

“Christ Liveth in Me” Pt. 1

By John G. Lake

From “Spiritual Hunger”, Chapter 3 by Gordon Lindsay

“Christ liveth in me” (Galatians 2:20).

THAT is the RELEVANT REVELATION of this age.

THAT is the discovery of the moment.

THAT is the revolutionizing power of God in the earth....the factor that is changing the spirit of religion in the world and the character of the Christian faith.

It is Divine vitalization (to give life, vigor or spirit to).

The world is awakening to the marvelous truth that Christ is NOT ONLY IN HEAVEN, but that CHRIST IS IN YOU.

The world lived in darkness for thousands of years.

There was just as much electricity in the world then as now.

It was not that electricity has just come into being. It has always been here.

Men HAVE DISCOVERED how to UTILIZE it and BLESS themselves with it.

THE GREAT MYSTERY:

Christ indwelling IN THE HUMAN HEART (SPIRIT) is the MYSTERY of mysteries, (Colossians 1:26&27 - see end of document for this verse in several versions).

Paul gave it to the Gentiles as the SUPREME MYSTERY of ALL the revelation of God, AND the FINALITY of all THE wonder that he knew.

Christ HAS a purpose for you.

Christ's purpose IN YOU is to REVEAL Himself TO YOU, THROUGH YOU, IN YOU.

We repeat over and over, “the Church which is His Body”, “the Church which is His Body”, BUT if we REALIZE the TRUTH OF IT and the POWER OF IT, this world WOULD BE A DIFFERENT PLACE.

When the Christian Church REALIZES THAT THEY are the TANGIBLE, LIVING, PULSATING body - the flesh and bones, blood and brain of Jesus Christ; and that God is manifesting through each one EVERY MINUTE and is endeavoring to accomplish His

will for the world through them, not through some other body, THEN Christian service and responsibility will be understood.

Jesus Christ OPERATES THROUGH YOU!

He does not operate independently of you; He operates through you.

Man and God become united.

That is the REAL DIVINE SECRET of a real Christian life.

It is a real union, the conscious union of man and God.

There is NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THAT RELATIONSHIP. You can manufacture ordinances and symbols until you become dazed with them all, but still you must find God.

There is ONLY ONE REALITY.

That reality IS GOD.

The soul of man must contact God and unless the spirit of man is **truly joined to God**, there is no such thing as a REAL Christian manifestation.

All the processes of preparation by which a soul is prepared by God for such a manifestation (REAL Christian manifestation), are only preliminary processes.

THE FINAL END (of the processes of preparation) IS THAT MAN MAY REVEAL GOD, and that God may not only HAVE A PLACE OF RESIDENCE (in man), but also a RIGHT OF ACTION in the BODY AND SPIRIT OF MAN.

EVERY HOLY SPIRIT TAUGHT man in the world is aware of how gradually HIS OWN NATURE (ENTIRE BEING) HAS BECOME SUBJECTED TO GOD AND HIS WILL.

God's PURPOSE IN US is to bring all the conditions of our being INTO HARMONY with HIS WILL AND HIS MIND.

God's purpose is NOT to make us automatons (robots). We see a ventriloquist operating a wooden dummy, and the dummy's lips move; it looks as though it is talking. He is just moving in obedience to another power.

God HAS A HIGHER PURPOSE than making man an automaton.

God's highest is:

TO BRING OUT ALL THE QUALITIES OF GOD IN YOUR OWN SOUL,

TO BRING OUT THE INDIVIDUALITY THAT IS IN YOUR LIFE;

Not to submerge or destroy, but

TO CHANGE IT,

TO ENERGIZE IT,

TO ENLARGE IT,

Until ALL your individuality and personality are OF THE NATURE AND SUBSTANCE OF GOD.

GOD DOES NOT ELIMINATE MAN'S PERSONALITY:

Once while I was in Chicago I met a couple of old friends who invited me to dinner. At dinner the lady, who is a very frank woman, said: "Mr. Lake, I have known you so long and have had such close fellowship with you for so many years that I am able to speak perfectly frankly."

I said, "Yes, absolutely."

"Well," she said, "there is something I miss about you. For lack of words I am going to put it in Paul's words, 'I bear about in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.' You do not seem to have the marks of Jesus."

I said, "That depends on whether it is the marks or MANNERISMS. If you are expecting that the personality God gave me is going to be changed so that I will be another man and not myself, then you will be disappointed. If those are the kinds of marks you are looking for, you will not find them. But if you are expecting to observe a man's flesh and blood, bones, spirit and mind indwelt by God, then you will find them. Not a machine, not an automaton, or an imitation, but a man with a clear mind and a pure heart. A son of God in nature and in essence."

What is all God's effort with the world (for) but to BRING OUT THE REAL MAN IN THE IMAGE OF CHRIST, the real man with the knowledge of God. That REAL MAN, reconstructed until his very substance is the substance of God.

When you stop to reason that to its proper conclusion, that (the REAL MAN with God's very substance) is the ONLY WAY in which Jesus Christ Himself, or God the eternal Father will ever keep from living in loneliness forever and ever.

Let's read those last two statements again:

What is all God's effort with the world (for) but to BRING OUT THE REAL MAN IN THE IMAGE OF CHRIST, the real man with the knowledge of God. The REAL MAN, reconstructed until his very substance is the substance of God.

When you stop to reason that to its proper conclusion, that (the REAL MAN with God's very substance) is the ONLY WAY in which Jesus Christ Himself, or God the eternal Father will ever keep from living in loneliness forever and ever.

When one stops to analyze THAT FACT, we see that God is trying to make us in all our nature and being and habits and thought, in all the structure of our life, JUST AS BEAUTIFUL, JUST AS REAL, JUST AS CLEAR-MINDED AND STRONG AS JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF.

(When we see this), THEN WE UNDERSTAND what Christ's REDEMPTION means:

It is the bringing out of CHRIST IN YOU UNTIL CHRIST IN YOU IS THE ONE
MANIFEST.

Manifest through YOUR eyes, just as God was manifest through the eyes of Jesus;
Manifest through YOUR touch, just as God was manifest through Jesus.

NOT a power or a life separate FROM YOU, but TWO LIVES MADE ONE,
TWO NATURES (CHRIST AND YOU) JOINED,
TWO MINDS (YOUR'S AND GOD'S) OPERATING AS ONE,

"CHRIST IN YOU".

Galatians 2:20: "It is no longer I that lives, but Christ Who lives in me and the life that I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me."



Scriptures below.

Colossians 1:25-27

Where of I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God; even the mystery which has been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his Saints; to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (KJV)

For I am a minister of the Church by divine commission, a commission granted to me for your benefit and for a special purpose: that I might fully declare God's word—that sacred mystery which up to now has been hidden in every age and every generation, but which is now as clear as daylight to those who love God. They are those to whom God has planned to give a vision of the full wonder and splendour of his secret plan for the sons of men. And the secret is simply this: Christ in you! Yes, Christ in you bringing with him the hope of all glorious things to come. (J.B. PHILLIPS)

In the past God hid this mystery, but now he has revealed it to his people. God wanted his people throughout the world to know the glorious riches of this mystery—which is Christ living in you, giving you the hope of glory. (GOD'S WORD VERSION)

VS. 26-29: This mystery has been kept in the dark for a long time, but now it's out in the open. God wanted everyone, not just Jews, to know this rich and glorious secret inside and out, regardless of their background, regardless of their religious standing. The mystery in a nutshell is just this: Christ is in you, so therefore you can look forward to sharing in God's glory. It's that simple. That is the substance of our Message. We preach Christ, warning people not to add to the Message. We teach in a spirit of profound common sense so that we can bring each person to maturity. To be mature is to be basic. Christ! No more, no less. That's what I'm working so hard at day after day, year after year, doing my best with the energy God so generously gives me. (THE MESSAGE)

.....the secret that hath been hid from the ages and from the generations, but now was manifested to his saints, to whom God did will to make known what [is] the riches of the glory of this secret among the nations -- which is Christ in you, the hope of the glory. (YOUNG'S LITERAL)

