CHRIST IN YOU: The Hope of Glory
Union Grove Baptist Church

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There's a phrase in scripture that most Christians have read dozens of times but never truly understood. It's a mystery that the Apostle Paul called the greatest revelation ever given to the church. And yet, after 2,000 years, too many believers still treat it as a nice saying instead of a supernatural reality that changes everything about who we are and what we can do.

That phrase is this: “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” And what it means, what it reveals about our nature as a born-again believer is so radical, so much of a lasting and permanent change in us that if we truly grasped it, we would never live in defeat again. We would never question our authority again.

We would never accept the limitations that the world has placed on us, because once we understand what happened when Christ came to live in us, once we see the union that took place, once we comprehend that we are not just forgiven and going to heaven, but that we have become one spirit with Christ himself, then everything changes.

This is not just deeper theology or an academic study. And hopefully this is not just coming up with religious sounding words. This concept of *Christ in You* is the foundation of our identity as a believer. This is why Paul could say in Galatians 2:20,

> **I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**

Paul is not just speaking poetically here. He's declaring a spiritual reality. He's saying that the person he was before his salvation died. And the person who lives now is indwelt by Christ to the degree that his very life is Christ's life flowing through him. And that's not just Paul's experience. That should be every believer's reality.

Christ in you is not Christ with you. Not Christ helping you, not Christ blessing you from heaven. It's Christ actually living in you, united with your spirit, making us a partaker of his divine nature. Second Peter 1:3-4, says.

> **His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.**

What happened when we were born again? What does it mean that Christ lives in you, and how this truth transforms the way we think, pray, and live. This is the mystery hidden for ages but now revealed that I mentioned at the beginning. And once we see it and fully embrace that

understanding, we'll never be the same. Let's start with the foundational verse. Colossians 1:24-27 says,

> **Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

Notice Paul calls this a mystery, something that was hidden but is now revealed. something so glorious, so rich that it was beyond human understanding until God chose to make it known. And what is this mystery? Christ in you, not Christ for you, not Christ above you, but *Christ in you.* What does that mean? Most Christians think it means Jesus is with us spiritually, that he's present in our lives, that he guides and helps us. And while all that's true, it's not the fullness of what scripture is bringing out.

Christ in you means that when we were born again, Christ came to live in our spirit. Not just as a figure of speech but actually. Our spirit which was dead in trespasses and sins according to Scripture was made alive with Christ's life. We became one spirit with him.

Remember our studies about us being three-part creatures, with our body, our soul, and our spirit. Our body gets us around on planet earth while our soul is who we are in our minds and our hearts. Our spirit is our direct connection to the Holy Spirit and the personal residence of Jesus Christ in us; in our lives.

1 Corinthians 6:17, says, **"But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit."** One spirit, not two spirits in fellowship. One spirit. That would be your spirit and Christ's spirit, united in a way that cannot be separated.

A. W. Tozer was a teacher, pastor, and writer about Christian principles in the last century. He said that "The new birth is not simply forgiveness of sins. It's not merely a fresh start. The new birth is the actual impartation of God's nature into your spirit. Christ comes to live in you. His life becomes your life. His nature becomes your nature. We are not just a saved sinner. We are a new creation with the very life of God flowing through your spirit."

Until we understand this, until this becomes a revelation to us and not just information for us, we'll continue to live far below what God intended for us. And that's the key; our understanding. Most Christians understand forgiveness. We understand that Jesus died for our sins and that we're going to heaven, and those are good things. But many of us don't understand what happened to us at the point of our salvation.

We don't realize that we were recreated, that we received a new nature, that Christ's life was literally imparted to our spirit. That's a fantastic thing to think about but because we don't fully

understand this concept, we live like saved sinners instead of like new creations. We live in worldly defeat instead of Godly victory. We beg God to give us things that we already have and we accept spiritual poverty when we've been made rich by Christ's divine nature.

Now let's look at what scripture says about this union. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, **"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away. Behold, all things are become new."** Notice it doesn't say we're an improved version of our old self. The scripture says we're a new creation. The Greek word for new here means brand new in kind, not just new in time. You're not the old you trying to be better. We're a completely new creation with a new nature, a new spirit, and a new life. And that new life is Christ's life dwelling in us.

This is why Galatians 2:20, that we read earlier, is so critical. Paul says, **"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."**

Paul is saying that his old nature died with Christ on the cross. But the person who lives now is not just the forgiven Paul. It's Paul indwelt by Christ living Christ's life through faith. In the Christian context, being indwelt means that God, through His Holy Spirit and the life of Jesus, takes up permanent spiritual residence within a born-again believer, providing His presence, guidance, strength, and power for Christian living.

The life Paul was living in his physical body was Christ's life flowing through his spirit and manifesting in his daily experience. Think about what this means. When Christ lives in us, we have access to his wisdom, his strength, his love, his faith, his power. Not as something external that we're asking for, but as something internal that we're drawing from.

It's like a permanent source of power that never runs down, never gets weak, and never stops. Because Christ is not separate from us. He's one with our spirit. And when we learn to live from our spirit instead of our flesh, when we learn to draw on the life of Christ within us, everything changes. We're no longer living in our own strength. We're living in his strength that's flowing through us.

I've seen it written that the greatest tragedy in the modern church is believers who are spiritual billionaires living like beggars. They have Christ in them and access to all of his resources. They have his life, his nature, his ability dwelling in their spirit. But they live in spiritual poverty, defeat, and weakness because they don't know what they have. They don't understand that Christ in them is not just a promise for the future. It's a present-day reality that changes everything about who they are and what they can do.

That's exactly what's happening around us and too often to us. We believers are begging God to give us what he's already placed in us. We're asking for strength when Christ's strength is already in our spirit. We're asking for wisdom when Christ, who is the wisdom of God lives in us. We're asking for love when God's love has been placed in our hearts by the Holy Ghost. And

God's not denying our requests. He’s hearing our prayers. He understands what we’re asking. But what He's saying is, "I've already given you everything you need. Christ is in you. Learn to draw from what you already possess."

Now, let's look at what this union with Christ produces. First, it produces a new nature. Second Peter 1:4 says, "We are partakers of the divine nature." Not partially divine, not sort of like God, partakers of his divine nature, which means we have his character, his love, his righteousness all dwelling within our spirit. When we were born again, we didn't just get forgiveness, we got a new nature. We are a new creation.

The old sin nature that dominated us was replaced with Christ's nature. And that nature is righteous, holy, and powerful. This is why 1 John 3:9 says, **"No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God."**

Notice that he didn’t say we would never sin again. He said we wouldn’t keep on sinning. By that, we would not continue to live in a sinful lifestyle with knowingly sinful actions and practices. We would overcome our desire to do those sinful things. Our spirit within us, with Jesus the Hope of Glory within us, will change our desire to do those sinful things. John is talking about our new nature, our spirit. Our spirit which has been born of God cannot sin. It has God's seed, God's nature, and it's incapable of sin.

Without a doubt, our flesh can still sin, and it probably will. Our mind can still be influenced by the enemy. But our spirit, the core of who we are in Christ, has the righteousness of Christ and that inner spirit cannot sin because it has Christ's nature.

Second, this union with Christ produces power. That power is not external. It's internal. Christ in you is the source of supernatural power. Romans 8:11 says, "**If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."**

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in each of us as believers. That's resurrection power. And it's available to make us alive, to energize our physical body when we draw on the life of Christ within us.

Third, this union produces wisdom. Colossians 2:3 says that in Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. And if Christ is in you, then all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are accessible to us. Not because we're smart, but because Christ, who is all wisdom, lives in our spirit. When we need wisdom, we shouldn’t beg God to give us something like we don't already have it. We draw on the wisdom of Christ that's already in us.

Most believers live like orphans when we're sons and daughters of the living God. We too often live like we're separated from God when in reality Christ lives in us. He's with us all the time. Yet, we beg for wisdom when wisdom already dwells in our spirit through Christ. We plead for strength when strength is flowing from Christ within us. Salvation is not just forgiveness. It's union. Union with Christ. One spirit, one life, one nature.

So, how do we live with this reality? The "how-to" is so often the hard part. We know in concept what to do, but we need to know how we access the life of Christ within us instead of just knowing about it intellectually?

First, we must renew our mind to who we are. I know we've all heard and read Romans 12:2, which says, **"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."**

Our mind doesn't automatically know what our spirit possesses. We must renew our mind through the word of God. We must meditate on scriptures that reveal our identity. We must declare to ourselves who we are in Christ until our mind believes what our spirit already knows.

For example, we can meditate on Galatians 2:20, that we've seen twice in this study. We declare, **"I am crucified with Christ. Nevertheless, I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me."** We think about what that means. We picture Christ living in our spirit, flowing through us, empowering us. And over time, our mind is renewed. We begin to think like a person indwelt by Christ instead of like a person struggling in their own strength.

To do that we set aside time to read scripture and think about it. We be still and know that He is God. We reach inwardly into our spirit rather than only outwardly to our minds, our wants, our needs, our problems, and our pain.

Second, we learn to draw these things from our inner spirit instead of our flesh. Our flesh, our natural self, has no power. It's limited, it's weak, and it's subject to circumstances. But our spirit where Christ lives has unlimited access to his resources. So, with time and training, when we face a challenge, we don't respond from our flesh. We respond from our spirit. We quiet our mind, focus on Christ in you, and draw strength from his life flowing through us.

This is what Paul meant when he said in 2 Corinthians 4:16, "**But though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."** The inward man, our spirit is constantly being renewed with Christ's life. And when we learn to draw from that life, we experience strength that's not our own.

Third, we live in the consciousness of Christ's presence within us. Most Christians go through their day never thinking about the fact that Christ lives in them. But when we become conscious

of his presence, when we acknowledge him throughout our day, when we talk to him as the one who dwells in our spirit, everything changes. We realize that we're not alone. We're not trying to live in our own strength. Christ is in you.

When we live in that awareness, his life flows through us naturally. The Christian life is not us trying to live for Christ. It’s not just trying to do better. It's Christ living through us. And the moment we understand that the moment we stop trying in our own power and start yielding to the power of Christ, the life of Christ begins to be apparent in our daily experience.

We speak his words. We demonstrate his love. We operate in his power. Not because we're trying harder, but because we're finally letting Christ be Christ in you.

If as believers we truly understand and embrace that Christ lives in us, that we're one spirit with him, that we have his nature and his power dwelling in our spirit all the time, we would stop being dependent on external sources and systems. We would stop looking to the world for what Christ has already given us. We would stop accepting defeat as normal and start walking in the authority and power that belongs to us as new creations in Christ.

God never intended for us to live as a spiritual beggar. He intended for us to know who we are, to understand what we possess, to walk in the reality that Christ lives in us. Not someday, not when we get to heaven but right now in our spirit as a present powerful transformative reality.

So here's the questions. Are we living like Christ is in you? Are we drawing from his life? Are we conscious of his presence in our spirit? Or are we still living like we're separated from God, begging for what we already possess because Christ is in you? That's not a wish. That's not a promise for the future. That's a present-day reality. It’s something that we can have and do have today. And when we begin to live from that reality, when we draw on his life.

When we yield to his nature, we'll experience the Christian life the way God intended. Not struggling, but overflowing. Not defeated, but victorious. Not weak, but strong in the power of his might.

But there's one more dimension of this truth that too many Christians never discover. Knowing that Christ is in you is powerful. But there's something even more transformative than that. There's an authority, a dominion, a supernatural ability to rule over circumstances that flows from understanding not just who lives in us, but what that makes us capable of doing. Most believers live under the influence of their circumstances instead of ruling over them. Too many of us accept defeat, sickness, lack, and chaos as normal when God intended for us to rule. We weren’t created to be dominated. We were created to dominate.

We were never intended to live the Christian life through our own human strength alone. We turn to God for the wisdom He has given us. We ask Him to help us find the spiritual patience and courage that we have within us. Ask Him to expose sin in your life. Ask Him to help us love

others as Christ has loved us. And when we fail, and we probably will, we confess our sin, receive His forgiveness, and continue walking in obedience.

Live with eternity in mind because this world is not our final home. Our bodies will grow older. Our circumstances will change. And eventually, unless Christ returns first, every one of us will face physical death. But those who belong to Jesus Christ have a hope that death cannot destroy.

Here's our big idea. The Savior who lives within us has promised eternal life. And one day, we will see Him face to face. That is *the hope of glory.* What would change in your life if you truly understood that Jesus Christ lives within you? Would you pray differently? Would you face your problems differently? Would you be more willing to forgive? Would you be more courageous in standing for biblical truth? Would you be more patient with people who disappoint you? Would you become more serious about studying God's Word? Would you be more confident that God is able to complete the work He began in you?

I believe the answer to those questions should be very loud yes. Not because we've suddenly become powerful in ourselves. Not because we've discovered some secret formula for success. And not because we've reached a level of spirituality that places us above other Christians. But because we have begun to understand the extraordinary gift God has given us through Jesus Christ. The Christian life is not simply about what we can accomplish for God. It's about what God has accomplished for us through Jesus Christ and what He continues to accomplish within us through His Spirit.

That changes the way we approach everything. When we're tempted, we remember that we belong to Christ. When we're discouraged, we remember that His grace is sufficient. When we're confused, we turn to His Word. When we're weak, we depend upon His strength. When we suffer, we remember His promises. And when we think about the future, we remember that our ultimate hope is not found in this world. It is found in Jesus Christ.

Let us pray.