

The Liberating Secret Newsletter

February 2009

Volume 50



You think the patio is ready for the May
conference?

Snow and ice is everywhere--on trees, bushes, yards, houses, drives, and streets, covering everything with all its wintery beauty. Sparkling, glistening, dancing little prisms reflecting light in hundreds of directions. But what damage this beautiful ice has done especially here in Kentucky. I'm sorry that I am late getting this Newsletter out but mother nature has prevented it.

Even though our utilities have been out, it didn't stop the Lord from sending folks to our house. Richard Krupa was here with all hands helping Scott while sleeping in a warm sleeping bag he purchased to accommodate himself in our cold bed room. Also, Therese and Chuck Thurston came for a quick visit. Chuck is doing videoing with David, our son and IT guy. They are producing "Medical Moments," a pungent 60 second biblical/medical blurbs. You will soon be seeing them on our streaming video section of Spirit Broadcasting.net.

I just finished a 37 program series called, "The Scriptural Basis for Christ, Our Life Ministries." They cover the whole gamut of our union

teaching. The scripture outline will be on the Liberating Secret with video links to each subject presented. We believe that many will be starting home churches and will want these programs for weekly reference. I am editing them now, but will soon announce their availability.

UNION/COMMUNION
(March 13th =20th, 2009)

Women's Gathering

Pawleys Island, SC

(Sponsored by Deep Waters Ministries)

Shake and Bake

And/Or

Rise and Shine

(Where do you fit? Psalm 61 says to Rise and Shine for His Glory has come!!)

with

SYLVIA PEARCE

FRAN "LOVE" GILES

JENNY FIENNING

MARGARET LESTER

Session 1: 3/13=3/16, 2009

Session 2: 3/17-3/20, 2009

Come and Enjoy our Father's Love!

He is inviting you to His Table!

Letters

Hey Nancy, was reading Colossians just now, one of my most favorite passages. I'm always blown over by Col. 1:25>28.

How can Paul speak like this? - Speaking of "the mystery of the ages which has now been made manifested to His Saints"? The mystery (now made known) which is CHRIST IN YOU. Paul can't help himself but to "fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, admonishing and teaching every man that every man be complete in Christ".

You keep reading and he continually speaks " in Him" "of Him" "with Him".

Now I know the Spirit taught him in the desert - it must have been a deep time. But the implications of Christ IN us AS us.....

It knocks me down.

Richard

Good Morning LOVE!

How sweet to hear from you... I've looked each day for your name in my box...and here you are today...also so glad that you included Jenny! Be sure and take your computer with you if you go to Jenny's...because I want to hear from you! •

Yes, from now on this revelation of 'Christ in you' - (as you!)- will no longer be a hidden mystery, but will be a well of living water springing up in you and giving life to all who drink thereof! It is only when the Resurrected Lord is resurrected in us, that we above all things, press toward the mark of the high calling, forgetting all that is behind us and considering it as dung as Paul also writes in Philippians. This one thing only consumes us now; TO KNOW THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS! We, like Paul, want others to arise! And we travail in birth until Christ be formed in them. You will fall in love with the entire New Testament...you will relish in the Spirit of the Living God...for it is Christ revealed in every word in us!

Paul was actually on trial for the resurrection of the dead! Thank God, Paul was faithful to the vision he was counted worthy to receive that day on the road to Damascus when Christ revealed Himself IN him. That's it- Inner-revelation of Christ! The revelation of Jesus Christ in us is Christ Consciousness! This is being born again! Behold all things become new! Old things are passed away! Now we feast, only on Him alone...seeing GODONLY! He is the WAY..... He is the TRUTH.....and He is the LIFE. He is the POWER, He is the LOVE.....now all is HE! HE! HE!

By the Living Spirit of our Resurrected Lord, we are one in Christ with God! John chapter 17

Glorious!

LOVE, Nancy

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hello my dear cousin!!

What an uplifting note you sent to all of us!! You "hound of heaven"!! I love it!! I know what you are experiencing in your flesh is "no picnic" but how glorious is HE! You are truly learning to not waste your pain and sorrow on self-centeredness (doesn't do any good anyway, right?) I am reading a book right now called, would you be.... "Don't Waste Your Sorrows" by Paul E. Billheimer... It is really, really good... Here's just a little paragraph:

All of God's discipline and training is directed toward increasing and perfecting one's love. All adversity, of whatever character and magnitude, is permitted for this purpose. God is using one's temporal circumstances, personality clashes, personal hostilities, unjust criticism, financial reverses, poverty, physical affliction, frailty, pain, and even old age as "on-the-job" training for the exercise and development of agape love. This training is not primarily for temporal value and advantage, since life's day is often nearing its end before one learns the deeper lessons of love, but because it is the coin, currency, and legal tender of eternity...Agape love!!

And how I have watched this Agape Love envelop you and become your very breath... Ain't God something!! We truly know that only that which is eternal shall stand in the end. It isn't what I try and accumulate of stuff, position, etc. in the earth that matters it is only what He does as my life in the earth that matters...so...He gets us to where we are willing for Him to Live His Life in, through and as us in the world through suffering and seeing that only Agape Love survives...

You have been part of this "Love Smuggling Conspiracy" for a long time...smuggling Love to SOOOOO many... Those along your path.. Thank you!! Because of you, I have a lot of brothers and sisters I will come to know in eternity... :)

I am thankful that Peace (Jesus) and Goodness (Jesus) are yours... That you see life on earth with a "twinkle" in your eye..with a smile .. as you know HIM Who is "from the beginning"

My dear Tom... I am so thankful for you.... with your precious wife and children I rejoice!! I hug you all!!

Much love, Jenny

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hey all,

My mom died @ 3AM Sunday morning. She was 88.

I'm glad I got to spend a lot of time with her after we moved her down from Duluth. She had been resistant to being born again, and I didn't want to make her do something she didn't mean, just to get me off her case.

So, each day, I held her and prayed for her. She was suffering a lot and just wanted to die. Then one day, I told her that death would not end her pain if she didn't get right with God. I also talked to her about confessing her sins as well as forgiving others with whom she was angry. We also talked about what being born again, meant.

Then, a few days ago, I had a dream that said I should press for salvation and that she would believe. So I did, and I showed her in Scripture that Jesus told Nicodemus he had to be born again to enter Heaven. Then I said,

"This is not about a different theology than what you were raised with, this is what Jesus said we had to do. I don't make the rules, God does."

So she agreed to pray with me. We confessed Jesus as Lord, that His Blood was shed for her sins so she could be forgiven. We renounced Satan and all his works, and prayed for her to receive the Holy Spirit.

Then, I thought she was ready to die, and started to ask the Lord to end her suffering and take her home. But after a day or two, the Lord showed me there was something He was doing in her through her suffering, that a refining of her conscience was going on. Once He was finished with that, He would take her home. So I waited for the Lord to do what must be done. She had a lot of pain, but it was not punishment. The details were between her and the Lord.

In the end, we only spoke to each other with our eyes, and I knew we understood each other.

Thanks for your prayers,
John

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Who is William Law??

"...the root of a dark fire-life within us, which is of the nature of hell, with all its elements of selfishness, envy, pride, and wrath, must be in some sort discovered to us, and felt by us, before we can enough groan under the weight of our disorder. Repentance is but a kind of table-talk, till we see so much of the deformity of our inward nature as to be in some degree frightened and terrified at the sight of it. There must be some kind of earthquake within us, something that must rend and shake us to the bottom, before we can be enough sensible-either of the state of death we are in or enough desirous of that Saviour, Who alone can raise us from it. A plausible form of an outward life, that has only learned rules and modes of religion by use and custom, often keeps the soul for some time at ease, though all its inward root and ground of sin has never been shaken or molested, though it has never tasted the bitter waters of repentance and has only known the want of a Saviour by hearsay. But things cannot pass thus: sooner or later repentance must have a broken and a contrite heart; we must with our blessed Lord go over the brook Cedron, and with Him sweat great drops of sorrow before He can say for us, as He said of Himself. "It is finished."

--- William Law---

Hopefully this quotation from the great William Law will be enough of an incentive to the one who picks up his collection to continue on to acquaint oneself with the eternal truths unveiled by Law and his "illumined" and "blessed" Jacob Boehme. Both held a belief in the possibility of union with God in this life and the belief that religious inspiration or revelation did not stop with the end of the New Testament

but continues as the Holy Spirit reveals the depths of the mysteries of God and searches diligently, exploring and examining everything, even sounding the bottomless things of God--the divine counsels and things hidden and beyond man's scrutiny (I Cor. 2:10). As Paul says, "...the spiritual man tries all things--that is he examines, investigates, inquires into, questions, and discerns all things, yet is himself to be put on trial and judged by no one...for we have the mind of Christ and do hold the thoughts and intents of His heart" (I Cor. 2:15).

Law speaks to all as a writer of almost unique, penetration, and insight. His high place among writer of English prose has been appreciated by many. Here are some links to this prolific 1600 English writer. I hope that you enjoy him as much as I do.

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/law/address/files/addr01.htm>

<http://www.ccel.org/l/law/knowledge/know.htm>

http://members.ozemail.com.au/~moorea@ozemail.com.au/william_law.html

<http://www.passtheword.org/DIALOGS-FROM-THE-PAST/regenera.htm>

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/law/appeal/files/appeal01.htm>

<http://www.passtheword.org/DIALOGS-FROM-THE-PAST/sprprayr.htm>

<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/law/love/files/love.html>

<http://www.flipkart.com/spirit-prayer-love-william-law/071889135x-w4w3f8vukf>

Quotes

Religion is guilt with different holidays- Danny Pearce

--"Every corner of the universe will speak audibly of Jesus Christ; so that we shall not be able to go into a place, or touch a life, without finding an expression of the Lord Jesus. "Christ in you, the hope of glory" -- this is heaven. You walk in the presence of the Lord Jesus. Think of the whole universe like that; a universal expression of His Son in fullness. That is the end God has in view, that Christ shall fill all things; that, looking into everything, it shall be found to be full of Christ. All is made for Him, and in the new creation all will speak of His presence and show forth some characteristic of Him. Oh! the joy, even now, when you touch a life and find immediately that life is full of the Lord Jesus, and the Lord Jesus is the fullness of that life; what a benediction it is!" -- **T. Austin-Sparks, The Measure of Christ (for full Article, see my "Articles by other Christian writers.")**

"If we cast aside the suggestions of Satan, the delusions of our own feelings of separation, the sense of weakness and ignorance: if we boldly possess our possessions in Christ, draw the sword of the Spirit upon the

deceiver, declare by God's word that we are one with Christ and with one another, one mystic organism, one divine life flowing in and through all: then we are strong by faith, for His strength is in us; we are wise, for His wisdom is ours; we have love, joy or any other needed grace of the Spirit, for we are permeated with Him; and all we need to do is to go forward in this faith, as having and possessing, and we shall find that what is true in the realm of the Spirit, through our faith becomes manifest in the realm of the senses, whether it be power, love, joy, knowledge, or any other needed resource. Christ the head thus becomes manifest in and through His members." –**Norman Grubb**

Faith is itself from the Other Side, and is as inexplicable and absurd as that in which it believes. **Norman Grubb**

Faith is doubt absorbed, doubt conquered. Unbelief is doubt accepted. **NG**

The more uncertainty there is, the more passion in your decision of faith, for there has been a bigger doubt to conquer. **NG**

Faith has staked all on Him, indeed the faith itself is really only He in us believing in Himself---there's nothing human left to it. **NG**

I transcend the doubts by replacing them by deliberate faith; actually their opposition is what gives sinews to my faith. **NG**

Maybe I shall find one day that the trial of my faith (not my faith, but its trial—having to walk with God in the dark maybe) has been, as Peter said, more precious than gold that perishes. **NG**

"We shall have reached the Cape of good Hope when Christians cease to be sponges mopping up all they can get, and become water pots full to the brim, running over with good wine of self-sacrifice. As we are saved by our walk of faith unto faith, each step being a novel faith, so also we never have really appropriated the sacrifice of Jesus till we sacrifice ourselves." **C.T. Studd**

"Comfort and prosperity have never enriched the world as much as adversity has." **Billy Graham**

"The Religious Spirit is always fighting something" ...Steve Pettit

The definition of "REST" is simply "CESSATION OF WAR" ...Faith wins by not fighting.

On Christian Unity---Christian unity is not something that can be organized; it comes naturally among those who share a common love for Christ. The false ecumenical/interfaith unity being promoted today by the World Council of Churches – an organization that is strongly influenced by Freemasonry – is nothing new. It has been used for centuries to try to further the cause of world government. As long as Christians do NOT unite with the peoples of other religions, there can be no world government. This unwillingness of Christians to compromise their faith has been the chief obstacle for the conspirators. Scott Bailey

Live Internet Sunday School: Sign up now!

Global Sunday School This study now in progress is a verse by verse study of Galatians **live with Brian Coatney**. For more information please contact Brian Coatney at: coatneys@newwavecomm.net

Would you like **radio in your area?** Please contact **Margaret Lester** at

marlester@comcast.net for more information.

Please send me the news in your area to be posted in this Newsletter. sylvia@theliberatingsecret.org

Dead to Sin Part Six: What About Our Bodies?

Brian Coatney

Christians often refer to the "old man" or "old nature" as if referring to themselves. This can present quite a messy and complicated view of the Christian as a combination of both old and new—even like an unreliable car with some great new parts but still an unreliable car! Much of this confusion comes from viewing the body as evil, or even worse, from viewing it as in control of us instead of the Holy Spirit.

What scriptures can help us sort this out? While it is true that sin must have a body to operate through, it does not follow that the body is sinful. Paul tells us that the body is dead because of sin (Rom. 8:10), but he there refers to sin as the agent of mortality, not the body as sin. Our mortality, as the one remnant of the Fall that remains with us, means that walk by faith and not by sight. But God leaving us in perishable containers does not imply His displeasure with the body or he wouldn't command us in Romans 6 to present out bodies as instruments of righteousness. Also, without the body that perishes, we could not connect with unbelievers in empathy, as Jesus, in his incarnation, connected with us.

The scriptures celebrate many things about the body: joyful feast times before the Lord, the beauty of the earth, conjugal bliss, fruitful labor, and even wine that makes glad the heart of man for those the Lord permits to drink it. Ours is not a life of, "Touch not; taste not; handle not" and forge "doctrines of men" (Col. 2:21, 22).

The problem with the body came when Satan got hold of it in the Garden and infused his self-for-self nature into it to work his will. Properly speaking, then, the old nature is Satan, and the old man is the Satan-I union we lived from before becoming Christians. The new nature, then, is Jesus Christ, and the new man is the Christ-I union we live from after the new birth. We're about to find out that the old man is dead.

Paul tells us "the old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed" (Rom. 6:6). That's a powerful statement, implying that Jesus became the old man, indwelled by the old nature, when

he died on the Cross. Jesus not only died for our sins; God "made him to be sin for us" (2 Cor. 5:21). What a shock. Jesus never sinned, and yet God made him to be sin, meaning that God made him the old man in order to destroy the body of sin.

But wait a minute, I still have the same body I've always had, and I've committed plenty of sins by that body, so how could the body of sin have been destroyed? Yet Paul says in Rom. 6:3, "Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?" Having spent so much time looking at the 2000 years that separate us from Christ's death, that can sound strange to our time oriented ears. Plus, we're used to thinking of Christ's death as *for us*, but not *as us*. However, when He died, we died in him and are therefore, free from sin. Let's follow that Romans 6 trail further.

Paul calls on us to reckon this true, which means agreeing with it as fact. In an earlier lesson we talked about how faith means that something is available, desirable, and there for the taking. Reckoning means we take; we take what we reckon on. This can sound like laborious choice, something calculating and tedious at times, but when we're desperate, we love our reckoning as much as any miser ever loved counting his money.

Paul then says that sin has no more dominion over us. That means freedom from sin and Satan, as well as freedom from bondage to others from whom we've craved approval. As I write this, I'm also thinking of my fellows out there who still see themselves as addicts—Christians who love God but do not know how to be free from the domination of the body and its appetites. God-given pleasures have turned into nightmares of craving and capitulating, only to bring Satan's accusing finger and shame. Satan does the luring, and then, having enticed us into partaking, Satan does the accusing: "Look at you; you're not dead to sin."

Christians still experiencing addiction are living a lie. Yes, be honest and acknowledge your experience, but then obey God by faith and reckon yourself dead to that addiction or codependency. You can reckon it now, not by feelings of course, for we may never feel like it! The word "reckon" is a Spirit word, not a feeling word. If we didn't feel addicted, we wouldn't need to reckon ourselves dead to anything. The fun of living by faith takes place when we feel like we're in hell, yet we know we're in heaven.

As an example, think about mountain climbers. They don't go to the Himalayas because they like feeling outwardly secure and in control all the time. God created us to enjoy letting ourselves go to His keeping just as surely as mountain climbers lean into their supporting ropes.

Back to the body, Paul calls us "instruments" either of righteousness or unrighteousness (Rom. 6:13). Instruments can mean arms, weapons, or tools. A helpful picture came to mind once: a hammer can be an instrument of destruction or an instrument of construction. That sounds simple; the hammer is not good or evil but expresses the will of the wielder. Remember that old American ballad, "If I had a hammer"? Jesus sings the same song, thinking of us.

Granted, we're people, not hammers; but Paul doesn't mind reaching into his bag of illustrations. God did the same thing through the pen of Isaiah: "Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth" (Isa. 41:15).

Faith turns us into expressers of His mighty power. Even through our weak bodies and torn up souls, His energy pours forth. Further, God does not ask us to be powerful, merely available. For the mountains He means to level, any shovel will do. "Too big a job," you wonder? Zechariah tells us that big things start small: "For who hath despised the

day of small things?" (4:10). All available instruments are welcome!

The Power of God

Miltz Rodriguez www.therebuilders.org

"For indeed Jews as for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles Foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and wisdom of God."

In the movie, "The Lord of the Rings", the struggle for power is painfully depicted. It seems that no one is above the potential temptation that the ring presents. Even the seemingly innocent hobbit is sometimes overtaken by the lure of the ring of power. And so has it been since the original fall of the evil one in heaven.

The Age Old Struggle

And so it still is today. The struggle for power continues. Whether it is Iraq, or North Korea, or the United States, there is always someone trying to take power, or trying to keep it.

Of course, down through the centuries the ring has changed hands many times. The Babylonians, the Romans, Alexander the Great, Josef Stalin, Adolph Hitler, Sadam Hussein (just to name a few) all succumbed to the all encompassing seduction of the ring of power.

Everyday Life

Now that's just on the world stage. What part does the struggle for power play in the lives of everyday individuals? You and I know very well how this struggle plays out in our own lives. You were passed up for that promotion at work because the boss's son-in-law needed a job. Your business is only going to make it if you can get an "edge" over your competition. And that guy that is tailgating you on the freeway, when he finally does go around you, he just stays there in front of you and slows down!

Look around you. It seems that everyone is trying to take control. Everyone wants to be the Top Dog. Everyone is a control freak! What is going on here? Who is really in charge?

Paul Preached Christ Crucified

The Romans seemed to be in control at the time on the world scene. Many of the Jewish zealots wanted to be in power, yet they were still a conquered people.

Christ was born in a stable . . .

Grew up in a despised town . . .

Walked among harlots, tax collectors, and such . . .

Died hanging on a cross . . .

The Real Power

Long ago there was an archangel who was filled with pride and wanted to rise above the throne of the almighty so that he might have all power. He wanted to be "higher than". He thought that by being so, he would have all control. He thought the power would be in the ascending, in the raising up of himself over God.

But Paul preached Christ crucified . . . the power of God.

Jesus Christ lived a life of becoming "lower than". He emptied Himself and took the lowest position, the position of a servant, the position of weakness. He submitted Himself to the Father and emptied Himself of all rights and privileges. He did not regard equality with God as a thing to be grasped!

Brothers and sisters, the power of God is not what we think it is! His power does not lie in being in charge or "in control". His power does not lie in being "over" other believers. His power does not lie in how many gifts or ministries you have. His power does not lie in how many people you have healed or how many miracles you have performed.

His power lies in weakness!

Christ crucified . . . the power of God.

The Source of Sanctification

By: A. B. Simpson

The heart and soul of the whole matter is seeing that Jesus is Himself our sanctification. We must **not** look at it merely as some great mountain peak where He is standing and which we have to climb, but between us and it there are almost inaccessible cliffs to ascend before we can stand at His side. But Jesus Himself becomes our sanctification. "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be truly sanctified." It seems as though He was a little afraid His followers would get to looking for sanctification apart from Himself, and knowing that it could never reach them except through Him, He said, "I sanctify Myself."

1. He has purchased it for us. It is part of the fruit of Calvary. "By one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14). "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" Hebrews 10:10).

2. It does not come to us by our efforts, but it is made over to us as the purchase of His death upon the cross. It is ours by the purchase of Jesus just as much as forgiveness is. You have as much right to be holy and sanctified as you have to be saved. You can go to God and claim it as your inheritance as much as you can your pardon for sin. If you do not have it you are falling short of your redemption privileges.

3. Sanctification is to be received as one of the free gifts God desires to bestow upon us. If it is not a gift, then it is not a part of redemption. If it is a part of redemption, then it is as free as the blood of Jesus.

4. It comes through the personal indwelling of Jesus. He does not put righteousness into the heart simply, but He comes there personally Himself to live. Words are weak; they, indeed, are utterly inadequate to express this thought. When we arrive at complete despair of all other ways we learn this truth. And Jesus Christ Himself comes into the heart and lives His own life there, and so becomes the sanctification of the soul. This is the meaning of the text. It is to His people that Jesus sanctifies Himself, and any who try to live a sanctified life apart from Him are not truly sanctified. They must take Jesus in as their life to be truly sanctified. That is the personal sense of divine holiness. "But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (I Cor. 1:30). Jesus is made unto us of God wisdom. He is the true philosophy, the eternal *Sophia* (the Greek word for wisdom), for above the deepest philosophy, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. So Jesus in our heart becomes our wisdom. He does not improve us, and make us something to be wondered at. But He just comes in us and lives as He did of old in His Galilean ministry.

When the tabernacle was finished the Holy Ghost came down and possessed it, and dwell in a burning fire upon the ark of the covenant, between the cherubim. God lived there after it was dedicated to Him. So when we are dedicated to God, He comes to live in us and transfuses His life through all our being. He that came into Mary's breast, he that came down in power upon the disciples at Pentecost comes to you and me when we are fully dedicated to Him, as really as though we should see Him come fluttering down in visible form yonder upon our shoulder. He comes from yonder world to live within us as truly as though we were visibly dwelling under His shadow. God does come to dwell in the heart and live His holy life within us. In the 36th of Ezekiel we have this promise: "I will sprinkle clean water upon you." That is forgiveness; old sins are all blotted out. "A new heart also will I give you;" that is regeneration. "I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall keep My judgments and do the,;" ah! that is something more than regeneration and forgiveness. It is the living God come to live in the new heart. It is the Holy Spirit dwelling in the heart of flesh that God has given, so that every movement, every thought, every intention, every desire of our whole being will be prompted by the springing life of God within. It is God manifest in the flesh again. This is the only true consummation of sanctification. Thus only can man enter completely in the life of holiness. As we are thus possessed by the Holy Spirit we are made partakers of the Divine Nature. It is a sacred thing for any man or woman to enter into this relation with God. It places the humblest and most

unattractive creature upon the throne with Him. If we know that God is thus dwelling with us, we will bow before the majesty of that sacred presence. We will not dare to profane it by sin. There will be a hush upon our hearts, and we will walk with bowed heads and conscious of the jewel we carry within our heart. Do you know what it is to have Christ thus sanctified to you, beloved? Do you know personally what it is to be wholly dedicated to Him, and to hear Him say to you, "Fear your sake I sanctify Myself that you may be truly sanctified"?

Poem of the Month

Watch God's Methods

Dale Martin Stone

When God wants to drill a man,
And thrill a man
And skill a man,
When God wants to mold a man
To play the noblest part;
When He yearns with all His heart
To create so great and bold a man
That all the world shall be amazed,
Watch His methods, watch His ways!
How He ruthlessly perfects
Whom He royally elects:
How He hammers him and hurts him,
And with mighty blows converts him
Into trial shapes of clay which
Only God understands;
While his tortured heart is crying
And he lifts beseeching hands!
How he bends but never breaks
When his good He undertakes;
How with every purpose fuses him;
By every act induces him
To try his splendor out—
God knows what he's about.

Prayer Request

This is from Paul E. Billheimer's book, "Destined, to Overcome."
"Prayer is where the action is. John Wesley said, "God does nothing but in answer to prayer," and E. M. Bounds tells us "God shapes the world by prayer."

A great illustration is the account of the Israelites battle against the Amalekites. Satan, God's enemy had stirred up the heathen nation of Amalek to fight the Israelites trying to keep them from entering the promise land. As the battle was beginning, Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us out men, and go out, and fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will

stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand." Joshua and his men began the battle. "And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And it came pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed" When Moses grew tired and could no longer hold up his arms, Aaron and Hur stood up on either side and supported him until the battle was won by God's people and Amalek was defeated.

These 3 men, Moses, Aaron and Hur were united in holding up the rod (symbolizes the Cross) of God, and also symbolic of His power and prayer. When the intercessors engaged in believing prayer, Satan's forces were bound and paralyzed. Then God's children were victorious. To the casual observer the battle was won in the valley where the troops were engaged but to the spiritually discerning the battle was won on the mountaintop. Prayer is truly where the action is. Paraphrased by Margaret Lester

This Month's Article:

NOT I, BUT CHRIST

(Galatians 2:20)

By Sylvia Pearce

Martin Luther, the father of the Reformation, once said, "It was God's intention to have a race of Christs'. Nothing less than this is true holiness and the Gospel in operation. Holiness stands for Christ in you, the fullness of the Holy Spirit, the baptism of the Spirit and identification with Christ in His death and resurrection."

Life in the Spirit is an adventure, and thrilling, yet at its heart there is a desperate seriousness. Through the cross of Christ, we have received the Spirit of son-ship, and by Him we cry "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself "bears witness with our spirit that we are sons of God, and if sons then heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ" (Rom. 8:15-17). As co-heirs with Christ, God promises us, "joy unspeakable full of glory," "a peace that passes all understanding," and "all sufficiency in all things."

We also have "all the fullness of God," and "reigning in life." We

have self-release from bondage into liberty, and an overflow of the rivers of the Spirit. And finally we count temptations and trials as all joy, instead of miseries to be avoided or endured. Though always only the earthen vessels in which the "excellency of the power is of God, and not of us," we count it a privilege to "bear about in our bodies the dying of the Lord Jesus," so that "death works in us, but life in others."

We have this inheritance because all is centered in the one reality, our Lord Jesus Christ,--crucified, risen, and ascended. He now lives this life in His body members, as us. Even though this inheritance is available to all Christians, few experience this quality of life. Most Christians live condemned and frustrated lives, trying to cope with their difficulties and wondering why they can't make Christianity work.

Christians all over the world are hungry to know the mystery of the gospel, which is "Christ in you the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27). We have a marvelous Savior living in us. However it is a far deeper truth to know that we have an equally total and complete human self containing and expressing our wonderful Savior. It is right here that most Christians get snagged and even stopped. Most of us love and worship the Savior that saved us, but we hate the human self that He saved. There is something definitely wrong with such a contradiction. In Col. 1:27-28, Paul says that he taught and warned every man in all wisdom that he might present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. A perfect Christ in a perfect man! What a revelation!

How could Paul make such a statement about us, when most of the time, there seems to be a condemned and failing me? Here lies the hidden root of our problem. The condemned and failing me is a false independent-self mentality we all inherited at the Fall. This lying mentality, working in us as if it is the truth, is the source of our failure. We are blood bought Christians, saved by grace with Christ living His life in us, yet Satan still deludes us with this lie.

His delusion is in the identity level of our consciousness, where we ask, "Who am I?" We mistakenly think we have a life of our own and should be strong and able to perform by our own resources. Therefore when the Bible says, "Be ye holy as I am holy," we try our best to be so. If we are really honest, we have to admit that we are failing most of the time, and this failure then floods our consciousness with a false condemned image of a failing me. Paul had the same dilemma as we do when he cried out in

Romans 7:24, "O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from this body of death."

Part II

In Christ's body death, he set us free from the embodiment of sin. "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin" (Rom. 6:6-7). "The body of sin" is embodied in an mentality which falsely believes we are independent beings separated from God. This is really Satan's mentality.

Satan declared in Isaiah 14:14, "I will be like the most high God!" He was not trying to be evil, he was trying to be good. He was trying to become just like God, sufficient in himself. Therefore, he brought into being original sin, which is self-sufficient-self, operating as a independent-self. These same lies were put into Adam at the fall and past on to us, as our deadly inheritance.

Satan declares "I will." This is saying that the creation has a separate will apart from the Creator, or a will of his own. Then as he says, "be like," which means that he tries in his own strength to be like the Creator. Satan was the first one of all creation who mistakenly thought that he had a life of his own, and tried to be good by imitating God. This made him a counterfeit god, a liar, and a deceiver.

These satanic lies were imparted to us at the Fall and remain hidden deep in our consciousness. Even as a Christians we carry them around as grave clothes from the past. Don't we Christians say, "I will try to be like Christ." What we really mean is that we love Christ for saving us, and we want to have his self-giving love manifested in our character. These desires are absolutely right, but we think that we must perform these desires in our own strength. Here lies our problem. We do not and cannot have the power apart from "the divine nature" of Christ in us. For the human is not a producer, or performer. It is a simple receiver.

The Bible clearly defines the human as temples, slaves, vessels, branches, and wives. None of these bible types have the capacity to perform in and of themselves. They only contain, and express the life of another. Therefore, we humans have the one simple function of receiving and spontaneously expressing the life of the one who indwells us.

The Old Testament symbols were shadows of New Testament realities. An

example of this is in 1 Cor. 3:16, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" Now what is the function of a temple? The temple in the Old Testament was the building that housed the Holy-of-Holies, which contained the Shekinah-Glory. It was not the glory itself, but it was the container for the Glory.

The Bible calls us slaves. "Being then made free from sin, you became the slaves of righteousness" (Rom. 6:18). What is the function of a slave? A slave has no freedom or life of his own, for he is bound to his master. He must do what his master tells him to do. II Peter says, "for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage." The human has never been what we think of as an independently free agent. We have always been in bondage to our master, either Satan or Christ.

The Bible also calls us vessels. "That he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy" (Rom. 9:23). What is the function of a vessel? A vessel is designed to simply be available to contain liquid. The cup isn't the coffee, and the coffee isn't the cup.

The Bible calls us branches. What is the function of a branch? John 15:1-4 says that Christ is the vine, we are the branches, and without Him we can do nothing. It's obvious that a branch apart from the vine can not produce fruit, yet we Christians falsely think that we can produce good works apart from the Holy Spirit. We also think that we can produce good works with God's help. This too is a delusion as well. God can't help us be the vine, we are the branches. A branch simple rest in the fact that it is a channel by which the vine produces the fruit.

In addition the Bible calls us wives. We are "dead to the law by the body of Christ; that you should be married to another even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God" (Rom. 7:4). What is a wife? A wife is the loving other half of her husband. The two are seen by God as "one flesh." A wife can not produce a child apart from insemination by her husband. Similarly, we contain Christ, and He produces the fruit of the Holy Spirit through us.

Part III

Now what about Paul's dilemma, "O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from this body of death?" The light came to Paul when he saw that the human is not the producer of good or evil. The human is a neutral being, and not self-producing. This self-sufficient energy is "**sin that**

dwelleth in me" as Paul clearly brings out in Rom.7:17. Indwelling sin is Satan in our flesh manifesting himself in a myriad of self-centered forms: self-sufficiency, self-effort, self-righteousness, and self-hatred, self interest...self, self, self.

It is, me believing and operating as if I have a life of my own...my own power, my own strength, my own righteousness, and my own needy independent-self. The human has a life, but not a life of its own. We have never been an independent-self, or a just me. We have always been indwelt by a deity nature, either Christ or Satan. This lie about the human self was put into mankind at the fall and continues to dominate mankind's consciousness until we are, by God's grace, awakened to Satan's insidious hold on us.

The outer law is God schoolmaster to drive us to see the manifestations of the hidden culprit, Satan causing us to believe in ourselves. The demands of the outer law in Romans 7 bring out Paul's hidden sin which is self-effort--that is, any activity based on self-sufficiency. Self-effort based on self-sufficiency is the hidden root sin of the believer in Romans 7. Independent-self is the flesh trying to be good by its own flesh power. but is really Satan in disguise.

The good news is that the cross has put Satan out. He has no rights to our humanity. Through the cross our humanity is set free from Satan's dominion, and as Romans 6:13 says, we are "instruments of righteousness." Paul saw that our striving to become righteous is an evil form of self-righteousness. Instead of striving to become, he saw that the only way the human functions is simply, by faith. By faith, Paul agreed with God, "Christ is my life and my righteousness." Paul as well as ourselves are saved by faith alone, and now we see that we are sanctified by faith alone as well.

Paul's problem was never his precious human self; his problem was Satan disguised as Paul making him think that he was an independent, separate self. Likewise, we are set free when we see that our real problem **is not us**, but Satan's strivings in us (Rom.7:17). Equally, the solution **is not us**, but is Christ's resurrection power in us (Gal.2:20). It is Satan's voice in us which says, "I am the evil culprit," or "I should be the solution." Both are lies.

What we don't understand is that Satan speaks to us in first person-- it is Satan's voice in us saying. "**I** am not good enough," or "**I** should

improve myself by trying harder." Both are lies. I saw a church sign once that said, "Saints are sinners who keep on trying." I wanted to run the sign down with my car. That is a total lie, yet sadly most Christians believe it.

How do we untangle a lie? By simply replacing the lie with the truth. **If we speak the truth, the lie will untangle itself.** If we try to untangle it, it will entangle us. By the leap of faith, we declare that what God says about us is absolutely true. God's word says in Col. 3:3-4 that we are dead, and Christ is our life. God's word says, we are the righteousness of Christ...it says we are saints...it says we are justified...and we are sanctified...all by the simple leap of faith.

Paul was not just Paul, he was Christ living in Paul's form (Gal. 2:20). Galatians also says that the wrong use of our flesh was crucified with Christ (5:24). The whole purpose of the cross was to "destroy the works of the devil" (I John 3:8). And as we see in the Hebrews letter, Christ accomplished that work at Calvary: "through death Christ might **destroy him** that had the power of death, **that is, the devil**, and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bandage" (2:14).

The Cross totally delivers us from Satan's insidious lies that falsely hold us in captivity. II Cor.5:21 declares that God "hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." At the cross Christ died as us ("made sin.") Therefore, in that death, the satanic nature went out of our bodies forever. In his risen body, representing us, Christ raised us up with His own nature of holiness! Christ replaced Satan in us. **Therefore the Gospel is an exchange of gods**—from Satan in us, (John 8:44) to Christ in us (Col. 1:27).

The blood satisfied God, while the body death satisfies us. Col. 1:20 says that we are reconciled by Christ's **blood**, but in verse 22 Paul brings out the second work of the cross. "In the **body** of His flesh, He might present you holy, unblameable and unreprouvable in His sight." It is one thing to know we are forgiven by faith in His precious blood, but it is far more to know that **we** are holy, total, and complete.

That satanic, independent life of our own was crucified with Christ 2000 years ago, and by faith, we are joined to Christ in his resurrection. "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of

the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself to me" (Gal. 2:20). Christ is our peace, Christ is our strength, Christ is our joy, and Christ is our life. For peace, strength, joy and life are the attributes of a person, and Christians contain that person., for that person is Christ Himself.

A radical replacement takes place in our spirit centers, for we are exchanging the deluded-self for a resurrected Christ-self. **It is an exchange of identities.** There often is a **crisis period** while this miracle is taking place. Why? Because an independent-self is the only self that I have ever known or operated from." As God breaks down and shatters our self delusions, we often break down as well. It is grace that breaks us down, and grace that builds us up again in the true reality of Christ, our real self and life. Believer, take heart, God knows what He is doing, and He **alone** will bring you through.

We are "being conformed into the image of the Son, and being "transformed by the renewing of our minds." It is likened to a butterfly coming out of an cocoon. Do not touch this process, it is God's work, just stand fast in the truth. For, "faithful is he that calleth you, he also will do it."

The Cross of Christ has already set us free from self condemnation (Rom.8:1), and made us partakers of the "divine nature" (II Peter 1:3-4). And by a simple word of faith, embracing these precious promises, we can all enter into this promised oneness. There is nothing left for us to do except just believe these promises by faith. "Be followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Heb. 6:12).

Self-acceptance will replace self-condemnation as we leap by faith into the truth that we are "whole, complete, and lacking nothing" (James 1:4). Miraculously, we begin to accept ourselves, just like we are, and not try to change ourselves. We accept our negatives instead of trying to conquer them, knowing they are the essential background , and a golden opportunity to faith. We learn first to accept the negative pulls and then we learn to exchange or replace them by faith for the true Spirit realities and experience the released life of Christ. This exchanged life is ours as a reality by the power of the Spirit transforming us, and not by self trying to transform itself.

All the things we have hated about ourselves and considered liabilities now become our greatest assets. As we walk in the Spirit of who we really are, the Spirit transmutes our humanity into an expression of

righteousness, or Spirit right-use-ness. And the perfect oneness that Jesus prophetically declared in John 17, "I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfected in oneness," bursts into being as a living reality in us today.

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