

104.27. WHO LIVES IN YOU.

The apostle Paul said, I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives within me & the life which I now live, I live by the Faith of the Son of God, who loved me & gave Himself for me, Gal 2:20.

When we accept the sacrifice of Christ, who suffered on our account, to pay for our sins, then we become symbolically & spiritually crucified with him; buried with Him in death to this world & He becomes our advocate before God, as we are risen with Him into a spiritually saved & heartfelt new life. Our old man & all its sins are crucified with Him & have passed away, Rom. 6:6, through our faith on the righteousness of Christ, giving us newness of heart, spirit & life.

This choice makes us a new creature of righteousness, not of ourself, but of the Grace & the Faith of Christ, who is the author & maintainer of our life; He is now formed in our spirit, soul & heart, united to us, as one, so that the life which we now live, we live by the faith of, on & in Him, as we now look to Him; for pardon, righteousness, peace, joy, comfort, grace, & eternal salvation, through His love for us, as He freely suffered & offered His life for ours John 3:16.

A true Christian, or true believer, saved, or converted person is one who has repented of sin (turned away from old ways) & put their faith in God, inviting the spirit of God to come into & live within them, to guide their man spirit, heart & life, through His faithfulness & love, which comes

through Christ's faithfulness, as God's Redeemer of men's spirits, souls & lives.

Once we have asked God into our heart, mind, spirit & soul, our new lifelong journey has begun & now we need to learn & grow & change to develop, the love, character & motivations that Jesus taught & modeled for all of humanity to follow.

Christ living in us does not mean that He controls us, nor does He live our lives for us, as we still must battle with free will, sin, bad choices, pride, ego satisfactions & the sins of the world, but now we have a supernatural friend to help us; when we call on Him & listen to & allow His will, in our life choices.

The Bible makes it clear that we are to be the temple & dwelling place of God, 2 Corinthians 6:16, as God does not dwell in buildings. God dwells in Heaven & His spirit comes alive in saved Christians, so that His people can become representatives of His love & Holiness, to carry His kingdom throughout this lost world, bringing others into the family of God, through the free gift of salvation, by finding faith through the Grace & faith of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The power & gifts of God's spirit within different believers will vary, depending largely on the degree to which we allow the spirits leading, throughout our daily life. e.g., Are you living & allowing the world & flesh to control how you live your day, or how you treat others, or act when things go wrong, letting earthly circumstances to decide your attitudes & actions? Or are you allowing your new God renewed heart & mind to learn, while allowing God's spirit in you, to empower you, to become more like Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, as you now have access to His

character, spirit, attitude, approach & love & it is all within you, just as it was within Him, as with Christ living within you, you are afforded all the same gifts of the Father, that the Son has access to, which should lead all people to act, think & live in love, just as the Father & Son do, without excuse.

Scripture teaches on putting on the new man, Ephesians 4:22, saying that Jesus will only live within us, when we seek to make His way of life, our way of life, to walk as He walked, to live as He lived, 1 John 2:6 & the more we use God's Holy spirit to become like Christ, the more He will be in us; which must be our choice, not His. God wants us to choose to live as Jesus did, but He will not force us to & yet will also not live where the cleansing of fleshly sin has not taken place. You cannot say that you have Christ living within & leading you, while you still hate so & so? God wants us to be conformed to the image of His Son, Romans 8:29.

The apostle Paul said the ultimate purpose of the Christian life is to come to the point where Christ is formed in you, Galatians 4:19. For us to inherit eternal life in His family, God the Father expects us to develop the character of Jesus within us. Not partially, not part time, not as we choose, but fully & eternally. Paul described this as Christ in you, the hope of glory the assurance that we will be glorified, Colossians 1:27.

We read in Philippians 2:13, For it is God who is at work in you, enabling you to will & to work for his good pleasure. So, we must have the will, to live as He did & we must work at developing His character. This means we must cry out to God in prayer for the help we need to change.

The Bible also calls this hungering & thirsting for righteousness, Matthew 5:6. You must fully learn to want for you, what God fully wants for & expects of you.

John said, In Him was life & the life was the light of men, John 1:4. Jesus Christ's life illuminates the path, the way God wants us to live. He calls us to the path, but we must want to get on it. If we do, He will give us all the help we need to grow. But, again, only if we seek it. He will not force His help on us. Nor will He make the changes that we need to make for us. Once we choose to let go of our own will & let God work in us, that does not mean He will do everything for us. We must work hard. We must put diligent effort into working to develop Christ's character within us. We must battle to love all people, regardless of if we like them or not.

PERSPECTIVE.

Through free will you get to decide & choose how you're going to feel & act throughout every day & all the circumstance of life. You can choose to look at each new day with the mature, spiritual loving, understanding, forgiving mind of Christ, while learning to find peace through Christ & eternal life. Or you can choose to be hot tempered, judgmental, unforgiving, hard hearted & headed, uncaring, get outta my way I'm in a hurry, stressed out, I want what I want, flesh filled sinful, my ways best "life", which is being alive, but surely is not living life to its best.

So how do you allow Christ to change your life? Do you acknowledge that your brain only knows & believes what you tell & allow it to & that this is what forms your beliefs, attitudes, actions & reactions, allowing you to decide if you are going to respond as if Christ's love is in you, or as if satan's ego is?

Experiencing & using the mind of Christ, as you allow Christ to be in you, is the only difference between the man who is calm, understanding & prayerful, when cut off by another driver & the one who blows His top & has some kind of an irrational childlike fit, cussing & hollering, raising his blood pressure, harming his testimony of Christ likeness, because someone wronged him?

Do you choose to operate with the mind of an ego driven man? or the mind of our love driven Savior?

It is a lifelong journey to obtain the mind of Christ & it is not easy, but has great rewards. One of the harder parts of stepping into the peace of Christ is realizing that, "why me" is one of the dumbest things any man has ever asked, as we come to the realization of, "why not me". But I am a good person & nothing goes right for me & I don't deserve all the pain & destruction that I have experienced in life. I deserve better, why? Because you are you a better person than Jesus Christ was? He was the only person ever, that didn't sin against God & the only person ever that doesn't deserve to spend an eternity in hell, due to sins, He was the only person ever that truly had a burden for & loved all people & did not ever do anything to harm another & yet He was imprisoned, beaten, cursed at, spit on, poked, prodded, cut, crucified/ murdered by the same people that He loved & came to save & I for one do not deserve better than what Jesus got & surely don't want what the world gave Him, but I do want what He gave to the world that hated Him, which is all that He had to give.

I've mentioned this before but if you want Christ to live within you, you must realize that He is not looking for a place to hide, or rest, He's looking to work & to get you working on needed changes, so that your life can

become a reflection of Him. This means learning to recognize what triggers you to act like something other than Christ within you & practicing & preparing responses so that you're not caught off guard.

Retrain your brain to stop making things important that are not important in the overall scheme of life with Christ. Not many people are going to do things your way, or how you like & that's okay & is absolutely no reason to not love them for who they are, either in Christ, or of the world, as we do not have to do, or think the same things, to be equally loved by God, as we have no authority to judge others for their choices, or mistakes.

Remember that as a Christian, that no matter where you are, someone is watching & we cannot afford to be a stumbling block to another who may observe our actions, knowing that we are claiming to be Christians, filled with Christ & if we act outside of Christ's nature, it may make the difference in their interpretation, on if God is real in us, or not, which could affect others beliefs, which they could then carry home to their family & who knows how far our momentary lapse in judgement could be carried by Satan's minions, because we tossed Christ out of us for a moment & let this world of Satans to get to us, which is its job.

We must always remember that it is okay to live in this broken world, as God has work to do through us, but we must be constantly diligent, to not let this evil world get into us, as it wants to destroy our relationship with God's spirit & Christ within us.

Each morning & for each day, choose your thoughts carefully, as what & how you decide to feel, is what you will experience for the day.

Finally, brothers & sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right & pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent, or praiseworthy, think on those things, Philippians 4:8.