

Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

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Christ In Us

by Dan Trygg

“Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.”

John 14:10

“...the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested/made-visible-and-tangible in His saints,²⁷ ...which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Colossians 1:26-27

“...you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.¹⁰ If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.”

Romans 8:9-10

“I have been crucified with Christ;²⁰ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Galatians 2:19,20

“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—”

2 Corinthians 13:5

“He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers/sharers of the divine nature...”

2 Peter 1:4

It has always been God's purpose to dwell within us, so that we might not only bear His image and likeness, the impression of His creative “fingerprints”, but that we might actually *express* and *radiate* His indwelling life. We see this clearly portrayed in the description of Jesus, the perfect Man, unsullied and unhampered by sin. The writer to the Hebrews wrote, “He is the radiance of His glory, the exact expression of His nature...” (1:3). The word for “radiance” means “effulgence, out-shining, emitted-brightness, efflux-of-light” and the word for “exact expression” means “reproduction, exact-representation, full-expression”. **It is more than a resemblance, likeness or image; it was the full-expression of God Himself within a person, shining forth or elucidated through action.**

This is what Jesus told Philip. “If you have *seen Me*, you have *seen the Father*. The Father is *in Me*. The Father *abiding in Me* (living in Me) does His works.”

Then, He went on to say that He would be sending another Helper, the Holy Spirit, who will be with us forever, who will be “in us” (Jn. 14:16,17). Then, He said that *He Himself* will come to us. Somehow it would come to pass that just as He was in the Father, ***we would be in Him and He would be in us*** (Jn. 14:18-20). Then, just a few verses later, Jesus said that *both* He and the Father will come to dwell in the one who is loving Him (vs. 23). In His prayer for those who would come to believe in Him, He asked that we might be one. **He said, “As You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, may they also be one in Us”** (Jn. 17:21). **How is that possible? “The glory which You have given to Me, I also have given to them, in order that they might be one in the same way We are one; I in them, and You in Me...”** (17:22,23).

Of course, we know, ...looking back after Pentecost..., that **this is fulfilled by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, ...but we often simply think of this in terms of an article of faith, a doctrine to believe.** We don't really ponder it much, ...or think of it in the same way Jesus described the Father abiding in Him. I think it is supposed to be a much more important and potent reality than we allow ourselves to imagine. **Faith is not merely about accepting ideas, ...it is the choice to act on revealed hope, in order to bring about a spiritual reality or promise into practical experience.** Or, faith is the outward expression of that inner expectation that God is “in this”.

Christ living within us is the plan and purpose of God. It was the intention of God which had been hidden, unexpressed, throughout the centuries of human history from the time of the fall until the time of Pentecost. God originally created us to be crowned with glory (Heb. – *kabod*) and majesty (Heb. – *hadar*) (Psa. 8:5), but after Adam and Eve sinned, they lost that outshining, and experientially-knew only their emptiness and exposure. The apostle Paul said that we all have sinned and lack, or are in need of, the glory (radiance, outshining) of God (Rom. 3:23). **After redemption could be purchased by Christ's atoning death, ...the blemish of sin paid for and its power broken..., then the glory could be restored.** Paul says we now have obtained access into the grace in which we stand, and we boast in, or delight in, the expectation and hope of the glory of God (Rom. 5:2). **The mystery which had been hidden has now been made known, and is available to all who believe. The mystery is: Christ living in us, the hope of the glory** (Col. 1:27).

Paul refers to the reality of Christ living in us as the mark of the authenticity of our faith (Rom. 8:9). Those who do not have the Spirit of Christ in them, are not His. Note that the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead (the Father) are used almost interchangeably in Romans 8:9-11. **He is called “the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus”** (8:1). **His presence in our lives has freed from the otherwise inevitable cycle of sin and death.** Paul returned to this thought in vs. 11, saying that if the Spirit is dwelling in us, the Father will give life to our dying bodies through the indwelling Spirit. In 2 Corinthians 3:6, the apostle says that **the life-giving Spirit**

is what has made us sufficient or qualified as “servants of the new covenant”. He gives us freedom, and transfigures us to look like God’s radiant glory, from one degree of glory to another (2 Cor. 3:18).

What does this mean? It means that *because Christ is abiding in us by the Holy Spirit, we can now experience the “outshining” and “expression” of His nature and His power in and through our lives.* Christ abiding in us can do His works, ...just as the Father abiding in Jesus did His works through His life (Jn. 14:10).

This was Paul’s message to believers: Christ dwells in you! *He* is the hope of God’s radiance being seen and expressed in and through your life. **Paul labored intensely to convince, remind and teach people of this fact.** He wanted to develop this mindset among believers so that they would grow and mature in Christ, and He would be able to more freely and completely express Himself through their lives (Col. 1:28,29). **Again, I ask you, ...is this just an article of faith that you mentally accept as true, ...or is this a practical reality that you are learning to expect, recognize and respond to?** If you are in Christ, then He *is* in you.

Jesus Christ is in you. *He wants to express Himself through your life.* He wants to be the fragrance emitted from your life (2 Cor. 2:14,15). He wants to be the radiance of God’s character to be seen in your interactions (2 Cor. 4:6,7; Matt. 5:16). He wants to make your life to be like a letter from Him to be read by others (2 Cor. 3:2,3). He wants to do His miraculous works, ...the kind of works He did when He was here..., through you (Jn. 14:12). It is *Christ abiding in you* that can produce the fruit of *His* life in and through *yours* (Jn. 15:4,5).

Don’t look to your own strength, ...or your own track record. Don’t think that He expects you to emulate Him on your own, ...or do what He does by your own strength. He is not expecting any of that. **He knows that apart from Him you can do nothing.** Those are His very words (Jn. 15:5).

He wants you to simply believe that He is at work inside of you. His Spirit has taken up residence in your own life. He is *there*. He is *working*. *He* is able to do things *you* cannot do. **He wants to teach you how to partner with Him,** ...how to work in conjunction with Him. **He wants to make you aware of Him,** ...His promptings, ...His leadings, ...the revelations and insights that come from Him. **And He wants you to learn to trust Him, ...to step out in response to His leadings, or promptings, ...and to step into those situations and opportunities He is putting in your path.** *He* will be the shining light. *He* will give you what to say. *He* will make your face to beam. *He* will give you a heart of compassion. *He* will show you what to do. *He* will change your life. *He* will produce the fruit of His Spirit.

Jesus Christ is in you. Abide in Him, and He who is abiding in you will do His works, through you. And people will see Jesus.

This is what Paul declared in Galatians 2:19,20, “I have been crucified-together-with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; but what I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and delivered Himself for me.” **What does it mean to “live by faith in the Son of God”? Where is this “Son of God”? He is living inside of me!**

What is faith? What does that look like? **Faith is trust and dependence. Faith is expecting the God who is in you to direct you.** Faith is looking within. Faith is putting off the old way of thinking and living, and choosing to think about and process life differently. **It is asking for God to walk with you through the day.** It is telling Him that you are available to serve Him. **It is choosing to have God on your mind, and in your heart.** It is watching with expectation for Him to show Himself, or to draw your attention to Him and what He is doing. **It is carrying on a conversation with Him, because He Himself is inside of you.** It is taking time to read His word, and meditate on Him. **It is asking Him to transform your mind and heart so that you can truly, clearly learn to walk with Him and reveal His life through yours.** It is expecting Him to do that, so when He interrupts or reveals Himself, you will be ready to praise and act in accordance with what He is doing. **It is watching attentively to see what God may be doing around you, so that you can join in His work, as His co-laborer. Then, when you see Him working, faith is choosing to step into that situation, even if it is uncomfortable or inconvenient.**

The writer to the Hebrews said that “it is necessary for the one coming to God to believe that He is, ...and that He is a rewarder to the ones diligently-seeking Him” (Heb. 11:6). **Do you believe that He is, ...that He exists? Where is He? He is inside of you!** Christ in you is the hope of the radiant-glory. *He* is the light shining within you. **He will make Himself known, as you learn to respond to Him.** Do you believe that, if you put forth the effort to seek Him out, that He will reward you with a greater awareness of Himself in your life? **Do you trust that He is already at work in your life, creating the desire to dig deeper and reach farther, and He will enable you to do what He has for you to accomplish? If so, then you need to step into that belief.** There are two parts to this faith-equation. *God* at work, and *you* at work. In Philippians 2:12,13, Paul put it this way, “**Work out your salvation..., for God is the One in-working in you, both the ‘to-desire’ and the ‘to-work’ for His good purpose.**” **Who is He? Where is He? He is God, ...the One in-working in you.**