

Let Christ Live In You!



by Jason Peebles

For the Christian, the wonderful truth is that Christ lives **IN** you! In Colossians 1:27 the apostle Paul describes the wonderful mystery that he preached -- "*Christ **IN YOU**, the hope of glory.*" **The amazing truth is that God does not live in buildings or temples but in the hearts of His people by the Holy Spirit. The moment you accept Christ, the Bible says that the Holy Spirit takes up residence IN you.** Ephesians 1:13 says, "*In whom (Christ) you also trusted, after that you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also after that you believed you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.*"

Christ in You

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is **WITH** every person alive. It doesn't matter if they are Hindu, Moslem, or atheist – the Holy Spirit is **WITH** them. He is there to convict them of sin, righteousness, and judgment (Jn 16:8). The Holy Spirit wants all of us to realize the futility of trying to reach God in our own power. No amount of religious efforts will please God. No amount of self-sacrifice can atone for our sins. **The only response that will please God is really very simple – we**

must place our trust in the provision that God Himself made for our sins -- the atoning work of Jesus Christ (Rom 3:20-31).

The Holy Spirit is WITH everyone. His primary work is to draw people into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and an abiding relationship with Him. John 14:16,17 says: *“And I will pray the Father and He will give you another Comforter that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knows him; for he dwells WITH you and shall be IN you.”* **Once you place your faith in Christ, the awesome news is that God Himself, by the Holy Spirit, takes up residence IN YOU. The Holy Spirit enters in to lead you into daily fellowship with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.** 1 John 1:3,4 says, *“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you that you also may have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.”* God desires to fellowship with you and help you discover the assignments that He has for your life.

As a believer, Jesus Christ lives IN YOU by the Holy Spirit. But that's not the end of the story! Not by any means! **In a very real sense, your heart is like a huge mansion with many rooms. Jesus Christ may be IN YOU but that does not mean that He has entered every room of your life. Authentic Christian maturity is when you yield your life to Him and allow Him to enter every “room” of your heart.**

Your Heart -- Christ's Home

I want to share with you what I call *“the home illustration.”* Think of your life for a moment as a large home (house) with many rooms. Whether you live in an apartment or a house, you no doubt have an entry point, a kitchen, bedroom, bathroom etc. **The point is this – your home does not consist of just one room. There are many rooms.**

We are all familiar with the first room that most people see when they enter our homes. Some refer to it as the living room, the sitting room, or la sala. If you are like most people, you tend to keep that portion of your home fairly neat and clean just in case someone knocks on the door! For most of us, it's no problem to let a visitor sit in the living room area. But God forbid if they saw the rest of

room area. But God forbid if they saw the rest of the home! On any given day, the kitchen may be messy with dirty dishes, the TV room may have magazines spread around, and most rooms may generally be messy and cluttered. For sure, the bedroom would be off limits! Your bed covers might be half off the bed and you may have dirty clothes lying on the floor. No! On many days, you would ask your guest to remain right there in the living room.

Well, in a spiritual sense, our lives are often just like the home illustration. Many Christians have invited Christ to sit in the living room – but they have never allowed Him to enter the other rooms of their home. Look at these verses from the book of *Ephesians*. When you read the following verses, I want you to think of *“the house illustration”* and how it may relate to your life. This is a powerful passage on how the Holy Spirit wants to enter every area of your heart with God's agape love and strength:

“(I pray) that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit IN THE INNER MAN; that Christ may dwell (live) in your hearts by faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Ephesians 3:16-19

Wow! What an awesome passage! **Paul was writing to people who were already Christians. He wasn't saying, “I want you to get saved.”** He was writing to the disciples at Ephesus saying, *“I want Jesus Christ to FULLY live in your heart – in EVERY area of your life.”* He was praying for the believers of his day to be strengthened on the inside, in the inner man, with the power of the Holy Spirit. His desire was for believers to experience the fullness of God.

The Inner Man

Notice in this passage that Paul wants believers to be *“strengthened with might by His Spirit IN THE INNER MAN.”* So what is the “inner

man?” The inner man would be everything on the “inside” of you – your mind, thought life, emotions, memories, goals, imaginations, and on and on. The Bible refers to your physical body as the “outer man” (2 Cor 4:16). **So, when you properly understand what Paul wrote, he was praying for the Holy Spirit to “fill” and “strengthen” every part of the inner man. Again, think of your inner man like a large house with many rooms. The house is not just made up of one room – it is comprised of many rooms or areas. SO, TOO, IS YOUR INNER MAN.**

Now what is the point to all of this? The point is that we need to be praying the very same prayer that the apostle Paul prayed – *“that we might be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man.”* Every one of us have areas in the “inner man” that need the love and strength of God. For example, we all have a room called the *“memory room.”* Some memories are good and some are bad – and some are downright embarrassing. Have you ever let Christ enter that room of your house? Why not? You need to let Him enter with His resurrection power and remove the sting of those memories that tend to hold you back.

We all have another room called the *“imagination room.”* It’s very much like our own personal cinema where we play whatever movies we choose to play. Sometimes we watch good movies and sometimes we watch bad movies. And, we all have our favorite ones that we watch over and over. Philippians 4:8 says to think on things that are pure, lovely, honest, true, just, and of good report. If you want God’s best in your life, then you absolutely must allow Christ to become “Lord” of your imagination room.

And then there’s the all important *“planning room.”* We really like to keep this room all to ourselves and off-limits to others! In this room we like to think about what “we” want to do. Without the strength of Christ, we tend to create plans and goals that don’t even consider what God may want. It’s vital that you invite Christ to enter this room. He is the Master Planner! He has never failed! With His guidance, you will become the success that God intended you to be. Remember what the apostle Paul prayed in the verses quoted above? He prayed, *“that Christ may dwell (live) in your hearts by faith – that you might be filled with all the fullness of God.”* No doubt, your heart also

has a room called the *“hurt room.”* This is a room in our hearts that has all the past memorabilia of painful experiences that we’ve been through. It’s kind of like a twisted trophy room. We tend to hang on to the memories of the times we were rejected, hurt, criticized, embarrassed, or when we made a mess of things. Jesus wants to enter this room, too, with His agape love and healing power. If you don’t allow him into this room, then it can hold you back from fulfilling your destiny in God.

Do you remember what I said earlier -- that your heart is like a huge mansion with MANY rooms? Well, it’s absolutely true. In addition to the rooms we’ve briefly mentioned, your heart may also have a room dedicated to the untimely death of a loved one, a previous divorce, something that you feel you failed in, and on and on! Your heart has many rooms that need the agape love of God! **Christ can enter each and every room with His love and healing power to bring restoration and strength. What the enemy meant for evil can be overcome.** Ephesians 5:27 tells us that God’s Word can remove *“spots, wrinkles, and blemishes”* in our lives. In other words, those areas that are damaged can be strengthened by the power of God! Jesus is the living Word who makes it possible. And, though not the primary intent of this Study, let me give you one additional thought along these lines. **The truth is – every “room” or area that you feel weak in can actually become a “contact point” for His resurrection power. In God’s Kingdom, your weakness can become a lightning rod for His power – IF, IF you will simply commit it to Him.**

In 2 Corinthians 12:9,10 Paul directly quotes Jesus. Jesus said, *“My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”* Look closely at what Jesus said. Paul went on to say, *“Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore, I take pleasure in weaknesses, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak then am I strong.”* Wow! What an amazing perspective. Paul had learned to trust God MORE and depend on Christ MORE when he faced problems. It is a wonderful truth in God’s Kingdom that when we acknowledge our weakness in an area, God’s strength and power will flood in. He can reverse the curse and turn a weakness into strength.



Christ in Every Room

Let me share with you a very personal area in my own life. It concerns the untimely death of my only son at age 19 in 2004. I think that any one, especially those of us who have children, can understand how painful this area has been for me. What can be worse for any parent, than the death of their child? At that time, I had already been in the ministry 25 years. I had given my whole life to missions and evangelism. My son was a wonderful boy. He played sports in school and made all A's and B's. His death took all of us by surprise and very nearly destroyed me. **For months on end, my heart and mind were tormented day and night. In all honesty, I was nearly non-functional for several years. I was going through the motions but I was like a robot. My mind was flooded with all kinds of thoughts from the enemy.** All the plans that I envisioned for Ryan and for me had died with him.

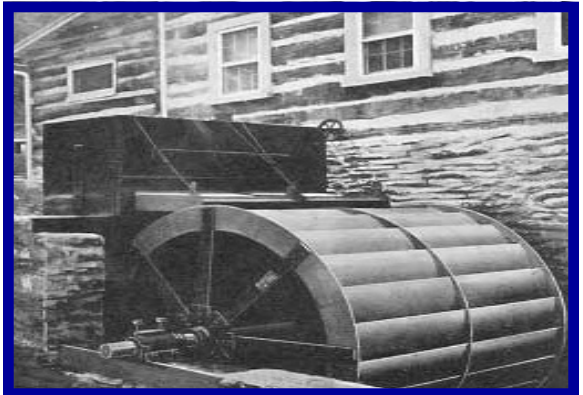
Even in the midst of my devastation, I can honestly tell you that not once did I ever get angry with God or accuse Him, as if it were His fault. I was too established in the reality of John 10:10 where Jesus said, *"The enemy comes but for to kill, steal, and destroy, but I am come that they might have life and life more abundantly."* I have never believed that God is behind tragedies, wars, child abuse, or untimely deaths. To me (and I realize others may have a different view) these are the works of Satan. Ephesians 6:10-18 makes it very clear that this world is involved in a war between good and evil. Additionally, from the day I learned of Ryan's death, I have had an assurance in my heart that my son is with the Lord. He became a Christian at an early age and walked with Christ. Like any teenager, he was definitely not perfect – but he knew Christ. Yet, my mind and my emotions

were a total mess during that time. I came very close to losing everything. It's a wonder -- and this is not an exaggeration -- that I did not end up as a homeless man walking the streets. That's how knocked down I felt. For me, this was a "room" in my life that I thought could never be healed or strengthened.

Yet, the very things that I am writing about here began working in my life. My "weakness" became a lightning rod for His strength. It did not happen overnight – it took many months. But little by little, as I committed my heart over and over again to the Lord, His love and strength began working. **Why do I share such a deep and personal area? Because I know that Jesus Christ will strengthen YOU no matter what you may be struggling with.** I've seen His power transform drug addicts, alcoholics, prostitutes, and people who have given up on life. **I KNOW THAT HIS POWER CAN STRENGTHEN YOU!** Your job is to invite Jesus into EVERY ROOM, no matter how weak you may feel or how embarrassed you may be. Remember what Paul prayed – that we would *"be strengthened with all might by His Spirit in the inner man."* Commit your situation to the Lord. Tell Him the truth -- that you feel "weak" and incapable – and let Him do His work. Hebrews 4:16 is an invitation to all of us: *"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace (God's enabling power) in time of need."*

Dear friend, my prayer is that you will let Christ live in you! Invite Him into every room of your heart and receive His strength and love.

■ -- Jason Peebles



Key Memory Verse:

“That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell (live) in your hearts by faith.” Ephesians 3:16,17

Prayer of Invitation

“Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for my sins. I accept His sacrifice and commit my life to Him. I invite Christ into EVERY room of my heart. I purpose to hold nothing back. Heal me, strengthen me, and cleanse me in every area. Thank you for your great love. In Jesus Name – Amen.”

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