

# Christ In You

Graham Thomason, 6 February, 2009

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When we read John chapter 3, it is clear that the Christian must be *born of Spirit*.

<sup>1</sup>There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: <sup>2</sup>The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, “Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered and said unto him, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus saith unto him, “How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit**. <sup>7</sup>Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again**. <sup>8</sup>The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.” [John 3:1-8]

There are extraordinary consequences of being *born of Spirit*, some of which we will be exploring, but let us just make sure we know how we become *born of Spirit*. As we read on in chapter 3 of John's gospel, we do not read a direct statement that *believing on the Son* equates to being *born of Spirit*, but we safely infer it: we see that we obtain *everlasting life* and are freed from the wrath of God when we *believe on the Son*.

<sup>36</sup>**He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.** [John 3:36]

Paul's second epistle to the Corinthians reinforces the Christian's re-birth by stating that he is a *new creature*.

<sup>16</sup>Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. <sup>17</sup>Therefore **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.** [2 Corinthians 5:16-17]

Christians, i.e. those that believe on the Son, have a spiritual dimension which God has given them that the world at large does not have. Now one of the most staggering things that is now possible is that Christ can indwell the Christian. We have just read a reference to *Christ after the flesh*, and we mention in passing that that was *God manifest in the flesh*

(1 Timothy 3:16<sup>1</sup>), but we are now talking about the resurrected Christ (*Him Which ... rose again*, 2 Corinthians 5:15), which introduces the spiritual plane, of which Christians partake. In John's gospel, Jesus<sup>2</sup> speaks of *being in* the disciples He is speaking to:

**<sup>15</sup>If ye love me, keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; <sup>17</sup>Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. <sup>18</sup>I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. <sup>20</sup>At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. <sup>22</sup>Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, "Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?" <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered and said unto him, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. <sup>24</sup>He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. <sup>25</sup>These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. ..."** [John 14:15-14:27]

It may seem incredible that Christ should *make His abode with us*, but: it stands written. It is one of those things that the spiritual man, in the scriptural sense we have read, can receive. The result of this is the Lord's *peace* (whatever awful things the world may bring our way).

The epistle to the Romans speaks of *Spirit of God* dwelling in us. Clearly, the statements about *Christ dwelling in us*, and *the Spirit of God dwelling in us* are parallel.

**<sup>9</sup>But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. <sup>10</sup>And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.** [Romans 8:9-10]

Paul 's whole life is dependent on Christ living in him.

**<sup>20</sup>I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.** [Galatians 2:20]

We suggest that it makes a tremendously good aim for the Christian in his life, to want and to long for and to live through *Christ in him*. Paul prays for Christ to dwell in his readers'/hearers' hearts (and we would do well to do the same).

**<sup>14</sup>For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup>Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, <sup>16</sup>That he would grant**

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<sup>1</sup> Almost all manuscripts: see our textual studies on [www.FarAboveAll.com](http://www.FarAboveAll.com).

<sup>2</sup> We prefer to call our ascended Lord *Christ*, or *the Lord Jesus Christ*, or *Christ Jesus*, but here we have the Lord in the flesh, and we use the lowly name that the evangelist uses.

you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; <sup>17</sup>That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup>May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; <sup>19</sup>And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. <sup>20</sup>Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, <sup>21</sup>Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. [Ephesians 3:14-21]

This is echoed in Colossians —there's no escaping this important truth:

<sup>27</sup>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: [Colossians 1:27]

The parallel with the Spirit of God dwelling in us is also written more than once —there's no escaping that either:

<sup>16</sup>Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? [1 Corinthians 3:16]

<sup>14</sup>That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us. [2 Timothy 1:14]

We commend these verses to the reader. We regard this subject as of paramount importance to the Christian, as this is surely the way to serve the Lord: – by allowing Him to live in us by faith. In this way, in the new creation, not by works in our own strength, we can produce good works.

<sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. [Ephesians 2:10]

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