

The Deeper Life in Christ

The Cross of Christ - Lesson Five

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Life in the Spirit

To be united with Christ, we have to cast off some things before we can put on the new man in Christ. (Ephesians 4:22, 24) *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts... (24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.* Again and again we see that we have to turn from our sinful nature, put it to death on the cross, and then live in union with Christ. It takes the power of the Holy Spirit to live this way. And as we have this power in us, we are to walk in the Spirit. (Galatians 5:16) *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.* How do we walk in the Spirit? We keep a daily prayer life. And when we feel conviction to do something, or not to do something, we yield to that feeling, because this is the Spirit leading us.

What is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth which is the Spirit that was in Christ. (John 14:17) *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.* Christ told His disciples that He lived with them, but He was going to be living in them. Christ went to Calvary so that we could receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (John 16:7) *Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*

Christ told His followers that if they desired spiritual things, then they will find them in Him. (John 7:37-39) *In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. (38) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (39) (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)* If we hunger and thirst for spiritual things then we will find them in Christ. The purpose for the cross of Christ was to give us these spiritual things. We find these things in the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Christ went to Calvary to give us the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit puts in us what God expects out of us. (Philippians 2:13) *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.* In other words it is God who produces in you the desires and actions that please Him. It takes God in us to help us to do the right thing. As we give ourselves over to the Spirit, God will fill us, lead and guide us into all truth and righteousness. (John 16:13) *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.* It is the Holy Spirit that gives us the power to live above the nature of sin. (Romans 8:8-10) *So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. (9) But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. (10) And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.* Here we see the great contrast between living in the flesh and living in the Spirit. Living in the Spirit is having the Spirit, and then allowing the Spirit to guide us into truth and righteousness.

Exchanged Life in Christ

The great exchange was this - Christ for our sins. This is the purpose for the Cross of Christ. Now we are to exchange our life of sin for a life in Christ. For believers, the message of the cross is powerful, (1 Corinthians 1:18) *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.* The power of the cross

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is to be dead in Christ, dead to sin, and alive to righteousness, (Romans 1:16-17) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. (17) For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. In faith we live an exchanged life in Christ, (Romans 6:11) Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. In faith we live in righteousness, (Romans 6:19) I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. We live in righteousness because we believe in God's judgment and in His free gift for us, (Romans 6:23) For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Acts 1:8) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. There great witness was a born again life that the whole world saw. A life that honored Christ. In Antioch the born-again believers lead a life of true holiness, so much so that the non-believers started to call these people Christians, because their lives were Christ-like. They lived an exchanged life in Christ. (Acts 11:26) And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. This is the power of this gospel, because it will change peoples lives. This is the power of Christ in us, for He will give us the power to live an exchanged life.

(1 Corinthians 6:11) And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. In the church in Corinth, Paul said that fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, thieves, drunkards, and other such sinners will not inherit the kingdom of God. Then Paul told them that some of the church people were sinners like this, but they are no long. They have been transformed by the name of Jesus in baptism and by the power of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is the exchanged life in Christ. As a result of this changed life, we receive the promise of heaven.

A deeper life of walking in the Spirit will give us the power that we need to walk in righteousness. (Romans 8:10) And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.