

LIFE CHANGING STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

“CHRIST IN THE HEART”

In our last lecture we looked at “Christian Conversion.” Today, we want to look at what happens in our hearts when we are converted. Christ comes to live in our hearts. Something happens inside us, in our bodies. Something takes place that wasn’t there before. Paul summed it up in Galatians 2:20. “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

“Christ lives in me!” He didn’t live in me before but now he does. I no longer have to live according to my old life, that’s been crucified with Christ, put to death. My old life of living for self in my body is over. My new life in my body has begun. Christ is now in my body in the same body I’ve had from birth. This results in me living by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.

He loved me, gave himself for me when he died on the cross for my sins and rose again for me and now that I have believed in him, accepted him, he lives in my heart. Not only that but as it says in Colossians 1:27 “Christ in you the hope of glory.” What is the hope of glory? In the bible the word hope doesn’t mean I hope something will happen but it means a confident assurance that it will happen. So Christ in you means a confident assurance that the shining glories of heaven are yours. That a glorious resurrection body is yours, a body that cannot get sick, that cannot age, that cannot die that will live forever in the glories of God’s presence it is all yours if Christ lives in your heart.

So how does Christ live in our hearts? Christ died in a human body, he rose again in a resurrection body, he returned to heaven in that resurrection body and that is where he is now and he will come into every human body on earth willing to receive him. How does he do that, by the Holy Spirit. God is One God of three divine persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Just like the sun up in the sky can shine into the homes on earth that lift up their blinds and pull aside their curtains so Jesus up in heaven can shine into the bodies of those people on earth who open up their hearts to him.

Romans 8:9 says, “If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.” Here the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Christ because He makes Christ real to our hearts. A person no matter how religious they are or what they say they believe if they have never received Christ into their hearts they know nothing of the personal reality of Jesus alive within them.

Let me share my testimony. I didn’t start attending a church until I was 18 but I did believe in God and I sometimes prayed to him but I didn’t know him.

I regarded myself a Christian and as good as anyone in the church, in fact I thought I was better than some of them. But slowly as I listened to the teaching a hunger began to develop in my heart to know God. I felt my need of him and His Son Jesus Christ. At the end of one of the teaching meetings the speaker said, "As I close in prayer there maybe someone here who needs Christ why don't you pray to him while I am praying." Well at that moment I was ready and while everyone had their heads bowed and eyes closed as the speaker prayed I said very quietly, "Lord Jesus Christ I pray with all my heart that you will come into my heart." The meeting was over people got up and started to go home and I told no one about my prayer.

I didn't feel any different and I went home. Next day I was walking along a road when suddenly I realized God had answered my prayer. God became real, Jesus became real in my heart. I began to enjoy fellowship with God. I loved talking with God, then I discovered the joy of serving God. The whole direction of my life changed.

1Corinthians 5:19,20. "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own: you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body."

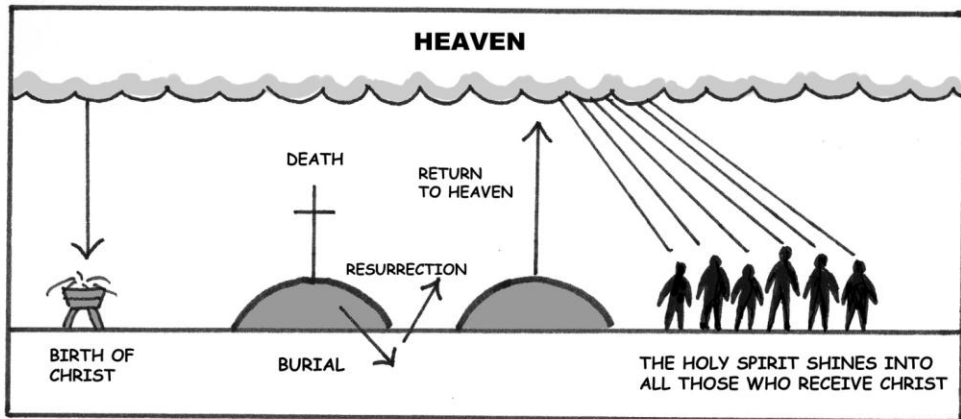
Once we receive Christ in our hearts by the Holy Spirit we don't belong to ourselves anymore, we belong to God. He bought us at great price, the life blood of his Son. As Christians we are to honour God in our bodies.

Asking Christ into our lives doesn't make us perfect we still have a lot to learn about how to live a life that honours God. We have entered into a love relationship not a rules and regulations relationship. That's why we have a verse like Ephesians 4:30 "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

In a rules and regulation relationship we are scared we will be punished if we break a rule and go around feeling guilty because we find it hard not to break the rules. In a love relationship we are grieved when we do something to hurt the one we love. We find our highest happiness in pleasing them.

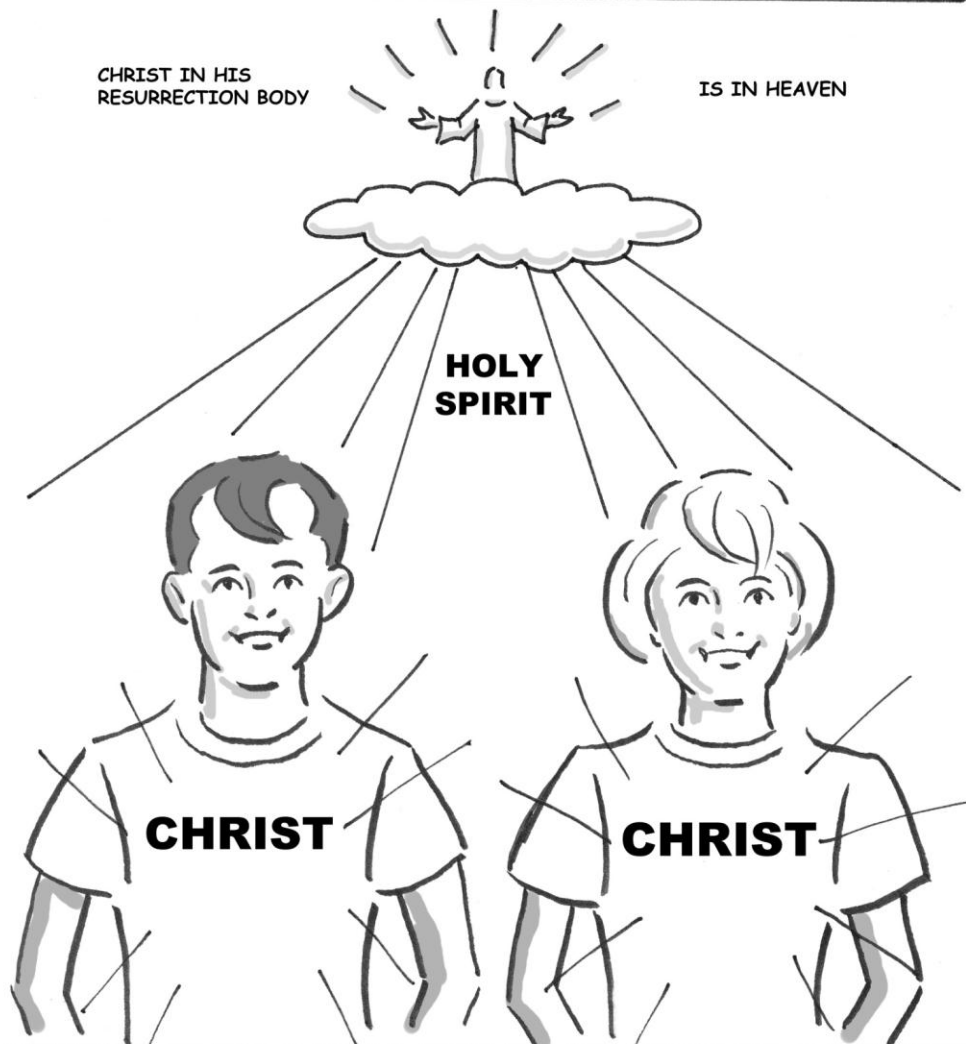
So it is in our new relationship with God when we fail him He grieves and we grieve until we have told Him we are sorry and the closeness of the relationship is restored. But we will look more into this in our next lecture.

CHRIST IN THE HEART



CHRIST IN HIS
RESURRECTION BODY

IS IN HEAVEN



CHRIST IN YOU BY THE HOLY SPIRIT