

Christ in you, the Hope of Glory

Doctrine of the Indwelling of JESUS CHRIST

Colossians 1:26-27

26 ***that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,***

27 ***to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.***

There are at least THREE ENTITIES that indwell the believer.

Firstly:

Every person who believes in JESUS CHRIST as Savior, at the moment of Faith is the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit— and you can never lose the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a permanent zeal of your eternal salvation.

Secondly:

The Indwelling of JESUS CHRIST which as we will see, you can lose the indwelling of JESUS CHRIST but not your salvation.

Thirdly:

The Indwelling of the Word of God

Colossians 3:16

16 ***Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.***

Note carefully **The Preset Active Imperative** of the verb meaning to “ **dwell in**”. Being in the imperative this is up to each one of you, as to whether or not the Word of CHRIST **richly dwells in you!**

And don't speed read past that descriptive word richly here is that word again, richly—we just saw it in Colossians 1:27

Ok, people, it is up to each of you as to whether or not the Word of Christ richly indwells your soul and this is only by increasing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST under a Pastor-Teacher who teaches the truth.

So, we have the

Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

—permanent;

Indwelling of CHRIST

—temporary;

Indwelling of the Word of CHRIST—dependent upon your

volition to Biblical teaching;

Doctrine of the Indwelling of JESUS CHRIST

I. There are nine pertinent passages that teach the Indwelling of CHRIST.

(1) In the upper room discourse by JESUS CHRIST:
John 14:20

20 **“In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.**

(2) In the Lord’s Prayer:
John 17: 23

23 **I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.**

(3) In Paul’s letter to the Romans
Romans 8:10

10 **If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.**

(This refers to His perfect-Righteousness not our Righteousness which is filthy before God)

(4) Test yourself to see if JESUS CHRIST is in you:
2 Corinthians 13:5

5 **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—unless indeed you fail the test?**

(5) In Paul's first epistle:

Galatians 2:20

20 **"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.**

(6) A very important verse on how the Indwelling of Christ may occur in you:

Ephesians 3:16-17

16 **that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,**

17 **so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love,**

(7) Our study:

Colossians 1:27

27 **to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

(8) By John in

1 John 3:24

24 **The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.**

(9) To the Seventh Church of Laodicea:

Revelation 3:20

20 **‘Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone (any believer) hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me**

This is not a salvation passage, this does not teach “inviting Jesus into your heart” **to be eternally saved**—Here—this is for the believer only. But even here we have to ask the question:

“HOW DO WE HEAR HIM KNOCKING AND HOW DO WE OPEN THE DOOR?”

It is not by asking Him, but as we will see, it is by Faith that we open the door for fellowship with JESUS CHRIST.

When you put together a doctrine or theology you are completely dependent upon Scripture. This is why we start off this study by looking at the nine pertinent scriptures.

II. Know who you are!

The place to start with understanding the Indwelling of JESUS CHRIST is to understand who you are and why He is in you.

As a born-again believer: you are the **Temple of God**

1 Corinthians 3:16

16 **Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?**

The Greek word for temple ***naos*** fundamentally means, ‘to dwell’ ‘to inhabit’ used to denote the dwelling place of a god”.

“Consequently the **naos** was used in Classical Greek to refer to the inner sanctuary, of a temple in which the image of the god was placed”.

So, you—your body and your soul, the total person you are is the sanctuary or temple for the dwelling of God.

Ephesians 2:19-22

- 19 **So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household,**
- 20 **having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,**
- 21 **in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,**
- 22 **in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.**

God Indwells you by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

So, you are a Temple for the dwelling of God, JESUS CHRIST by means of the Holy Spirit.

III

Through a careful study of the 9 passages under point one, we learn some important concepts concerning the Indwelling of Christ.

- (1) He Indwells only a born-again believer for only a believer is the temple of God.
- (2) The Indwelling of CHRIST is not part of our Salvation package as is the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
The Indwelling of CHRIST is dependent on each individual believer each day of our lives. He is in you for fellowship.

This is a beautiful concept of fellowship with JESUS CHRIST. He is not in us when we sin and are out of the Filling of the Holy Spirit.

But He stands at the door of every believer knocking to come in and have fellowship with us. It is up to us to open the door and let Him come in.

Question:

How do we open the door to our souls to allow JESUS CHRIST in?

Answer:

By Faith

Galatians 2:20

20 **...I live by faith;**

Ephesians 3:17

17 **so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;
2 Corinthians 13:5...if you are in the faith**

It is by Grace that JESUS CHRIST Indwells us, and anything and everything that is by Grace is through Faith.

...by grace through faith

Faith is the only function of man that is compatible with grace.

JESUS CHRIST Indwells the believer, not because of something we do; not because we are good or moral; not because we are sincere; BUT BECAUSE OF FAITH! And we do not feel the Indwelling of CHRIST, WE KNOW IT BY FAITH.

We know that Faith is dependent upon the Object of Faith. Faith itself has no merit, the effectiveness of Faith depends on the object of Faith.

**So, who is the object of Faith
for the Indwelling of CHRIST?**

A careful study of the 9 passages makes it clear that the object of Faith is the Holy Spirit.

- 1 If we examine the context of John 14:20, we will find that the context is JESUS CHRIST, sending another *paraklete* like Him—Deity—only not human but a Spirit;—that is He is sending the Holy Spirit who will be with us forever—that is the Spirit of Truth.
- 2 The very same Principle holds for the Romans 8 passage. The Context is the Holy Spirit who is in you, who gives you life—Spiritual Life.
- 3 For the eye that will see, the Galatians passage (2:20) is followed by a dissertation on the Indwelling and Filling of the Holy Spirit. Note Galatians 3:1-5
- 4 No one can miss that the issue is the Holy Spirit in the Indwelling CHRIST in Ephesians 3:16-17

16 **to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,**

17 **so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;**

So, Christ indwells our hearts
by means of the Holy Spirit through Faith in the Holy Spirit.

IV JESUS CHRIST Indwells the believer when that believer is empowered by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, it is imperative that we Walk—Live by Faith.

V Why does JESUS CHRIST Indwell the believer who is Filled with the Holy Spirit?

Of course, first of all because you are the temple of God, prepared for God to dwell in you. The Third member of the Godhead (Holy Spirit) prepares you for the Indwelling of the Second member of the Godhead (JESUS CHRIST) and, therefore, for the First member of the Godhead (God the Father)

John 17:23

23 **I in them and You in Me,** (Therefore when JESUS CHRIST Indwells us, God the Father, also, indwells us. And for what purpose?) **that they** (that is you and me and every believer in the Church AGE) **may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.**

One of the riches of JESUS CHRIST coming into us is intimate fellowship: Revelations 3:20

20 **'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone** (any believer) **hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.**

Intimacy with JESUS CHRIST in time is the basis of rewards at the Judgment Seat of CHRIST and intimacy with JESUS CHRIST throughout all eternity. This intimacy is not based on feelings... we do not Feel the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit, nor do we Feel the Filling of the Holy Spirit, and we do not feel the indwelling of JESUS CHRIST.

The indwelling of CHRIST also **should** characterize your life.

Galatians 2:20

20 **... but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.**

VI

How does the world see Christ in us?

When we are Filled with the Holy Spirit, by faith, with the result that JESUS CHRIST is in us, we also receiver the fruit of the Holy Spirit. What is important about the divine nine of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5 is that it is in the singular, yet nine fruit are mentioned.

Galatians 5:22-23

22 **But the fruit (singular) of the Spirit is** (yet nine will be mentioned) **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

23 **gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law**

The reason for the singular is that when you allow the Holy Spirit to pour all nine into you and through you in your life—the world will see the Love of JESUS CHRIST.

We must understand that this list of fruits of the Holy Spirit make up the image of CHRIST in you. This is not something we can do. Only the Holy Spirit can produce the image of Christ in our lives or even the love of Christ in us.

So, two wonderful things happen when we are indwelt by CHRIST.

First: We have an intimacy with Christ.

**Second: The world will see Christ in us—
not by something we do
but simply by Faith in the Holy Spirit
and the Holy Spirit pours His fruit in us,
which reveals JESUS CHRIST in us.**

**JESUS CHRIST tells us that the Father is in Him and,
therefore, the words which He spoke
were not His words but those of the Father.**

**People, if Christ is in us,
then we speak His Words not ours,
His Love not ours.**

The Mystery—is that JESUS CHRIST desires to dwell in our hearts. Surely, we should respond to such a desire from our Savior.

The Mystery of Christ in us, gives unbelievable wealth to our lives.

We are, indeed, rich when we know that JESUS CHRIST is in us.

There is no other relationship on earth that can make us as rich and as endowed as the very presence of our Savior-Friend, JESUS CHRIST.

**...It is not I who lives
but Christ lives in me**

**Only One Life 'Twill Soon Be Past
Only What's Done "In Christ"
(by the Filling of the Holy Spirit)
Will Last**