will not leave you comfort less "I Will come to you" so in receiving the words of Christ we thus receive Christ Himself.. for as you have stated as John 1:1 says plainly Christ is the Word of God.. He will work in and through us to bring about His good pleasure.. Christ IN us the hope of glory..

It is as if the incarnation is to take place in every born again beleiver that Christ again in the person of His saints and through the agency of a His Omnipresence will in the surrendered sinner receive again a Body prepared for Him that He may once again walk the righteous life..

Christ is the word of God puts emphasis that if you guys teach that the Holy Spirit is simply the reception of the words of God through all available mediums then in reality the bible says still Christ IS THE WORD. any way it's put it still ends with Christ In us..

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 10 at 2:49am](#)



[Curtis Kline](#) I think Corey's book does a good job of teaching that you have to start from Genesis and lay a foundation for your beliefs

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 10 at 2:49am](#)



[Curtis Kline](#) You know Emmanuel in all fairness, Your presenting what your saying as a harmonious set of beliefs between yourself and David and Imad. I've had discussions with both of them and I'm not convinced that you and them are saying the same thing.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 10 at 2:52am](#)



[Curtis Kline](#) So this is making this hard to dissect.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 10 at 2:52am](#)



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) -----

You said:

Seems to me to be alot of philosophy rather than a clear explaination of clear bible verses.. I don't mean to be inflammatory in any regard only to say the language of the bible is very clear than Christ is IN the believer..

[Emmanuel O'Neale](#), using Scripture to interpret Scripture is not philosophy. It is how we are to study the Bible. Moreover, you asked for simple sentences, it is disingenuous to then turn around and say that I didn't give a "clear explanation of clear Bible verses". I have given this explanation over and over again in refuting the pantheism of [David Clayton](#), [Imad Awde](#) and others in the email correspondence you should read.

The trinitarian says that it is "philosophy" not to understand "three persons" or "third person" in the sense that THEY insist upon. You are doing no different here by throwing this around when all that is happening is that we are allowing Scripture to interpret itself. I don't know how it is so hard to follow that one statement will interpret another statement...

You said:

It's also clear that Christ and God have the ability to be omnipresent.

if the believer is incircled in the presence of God and Christ then it is also clear Brendan, that the believer is in Christ.. that though we be in the world that is surrounded by earthly influences we called to be not of the world. We should be IN God's presence in a reality and we are told that Christ is also IN US..

No one is disputing the "omnipresence" of God and Christ. But rather than defining "omnipresence" according to HUMAN REASONING, we have made sure to define it AS THE BIBLE EXPLAINS, through texts such as Psalm 139 or Revelation 5:6. Just as "person" is defined by Ellen White's descriptions of the relationship of the Spirit to God and Christ. To be in the "presence" of God is to be (1) in His SIGHT and (2) within His ability to ACT FOR US which requires FAITH in His WORD. This is ABIDING IN the Word just as the Word is to ABIDE IN us.

You said:

Again I bring the mind back to the earthly tabernacle where the presence of God Literally dwelt.. we being the temple of God calls to reason that the presence of God is within us. Panthiesm teaches that God is essentially in everything and in fact everything by default is God.. the tree becomes God and the boot becomes God..

Again, the "presence" of God must be defined as Inspiration describes it, not as two millennia of ECCLESIASTICAL TRADITION (built upon Greek thought) define it. I have no problem with stating that the presence of Christ is in us. But again, I understand this through letting INSPIRATION INTERPRET ITSELF. If it seems I'm repeating myself it is because I want to see you grapple with this concept.

CLASSIC PANTHEISM (eg. of the Hindu variety) "teaches that God is essentially in everything and in fact everything by default is God". This is not the brand of Kellogg's pantheism. Kellogg DID NOT teach that everything was God, but that God was EVERYWHERE, filling all space. This is what I see you describing. Remember that his book, a text-book about human anatomy and physiology was called "The Living Temple". Isn't it interesting how you continue to come back to this idea to assert that God is "literally" in us?

You said:

The bible says that Jesus ascended that He may FILL the entire universe it also says that all the heavens the entire universe itself can not contain God.. yet we know that in some place in this universe God Himself has a physical visible form as does Christ..

Once again, I will say that I have no problem with the verses in Ephesians and Jeremiah and the Psalms or anywhere else which describe God and Christ as filling all things or the universe being unable to "contain" God. But, once again, I allow Scripture to explain what this means. Psalm 139 is very clear on what this means, as are many other places of Scripture. Kellogg, in the Living Temple, taught that God had a form but that God ALSO

filled the universe, surrounding everyone.

You said:

These words speak directly to His omnipresent qualities. HE is bigger and greater than all creation yet He presents Himself bodily within it.

Brother, this is so close to what Kellogg taught that it isn't funny. You say that God only "presents Himself bodily within" creation. You know how Ellen White frequently stated that Kellogg was destroying "the personality of God and of Christ"? This phrase "personality of God" goes right back to the earliest days of Adventism. Ellen White was shown that God HAS A FORM that is a necessary part of His BEING. It isn't something that He adopts for our benefit, but His form is an ATTRIBUTE OF HIS BEING. ANY view that states that God fills either all matter, space or time is pantheistic in its tendencies, for it destroys a God Who is a Being approachable IN TIME AND SPACE. God's "filling" all things is described in Scripture as His ability to SEE and ACT everywhere.

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[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Continued

You said:

The idea that Christ being literally in us being pantheism is strange.. you guys seem to be saying that:

- 1.Christ is not omnipresent
 - 2.The Holy Spirit is not a person a entity in which you come directly in contact with God and Christ not simply their word or Power but literally them.
-

1. No I am not. I believe Christ is omnipresent AS THE BIBLE EXPLAINS AND DESCRIBES IT.

2. The Holy Spirit IS an ECONOMIC PERSON. It is Their activity WHERE THEY ARE NOT BODILY LOCATED. Ellen White called it the "presence and power of God".

You said:

Another point which I would like insight is do you guys beleive that when a demon posses a man or woman that the demon literally goes INSIDE of the individual? Or is it a demonic influence or the word and power of Satan.

[Emmanuel O'Neale](#), I would encourage you to read the answers that are found in both Caroline Andrew's contribution beginning on page 25 of the emails book as well as my answer beginning on page 66 of the same in regarding to demon possession. Inspiration doesn't go into detail anywhere about HOW demonic possession happens. But from the clues that you can read in those exchanges, it is clear that it is not about a demon literally

getting inside us and wearing us like a human suit. It has more to do with the power which THEY wield through words, just like where God power comes from.

You said:

Thanks Greg, and Brendan.. for your responses..

I ask alot of questions because I want to be clear and I want to also weigh the evidence and persepective of other honest seekers of the truth.

For myself I say you are welcome smile emoticon

We are only "honest seekers of the truth" if we allow Inspiration to interpret itself, rather than our own pride of reasoning. Imad used to sign off all his emails with the following statement:

“When a person who is honestly deceived receives the truth, he will stop being deceived, or cease to be honest”

There is so much truth in this statement...

You said:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=dYPjCm3RufQ>

Greg, Brendan, Curtis,

If you have time take a look at this let me know the specific point of the presentation that you find hard to agree with and why.

We will see if I have time. I do not find it pleasurable wading through pantheistic teachings and misrepresented "straw man" attacks on what I believe. For now, I'm happy to have a conversation with you.

You said:

Wow.. I hope this is not an accurate depiction of what you see David Clayton, Imad Awde and other teach and many believe..

I have NEVER heard a sermon nor read any presentation from these brethren nor any others that say we beleive and they teach that God and Christ are IN US "PHYSICALLY" .. The reality of what is taught is that Christ and God are IN US "SPIRITUALLY" in an unseen manifestation of themselves.. it would be complete pantheism to beleive God and Christ were in us physically/bodily..

NO brother this is not what is being said.

What IS being said is that Christ is not limited to a Body or physical Form and can be present with us literally yet not bodily in the unseen manifestation of His literal presence called the Holy Spirit. So when we have the indwelling Christ we actually have Christ literally not Bodily but literally His person His Spirit, His Omnipresence..

In other words He is literally able to be in us in His unseen invisible form/manifestation yet not bodily.. He is physically in heaven in the heavenly sanctuary where He possesses

a literal physical body. Yet He is spiritually present in the put bodies which is the temple of the Holy Spirit the temple of the unseen literal presence of GOD and Christ..

This is semantics, brother. You say that God and Christ are not in us "physically", yet you believe that they are ACTUALLY, TRULY, LITERALLY "in" us. The truth is that you are extending the SUBSTANCE of God out from the form of God... You are saying a part of Their BEING is in us... Whether you admit to the word "physical" or you opt for the mysterious "spiritual" it amounts to the same thing. Don't get caught up in words. If you believe that a part of God and/or Christ's SUBSTANCE or BEING is IN us, then you are teaching what Kellogg, Waggoner and Prescott taught.

I don't believe God or Christ are limited in any sense. This is another of the false, subtle misrepresentations that is going about. God can SEE EVERYWHERE... He can ACT EVERYWHERE... He is not at all limited. It is this SEEING AND ACTING that is called His "presence". This is how the BIBLE DEFINES IT. You are resting upon the same Greek philosophical constructions which led to the trinity mysticism. Come back to the Word, brother.

You said:

When I say Christ dwells in us "literally" I mean it to say very plainly that the Holy Spirit IS the Person of God and Christ..

When we receive the Holy SPIRIT it is not simply the mind of God nor simply the divinity of God nor simply the character of God nor simply the power of God; it is ALL of these things and much more.. it is the very unseen presence of God..

Not His "Physical" presence!

But rather His Unseen spiritual presence His Omnipresence..

Hmmmm..

Christ Omnipresence is Himself present via the unseen agency of the Holy Spirit.. it is not simply conscienceness nor simply mind nor simply the Power in the word.. It is Himself literally present here.. at least this is what I understand..

For clarity it is not Him IN EVERYTHING it is Him present in His followers this seems to be plain in the language of John 14..

So to answer you Greg from my understanding Physical and Literal are not synonymous.. Christ can be present literally in physical Form OR in unseen spiritual form via His Omnipresence and this ability of His spirit which our spirit does not have is called "the Comforter"

Ditto above. I really encourage you to study this out and define many of these concepts BIBLICALLY and in light of Ellen White's inspired statements.

You said:

I'm going to spend some time with this issue. I will take a look more closely at the SOP quotes you have referenced in your email Brendan. Thanks for your prayers as I consider these things more closely. blessings

I commend this. Please look not just at the Ellen White statements, but also and more importantly at the MANY BIBLICAL lines of reasoning I presented. This was the starting point of my platform. But I do commend that unlike Imad, you still consider Ellen White's writings to be worthy of being factored into our beliefs and teachings.

We will definitely keep you in prayer as you study.

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) Ok fair enough [Curtis](#) .. Im not trying to present harmony nessasarily but I would like for people to accurately present the beliefs of others..

The very first step in coming to a common ground is first understanding accurately the ground we all stand on (meaning to truly understand what each person believes) when we misstate others beliefs as we reason it is in the order of God that we acknowledge the mistake and make proper effort to understand accurately the stance of those we differ with.. this is the very first step.

This is why I'm asking questions and seeking to over emphasis what I understand currently.

If we all do this with grace and Christian forbearance then we would have a heavenly dialog in the upper room and God would show up and make things plain..

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[Curtis Kline](#) I appreciate your sincerity Emmanuel, I think in fulfillment of your thoughts it would have been Good for David and Imad to present their opposition to what Brendan and I are saying and their beliefs in a public forum where those who oppose what their saying are present to speak for themselves. Think about it brother if you were in a discourse with trinitarians, would you feel comfortable with them telling others what you believe, probably not. Not that their not necessarily honest men but we know that because of their understandings, when you tell them something they think your saying something else. I think this is what is happening in this situation.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 10 at 3:00am](#)



[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) Ok fair enough brothers..

Hmm this is pretty interesting stuff..

[Brendan](#), you said:

"This is semantics, brother. You say that God and Christ are not in us "physically", yet you believe that they are ACTUALLY, TRULY, LITERALLY "in" us. The truth is that you are extending the SUBSTANCE of God out from the form of God... You are saying a part of Their BEING is in us... Whether you admit to the word "physical" or you opt for the mysterious "spiritual" it amounts to the same thing. Don't get caught up in words. If you believe that a part of God and/or Christ's SUBSTANCE or BEING is IN us, then you are teaching what Kellogg, Waggoner and Prescott taught."

I actually beleive semantics in this circumstance is just as important as the semantics involved in the word "person" When dealing with a trinitarian.

I don't think the Holy spirt is Part of God's being as I underatand today I beleive it is God's ability to be everywhere present.. it is literally His Omnipresence which carries

with it all that God is.. It is His unseen person free from his body yet not individual to His control..

Humans do not have this ability but we here satanic situations where people say they have an outer body experience.. as satanic as it is for the human agent because our spirit is contained within our bodies for God this ability to have a Body yet be present still in an unseen method seems biblical.

Am I to believe that Jesus and the Bible spoke in your definition pantheistically so often yet He meant something different? If so then I will seek God in prayer but at this time I see the bible is FULL of verses where it says things like "Christ in us" I will come to you" I in you" I mean in all reality it is said sooooo many times.. granted I will take into consideration what you say from your study it means and test all things. Because in fact the bible does teach that Christ is God and because of this use of those terms many have adopted a trinity so I am not infallible and I am prone to tell some human weaknesses of mind. I will take time to investigate the quotations and verses as I do believe that EGW writings are valuable to us as a people and would like to take every opportunity to hear God's voice plainly.

Also you stated though something in regard to demons not actually inhabiting the physical body of a human but what of the case when Jesus cast out the many demons called legion and they were then cast out of a man and into pigs.. seems obvious to me that demons can possess a person body.. and I'm going to say I don't believe that is physically but literally in a spiritual unseen form.

I will grapple with all that is posted both for and against what I currently believe.. thanks for your time and willingness to share..

Let's in the spirit of Christ reason together.. we may have differences but Brendan I beseech you to be considerate that at one time you say you also believed as Imad teaches so try to make statements such as:

"We will see if I have time. I do not find it pleasurable wading through pantheistic teachings and misrepresented "straw man" attacks on what I believe. For now, I'm happy to have a conversation with you."

Let's be cordial and loving that we might win and wrestle together in the faith for the Glory of our God and our Lord.

Let differences bind God's children in love and harmony of spirit in study not build up spiritual pride and bias of opinions.

Blessings..

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 10 at 3:24am](#)



[Curtis Kline](#) Thanks [Emmanuel O'Neale](#), I for one appreciate your spirit and lack of rashness in this situation. This is indeed a sticky subject and none of us who are truly children of God want pride to push us into a lost position. Let's all pray for each other and try to move forward carefully. Blessings

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[Imad Awde](#) Dear [Curtis Kline](#)

Thank you for your input. All the statements you shared ought to be understood in light of Jesus's words:

Joh 5:39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

Joh 5:40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

Is life in the scriptures, in the words, or is it in Christ, the Person of whom the scriptures testify?

Will a person who memorizes the whole bible earn eternal life, or will the person who by faith receive the word of God have eternal life?

I am sure you would agree with me that life is not in the word but it is in the Person of whom the word testifies. The reason faith is the key that unlocks the promises is because when you receive the word of God by faith, you actually receive the Author of the words. My dear brother, you quoted a nice verse, but how do you harmonize the verse you quoted with the following verse:

1Jn 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

1Jn 5:12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Eternal life is in the SON not in the words of the Son. The words of the Son leads to the SOn, the words of God lead you to God. The Pharisees at the days of Jesus thought that eternal life was found in the scriptures alone and hence Jesus's words to them. He told them that you search the scriptures seeking for eternal life, but the scriptures you read testify of me, the lead you to me, and you will not come to me to receive this eternal life you are seeking for. So eternal life is not found in the scriptures alone, it is found in the One to whom the scriptures point to, it is found in The Son, in Jesus Christ.

And he who has the Son has life. The bible does not say he who has the words of the Son, or the thoughts of the Son. It says he who has the Son has life.

Curtis, do you have the Son? Have you receive the Son?

So to answer your question, I am not saying that the word of God is useless and it does not lead to eternal life. What I am saying is that there is not life in the word of God appart from Christ. Life is found in Christ of whom the word of God testify. So when a person receives the word of God by faith, something else happens, he receive the Author of the word as well as the word.

And brother Greg, yes I do believe that Christ dwells in us literally. But this does not mean physically. Physically means a physical body (flesh and blood as we know it). For example, when a person is demon possessed, he literally has a demon (evil spirit) dwelling in him, but this does not mean that he has a physical being dwelling in him. Physical is something tangible, we can handle with our own physical hands. I hope this clarifies the matter.

Back to brother Curtis. You asked the following questions:

[is Christ's Omniscient mind and consciousness leaving his physical body and entering the believer, or is the Life that is being transmitted, being transmitted through the vehicle of his words]

Good question my brother. All what I can go by is what the word of God reveals.

When Jesus appeared to Paul, what actually happened? The soldiers with him saw something and heard something, there was someone there! Did Jesus leave heaven to come down? Was He still in heaven and here at the same time?

I believe that Jesus Himself appeared to Paul, and He was still at the same time in heaven!

How did He do that? I don't know. He is God and I am man, why should I limit Him to what I know?

Now, does Christ's omniscient mind and consciousness leave His physical body to enter mine? To be honest, I don't know. All what I know is what the bible says. The bible says that Christ is in me, I believe that. Must I know how it works in order to believe it?

Do we understand how God created the world by simply speaking? Must I say that unless I understand how it works I can not believe it? Are my ways God's ways and my thoughts God's thoughts? Isn't He God and I am man?

What you are asking my brother is something that the scriptures are silent about, and you are using this to disprove something the bible is not silent about. This is not how we study the scriptures. Find a text and let us study it and understand it.

I can not answer things that God did not reveal in His word.

Now having said that, I can use some text from the bible where the spirit speaks, and is grieved and directs and can somehow conclude that this is the omniscient mind and consciousness of Christ. But can I be 100% certain? No

But what I can be certain about is that Christ Himself (without His physical body) is in the believer. This the scriptures are clear on. I have shared much evidence in my presentations, if you wish you can study them to see what I say.

Having said all the above, can you tell me if you believe Christ is in the believer or not?

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[Curtis Kline](#) Hi [Imad Awde](#), thanks for your response, I appreciate it. without giving a full response I want to share a couple thoughts. Christ said "the words I speak to you are spirit and life" . I believe that one of the functions of the Spirit of Prophecy is to elaborate on certain things from the bible that we can't understand the full context. I believe Jesus did this in Christ Object Lessons the first few chapters and especially in the chapter "the crisis in Galilee" In desire of ages. this is why I was hard on you about quoting her quotes on pointing back to the bible, I think there is a little contextual problem and she councils about using her writings in this way. It reminds me of how trinitarians throw Evangelism in front of your face. All I can say brother is that Jesus says there's life in the words, Ellen white corroborates and elaborates on his thoughts and I understanding you to be saying again as recently as your most recent post that it's not the words that have the life but the word's lead to the life. I think there is a foundational issue here and I think Corey did a good job of pointing out the real problem in his book. I ask you did you prayerfully read the whole book? Blessings to you in your search.

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[Curtis Kline](#) Imad Awad, as I have scrutinized your material on this subject, I just get the impression (correct me if I'm wrong) that you can't come to the place that the Word of God can be the actual vehicle for transmitting his life to us, I get the impression that the word isn't bringing the life but it's taking us to the life. When I read the above spirit of Prophecy I just don't get the impression that Ellen White understood it that way. This eerily reminds me of the Kellogg situation in the sense that He believed and insisted that Him and Ellen White taught and believed the same on this subject, based on the fact that she wrote many similar things that he wrote and some of the exact words were the same. But their foundational understanding was different. In other words When She said you can see God in nature and he said You can see God in nature it meant different things to them in their minds.

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[Imad Awde](#) Thank you Curtis Kline for your reply, I have spoken to Corey on this topics many times. He is a personal friend and I have read few chapters of his book. You are free to believe what you like my brother, I don't want to force you to see things the way I see them. However, I strong believe what I believe on this topic and think it to be a most important topic to study. As far as I understand my brother, life is only found in one Being, Jesus Christ the righteous. It is not found in anyone else and anything else (except of course for the Father of all). I believe in EGW, and I harmonize her writings with the bible, not the other way around. I have met many people in the past few years who use EGW to justify:

a lunar Sabbath,
a 12 hour Sabbath,
God doesn't kill,
feast keeping...etc.

whenever I tell any of them to base their belief on the bible, they all give me the same response you have given me. They all accuse me of rejecting or minimizing the SOP. I stand on the Bible and invite you to stand on what EGW, the pioneers and the apostles stood on, the Bible. EGW is to be harmonized with the bible NOT the other way around.

As to your analysis of my belief, here is what I belief. Does the word of God have life in and of itself appart from God. NO. does the word of God lead you to eternal life? Yes DO you receive eternal life when by faith you receive the word of God? YES, because by doing so you receive the Author of the word.

Here is it is again my brother, life is not found in words, philosophy, thoughts, ideas, powers or anything you can think of. Eternal life is found in a Person, Jesus Christ.

The bible is clear on that, I shared with you couple of text from 1 John 5 and in other places the bible calls Jesus "eternal life" "our life"...etc

Anyway, I think we are going in circles now. I appreciate your thoughts and talking to you. I hope we can discuss it in person sometime, but until then, let us keep praying and studying.

Blessings

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[Curtis Kline](#) I agree not to keep dragging this out I just want to say, that no one teaches that the Word has life apart from God, Jesus is "the word". But I don't understand how you can say life isn't found in words when Christ himself said His words are life and Ellen white repeatedly says the same. It seems you want to hold to your position though and I respect that.

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[Imad Awde](#) But Curtis Kline my brother, Jesus did not only say His words are spirit and life, He also said to the Jews that life is not found in the scriptures, it is found in Him of whom the scriptures testify. When Jesus said that His words are spirit and life, do you understand that to mean that His words are spirit? If so, then the spirit = His words? if that is the case, what then ascended on Pentecost? words? or an entity separate from

words called Spirit?

Whatever ascended on Pentecost was something they did not have before. Jesus told them to wait until they receive the promise...etc. Jesus said I will send you the comforter, John tells us that the spirit was not yet because Jesus was not yet glorified, Jesus said that if He does not go away, the comforter will not come, but if He goes, He will send Him to them. My brother, please understand this point, prior to Pentecost they had the words of God exactly the same way they had it after Pentecost. But something different came upon them on that day. What was it? Why didn't they receive this spirit prior to Pentecost if it is true the way you are understanding the verse "the words are spirit and life" You say that the word of God is the Vehicle to transmit His life. That could be, but remember two things:

Do not equate the life with the words

And do not limit the life to the words

Otherwise you must say that on Pentecost they receive nothing new. They had the comforter all along and Jesus was not really being honest when He said "if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you" because the comforter was there all along. Please watch my presentation "A person within" where I talk more about this point.

The words could be one avenue to impart life to the believer, but it is only in light of the fact that when you believe the words, you actually receive the Author of the words. You yourself said that the words without God do not have life, of course. So what is the difference then? Why do they have life with God and don't have it without God? Obviously the difference is found in something or someone outside of the words themselves.

So the verse "the words are spirit and life" must be understood with the above in mind. The words are not in and of themselves spirit and life, they lead to receiving spirit and life. This is exactly what Jesus told the Jesus as I pointed earlier.

Anyway, I hope this clarifies a bit more of what I believe and why I believe it. At the end of the day, my central text to which I keep referring to and understand this doctrine in light of is the following:

1Jn 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this LIFE IS IN HIS SON.

1Jn 5:12 HE THAT HATH THE SON HATH LIFE; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

The key phrases are "life is in His Son" and "he that hath the Son"

I stand and camp on this truth. I rejoice in it and will go to my grave holding on to it because it is my only hope of salvation. Outside this truth there is no eternal life.

Salvation, redemption and eternal life is found in the SON.

Thank you Father for your Son and for giving me life in Him. I pray that everyone will receive the Son so that they have life

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[Curtis Kline](#) Imad this is circular because you continue to postulate. Just because Jesus said his words are spirit doesn't mean that was an all encompassing statement. The spirit encompasses more than that. Then you build not off what I'm saying but the false conclusion that you come to based on what I'm saying. In other words when Jesus said his words are spirit, he wasn't saying this is the totality of what the spirit is. This is a

continual problem I see with your position so we can drop it.

One more thought though to change the subject, one problem I notice with your statement above about the SOP. I'm sure you know or at least I would like to assume that you know that Ellen White never supported lunar sabbath, 12 hour sabbath, feast keeping or God doesn't kill, as for what you meant by ect... I don't know so I will leave it with those four teachings. If you really support the spirit of prophecy, when people use it improperly to say and support things that Ellen White didn't teach, the responsible thing to do would be to point out the error and out of context aspects of their positions and restore confidence in the flock for the SOP that is so desperately needed for this time. Instead you use your influence to turn people away from the SOP by using the quotes from her you used above in a compilation, which she said not to do with her writings by the way. Brother when she was leading people back to the bible it wasn't in the context of putting her writings aside. One thing you and David never do is address the issue from the statements from the SOP on this subject. If she's a prophet and the statements are in context then humble yourself and accept the statements. If they are being used out of context then correct the error and restore the confidence of the people in God's end time prophet.

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[Curtis Kline](#) You guys always say that the problem isn't with the SOP but with the way people use it and then you treat the situation like the problem is with the SOP itself. Make up your minds is the problem with the SOP or is it with how it's misused by people. And if the misuse is the problem then don't use this as an excuse to turn people away from it because if that's the case we might as well turn people away from the bible also because it is almost universally misused.

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[Imad Awde](#) OK, can you please tell me what you understand Jesus meant by the words: "the words I speak unto you are spirit". Thank you. BTW I accept what EGW said, but understand it differently. I try to harmonize the quotes she said with what she said elsewhere that the Holy spirit is Jesus Christ. And I agree that there is life in the word of God, but I understand that to me that it has life in it in the sense that it leads to life.

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[Greg Stewart](#) Brother [Imad Awde](#), I am reposting this question as you may have missed it earlier:

Greeting in Christ brother Imad Awde, brother Emmanuel O'Neale stated several times within this discussion that Christ dwells in us LITERALLY, is this also your stance and is there a difference between Christ dwelling literally in us and Christ dwelling physically in us?

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[Imad Awde](#) Hi [Greg Stewart](#) I answered your question in the first post I shared after your post. It is half way through my post

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[Greg Stewart](#) Thanks [Imad Awde](#), Right after I posted the question I had to go to a birthday fellowship of one of our deacons, so I did not have time to fully go through it, I perused the discussion a bit, but never delve into it. I will look at it now. Blessings. smile emoticon

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Write a reply...



[Curtis Kline](#) fair enough then, I'll tak ou at our word, I just don't think it should be brought up that people mis use the SOP because although that is true it doesn't have any actual bearing on the SOP itself, just like people mis using the bible doesn't have any direct bearing on the bible itself.

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[Imad Awde](#) I agree [Curtis Kline](#).

can you please answer my question in my previous post. How do you understand the words of Jesus "the words I speak unto you are spirit". I would love to understand your point of view better.

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[Greg Stewart](#) Brother [Imad Awde](#), You commented thus: "And brother Greg, yes I do believe that Christ dwells in us literally. But this does not mean physically. Physically means a physical body (flesh and blood as we know it). For example, when a person is demon possessed, he literally has a demon (evil spirit) dwelling in him, but this does not mean that he has a physical being dwelling in him. Physical is something tangible, we can handle with our own physical hands. I hope this clarifies the matter."

===== Brother [Awde](#), Forgive my seemingly tedious inquiry on this matter, but so as to get you clearly, when you say, "yes I do believe that Christ dwells in us literally", do you mean that He dwell in us literally in a SPIRITUAL sense?

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[Curtis Kline](#) Hey [Imad Awde](#) I think you have to start in Genesis and lay a foundation His Word is definitely associated with his spirit for example when it said the Spirit of God moved up on the face of the waters that was Christ's words speaking things into existence so I do believe that Christ's words are a vehicle for his spirit but I don't think that's all the Spirit is for example angels are ministering spirits I think a good study of Zechariah 4 explains how God spirit flows out from him into all His creation

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[Curtis Kline](#) I believe when Ezekiel preached to the dry bones it was the word or the Spirit of God coming forth from him that was bringing life to the bones now I think it wasn't the ultimate source the father is the ultimate source maybe this is why Christ is also the word in the beginning was the Word

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[Greg Stewart](#) Gm Brother [Kline](#), One of the reasons I am try to get clarity from brother [Imad Awde](#), is because I am sensing that there is a sense of misunderstanding (semantically) going on within these discussions. let me explain, I think I understand where [Imad](#), is coming from based on his reasonings, for I too believe that Christ literally becomes a part of us, BUT, only as we spiritually eat, masticate and digest the word of God. This was explicitly stated in Deuteronomy 8:3 and repeated in Matthew 4:4. Obviously Christ was speaking in spiritual, yet FIGURATIVE terms.

===== If
we are to take Brother [Awde](#)'s message to their logical conclusions without clarifying exactly what is meant by Christ in us, I see not much difference with his message than that of the Catholics TRANSUBSTANTIATION, where the Catholics believe that Christ is in the Eucharist even though they too teach it in a spiritual sense.

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[Greg Stewart](#) Now I am beginning to see the devastating effects of these spiritualistic teachings drawn to their logical conclusions.

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[Curtis Kline](#) good morning Greg, I agree with you totally, The SOP totally clarifies this particular aspect of the issue in the "Crisis in Galilee" chapter in DA, there is a lot of misunderstanding going on but it could be deeper problems than that that I won't elaborate on at this time.

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[Curtis Kline](#) This is why Ellen White said I tremble for our people

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[Curtis Kline](#) these things can be very subtle, I don't know if you know but Ellen White told Jones not to go to Battle Creek and try and straighten out the issue, He went anyway and instead of straightening things out he got caught up.

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[Greg Stewart](#) No I did not, can you stair me to this document? Thanks for the info!

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[Curtis Kline](#) yea give me a bit

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 10 at 6:30pm](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) Thanks!
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[Curtis Kline](#) Here you go brother Greg this is a good read

In the summer of 1903, at a time when affairs at the conference were most uncomfortable, he had an interview at Elmshaven with Ellen White, in which he told her that at the request of Dr. J. H. Kellogg he was planning to go to Battle Creek to teach Bible in the American Medical Missionary College. He hoped to be able to help Dr. Kellogg. She counseled him not to go. He promised Sister White that he would be guarded. She had been warned in vision that such a move on his part would lead to his downfall. She wrote of it thus: ATJEJW 3.3

“In vision I had seen him [A. T. Jones] under the influence of Dr. Kellogg. Fine threads were being woven around him, till he was being bound hand and foot, and his mind and his senses were becoming captivated.”—Letter 116, 1906. ATJEJW 3.4

Then, comments Ellen White, as she reported this to Brother Jones just before he went to Battle Creek, she could see “that his perceptions were becoming confused, and that he did not believe the warning given. The enemy works in a strange, wonderful way to influence human minds.”—Ibid. But Jones was sure that he would not fall away. He was a man with too much self-confidence. ATJEJW 3.5

In 1905, still a member of the General Conference Committee, he was invited to assist in meeting some religious liberty crises in Washington, D.C. But in two months he was back in Battle Creek. Ellen White endeavored to draw Elder Jones away from Battle Creek into evangelistic work, and this would doubtless have saved the man. On February 26, 1905, she wrote: ATJEJW 3.6

“Elder A. T. Jones, God calls upon you to go out into the cities, and give the last message of warning. Look to God for your support as you go. Call the people together, and you will certainly not work in vain. Let the truth go forth as a lamp that burneth. No longer confine your efforts to one place. Let there be held, right where you are, a solemn convocation. Let there be a renunciation of self to God. Hold fast the beginning of your faith unto the end. Let not your faith waver. Go forth in faith.... ATJEJW 3.7

“There are those who have never heard the message of mercy and warning. In the name of ATJEJW 3.8

the Lord I say, Delay not. Proclaim the gospel message in the cities of America. Scatter the seeds of truth throughout these cities. Take with you reliable men, who with pen and voice will act their part in proclaiming the message of present truth to the world.”—Letter 187, 1905. ATJEJW 3.8

But he continued in Battle Creek under influences he was no match for. He was soon in bitter opposition to his brethren and to the Spirit of prophecy. He issued a number of tracts and pamphlets in defending his course. ATJEJW 4.1

A number of enlightening statements made by Ellen White in communications to him or in which reference is made to him between the time he joined Dr. Kellogg in Battle Creek until her last message to him in 1911 are most revealing. There unfolds the picture of the progressive steps in the experience of a man, self-confident, flaunting warning messages, and deliberately placing himself under influences that finally captivated him and led to his spiritual destruction. There follows in chronological order excerpts from several Ellen G. White documents: ATJEJW 4.2

July 23, 1904, “Inharmonious Note” at the Berrien Springs Meeting,—“The words and attitude of Brother—and Brother A. T. Jones at the Berrien Springs meeting [1904] struck

an inharmonious note,—a note that was not inspired of God. It created a state of things which resulted in harm that they did not anticipate. It made the work of the meeting very much harder than it would otherwise have been. Had it not been for their injudicious course, the Berrien Springs Conference would have shown very different results.”—*Testimonies for the Church Containing Letters to Physicians and Ministers Instruction to Seventh-day Adventists*, 42. ATJEJW 4.3

December 29, 1905, *Lost Spiritual Eyesight and Repudiated God’s Warnings*.—“I send no more [testimonies to be read to the Battle Creek church] to A. T. Jones, for I have evidence that a work will have to be done for him before the Lord will accept his service. God has given him warnings which he has repudiated, and I am deeply grieved that he has so little spiritual eyesight.”—Letter 345, 1905 (written to G. W. Amadon, first elder of the Battle Creek church). ATJEJW 4.4

March 12, 1906, *The Wrong Spirit and Demonstrations of Bitterness*.—“You may be surprised to hear the words that you have heard from Elder A. T. Jones; but I am not at all surprised. This is the development of the man when the spirit that is counter to the Spirit of God comes upon him. In him as he is at the present time, you have a representation of a man who is not under the molding influence of the Spirit of God. The Lord accepts no such demonstrations of bitterness.... ATJEJW 4.5

“Read in my books, *Patriarchs and Prophets* and *Great Controversy*, the story of the first great apostasy. History is being repeated and will be repeated. Read then, and understand.”—Letter 98, 1906. ATJEJW 4.6

April 2, 1906, *Captivated, Deluded, and Deceived*.—“During the General Conference at Takoma Park [May, 1905], Elder Jones’s case was again presented to me. After this, I had a long conversation with him in which I pointed out his danger. But he was self-confident, and declared to me that Dr. Kellogg believed the truth and the testimonies just as firmly as the rest of us believed and advocated them. In this conversation Elder Jones manifested that which had been revealed to me regarding him, that in the place of receiving the warnings he was full of self-confidence; that he had exalted himself, and in the place of being prepared to help Dr. Kellogg, he had united with him to disbelieve and distrust, and falsely to accuse the ministers and others who were trying to save Dr. Kellogg and other physicians who were in peril.... ATJEJW 4.7

“I warned Elder Jones, but he felt that he was not in the least danger. But the fine threads have been woven about him, and he is now a man deluded and deceived. Though claiming to believe the testimonies, he does not believe them.”—Letter 116, 1906 (to Dr. David Paulson). ATJEJW 4.8

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[Greg Stewart](#) Thanks! I am going to post as a note on my page.

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[Curtis Kline](#) Very telling, reminds me of some today

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[Greg Stewart](#) It does, It is as if history is repeating itself. Sad indeed! frown emoticon

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[Curtis Kline](#) Hey Greg if you get a chance check out this video, I think it covers a lot of what's wrong today, we have turned our backs on the sanctuary. I got a tremendous blessing out of this video, let me know what you think. Blessings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epjt1tiapY0>



[Alex Ortega - The Sanctuary and the...](#)
youtube.com

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[Greg Stewart](#) OMG! Just read it through and I am in amazement. Thanks for those info Brother [Curtis Kline](#), You are right on the money, this is exactly what's happening amongst us today, men denying the testimonies because of their (self confidence).

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[Greg Stewart](#) [Curtis Kline](#), I don't have the time now to watch the video, but I will check it out when I get time to. Thanks!

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Write a reply...



[Imad Awde](#) Hi Greg Stewart, here is what the bible says:

1 cor 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit

Christ was made a life giving spirit..

"Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." 2 Cor 3:17

The Lord, or Jesus (1 Cor 8:6) is that spirit

And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Gal 4:6

The spirit of Christ, or the life of Christ, or Christ is in our hearts.

Is that a physical indwelling, No

Is it a literal indwelling, Yes

How? On a spiritual level, not a physical level. Christ was made a spirit, and it is on that level that He dwells in the believer.

To be honest I am not sure any more what is it that you and brother [Curtis Kline](#) are really objecting to. First I was accused of reject the SOP, then off being a pantheist, and now off teachinG transubstantiation.

I stand by the bible and what it teaches. And it seems to me that my crime is that I take the bible literally on this topic. My Lord said that He will send me another comforter (Himself in a different form), and His words regarding the comforter were: "he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

He was literally with them (on a physical level) and was going to be literally IN them (on a spirit level)

This is my crime, that I take the words of my Lord literally. I am happy to be guilty of this crime.

Blessings

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[Greg Stewart](#) Brother [Imad Awde](#),

None of the scriptures above that you cited, negated the fact that I too believe that Christ is Spirit and dwells in us by way of his Spirit, but the way I believe it is based on the testimonies of the Law (Torah) [the writings of Moses], the Prophets, the Apostles and SOP, but most importantly the testimonies of Christ himself.

Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

John 14:22-23 KJV

<http://bible.com/1/jhn.14.22-23.KJV>

Notice in the above Scriptures, it is both the Father and the Son that come and make their abode with the believer, but as to how this manifestation takes place, it is when we KEEP the words of Christ in our hearts and souls.

Therefore, the points you are making by citing these scriptures is unnecessarily moot.

Love and blessings be with you and yours always my brother.

I only wish for you to come back in rank with the faith once delivered to the saints. For the testimonies don't contradict themselves, it is the enemy that create confusion and discord.

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[Imad Awde](#) Brother [Greg Stewart](#), I already wrote way back in one of my posts that I do not object to the fact that the word of God could be the Avenue to receive Christ. The bible is clear on that, What I object to it to equate Christ or eternal life with words. If you read my posts you would have read this.

I also object to limiting God to one method. Pentecost is an example of that. The impartation of the spirit on that day was different than its impartation on other times. I said and will say again, the words of God do not have life in and of themselves, the only way they could lead us to eternal life is by leading us to Christ. Life is found in Christ, not in words.

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[Greg Stewart](#) [Imad Awde](#), According to John 17:3, what is eternal life, and How do we come to a knowledge of God and Christ?

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[Imad Awde](#) [Greg Stewart](#) I really don't have much time, can you please come straight to the point

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[Greg Stewart](#) The problem you are having is being too fixated on the word "WORDS", there are various avenues by which the word come to our hearts, yet this WORD, the Living Word brings with it the SPIRIT and KNOWLEDGE of God. this is how FAITH is Produced in the Hearts and Minds of the believer in God.

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[Greg Stewart](#) Rom 10:14

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

Rom 10:15

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Rom 10:16

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

Rom 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

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[Imad Awde](#) My dear Brother [Greg Stewart](#), please get what I am saying. I am NOT objecting to the word being an Avenue, so please stop trying to prove it

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[Imad Awde](#) The discussion began with whether we literally have Christ or we dont

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[Imad Awde](#) Ave and it seems when I answer one question we jump to another

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[Greg Stewart](#) We are NOT promoting the idea, that Christ is mere words, or that the Spirit of God comes to the believer by mere words, but we are here talking about the divinely inspired utterances of God which when accepted in the hearts of the sinner brings with it the sweet gentle spirit of Christ to subdue the human minds hearts and natural inclinations. this is living faith, which is equivalent to life.

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[Imad Awde](#) OK great, now let us go back to the real issue. Who is this Spirit that comes? Is it Christ and if so, does that mean that we literally have Christ

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[Imad Awde](#) This is the real issue

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[Greg Stewart](#) According to John 14:23, it is Christ as well as His Father, but how did Christ said that this manifestation takes place Brother [Imad Awde](#)?

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[Imad Awde](#) You tell me

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[Greg Stewart](#) How about I show you, since Jude, wanted to know the same thing I will post the dialogue, now you tell me how did Jesus say this manifestation would take place?
 ===== 2 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

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[Imad Awde](#) So, the question is do we literally have Christ or don't we [Greg Stewart](#).

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[Greg Stewart](#) Now, Brother [Awde](#), Ironically this statement goes back to the dialogue or teaching in John chapter 6 believe it or not, when Christ equates himself to the bread that cometh down from heaven, do you think he meant it in a literal way? Absolutely not he did not, for he explain himself a couple verses down, in verse 63, The words I speak they are spirit and life. This is the Living word, that quickens or gives life. Do we then relegate his statement to say that Christ was speaking of mere words? No, but we must learn how to decipher the spiritual meanings of his words and apply them to our heart which is equivalent to Christ being in us, yet not in a literal sense but a SPIRITUAL sense.

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[Imad Awde](#) [Greg Stewart](#) are you saying that we do not literally (not physically) have Christ in us

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 12 at 1:14am](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) Sorry I started typing before you post the question, but I hope your question was answered. but to be clear, no we do not have Christ LITERALLY we Have him Spiritually. We have His Spirit in us but keeping his words in our hearts. Christ is Literally in Heaven. He is Spiritually with us on earth by His representative the Holy Spirit, which come to us by way of the divine utterance of God.

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[Greg Stewart](#) The flesh was to be eaten. It is not enough even that we believe on Christ for the forgiveness of sin; we must by faith be constantly receiving spiritual strength and nourishment from Him through His word. Said Christ, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life." John 6:53, 54. And to explain His meaning He said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." Verse 63. Jesus accepted His Father's law, wrought out its principles in His life, manifested its spirit, and showed its beneficent power in the heart. Says John, "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:14. The followers of Christ must be partakers of His experience. They must receive and assimilate the word of God so that it shall become the motive power of life and action. By the power of Christ they must be changed into His likeness, and reflect the divine attributes. They must eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God, or there is no life in them. The spirit and work of Christ must become the spirit and work of His disciples. [Patriarchs and Prophets, pages 277-278]

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[Imad Awde](#) [Greg Stewart](#), by literally I do not mean physically. His body is in heaven, but the bible also says that Christ was made a spirit. Is Christ any less Person through His spirit than He is through His body.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 12 at 1:22am](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) I know what you mean Brother [Imad Awde](#), but the reality is, what make this doctrine so dangerous, is that it is close aligned with transubstantiation, no offense intended, seriously. this is why, I am encouraging you to look at what Brother [Brendan Paul Valiant](#) is saying without getting too defensive. smile emoticon

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 12 at 1:25am](#)



[Imad Awde](#) [Greg Stewart](#), this does not answer my direct question. Can you please answer it? Bible and SOP are not silent on this question. It is the key to understand what we are talking about

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[Greg Stewart](#) I thought I answered your question...

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 12 at 1:29am](#)



[Imad Awde](#) No you didn't my brother here it is again:
Is Christ any less Person through His spirit than He is through His body.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 12 at 1:33am](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) //mad Awde Greg Stewart, by literally I do not mean physically. His body is in heaven, but the bible also says that Christ was made a spirit. Is Christ any less Person through His spirit than He is through His body.//

===== No he isn't any less a person, but I think you are letting semantics cloud your judgment and reasoning abilities, I said I know what you meant, because you had already clarified yourself a couple day back, but it's seem you do not understand what I meant when I said I have Christ in my heart SPIRITUALLY, which is manifested by me being obedient to the LIVING word. Jesus said the Spirit is like the wind which comes and goes, but we cannot tell until we see the effect of the Spirit in our lives, the influence of the sweet gentle spirit of Christ is real and made manifested when we allow the word of God to control our wills.

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[Greg Stewart](#) Brother [Imad Awde](#), Look at how she uses the word or God and the Spirit of God to support each other, as if they are akin to each other, the difference lies in when the spirit of the word is manifest rather that the letter of the word. See the below excerpt from Christ Object Lesson, page 56.

===== Preparation of the Soil

Throughout the parable of the sower, Christ represents the different results of the sowing as depending upon the soil. In every case the sower and the seed are the same. Thus He teaches that if the word of God fails of accomplishing its work in our hearts and lives, the reason is to be found in ourselves. But the result is not beyond our control. True, we cannot change ourselves; but the power of choice is ours, and it rests with us to determine what we will become. The wayside, the stony-ground, the thorny-ground hearers need not remain such. The Spirit of God is ever seeking to break the spell of infatuation that holds men absorbed in worldly things, and to awaken a desire for the imperishable treasure. It is by resisting the Spirit that men become inattentive to or neglectful of God's word. They are themselves responsible for the hardness of heart that prevents the good seed from taking root, and for the evil growths that check its development.

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[Imad Awde](#) OK, so we both agree that we literally, not physically have Christ in us which will be manifested in obedience to His word. Christ is in us on a spiritual level through His spirit which is as much a person as God is a person. His body is in heaven, but by His spirit Christ Himself is in our hearts. It is not a metaphor, it is a reality. And as we receive Christ, we receive with Him eternal life, righteousness, and power to live a righteous life in harmony with His word.

Do you agree?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 12 at 1:43am](#)



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) [Imad Awde](#),

Do you believe we LITERALLY eat the LITERAL body and LITERALLY drink the LITERAL blood of Christ?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 12 at 1:45am](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) Imad Awde OK, so we both agree that we literally, not physically have Christ in us which will be manifested in obedience to His word. Christ is in us on a spiritual level through His spirit which is as much a person as God is a person. His body is in heaven, but by His spirit Christ Himself is in our hearts. It is not a metaphor, it is a reality. And as we receive Christ, we receive with Him eternal life, righteousness, and power to live a righteous life in harmony with His word.

Do you agree?// ===== Brother [Imad Awde](#), I answered your question already, you are the one refusing to accept my explanation, The Spirit of Christ is literally GOVERNING my life when I submit to Christ words, this does not equate to Christ Literally being in me. You are arguing semantics here. I have already warned you that this teaching is dangerously akin to transubstantiation which is taught by the Catholics, it is no different than the Trinity teaching.

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[Imad Awde](#) [Greg Stewart](#), I am not sure what you are going on about my brother. You are refusing to accept biblical doctrine because you think it will lead to something, which it doesn't

You agree that the Holy spirit is in us, the bible is clear on that

You agree that the Christ's person is equally the same through His spirit and through His body

But you are refusing to put the two together

I am not afraid to put them together. Christ is literally in me through His spirit.

Anyway, nice chatting with you my brother. I got other things to do now. Maybe we can chat some other time. Blessings

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 12 at 2:12am](#)



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) [Imad Awde](#),

Do you believe we LITERALLY eat the LITERAL body and LITERALLY drink the LITERAL blood of Christ?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 12 at 2:17am](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) Likewise my brother, just remember that I am not at odds with you personally, just what you teach. May the sweet gentle Spirit of Christ watch between me and thee while we are absent from each other. Blessings. smile emoticon

===== There is constant need of patience, gentleness, self-denial, and self-sacrifice in the exercise of Bible religion. But if the word of God is made an abiding principle in our lives, everything with which we have to do, each word, each trivial act, will reveal that we are subject to Jesus Christ, that even our thoughts have been brought into captivity to him. If the word of God is received into the heart, it will empty the soul of self-sufficiency and self-dependence. Our lives will be a power for good, because the Holy Spirit will fill our minds with the things of God. The religion of Christ will be practised by us; for our wills are in perfect conformity to the will of God.

Some who profess to have true religion sadly neglect the guide-book given by God to point the way to heaven. They may read the Bible, but merely reading God's word, as one

would read words traced by a human pen, will give only a superficial knowledge. Talking of the truth will not sanctify the receivers. They may profess to be working for God, when, were Christ among them, his voice would be heard, saying, "Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God." Such cannot know what true religion means.

"The words that I speak unto you," said Christ, "they are spirit, and they are life." Jeremiah testifies to the word of God, saying, "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart." There is divine healing in God's word, which the so-called wise and prudent cannot experience, but which is revealed to babes. "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." If this word is enshrined in the heart, it becomes the treasure-house of the mind, from which we bring forth things new and old. We no longer find pleasure in thinking of the common things of earth, but say, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." [The Review and Herald, May 4th, 1897]

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Write a reply...



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) -----

Imad quote:

Dear brethren in Christ, I am glad to see someone post my presentation in here. Thank you Emmanuel O'Neale for stating what you did. Of course neither I nor anyone I know believe that God and Christ are in us physically. This is not the first time I have been falsely accused of something I do not believe and it won't be the last. Just like the accusation about me not accepting EGW's writings on this topic. Men are free to believe whatever they want.

End quote

[Imad Awde](#), this is hypocritical based on the fact that you falsely represent people as believing that the Holy Spirit is just words.

However, you believe that God and Christ are inside of us. We are physical beings. Therefore "physically" is an accurate word. Moreover, you have stated to me that you believe a part of Their SUBSTANCE is in us.

As for you not accepting Ellen White's writings, you and Nader are progressing along the path that David Clayton is on in rejecting Ellen White when she contradicts, not the Bible, but your OWN INTERPRETATION of the Bible. Your interpretation of Scripture is contrary to her writings regarding the Spirit/Pantheism matter, regarding the Covenants and regarding the Priesthood of Christ. You only take the statements that suit you and leave out statements that don't. This is how all begin who eventually reject her ministry

altogether.

Imad quote:

Unfortunately, SDAs have reached a place where if you tell them let us see what the bible says first, they interpret this to mean "I don't accept EGW". I guess when you can't find evidence for what you believe in the bible, you will have to resort to such tactics of false accusations and misinterpretations.

End quote

I am happy to discuss what the Bible says first. I have done this with you. I have ample evidence from the Bible and have demonstrated this frequently. But the issue here is that you don't even want to discuss Ellen White AT ALL if she disagrees with you. This isn't about interpreting you not to accept Ellen White. It is about the FACT that you have dodged discussing her in any substantial way besides unfruitful "quote wars". You have not sought to discuss the harmony of her teachings, you only throw the quotes which appear to support you and ignore the ones which do not. You are no different to the trinitarians who do the same.

Remember the purpose of Ellen White's gift among early Adventists. Once they had studied the Bible and reached an impasse FROM THE BIBLE ALONE because of different INTERPRETATIONS, God inspired her with a means of resolving the disagreement. Her writings can still serve that purpose, but you don't want to discuss them in any topic that they disagree with you on.

By the way, it is also a false accusation and misrepresentation to insinuate that people who disagree with you "can't find evidence for what [they] believe in the bible (sic)". Ellen White is the lesser light to the Bible's greater light, an analogy Ellen White borrows from the Sun and Moon in Genesis 1. The thing with the Sun and Moon is that it is the SAME LIGHT which shines from both.

Imad quote:

I have shared in couple of presentations I did last year the difference between the Spirit of God and the upholding power of God. Satan is upheld by the power of God, hence he is alive, but does this mean that the spirit of God is in Satan? The animals and trees and upheld by the power of God, but does this mean that the spirit of God is in the tree and animals? Do we have in us anything or anyone that Satan and the animals do not have? Is there a difference?

End quote

The Spirit of God IS the upholding power of God. The Bible teaches this in MANY places. The confusion you suffer here would disappear if you let yourself fully embrace the nature of being as Adventists have held for their entire history and allow it to speak to this matter. Intelligent beings have three parts Substance + Spirit = Soul. God's Spirit upholds Satan's SUBSTANCE, temporarily preserving his life, but it is not at work in Satan's SPIRIT (heart/mind). So God is not "in Satan", nor is God "in the sinner".

The difference between a being which is in rebellion to God and a being that is loyal to God is that only the being who is loyal to God (unfallen angels, redeemed humans) have God's Spirit IN THEIR HEARTS AND MINDS. The mechanism by which this happens is FAITH IN THE WORD by which that Spirit/power brings Eternal Life. It really isn't that difficult if you let different doctrines speak to one another.

Imad quote:

The bible is clear on what or who the Holy Spirit is? And so is EGW and the pioneers. It is a very simple and logical process.

End quote

No one disputes that the Holy Spirit comes from God and Christ and because it represents Them it is said to be Them. That is only a part of what is revealed to us. You are ignoring the MECHANISM of how the Holy Spirit comes to us. This is your fatal mistake which leads to the pantheistic principles of Kellogg.

Imad quote:

If the bible says that the Holy spirit is the spirit or life of Christ, as a matter of fact the bible says that "the Lord (Jesus) is that spirit"

And the bible says that the spirit is in us "because ye are sons God has sent forth the spirit of His Son into your hearts"

Then why can't I believe what the bible says that "Christ in you is the hope of Glory"

Why can't I believe that when I accept Christ, I no longer live, but "Christ liveth in me"

Why can't I believe that "the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh."

End quote

No one is saying not to believe those things. I believe those things. But again, the understanding is informed by the balance of Inspiration on the matter. Christ in us is explained by the Bible to be the power of God that comes through His Words. This is how Bible study is done, you let the Bible interpret itself rather than taking private interpretation, even if it appears to be the surface reading. Otherwise you should believe in hell as an eternal place of torment.

Imad quote:

Am I a pantheist for believing the bible? Am I a pantheist for believe that Jesus Christ is in me? If so, then I am happy to be called a pantheist.

End quote

No, you are a pantheist for believing only a part of the Bible. You are a pantheist for believing that the Spirit is a part of Jesus' being which can think where He is not bodily located. The fact that you have such a cavalier attitude in saying that you are happy to be called a pantheist is alarming, brother. May God help you take this seriously and look at how God led us and His teaching in our past history.

It's so hypocritical that your ministry doesn't seem to mind using Ellen White and Adventist history when it suits you to get trinitarians to track how the trinity was brought into Adventism and your claim that the trinity is the "omega" of deadly heresies. If you are going to have any integrity, please remove all videos and documents from your online ministry presence which use Ellen White or Adventist history in your teachings. Otherwise, stop being a hypocrite and let's discuss this matter honestly.

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[Greg Stewart](#) [Brendan Paul Valiant](#),

You made a great point herein, specifically relating to the part where you address Brother [Awde](#)'s point regarding God's Spirit upholding all things but not being in all things.

I cannot see how Brother Awde, cannot bring himself to see the point that you are making in terms of God being in intelligent beings through his WORD.

Let me explain; we (both you, myself, Brother [Morry Stokes](#) and Brother [Curtis Kline](#)) have been trying to get Brother Awde to see and accept this testimony that harmonize all things so well, yet he cannot see it, because he is allowing himself to not see the fact that Christ and God abides in us by his words, thus all things are upheld by His words, but only intelligent beings with hearts, mind and soul can make the choice to allow the word of God to abide in the heart and mind thus allowing God's Spirit by way of the word to abide in them.

This cannot be accepted by inanimate things like trees, etc. and animate things such as lower animal life forms. Ironically what brother Awde may not know is that the Gentiles in the past that had no regards for God and spiritual things were likened to (BEAST/ANIMAL) also know as (GOYIM), The point I am attempting to make is if you are not found in the image of God, then it is very likely that you are not intelligently design to submit your will to the one in whose image you were made. We are all upheld by God power, but it is the Spirit of God that gives us sustenance and life, this is done by his word, the life giving word. Hope my point is clear enough. See below regarding (Goyim).

"You are Adam ["man"], but goyim [gentiles] are not called Adam ["man"]." Kerithoth 6b

"The seed of the goyim is like an animal." Sanhedrin 74b

"All Gentile children are animals." Yebamoth 98a

"The best of the gentiles: kill him; the best of snakes: smash its skull; the best of women: is filled with witchcraft." Kiddushin 66c The uncensored version of this text appears in Tractate Soferim (New York, M. Higer, 1937), 15:7, p. 282. "The best of the gentiles should all be killed" (<http://talmudical.blogspot.com>). From the original Hebrew of the Babylonian Talmud as quoted by the 1907 Jewish Encyclopedia published by Funk and Wagnalls and compiled by Isidore Singer, under the entry, 'Gentile,' (p. 617).

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[Greg Stewart](#) My grammar is not as good as many of you here, but I hope the point was clear.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 11 at 6:33pm](#)



Write a reply...



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Continued

Imad quote:

I am not interesting in debating; I am interested in studying the scriptures. If anyone would like to study this topic further with me, here is my email address (imadawde@gmail.com). I will be writing a paper about this topic and will share it on FB when it is done.

End quote

I have posted plenty of Scriptures, feel free to study them. I'll be interested in your paper when it is finished as it is easier to comb through text rather than suffer through long drawn out sermons full of misrepresentations. Will you at all be addressing the history of what Prescott, Waggoner and Kellogg taught? Or will you be ignoring Adventist history and Ellen White's writings because it is too damaging to your case?

Imad quote:

Let it be known publicly. I stand on the bible and the bible alone. I believe EGW is a prophet of God and accept her writings, that is why I believe what she said in the following statements:

“The testimonies of Sister White should not be carried to the front. God's Word is the unerring standard. The Testimonies are not to take the place of the Word.” (Ellen G. White, Letter 12, 1890, as quoted in Evangelism page 256)

“Let all prove their positions from the Scriptures and substantiate every point they claim as truth from the revealed Word of God.” (Ibid)

But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines, and the basis of all re-forms. . . . Before accepting any doctrine or pre-cept, we should demand a plain "Thus saith the Lord" in its support.—
The Great Controversy, p. 595.

I am fully in harmony with you in your work when you present the Bible, and the Bible alone, as the foundation of our faith.—Selected Messages, book 2, p. 85.

In the work of teaching the truth it is necessary that the important points of our position be well fortified with Scripture evidences.—Testimonies, vol. 1, pp. 447, 448.

All should be careful about presenting new views of Scripture before they have given these points thorough study, and are fully prepared to sustain them from the Bible.—Testimonies to Ministers, p. 106.

Our position and faith is in the Bible. And never do we want any soul to bring in the Testimonies ahead of the Bible. Manuscript 7, 1894 (January 28, 1894) par. 2)
End quote

I stand on the Bible and the Bible alone. I believe that Ellen White's writings build upon the Bible and the Bible alone, that is why they are relevant to any Adventist Bible discussion.

I find it ironic that people who don't want to talk about Ellen White but say that they believe in her only have time to quote a few statements about going to the Bible first and neglect the statements which establish her writings as coming from God as well. The truth is, Imad, that you treat the Bible the same way you treat Ellen White. You ignore what you don't like.

Imad quote:

I appeal to all SDA to learn how to prove their point from the scriptures and how to stand on the scriptures. If we are to share the gospel with the world, how are we going to do it? Are we going to search EGW CD for some key words and then copy past many statements to them? Come on people, wake up to yourselves. It is not about us. It is not about SDAs! We are to be the light to the world. Let us break out of this bubble we are living in and prepare ourselves for our mission.

End quote

I appeal to you to stop hiding behind a profession of "Bible alone" when you and Nader don't live that in your ministry unless you are challenged. Unless you are prepared to be consistent, stop misrepresenting and falsely insinuating that people who disagree with you simply "search EGW CD for some key words and then copy past many statements".

I'm calling you to wake up. Yes we are called to be a light to the world, but that which you call light is a darkness that was condemned 110 years ago within our Church. When I am speaking to non-Adventists, I don't use Ellen White. When I am speaking to non-Christians, I don't usually even start with the Bible, but with my testimony or with creationism and then prophecy. But Imad, I am speaking to YOU who have publicly claimed to accept Ellen White as a prophet. Therefore it should all be on the table for discussion.

Imad quote:

Dear Curtis Kline

Thank you for your input. All the statements you shared ought to be understood in light of

Jesus's words:

Joh 5:39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

Joh 5:40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

Is life in the scriptures, in the words, or is it in Christ, the Person of whom the scriptures testify?

Will a person who memorizes the whole bible earn eternal life, or will the person who by faith receive the word of God have eternal life?

I am sure you would agree with me that life is not in the word but it is in the Person of whom the word testifies. The reason faith is the key that unlocks the promises is because when you receive the word of God by faith, you actually receive the Author of the words.
End quote

I will address your comments to Curtis from here on out.

No one is saying that memorising the Scriptures equals eternal life. FROM THE FIRST TIME WE DISCUSSED THIS, I stated that Faith was necessary to unlock the life in the Word - a life which I have frequently stated comes from God and Christ. The Pharisees thought that mere KNOWLEDGE of the Scriptures would give them life. They simply "searched" the Scriptures. They did not "keep" or "obey" the Scriptures. Jesus frequently charged them with disobeying the Scriptures that they searched.

You are using Jesus statement in John 5:39-40 to negate His statement in John 6:63. This is not how we are to study the Bible. John 14 teaches unequivocally that Christ coming to us is through the Word. I will address this in a response to Emmanuel.

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[Greg Stewart](#) //No one is saying that memorising the Scriptures equals eternal life. FROM THE FIRST TIME WE DISCUSSED THIS, I stated that Faith was necessary to unlock the life in the Word - a life which I have frequently stated comes from God and Christ. The Pharisees thought that mere KNOWLEDGE of the Scriptures would give them life. They simply "searched" the Scriptures. They did not "keep" or "obey" the Scriptures. Jesus frequently charged them with disobeying the Scriptures that they searched.

You are using Jesus statement in John 5:39-40 to negate His statement in John 6:63. This is not how we are to study the Bible. John 14 teaches unequivocally that Christ coming to us is through the Word.//

===== Couldn't agree more!

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[Greg Stewart](#) That is why I stated that he is arguing over semantics. rather that addressing the meat of the argument.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [January 12 at 3:44am](#)



Write a reply...



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Continued

Imad quote:

My dear brother, you quoted a nice verse, but how do you harmonize the verse you quoted with the following verse:

1Jn 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

1Jn 5:12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Eternal life is in the SON not in the words of the Son. The words of the Son leads to the SOn, the words of God lead you to God. The Pharisees at the days of Jesus thought that eternal life was found in the scriptures alone and hence Jesus's words to them. He told them that you search the scriptures seeking for eternal life, but the scriptures you read testify of me, the lead you to me, and you will not come to me to receive this eternal life you are seeking for. So eternal life is not found in the scriptures alone, it is found in the One to whom the scriptures point to, it is found in The Son, in Jesus Christ.

And he who has the Son has life. The bible does not say he who has the words of the Son, or the thoughts of the Son. It says he who has the Son has life.

End quote

Again you are using a statement of Scripture to DENY Scripture. As I showed above, the Pharisees thought that a head knowledge of the Scriptures - "searching" - would give them life. They did not have faith.

Curtis quoted to you statements of Ellen White as well as Scripture which contained the following verses:

Matthew 4:4 But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

The way to put these thoughts together with the statements you have presented is that Christ comes to us through His Words. Your statement of 1 John 5:11 shows that we receive Christ IN SOME WAY. It does not say HOW we receive Christ or WHAT we receive of Christ. You would have to admit this fact. So what a good Bible student would do at this point is look for other statements which fill in the picture. John 6:63 says that Jesus' Words, that is Words which COME FROM CHRIST "are spirit and life". John 5:24 says that if we (1) hear Christ's Word and (2) BELIEVE that it ORIGINATES with the Father Who sent Christ then we have eternal life. Matthew 4:4 reinforces this idea. At the very least, from all of the above information, we MUST conclude that Christ comes to us

THROUGH THE WORD. This is borne out by a multitude of other statements in the Old and New Testaments. Look at John 17:3, I'm sure you've read it before. It says that eternal life is that we might KNOW God and Christ. How do we know them? The Bible tells us that this knowledge comes through the Word. Only a few verses later in John 17:8 Christ says that He had "given them the WORDS that You gave me, and they have received them and have come to KNOW..."

Now, we have a crux interpretum. Do we interpret the statements which say Christ is "in" us literally so that somehow Christ's BEING is transported through His Words? Or do we understand Christ being "in" us in a spiritual, metaphorical and transformative way? Thankfully we have statements which show that Christ being "in" us is something that DEVELOPS in our Christian experience:

Ephesians 4:7-14 - "But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes."

See how this "grace" and "gifts" and Christ "fill[ing] all things" is said to occur? It is the inspiration and ministry Christ gives to the Church, equipping all the saints to be ministers, to build up the body so that we might "attain... the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Christ becomes FORMED within us, and notice how that happens "unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God". How do we know Christ? THROUGH HIS WORD! Earlier in Ephesians 1:17-18, Paul prays "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you..." The word for "knowledge" in Ephesians 1:17 and 4:13 is epignosis and it means "full knowledge" or "precise knowledge" and it comes from a "revelation". Christ comes to us through His revelation, through His Word. Read 1 John 2:14 where to "know Him Who is from the beginning" is in parallel to "the Word of God abides in you".

Also, in the first chapter of Ephesians we see how the Spirit comes to us with the Word:

Ephesians 1:13-14 - In Him you also, WHEN YOU HEARD THE WORD OF TRUTH, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, WERE SEALED WITH THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.

So it is clear that while this letter says that "Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith" (Ephesians 3:17), it also clearly establishes the mechanism for this indwelling. Let's look at the sister letter to Ephesians, from which you quoted earlier "Christ in you the Hope of Glory". Let us look at the context here:

Colossians 1:24-29 "...the church of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, TO MAKE THE WORD OF GOD FULLY KNOWN, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, THAT WE MAY PRESENT EVERYONE MATURE IN CHRIST that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with ALL HIS ENERGY THAT HE POWERFULLY WORKS WITHIN ME."

The word "mature" (KJV "perfect") which appears here in Colossians 1:28 and in Ephesians 4:13 means to be "fully formed". As we look at the entire context, we see that Paul is actually saying that his ministry is to "make the word of God fully known" that He might "present everyone mature (fully grown) in Christ. Chiastically in the center of these two thoughts we have the idea of "Christ in you, the Hope of Glory". It is no wonder then that Ellen White frequently writes this phrase "Christ formed within, the hope of glory".

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[Greg Stewart](#) //Look at John 17:3, I'm sure you've read it before. It says that eternal life is that we might KNOW God and Christ. How do we know them? The Bible tells us that this knowledge comes through the Word. Only a few verses later in John 17:8 Christ says that He had "given them the WORDS that You gave me, and they have received them and have come to KNOW..." // =====

Brother [Brendan Paul Valiant](#), I didn't even read this portion yet, but I reasoned the very same point with brother [Imad Awde](#) and asked him the same question, he then said that I should tell him, to which I point out Jude's question in John 14:22 and Jesus' answer in the very next verse.

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Write a reply...



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Continued

Imad quote:

Curtis, do you have the Son? Have you receive the Son?

End quote

I will answer for myself. I have the Son through the mechanism Christ said He would come to us. I have the Son through His Words. Christ is forming within because His Word abides within. If you think you have Christ apart from His Words, you really have

nothing but a subjective gospel. Like those who looked to the Holy Place when Christ had moved to the Most Holy Place, another spirit will be breathed upon you.

Imad quote:

So to answer your question, I am not saying that the word of God is useless and it does not lead to eternal life. What I am saying is that there is not life in the word of God apart from Christ. Life is found in Christ of whom the word of God testify. So when a person receives the word of God by faith, something else happens, he receive the Author of the word as well as the word.

End quote

We aren't saying that there is life in the Word of God apart from Christ. The Word COMES FROM Christ and therefore it contains the very life of God. That is why John was shown a "River of Life" proceeding from the throne of God and the Lamb (Revelation 22:1-2). The word "proceed" is the same word used by John to speak of the Spirit of Truth which "proceeds from the Father" (John 15:26). Is the River of Life a part of God's being? It FLOWS from God, but it is not God. Just like if I gave you a blood transfusion, my LIFE would flow out from me to be IN you, but that does not mean that I am in you in anything other than a metaphorical sense.

Imad quote:

And brother Greg, yes I do believe that Christ dwells in us literally. But this does not mean physically. Physically means a physical body (flesh and blood as we know it). For example, when a person is demon possessed, he literally has a demon (evil spirit) dwelling in him, but this does not mean that he has a physical being dwelling in him. Physical is something tangible, we can handle with our own physical hands. I hope this clarifies the matter.

End quote

"Physically" does not only mean "flesh and blood as we know it". That is only one definition, and I am happy to accept that you do not believe that. However, "physical" can also mean "substance" and you have said to me previously that you see Christ being in us in the highest sense, which would have to include His substance - a part of His being.

I'd be interested to see your Bible study on the mechanism of demon possession, for you seem to know a lot more about it than I have ever been able to find from the Scriptures.

Imad quote:

Back to brother Curtis. You asked the following questions:

[is Christ's Omniscient mind and consciousness leaving his physical body and entering the believer, or is the Life that is being transmitted, being transmitted through the vehicle of his words]

Good question my brother. All what I can go by is what the word of God reveals.

When Jesus appeared to Paul, what actually happened? The soldiers with him saw something and heard something, there was someone there! Did Jesus leave heaven to

come down? Was He still in heaven and here at the same time?

I believe that Jesus Himself appeared to Paul, and He was still at the same time in heaven! How did He do that? I don't know. He is God and I am man, why should I limit Him to what I know?

End quote

Thank God that we have the Scriptures themselves rather than your own opinion to go on. In Acts, the account tells us just what happened:

Acts 9:3-7 - Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

So we see that "a LIGHT FROM HEAVEN flashed around him" but that no one saw anything besides the light. Look at how Paul retells this account twice:

Acts 22:6-9 - "As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.' Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me.

Act 26:13-14 - At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

Notice how all Saul saw from these accounts was a LIGHT. That light came "FROM HEAVEN" (from where Jesus was bodily located) and that He heard a voice, but that no one else understood it. I don't think you have enough information to say that this was anything other than a VISION.

Imad quote:

Now, does Christ's omniscient mind and consciousness leave His physical body to enter mine? To be honest, I don't know. All what I know is what the bible says. The bible says that Christ is in me, I believe that. Must I know how it works in order to believe it?

End quote

You believe that Christ is in you, but you do not believe what the Scripture says about HOW that happens. I don't have to say "I don't know" about the things God has revealed. This is not one of the "secret things" which belongs unto God, but is for us.

Imad quote:

Do we understand how God created the world by simply speaking? Must I say that unless I understand how it works I can not believe it? Are my ways God's ways and my thoughts God's thoughts? Isn't He God and I am man?

What you are asking my brother is something that the scriptures are silent about, and you are using this to disprove something the bible is not silent about. This is not how we study the scriptures. Find a text and let us study it and understand it.

End quote

Your comparison falls flat, brother. We understand the MECHANISM of God's creative power was through the Word. Creation and Redemption operate upon the same principles and through the same power. If only you would accept the Biblical and Inspired testimony on HOW the Spirit comes to us. The Scriptures are not silent about this, but hearing you do not hear.

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[Greg Stewart](#) Imad quote:

So to answer your question, I am not saying that the word of God is useless and it does not lead to eternal life. What I am saying is that there is not life in the word of God apart from Christ. Life is found in Christ of whom the word of God testify. So when a person receives the word of God by faith, something else happens, he receive the Author of the word as well as the word.

End quote

=====

Brother [Awde](#), Pardon my harshness here, but your reasoning above is circular reasoning, for in some way the Spirit of God and the word of God is akin to each other, as is explicitly stated in John 6:63. Plus when you look at 2 Corinthians 3, which is basically a parallel of the two lights, The word of God and the Spirit of God. Just that one light outshines the other, even though they are somewhat akin, Faith makes one outshine the other. For instance verse 6 says, "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.", This is very much in harmony with john 6:63, the Pharisees were living by the letter of the law and commandments, which ironically is just as equivalent to the written word or commandment, but when the living word carries with it the transformative Spirit of Christ it gives life, it becomes alive, and like seed in the soil, it germinates in our hearts and produces fruits of righteous, also known as the fruit of the spirit, which manifest the fruit of Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, etc. You must come to grips with the reality of the situation brother, there is a reason this thing is being agitated, I do not believe it is coincidental, for we were warned of this Alpha and Omega of deadly heresy. We have to come out from among them and be separate, and touch not their uncleanness, Spiritualism is ripe within Christendom and we must come out and be separate. There have to be a distinction, such as was among the early pioneers. frown emoticon

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[Greg Stewart](#) Or better yet Faith BLENDS them together, making them alive.

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Write a reply...



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Continued

Imad quote:

I can not answer things that God did not reveal in His word.

Now having said that, I can use some text from the bible where the spirit speaks, and is grieved and directs and can somehow conclude that this is the omniscient mind and consciousness of Christ. But can I be 100% certain? No

But what I can be certain about is that Christ Himself (without His physical body) is in the believer. This the scriptures are clear on. I have shared much evidence in my presentations, if you wish you can study them to see what I say.

End quote

So you deduce that it is probable that Christ's mind is in us thinking. This is precisely what Ellen White corrected Prescott for teaching in 1901 as the "alpha of a train of deception".

Imad quote:

Having said all the above, can you tell me if you believe Christ is in the believer or not?

End quote

Again I will answer for myself - I believe Christ is in the believer **THROUGH HIS WORD**, but not in a pantheistic sense which destroys the personality of God and Christ.

Imad quote:

Thank you Curtis Kline for your reply, I have spoken to Corey on this topic many times. He is a personal friend and I have read few chapters of his book. You are free to believe what you like my brother, I don't want to force you to see things the way I see them.

However, I strongly believe what I believe on this topic and think it to be a most important topic to study. As far as I understand my brother, life is only found in one Being, Jesus Christ the righteous. It is not found in anyone else and anything else (except of course for the Father of all).

End quote

See, no one is disagreeing with you that life is found only in God and Christ. The Bible teaches that this life flows **OUT OF THEM** and comes to us **THROUGH THEIR WORDS!**

Imad quote:

I believe in EGW, and I harmonize her writings with the bible, not the other way around.

I have met many people in the past few years who use EGW to justify:

a lunar Sabbath,

a 12 hour Sabbath,

God doesn't kill,

feast keeping...etc.

whenever I tell any of them to base their belief on the bible, they all give me the same response you have given me. They all accuse me of rejecting or minimizing the SOP. I stand on the Bible and invite you to stand on what EGW, the pioneers and the apostles stood on, the Bible. EGW is to be harmonized with the bible NOT the other way around.

End quote

If you ever got out of Adventist circles, you might have met some of the people I have met. They use THE BIBLE to justify things like the trinity, eternal punishment in hell, infant baptism, predestination, speaking in tongues, etc. etc. Does this mean that I should avoid discussing based upon what the Bible teaches? NOT AT ALL! Just because people ABUSE Scripture doesn't mean that Scripture has the problem. In the same way just because people abuse Ellen White doesn't mean that we should throw out Ellen White.

If we had only a single book of the Bible, there would be people who take it legalistically, people who take it liberally and people who study it honestly. Even if there was a single verse people would do this! The fault is not in the Scriptures, but in our APPROACH to the Scriptures. You ARE rejecting Ellen White by holding positions in opposition to her teachings. You ARE minimising her by refusing to engage with what she taught in discussions with Adventists.

There is a fallacy when you say "EGW is to be harmonised with the bible (sic)". Imad, ELLEN WHITE IS ALREADY HARMONISED WITH THE BIBLE! It is not OUR JOB to harmonise them, but to FIND THE HARMONY THAT ALREADY EXISTS! If Ellen White is out of harmony with our INTERPRETATION of the Bible, then we HAVE NOT FOUND THAT HARMONY and we are holding only to a PRIVATE INTERPRETATION.

Imad quote:

As to your analysis of my belief, here is what I belief. Does the word of God have life in and of itself appart from God. NO. does the word of God lead you to eternal life? Yes DO you receive eternal life when by faith you receive the word of God? YES, because by doing so you receive the Author of the word.

Here is it is again my brother, life is not found in words, philosophy, thoughts, ideas, powers or anything you can think of. Eternal life is found in a Person, Jesus Christ.

End quote

We are in agreement on every point you make except where you refuse to acknowledge the MECHANISM by which the Author comes to us - through faith in the Word that brings us an intimate knowledge and unlocks the POWER of the Author.

Again, no one is saying that "eternal life" is NOT found in the Person of Jesus Christ. Rather, we are only upholding what THAT PERSON SAID regarding the MECHANISM by which that life COMES TO US - Through the Word. Some more BIBLE for you to study:

Deuteronomy 32:46-47 - He said to them, "Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law. For it is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess."

Psalms 19:7-10 - The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Psalms 119:25,50,93,107 - My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your word..! This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life... I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life... I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word!

John 5:24 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

John 8:31 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples..."

John 12:47-50 - If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment--what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

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[Greg Stewart](#) Imad quote:

As to your analysis of my belief, here is what I believe. Does the word of God have life in and of itself apart from God. NO. does the word of God lead you to eternal life? Yes DO you receive eternal life when by faith you receive the word of God? YES, because by doing so you receive the Author of the word.

Here it is again my brother, life is not found in words, philosophy, thoughts, ideas, powers or anything you can think of. Eternal life is found in a Person, Jesus Christ.

End quote

===== Bro.

[Imad Awde](#) Once again, circular reasoning, you either believe the scriptures or you don't, the New Testament was not written or came together out of a vacuum. The Law of Moses and the Psalms say that the word of God GIVES LIFE, and so does SOP.

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[Greg Stewart](#) Plus 2 Corinthians 3;17,18 make it plain who this Spirit that wrought many things in the OT was. Take some time and prayerfully study 2 Corinthians 3 in light of this matter.

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Write a reply...



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Continued

John 14:15-23 - "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

John 15:3 - Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

John 15:7 - If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

Romans 10:8-9, 17 - But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved... So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Ephesians 1:13-14 - In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Colossians 3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing

one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 - And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

James 1:18 - Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

1 Peter 1:23 - since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;

And there are FAR MORE where that came from.

Imad quote:

The bible is clear on that, I shared with you couple of text from 1 John 5 and in other places the bible calls Jesus "eternal life" "our life"...etc

End quote

For all your talk of the Bible only, you only actually quote from 7 passages in all your responses thus far above. And in my responses to you, I have given you far more than that.

Imad quote:

Anyway, I think we are going in circles now. I appreciate your thoughts and talking to you. I hope we can discuss it in person sometime, but until then, let us keep praying and studying.

End quote

Imad, it's only ever going to go around in circles if you refuse to engage with the Scriptures which speak of Mechanism, or if you refuse to engage with Ellen White's writings in this Adventist discussion.

Imad quote:

But Curtis Kline my brother, Jesus did not only say His words are spirit and life, He also said to the Jews that life is not found in the scriptures, it is found in Him of whom the scriptures testify. When Jesus said that His words are spirit and life, do you understand that to mean that His words are spirit? If so, then the spirit = His words? if that is the case, what then ascended on Pentecost? words? or an entity separate from words called Spirit?

End quote

FALSE. Jesus did not say that life is not found in the Scriptures. Jesus said that life is not found from the Scriptures INDEPENDENT OF HIMSELF! You are destroying SO

MANY statements with your private interpretation. Elsewhere it is clearly established that when we have FAITH in the Scriptures as the WORD OF GOD AND CHRIST, then that Word CONTAINS THE LIFE OF GOD AND CHRIST.

As for Christ's Words being Spirit, this is similar to the statement "God is light". This wasn't a statement that God is comprised of light, but that in a spiritual sense, God is all that light embodies in contrast to all the darkness embodies. I'll answer regarding Pentecost in regards to your next point.

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[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Continued

Imad quote:

Whatever ascended on Pentecost was something they did not have before. Jesus told them to wait until they receive the promise...etc. Jesus said I will send you the comforter, John tells us that the spirit was not yet because Jesus was not yet glorified, Jesus said that if He does not go away, the comforter will not come, but if He goes, He will send Him to them. My brother, please understand this point, prior to Pentecost they had the words of God exactly the same way they had it after Pentecost. But something different came upon them on that day. What was it? Why didn't they receive this spirit prior to Pentecost if it is true the way you are understanding the verse "the words are spirit and life"

End quote

And here we come to why you cannot accept the truth - your dispensational view of salvation. Where you depart from the gospel is this. The Bible teaches that at Pentecost a greater QUANTITY of the Spirit was poured out upon humanity. You believe that rather than a QUANTITATIVE distinction, there came a QUALITATIVE distinction in what was available after Pentecost.

John's discussion of the Spirit is in the context of its "fullness". In the prologue to his Gospel, John writes "of His fullness we have received". Therefore every reference to the Spirit which had not been poured out during Christ's ministry is in reference to the FULLNESS of the Spirit. There is a reason why the FULLNESS of the Spirit did not come until after Christ's life, death and resurrection, and yet it had always been on earth. It has to do with the title John uses for Christ - "the Word". The opening verses of John's first epistle thoroughly defend the Gospel against your dispensationalism:

1 John 1:1-3 - That which was FROM THE BEGINNING, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning THE WORD OF LIFE-- the life was MADE MANIFEST, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us-- that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

In these verses, we see that the "Word of Life" was "from the beginning". It has always been available. Yet during the incarnation, death and resurrection, this Word was "made

flesh and dwelt among us" so that it has been "heard", "seen", "looked upon" and "touched. The Word that had been given to humanity before this paled in comparison to when they could behold a LIVING, BREATHING DEMONSTRATION that "made manifest". Pentecost was able to bring the FULLNESS of the Spirit because by the time Jesus had spent 3.5 years ministering on earth, He had revealed the FULLNESS of God's Word through His life and teaching.

This perfectly fits with the idea that the Spirit comes THROUGH THE WORD. If the extent of the Spirit is dependent upon the extent of the Word, then we would expect the following sort of rules to apply:

x% of the Word would bring x% of the Spirit.

If the Word had not been revealed in its fullness until Pentecost, then we would not expect to see the fullness of the Spirit until that time. And if the Word had been manifest in its fullness by Pentecost, then we would expect to see the Spirit manifest in its fullness at the same time. This is precisely what we see.

You reference John 14:16-18 regarding the coming of the Comforter. Did you ever notice that verse 16 begins with the word "And". Verse 16 does not begin a new thought, but completes a thought begun in verse 15. It is a thought that gets picked up again after the verses we non-trinitarians frequently quote. Please notice:

John 14:15-23 - "If you love Me, you will KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS. AND I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the SPIRIT OF TRUTH, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. Whoever HAS MY COMMANDMENTS AND KEEPS THEM, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, HOW IS IT THAT YOU WILL MANIFEST YOURSELF to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves Me, he will KEEP MY WORD, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. Whoever does not love Me does not KEEP MY WORDS. And THE WORD that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent Me.

Notice that the MECHANISM has been here all along. Christ said He would come through keeping His Words!!!

Imad quote:

You say that the word of God is the Vehicle to transmit His life. That could be, but remember two things:

Do not equate the life with the words

And do not limit the life to the words

Otherwise you must say that on Pentecost they receive nothing new. They had the comforter all along and Jesus was not really being honest when He said "if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you" because the comforter was there all along. Please

watch my presentation "A person within" where I talk more about this point.
End quote

No one is equating life with words. We are saying that life COMES THROUGH WORDS. And we are not "limiting" life to Words. God has this life in Himself WITHOUT Words. But the only way ANYTHING EXISTS through creation or redemption is THROUGH WORDS THAT COME FROM GOD. I would be very keen to know of any examples you can think of where LIFE comes from God by any avenue other than His Word.

The only "newness" at Pentecost was in magnitude, not in calibre. Jesus HAD TO GO AWAY because His mission was not complete, and He would not have magnified the Word of God in its FULLNESS until His death, resurrection and ascension. Without these, as Paul says, our "faith is in vain". This is what brought the Word of God to its fullness and without this, there could be no FULLNESS OF THE SPIRIT THAT COMES THROUGH THE WORD. The Spirit was called the "Promise" of the Father. Sorry for stating the obvious, but a promise is made with WORDS.

Imad quote:

The words could be one avenue to impart life to the beleiver, but it is only in light of the fact that when you believe the words, you actually receive the Author of the words. You yourself said that the words without God do not have life, of course. So what is the difference then? Why do they have life with God and don't have it without God? Obviously the difference is found in something or someone outside of the words themselves.

End quote

Words that come from God and Christ ALWAYS have life and this is the ONLY way that Their life flows out from Themselves. Words that come from other sources do not have life.

The LIFE that is IN THE WORD OF GOD AND CHRIST is only unlocked by FAITH IN THAT WORD AND THE GOD FROM WHOM IT ORIGINATES.

The difference is (1) the SOURCE of the Word and (2) whether that Word is received by FAITH.

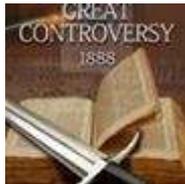
[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 11 at 8:17am](#) · [Edited](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) Bro. [Brendan Paul Valiant](#), I am beyond 100% in agreement with everything you said, ironically I have been posting devotional thoughts from the devotional book God's Amazing Grace, even though I do not like compilations for they often take things out of context, the devotion for today address this issue. I will post the one from the Great Controversy, as this seem to put the reading into a better context:
//The kingdom of grace was instituted immediately after the fall of man, when a plan was devised for the redemption of the guilty race. It then existed in the purpose and by the promise of God; and through faith, men could become its subjects. Yet it was not actually established until the death of Christ. Even after entering upon his earthly mission, the

Saviour, wearied with the stubbornness and ingratitude of men, might have drawn back from the sacrifice of Calvary. In Gethsemane the cup of woe trembled in his hand. He might even then have wiped the blood-sweat from his brow, and have left the guilty race to perish in their iniquity. Had he done this, there could have been no redemption for fallen men. But when the Saviour yielded up his life, and with his expiring breath cried out, "It is finished," then the fulfillment of the plan of redemption was assured. The promise of salvation made to the sinful pair in Eden was ratified. The kingdom of grace, which had before existed by the promise of God, was then established.// This dispensational mindset is a nemesis to the Kingdom of grace and the gospel.

<http://text.egwwritings.org/publication.php?pubtype=Book...>



[The Great Controversy 1888](#)

Thus the death of Christ—the very event which the disciples had looked upon as the final...

text.egwwritings.org

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 12 at 4:56am](#)



Write a reply...



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Concluded

Imad quote:

So the verse "the words are spirit and life" must be understood with the above in mind. The words are not in and of themselves spirit and life, they lead to receiving spirit and life. This is exactly what Jesus told the Jesus as I pointed earlier.

End quote

Again, no one is saying that the words are "in and of themselves spirit and life". NO ONE AT ALL is saying this in the discussion we are having.

Imad quote:

Anyway, I hope this clarifies a bit more of what I believe and why I believe it. At the end of the day, my central text to which I keep referring to and understand this doctrine in light of is the following:

1Jn 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this LIFE IS IN HIS SON.

1Jn 5:12 HE THAT HATH THE SON HATH LIFE; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

End quote

Because you have made such a huge deal about "Bible and Bible only", I have looked over your contributions. You have quoted the above "central text" of 1 John 5:11-12 twice. You have only quoted ONE OTHER TEXT with citation - John 5:39-40. Outside of this, you have quoted portions of 2 Corinthians 3:17; 4:11; Galatians 2:20; 4:6; Colossians 1:27. Besides this you have alluded to Pentecost and the conversion of Saul without examining the texts which speak of either. Outside of this you have given your private interpretation of what you think the Bible teaches. You've referenced your own videos almost as much as you have referenced the Scriptures!

Brother, I appeal to you to truly humble yourself in sight of our God and lay your beliefs on the altar when we discuss truth so that rather than shape Inspiration by your opinion, you allow your opinion to be shaped by Inspiration. I appeal to you to open yourself up to truth through Ellen White who built upon the Bible rather than hypocritically hide behind "Bible only" when you have shown yourself unable to rightly divide that.

Imad quote:

The key phrases are "life is in His Son" and "he that hath the Son"

I stand and camp on this truth. I rejoice in it and will go to my grave holding on to it because it is my only hope of salvation. Outside this truth there is no eternal life.

Salvation, redemption and eternal life is found in the SON.

Thank you Father for your Son and for giving me life in Him. I pray that everyone will receive the Son so that they have life

End quote

I also hold to this truth. I stand with one leg firmly planted on it, while with the other leg I am firmly planted on the revelation of HOW WE HAVE THE SON and the life that is within Him. The only way to receive the Son is through His Word. Don't receive a false christ.

2 Corinthians 11:4 - For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

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[Imad Awde Brendan Paul Valiant](#) I told you before and will say it again here, I will not engage in any dialog with you via the Internet. If you wish to talk to me you know my number. Blessings

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [January 11 at 8:34am](#)



[Brendan Paul Valiant Imad Awde](#), I have checked over our last discussions on the internet back in July and I cannot find where you told me you would not dialogue via the internet. It seems you made this decision without informing me. I don't know why you fear such a discussion but seem quite willing to discuss with other people on the same topic.

I always do you the courtesy of TAGGING you when I reference you to give you the ability to speak your perspective. If I did not hold any regard for you I would content myself to simply speak without giving you this opportunity.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 12 at 2:40am](#)



Write a reply...



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) You also know my number, [Imad Awde](#) and you know I am always available to discuss with you should you desire it one-on-one. I have never made the same promise to you not to dialogue with you publicly so it is your choice whether you bother to read my words to you or not. It is also your choice whether to give me a call. I have not dictated to you the terms upon which I will dialogue (or monologue if you refuse to respond) with you and I will continue to do so either as I see you online or when we see one another in person perchance.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 11 at 8:50am](#)



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) -----

Emmanuel quote:

I will not leave you comfort less "I Will come to you" so in receiving the words of Christ we thus receive Christ Himself.. for as you have stated as John 1:1 says plainly Christ is the Word of God.. He will work in and through us to bring about His good pleasure..

Christ IN us the hope of glory..

End quote

I was going to write a response to this for you [Emmanuel](#), but I actually covered John 14:16-18 in my above comments to [Imad Awde](#). Please have a read through my responses to him. You will also see commentary on Colossians 1:27. In all of these I show that the WORD is the MECHANISM for bringing Christ to us.

Emmanuel quote:

It is as if the incarnation is to take place in every born again beleiver that Christ again in the person of His saints and through the agency of a His Omnipresence will in the surrendered sinner receive again a Body prepared for Him that He may once again walk the righteous life..

End quote

Amen! The incarnation IS to take place in every believer who is "born again" (by the Word of truth - James 1: 18; 1 Peter 1:23). Ellen White says that "The Word is made flesh, and dwells among us, in those who receive the holy precepts of the word of God" (FE, p. 378). The AGENCY by which Christ is "omnipresent" is through HIS WORD. Omnipresent means "PRESENT EVERYWHERE". If we understand this in a substantial or mental sense, like Christ is thinking in all places, then we have crossed into Pantheism. The Pioneer position was the ONLY way to avoid this, which was that the Spirit was God's seeing and acting in all places.

Jesus kept His Father's Word. That is why He was the "Word made flesh".

John 15:10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

Emmanuel quote:

Christ is the word of God puts emphasis that if you guys teach that the Holy Spirit is simply the reception of the words of God through all available mediums then in reality the bible says still Christ IS THE WORD. any way it's put it still ends with Christ In us..
End quote

Christ is not ACTUAL Words. He is the Word EMBODIED. He is the Revelation of God. But He is still a PERSON. Christ is also called the "Lamb of God", but that doesn't mean He walked on four legs and was covered in wool. "Word" is a title which describes characteristics, let's not take it too far. No one is saying we DON'T have Christ in us. What we are doing is letting Scripture define what that means. Can you tell me whether you understand the concept of letting the Scriptures explain themselves?

Emmanuel quote:

The very first step in coming to a common ground is first understanding accurately the ground we all stand on (meaning to truly understand what each person believes) when we misstate others beliefs as we reason it is in the order of God that we acknowledge the mistake and make proper effort to understand accurately the stance of those we differ with.. this is the very first step.
End quote

I am glad that you are wanting to understand. I am just not seeing any concession that you HAVE understood that we are letting the Scriptures intepret themselves.

Emmanuel quote:

This is why I'm asking questions and seeking to over emphasis what I understand currently.
If we all do this with grace and Christian forbearance then we would have a heavenly dialog in the upper room and God would show up and make things plain..

End quote

I am all for this.

Emmanuel quote:

I actually believe semantics in this circumstance is just as important as the semantics involved in the word "person" When dealing with a trinitarian.

I don't think the Holy spirit is Part of God's being as I understand today I believe it is God's ability to be everywhere present.. it is literally His Omnipresence which carries with it all that God is.. It is His unseen person free from his body yet not individual to His control..

End quote

I agree that semantics are important when discussing the evidence itself. But let's not get so defensive of what we are actually saying. I am happy to acknowledge that you are uncomfortable with the word "physically" in terms of Christ. I will not use it again.

That said, I hope that you can see how you are jumping back and forth in your explanations of your belief above. You say that you "don't think the Holy Spirit is Part of God's being", yet you say that it "is literally His Omnipresence which carries with it all that God is" How can it carry "all that God is" without being at least "part" if not ALL of His being? What you are describing is the idea that God's substance is not confined to a bodily form. Is this accurate? If so, please explain how your view differs from Kellogg's in the Living Temple.

Emmanuel quote:

Humans do not have this ability but we here satanic situations where people say they have an outer body experience.. as satanic as it is for the human agent because our spirit is contained within our bodies for God this ability to have a Body yet be present still in an unseen method seems biblical.

End quote

Humans do not have the ability to be OMNIpresent, but we CAN EXTEND our presence in a FINITE way. Paul gives us a Biblical example where he said he would be "present in spirit" when the Corinthians came to judge a matter of open sin (1 Corinthians 5). How was Paul present? He had given them a "piece of his mind" as we say today through the WORDS he had written in his letter.

Today we have an even stronger analogy. You and I could have a Skype conversation and I would be "present" to you where you live and you would be "present" to me where I live. You would be able to SEE through my camera and you would be able to have influence through your WORDS and vice versa. These are FINITE representations of what God can do INFINITELY.

I have yet to see a single pantheistic non-trinitarian grapple honestly with 1 Corinthians 5.

Emmanuel quote:

Am I to believe that Jesus and the Bible spoke in your definition pantheistically so often yet He meant something different? If so then I will seek God in prayer but at this time I see the bible is FULL of verses where it says things like "Christ in us" I will come to you" I in you" I mean in all reality it is said sooooo many times.. granted I will take into consideration what you say from your study it means and test all things. Because in fact the bible does teach that Christ is God and because of this use of those terms many have adopted a trinity so I am not infallible and I am prone to tell some human weaknesses of mind. I will take time to investigate the quotations and verses as I do believe that EGW writings are valuable to us as a people and would like to take every opportunity to hear God's voice plainly.

End quote

Really, have you READ the Gospels? Jesus speaks cryptically OVER AND OVER AGAIN. Yet He always EXPLAINS HIMSELF. That is why we STUDY TO SHOW OURSELVES APPROVED by comparing Scripture with Scripture. I am glad that you appear to be accepting this above and the need for letting the Bible interpret itself.

So no, Jesus does not speak pantheistically. Jesus speaks metaphorically and cryptically, but EXPLAINS what He means.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [January 11 at 8:58am](#)



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Concluded

Emmanuel quote:

Also you stated though something in regard to demons not actually inhabiting the physical body of a human but what of the case when Jesus cast out the many demons called legion and they were then cast out of a man and into pigs.. seems obvious to me that demons can possess a person's body.. and I'm going to say I don't believe that is physically but literally in a spiritual unseen form.

End quote

Let's leave aside the word "physically" for a moment. Perhaps you could reflect on this. Do angels/demons have bodily forms as part of their being? Do you envision a demon bodily entering into a human, or pigs? If not, does a demon have the ability to have an out-of-body experience and leave their own body and enter into another?

Please show me where the Bible or Inspiration goes into detail about HOW demon possession works and this will be a fruitful discussion. All that passage tells us is that the demons somehow CONTROL the body. Please read the relevant sections of the email discussion book and you will see that this has been dealt with by Caroline and me.

Emmanuel quote:

I will grapple with all that is posted both for and against what I currently believe.. thanks for your time and willingness to share..
End quote

You are most welcome. If you desire to have a conversation, you can skype me. My skype name is "withgirdedsword"

Emmanuel quote:

Let's in the spirit of Christ reason together.. we may have differences but Brendan I beseech you to be considerate that at one time you say you also believed as Imad teaches so try not to make statements such as:
"We will see if I have time. I do not find it pleasurable wading through pantheistic teachings and misrepresented "straw man" attacks on what I believe. For now, I'm happy to have a conversation with you."
End quote

Emmanuel, do you agree that it is more profitable for you and I to talk together if I am to understand YOUR beliefs? I have had too many discussions with people where they post supposed "authorities" and ask me to deal with their material and then if I show something to refute that material they can just distance themselves. Imad knew full well what the position I hold was, yet he chose to misrepresent it in a public videos. I find this reprehensible for one I have known since before he was converted, back when we both used to drink alcohol together. I want profitable discussion, so let's discuss. If you find something Imad says compelling, either type up that specific point or at the very least give me the time-stamps to listen to that specific portion of his study.

Emmanuel quote:

Let's be cordial and loving that we might win and wrestle together in the faith for the Glory of our God and our Lord.

Let differences bind God's children in love and harmony of spirit in study not build up spiritual pride and bias of opinions.

Blessings..
End quote

Again, amen! I am all for this. So let us continue smile emoticon

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[Brendan Paul Valiant Marvin Sambola](#), you should check out the discussion above.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 11 at 12:30pm](#)



[Brendan Paul Valiant Marvin Sambola](#), you should check out the discussion above.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 11 at 12:31pm](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) Imad quote:

Let it be known publicly. I stand on the bible and the bible alone. I believe EGW is a prophet of God and accept her writings, that is why I believe what she said in the following statements:

“The testimonies of Sister White should not be carried to the front. God's Word is the unerring standard. The Testimonies are not to take the place of the Word.” (Ellen G. White, Letter 12, 1890, as quoted in Evangelism page 256)

“Let all prove their positions from the Scriptures and substantiate every point they claim as truth from the revealed Word of God.” (Ibid)

But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines, and the basis of all re-forms. . . . Before accepting any doctrine or pre-cept, we should demand a plain "Thus saith the Lord" in its support.—The Great Controversy, p. 595.

I am fully in harmony with you in your work when you present the Bible, and the Bible alone, as the foundation of our faith.—Selected Messages, book 2, p. 85.

In the work of teaching the truth it is necessary that the important points of our position be well fortified with Scripture evidences.—Testimonies, vol. 1, pp. 447, 448.

All should be careful about presenting new views of Scripture before they have given these points thorough study, and are fully prepared to sustain them from the Bible.—Testimonies to Ministers, p. 106.

Our position and faith is in the Bible. And never do we want any soul to bring in the Testimonies ahead of the Bible. Manuscript 7, 1894 (January 28, 1894) par. 2)

End quote

===== [Imad](#)

[Awde](#), I would like to remind you that Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, thought he was in harmony with the Testimonies of Ellen white as well, yet Ellen White, abhorred the idea that the sentiments in the "Living Temple" was in harmony with her writings. What you are promoting with regards to Christ literally being in you, while denying that it happens by way of the word of God, you are in fact promoting the same thing that Kellogg was promoting, you are falling in the exact trap that Kellogg did. You may quote the Testimonies to support your stance, but if you neglect the parts that is in disharmony with your teachings you are in fact not being honest. All must harmonize, if you find a discordant note with the testimonies of SOP and the Bible, the problem is NOT between the Bible and SOP, it is with the way you interpret them. My hope and prayer to have all of us live in harmony with the Bible and SOP, but as long as there are discordant note, the melody will not come together, I pray you will take a step back and examine carefully what [Brendan Paul Valiant](#) is sharing, because in reality, what he is sharing is the MOST HARMONIUS way to approach the Scriptures and SOP all while avoiding Spiritualism.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [January 12 at 12:36am](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) "The Holy Spirit is Christ's representative, but divested of the personality of humanity, and independent thereof. Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally. Therefore it was for their interest that he should go to the Father, and send the Spirit to be his successor on earth. No one could then have any advantage because of his location or his personal contact with Christ. By the Spirit the Saviour would be accessible to all. In this sense he would be nearer to them than if he had not ascended on high.

The Comforter is called "the Spirit of truth." His work is to define and maintain the truth. He first dwells in the heart as the Spirit of truth, and thus he becomes the Comforter. There is comfort and peace in the truth, but no real peace or comfort can be found in falsehood. It is through false theories and traditions that Satan gains his power over the mind. By directing men to false standards, he misshapes the character. Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the heart. Thus he exposes error, and expels it from the soul. It is by the Spirit of truth, working through the Word of God, that Christ subdues his chosen people to himself." [The Review and Herald, November 19, 1908].

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[Greg Stewart](#) Hey [Brendan](#), I have read this passage before and never until now, I have gotten so much from it. Notice how the Spirit of Prophecy, contrast how Satan gains control and power over the MIND, as opposed to how Christ subdues his chosen people to himself? Interesting stuff I tell you.

===== "It is through false theories and traditions that Satan gains his power over the mind. By directing men to false standards, he misshapes the character. THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKS TO THE MIND, AND IMPRESSES TRUTH UPON THE HEART. THUS HE EXPOSES ERROR, AND EXPELS IT FROM THE SOUL. IT IS BY THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, WORKING THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD, THAT CHRIST SUBDUES HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE TO HIMSELF."

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[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Great one [Greg Stewart](#)... hadn't fully grasped those implications so I'll add it to the arsenal. There are SO MANY things that came alive to me after understanding the Spirit-Word connection, things that hadn't quite connected before... It may have been even more significant than the the Father-Son truth.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [January 13 at 8:57am](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) [Brendan Paul](#),

To me both are equally important, however, the spirit/word connection understanding has helped me tremendously in being able to gradually get a grasp on some natural inclinations and tendencies that I had been grappling with for years, I am now understanding what it mean, when the scriptures ask, how shall a young man cleanse his ways? I am beginning to understand that man truly does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. I am beginning to understand what it mean to not quench the Spirit. I am beginning to understand how Christ stands by my side aiding me to stay connected to the true vine. This is what this understanding has done for me, something the Father/Son message had not done for me. I am beginning to understand how it is that the word of God cleanses our souls. It is only now I am

understanding what Christ mean when he said, "Ye are clean through my words".
Hallelujah! It is amazing bro.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [January 13 at 9:26am](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have sp...[See More](#)



[John 15:1-7, King James Version \(KJV\)](#)

bible.com

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Write a reply...



[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) Hey [Greg](#), and [Brendan](#)

are you guys free to study at some point this week via Skype or FB messenger just for a 1 hour or 2 nothing too long. Maybe via voice I may be better able to grasp what you are both saying and we can speak more fluidly that way. Thx

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [January 13 at 6:53am](#)



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Hi [Emmanuel O'Neale](#), my skype name is withgirdedsword. I am on Australia time and would be happy to converse with you. Let me know a range of times you might be available and the time zone you are in and I will try to make time to fit with your schedule.

Blessings

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[Greg Stewart](#) I am game, how about you [Brendan](#)?

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[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) ^^ [Greg Stewart](#) smile emoticon

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[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) i can be free thursday for 2 hours between 6pm-10pm EST I live in Maine.. Not sure what time it is there in Austrailia now but this same time on Thursday and from 5 hours prior.. it is 11pm here now.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [January 13 at 6:58am](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) my skype name is t3angels.message

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[Greg Stewart](#) [Emmanuel O'Neale](#), we are in the same time zone, we just have to see if [Brendan](#) can fit us in his schedule. Brendan let us know, Thursday any time after 6pm is good for me.

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[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) That's Friday between 10am and 2pm for me. I'm keen for the earlier two hours of the four hours smile emoticon

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 13 at 7:11am](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) [Brendan](#), Is there two time zones in Australia?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [January 13 at 7:14am](#)



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) three time zones and some of these have Daylight Savings, some don't.. making it really confusing... It is now 3:17pm on Wednesday here.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 13 at 7:17am](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) Wow! so you are more than a half a day ahead of us, amazing, I have never really looked into the time zones like that before.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [January 13 at 7:19am](#) · [Edited](#)



[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) wow amazing.. haha.. fascinating. so what do you say to 10am - 12pm your time? which i guess is 6pm-8pm my time

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [January 13 at 7:19am](#)



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) lock it in smile emoticon

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [January 13 at 7:20am](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) kool, locked in!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [January 13 at 7:21am](#)



[Emmanuel O'Neale](#) sounds good smile emoticon I will set a reminder. I also have to make a skype account seeing as i usually use FB messenger now a days

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [2](#) · [January 13 at 7:21am](#)



[Greg Stewart](#) [Brendan Paul Valiant](#) and [Emmanuel O'Neale](#), just want confirm that we are still on for this evening?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [January 15 at 12:20am](#)



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) I'm still locked in

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · [January 15 at 12:22am](#)



Write a comment...

[Sami L. Wilberforce](#)

[5 hrs](#)

The reason why the Scripture speaks of the Holy Spirit as a person, is that it brings to us, and to every soul that believes, the PERSONAL PRESENCE of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said (John 14:18), 'I will not leave you desolate', or orphans. 'I will come to you'. He tells us how he will come. The Father 'give you another comforter, that He [The Father] may be with you forever'. In verse 23, He declares that the Father and He will come to the man who loves Him and keeps His word, and that They will make Their abode with him. But both the Father and the Son come by the Holy Spirit.

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Comments



[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) Amen [Sami L. Wilberforce](#)... Did you know that like the word "person", the word "presence" has several nuances of meaning?

Look at this Inspired testimony that show us what this "personal presence" means and how it comes to us:

THE LIFE OF CHRIST that gives life to the world IS IN HIS WORD. It was by His word that Jesus healed disease and cast out demons; by His word He stilled the sea, and raised the dead; and the people bore witness that His word was with power. He spoke the word of God, as He had spoken through all the prophets and teachers of the Old Testament. THE WHOLE BIBLE IS A MANIFESTATION OF CHRIST, and the Saviour desired to fix the faith of His followers on the word. WHEN HIS VISIBLE PRESENCE SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN, THE WORD MUST BE THEIR SOURCE OF POWER. Like their Master, they were to live "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4. {DA 390.3}

WHEN HIS WORDS OF INSTRUCTION HAVE BEEN RECEIVED, and have TAKEN POSSESSION of us, JESUS IS TO US AN ABIDING PRESENCE, CONTROLLING OUR THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS. We are imbued with the instruction of the greatest

Teacher the world ever knew. A sense of human accountability and the value of human influence gives character to our views of life and of daily duties. Jesus Christ is everything to us,--the first, the last, the best in everything. Jesus Christ, his Spirit and character, colors everything; it is the warp and the woof, the very texture of our entire being. THE WORDS OF CHRIST ARE SPIRIT AND LIFE. We can not then center our thoughts upon self; it is no more we that live, but Christ that liveth in us, and he is the hope of glory. Self is dead, but Christ is a living Saviour. Continuing to look unto Jesus, we reflect his image to all around us. We can not stop to consider our disappointments, or even to talk of them; for a more pleasant picture attracts our sight,--the precious love of Jesus. HE DWELLS IN US BY THE WORD OF TRUTH.

What said Christ to the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well? "If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water." "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again; but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." THE WATER TO WHICH CHRIST REFERRED WAS THE REVELATION OF HIS GRACE IN HIS WORD. HIS SPIRIT, HIS TEACHING, HIS LOVE is as a satisfying fountain to every soul. Every other source to which men resort proves unsatisfying; but the word of truth is as cool streams, represented as the waters of Lebanon, which are always satisfying. In Christ is fulness of joy forevermore. The pleasures and amusements of the world are never satisfying, or healing to the soul. But Jesus says, "Whosoever eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life." {ST, September 3, 1896 par. 7}

CHRIST'S GRACIOUS PRESENCE IN HIS WORD ever speaks to the soul, representing him as the well of living water to refresh the thirsting. It is our privilege to have A LIVING, ABIDING SAVIOUR. He is the source of spiritual power in us, and his influence will flow forth in words and actions that will refresh all within the sphere of our influence, begetting in them desires and aspirations for strength and purity, for holiness and peace, for that joy which brings no sorrow with it. Such an experience will be the result of having Christ as an indwelling Saviour. *ST, September 3, 1896)

It is THE PRESENCE OF JESUS that is needed in our assemblies, to make the preaching of the word effectual to the salvation of souls. Preaching, in itself, has no natural power to renew the heart, and yet this is the object of preaching. It is THE DIVINE INFLUENCE ACCOMPANYING THE WORD, that brings souls in penitence to the foot of the cross. O that Christ's ambassadors would feel their need of Jesus, that their preaching might not be in vain, nor their ministry unsuccessful. When the minister hears the voice of the great Shepherd saying, "Lo, I am with you alway," he works AS IF IN THE PRESENCE OF JESUS; and out of weakness he is made strong. The word becomes quick and powerful, and, IN PROPORTION AS FAITH APPRECIATES THE DIVINE PRESENCE, and honors it, and trusts it, the preaching is in the demonstration of the Spirit and with power. {RH, September 4, 1888 par. 12}

We are to open the Word of God with reverence, with a sincere desire to know the will of God concerning us. Then the heavenly angels will direct our search. GOD SPEAKS TO US OUT OF HIS WORD. WE ARE IN THE AUDIENCE-CHAMBER OF THE MOST HIGH, IN THE VERY PRESENCE OF GOD. CHRIST ENTERS THE HEART. The Holy Spirit takes of the things of God and shows them to us. We see more clearly the greatness of God's love and the fulness of His salvation. We appreciate more fully His gracious design to make us partners in the heavenly firm. We are drawn into full

sympathy with the plans of God. His secret is with us, and He shows us His covenant.
(ST, June 26, 1901)

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[Sami L. Wilberforce](#) God's love for the world was not manifest because He sent His Son, but because He loved the world He sent His Son into the world that divinity clothed with humanity might touch humanity, while divinity lays hold of divinity. Though sin had produced a gulf between man and his God, a divine benevolence provided a plan to bridge that gulf. And what material did He use? A part of Himself. The brightness of the Father's glory came to a world all seared and marred with the curse, and in His own divine character, in His own divine body, bridged the gulf. . . . The windows of heaven were opened and the showers of heavenly grace in healing streams came to our benighted world. . . . {OHC 12.2}

"The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit IN all the fullness of the Godhead,. I WANT TO HEAR YOU VIEW ON THIS SECOND QUOTE

And relating the two above, if Christ was made by the material of the Father, dont you get that the Holy Spirit being in all the fulness of the Godhead is made of the material of the Father but independent as Jesus was made with the material of the Father but also independent?

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[Brendan Paul Valiant](#) God the Father = "Fullness of the Godhead BODILY"

Christ the Son = "Fullness of the Godhead MANIFESTED"

The Spirit = "IN all the Fullness of the Godhead" - that is, it is something that originates "IN" the Father and Son. This Spirit is the sum total of Their Omniscience + Their Omnipotence. It flows out to all creation THROUGH THE WORD. This is established over and over again.

You would have to show me somewhere that we are told that the Spirit is the same "material" as the Father and Son... because the Spirit is not "the fullness of the Godhead" but "IN" the fullness of the Godhead. It's a small difference that makes all the difference.

CONCLUSION

1. Having a part of Christ literally in us will mean having his omniscience. It will mean we will not have to learn anything coz we will have known everything. Let everyone decide for themselves about such a matter.
2. Christ being in the Father and Father being in Christ is the only way to unlock how they dwell in us, an interpretation contrary to this will not be genuine and this is the place I part with other non-Trinitarians coz the way the Trio statements are misapplied with Trinitarians, the Non-Trinitarians fail to distinguish how the Spirit is or not a part of Christ.
3. It's then inevitable that if the Holy Spirit is not a part of the Father and the Son, then is something emanating from them IN fullness of the Godhead may be this is the place we part with many
4. Since every seed has its germinating principle, the underlying issue then is, the Holy Spirit is the germinating principle of God's word, THE LIFE THAT WAS PUT IN THE WORD BY THE FATHER but not the word itself. TWO ENTITIES YET INTRINSICALLY INSEPARABLE
5. Going by the example of the blood transfusion given in SoP, then we can securely conclude that, just as the blood of the donor does not equate to the donor living in the receiver, if the Holy Spirit is given in such a way, there is no way a person can escape the reality that Christ has given us something that has origin in him yet not part of him. This truth cuts both ways to the Trinitarians and some Non-Trinitarians. While Trinitarians claim a third God lives in them, some Non-Trinitarians will exclaim a part of God lives in them called The Holy Spirit whereas the reality is in the middle.
6. It will be great to see how at last this will lead to the worship of true God and the whole atonement understanding.

Thanks to all who participated. #Imad, #Kline, #Brendan, #Greg and #Emmanuel. All of us have things to learn and unlearn. Am going to take this subject as a personal interest and make sure I don't misrepresent anyone.