

an understanding & appropriation of this truth will unlock the door to every treasure in God's House.

Happy Birthday! When you received Christ as Lord and Saviour, you were born into the family of God. ^{part of} The ^{most} exciting thing about a birthday is unwrapping the presents, and that's what we want to begin doing in this chapter -- unwrapping God's birthday presents to you! And ^{you're going to make the happy discovery} you'll ~~discover~~ discover that God has already given ~~to~~ you everything you'll ~~ever~~ need ^{to live} ~~in your~~ ^{it is the seed} ~~Christian.~~ ^{from which}

The first present ^{we're going to} we want to unwrap is ^{perhaps} probably the most important. It's called IDENTIFICATION. ^{Some} ~~this is~~ ^{to} you could call it ONENESS WITH CHRIST or UNION WITH CHRIST.

an understanding of this truth is essential

~~A DEFINITION~~ What is Identification? ^{capital letters}

Identification simply means that Jesus Christ became one with me that I might become one with Him.

Jesus Christ became totally identified with me that I might become totally identified with Him.

I John 4:17b says, "...As He is, so also are we in this world." I don't understand it nor can I explain it, but it's true.

~~As~~ From GOD'S VIEWPOINT (and that's the only viewpoint that counts) I am ONE WITH CHRIST. Let's examine this truth more fully.

I. CHRIST IDENTIFIED HIMSELF WITH ME

First, in His Baptism. When Jesus came to John and asked to be baptized, John was startled and refused. Why? Because John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. In other words, when you allowed John to baptize you, you were admitting you were a sinner and needed to repent. ^{Since} Jesus wasn't a sinner and didn't need to repent ~~so~~ John was bewildered by His request. But Jesus insisted ~~and John baptized Him and who else~~ because He wanted

to be identified with sinners. By His baptism Jesus announced at the very beginning of His ministry that He was becoming one with us .

Second, in His Death. Romans 5:8 says, "... Christ died for us." The entire 53rd chapter of Isaiah ~~is a chapter~~ described Jesus dying in our place. Listen:

"But he was pierced through for our transgression,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him,
And by His scourging we are healed."

(Isaiah 53:5)

2 Corinthians 5:21 puts it like this, "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Galatians 2:20 declares, "I am crucified with Christ..." The important word is the preposition with. I was crucified with, at the same time as, Christ. When did Christ die? 2,000 years ago on a hill outside Jerusalem. ^{Then} ~~Okay~~, if I died with Him, when did I (from God's viewpoint, remember) die? 2,000 years ago!

~~This means that~~ ^{as} far as God is concerned, I died before ~~xxxxxx~~ before I sinned! Let's suppose ~~that~~ a store is robbed and ~~the police~~ after the police investigate they announce that the ~~culprit~~ ^{They is} was George Washington, first president of the United States. Ridiculous, you say? Of course it ~~is~~ ~~is~~ is, because George Washington died before the crime was ~~ever~~ committed! And when Satan accuses me ~~of~~ ^{of} sin before the throne of God, the Lord looks up my record and says, "It couldn't have been him, because ~~he~~ died 2,000 years ago."

Look at these verses: "Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him..." (Romans 6:6)

"Now if we have died with Christ..." (Romans 6:8)

~~Jack Taylor relates this incident~~ ^{tells} ~~of~~ ^{who} A believer was part of a touring group in the Bible lands. As they approached Golgotha and stood on the brow of that favored place, the guide turned to the believer and asked, "Have you been here before?" Though this was his first sight of Golgotha, his thoughtful reply was, "Yes, we have all been here before." "How long ago?" was the guide's further query. "Over nineteen hundred years ago!" the believer answered.

Third, in His Burial. Romans 6:4, "Therefore we have been buried with Him...."

"For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death..." (Romans 6:5). The word "united" there means planted.

~~xxx~~ Fourth, in His Resurrection. ~~Paul declares~~ In that same sixth chapter of Romans, Paul declares, "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection. (verses 5,6).

Another great verse is found in Ephesians: "Even when we were dead ~~on~~ our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)." (Ephesians 2:5)

Fifth, in His Exaltation. ~~xx~~ Again in Ephesians we read, "And raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the

heavenly places, in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:6)

Notice carefully the tenses of the verbs -- PAST TENSE. This verse isn't speaking of ~~a future experience in heaven~~ the ~~sweet~~ Sweet Bye and Bye, but of the SWEET HERE AND NOW! ~~Next read~~ Already we are seated with Christ in heavenly places. This is our present position!

And things certainly look better from up here. Victory in your Christian life largely depends upon your viewpoint. If you look at ~~things~~ Satan from earth's viewpoint, he's a roaring lion, seeking ~~to~~ ^{you} someone to devour. But if you look at him from heaven's viewpoint, he's toothless! Stop looking up and start looking down!

Sixth, in His Glorification. In Colossians 3:4, we read, "When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory."

"Who (Christ) will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself." (Philippians 3:21)

One more tremendous verse: "And whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified." (Romans 8:30) Again, note the tenses. ~~These~~ PAST TENSE. ~~The~~ I'm already GLORIFIED -- from God's point of view, which is now my point of view.

Seventh, in His Victory. Since I am totally identified with Christ in His death and resurrection and exaltation, His victory over ~~Satan~~ the world, the flesh and the Devil is my victory.

It was on the Cross that Jesus stripped Satan of his armor — & I was w/ Him on that Cross

"You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." (I John 4:4)

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world -- our faith. And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" (I John 5:4,5)

~~On the cross Jesus overcame victory~~
 implications are
 The ~~truth~~ of these last verses is staggering. In verse 4, the word overcome is a Greek perfect tense which indicates that something happened in the past and the results of that happening continue to the present hour. It's an eternal ~~is~~ tense. @ Our faith overcame the world 2,000 years ago when Jesus died on the cross. Jesus won every victory on the cross. Every temptation ~~to~~ ~~trial~~, I face today, Jesus has already overcome. I don't ~~go out~~ ^{try} trying to win the victory. By faith I simply take the victory Jesus has already won. If language ^{means} ~~means~~ ^{declare} ~~means~~ anything at all, these verses ~~mean~~ that if I believe I have victory, ^{then} I have victory. ~~You say you don't believe that? You don't have victory, either~~

Not only did Christ identify Himself with me,

II. I AM NOW IDENTIFIED WITH CHRIST

There are two sides to this coin:

1. ~~EMPHASIS~~ Christ is In Me.

"...Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Colossians 1:27b)

"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?" (2Cor. 13"5)

"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world."
(I John 4:4)

Christ is in me! That's the only hope of a glorious ~~experience~~ Christian experience. Satan is constantly attacking me, ~~entering~~ ^{entering} pressure to conform to this world, but Jesus is in me and ~~the~~ His indwelling presence assures my constant victory.

Let me illustrate like this. ~~Every~~ ~~you have~~ ~~14.7~~ ~~pounds~~ ~~of~~ ~~pressure~~ ~~per~~ ~~square~~ ~~inch~~ ~~being~~ ~~exerted~~ ~~on~~ you. There are 14.7 pounds of pressure per ~~square~~ square inch being exerted on you right now from the earth's atmosphere. ~~That's~~ The amount of pressure is determined by how many squares inches there are to you! At any rate, ~~this~~ ~~means~~ there are tons of pressure pushing against you right now. What keeps you from being crushed to death? There is a corresponding pressure ~~being~~ exerted from within you that neutralizes the outside pressure.

In the same way, no matter how much pressure the world, the flesh and the devil ~~exerted~~ ^{throw} ~~against~~ against me, I have overcome them, because ~~the~~ ~~OVERCOMER~~ ~~LIVES~~ ~~WITHIN~~ ~~ME.~~ the OVERCOMER LIVES WITHIN ME.

2. I Am In Christ

This is not just another way of saying the same thing. The two expressions, Christ in ^{me} you, and you in ^I Christ represent two different spiritual truths. When ~~the~~ the Bible says that Christ is in me, it means that CHRIST IS WHERE I AM. Driving to work, Jesus is where I am. ~~Being~~ In the classroom, Jesus is where I am. Fighting a war on ~~some~~ ~~foreign~~ a foreign shore, Jesus is where I am. Praise the Lord, He will never leave me nor forsake me. He is in me for strength, wisdom, ~~encouragement~~ and

And when the Bible says that I am in Christ, it means that I AM WHERE CHRIST IS.

Where is Christ? "And He (Jesus) is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, ~~He sat~~ HE SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE MAJESTY ON HIGH." (Hebrews 1:3)

That's where Jesus is right now. The right hand signifies the place of power and authority. And you are ~~in~~ IN CHRIST. ~~Again Ephesians~~ Look at Ephesians 1:20,21, "Which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every named that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come."

Jesus's authority is both universal and eternal; it is not only far above ALL rule and authority, ~~and power and dominion~~ and ~~every name that is named~~, but ~~it~~ also extends into the next age.

And where are we? Ephesians 2:6 ~~he~~ supplies us with the thrilling answer: "And raised us up with Him, and SEATED US WITH HIM IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES, IN CHRIST JESUS."

SO WHAT?

decoration Is ~~all~~ this IDENTIFICATION TRUTH ~~a~~ just ^{so much} theological ~~ornaments~~ *can it really make a difference in my daily life?* ~~How can it be translated into my everyday life and make a victorious difference?~~

~~XX~~

How can this truth be transformed into practice and be released in my everyday life?

you can work
HOW ~~TO~~ MAKE THIS TRUTH ~~PRACTICAL~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

~~The next time the Enemy attacks you, do two things:~~

1. Acknowledge His Presence Within You.

In Galatians 2:20 ~~we were crucified with Christ~~ Paul ~~declares~~ declares, "I ~~am~~ crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me..." If you ~~had~~ ^{at} knocked ~~on~~ the door of Paul's heart and asked, "Who loves here?" the answer would ~~have~~ come back, "Jesus Christ!" So *when* ~~everytime~~ Satan knocked ^s *you* at ~~the~~ door, ~~Paul simply~~ let Jesus answer it! ~~After all, Christ lives there so He ought to be the one who answers the door!~~

Stephen Olford, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in New York City, shares a motto that helps him live victoriously each day:

"There is no demand made upon my life that is not a demand made upon the life of Christ within me."

Every demand made upon your life today, whether temptation or trial, is really a demand made, not upon you for you are dead, but upon Christ who lives in you.

Simply say, "I thank you, Lord Jesus, that you live within me, you ARE MY LIFE, and you are more than able to handle this problem. I yield this situation to you right now and thank you, for taking over."

2. Assert Your Position With Him.

Because you are ~~in~~ IN CHRIST, you ~~are~~ are in the POSITION OF AUTHORITY. You don't have to tolerate anything outside the will of God!

You have the authority to give the ~~you~~ COMMAND OF FAITH. Listen to Mark 11:23:

"Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen; it shall be ~~wanted~~ granted him."

Isn't that an amazing promise? ~~Now~~ And Jesus isn't referring to prayer. When you pray, you don't talk to mountains, do you? ~~You're~~ In prayer, you talk to God. Here, you're talking to a mountain.

Matthew 17:20 throws ~~some~~ light on this truth. "And He said to them, 'Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible to you."

The disciples had confronted a ~~demon~~ demon-possessed boy and were unable to cast the demon out, ^{even} ~~if~~ though ^{in Matthew 17:18, Jesus} ~~Jesus~~ had given them the authority to do so. When they ~~had~~ asked Jesus the cause of their failure, He told them it was ~~their~~ ~~because of~~ their unbelief. Had they believed they could have spoken to the mountain and it would have moved.

WHAT WAS THE MOUNTAIN IN THEIR CASE? It was the demon dwelling inside that boy. The mountain signifies ~~anything that stands in the path of God's~~ any obstacle or hindrance blocking the path of God's will.

I repeat, you *do* on't have to put up with anything outside the will of God. Assert your position of authority in Christ and give the command of faith.

You also have the authority to give the COMMAND OF FREEDOM.

"Truly I say to you, whatever you shall bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." (Matthew 18:18)

This promise takes away my breath! Jesus says that if we come up against something that needs to be bound, check with heaven and if it's already been bound in heaven, we have the authority to command it bound on earth. *Here again, we see the importance of seeing things from God's viewpoint!*
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
take the devil, for example

Take for example, the Devil. Has he been bound in heaven? Jesus said in Matthew 12:29, "Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house."

In this verse says the only way he can cast out demons
 Jesus is referring to his power to cast out and ~~demons~~ and ~~the only way He can do this~~ is if He first binds the strong man, Satan. Well, Jesus certainly did cast out demons so He must have first BOUND SATAN!

But ~~is that~~, you may ask, if this is so, why do I have to bind ~~him~~ him? Satan's defeat at the cross was ABSOLUTE, but it must be APPROPRIATED. And because Satan has already been bound in heaven, I can, in the Name of Jesus, bind him on earth.

Now, getting back to the COMMAND OF FREEDOM. Jesus goes on to say that I can loose things on earth that have been loosed in heaven. Are you bound by a sinful habit, an unholy attitude, a satanic stronghold. We've already ^{seen} sin in I John 5:4,5, that Jesus on the cross ~~overcame for us~~ *won every victory for us.*

This means that ~~this~~ this habit, this attitude, this stronghold has already been loosed in heaven, therefore, you have the authority to loose it on earth in your life. In the Name of Jesus, take authority over it right now!

Because of my position in Christ I have authority to give the COMMAND TO FLEE.

X "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU." (James 4:7)

~~The~~

The devil is bluffing and when you call his bluff ^{fleeing} the footsteps you hear won't be yours but his! Christian friend, there is no grander truth than ~~this~~. In Jesus YOU HAVE AUTHORITY OVER THE DEVIL HIMSELF. ~~Satan~~ He is a ~~defeat~~ defeated enemy and must yield. ~~the~~

Now do you see why ~~I said~~ ^{///} at the beginning ^{this chapter, I said} ~~(this truth~~ of IDENTIFICATION ^{is} was one of the best birthday presents God has given us? It's yours, bought and paid for by the precious blood of Christ, ~~step into the reality of it right now~~ ~~claim~~ ~~your birthright~~ ~~and every other gift from God~~ so ~~take~~ by faith step into the reality of it right now.

~~with these few simple steps~~

~~It cannot emphasize enough the importance of this~~
~~task. But the every command of your faith to understand~~
~~completely Jesus. After the had spent three years in the~~
~~preaching ministry in the area. After three years of intense~~
training by word and example, Jesus still had to say to His
disciples, "I have many more things to say to you, but you
cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes,
He will guide you into all the truth..." (John 16:13a)

*at this time
right now*

CONCLUSION

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If you don't ~~understand~~ completely understand this truth,
you're in good company. John 16:13

You don't have to understand it all, just stand on it all! And
as you're able to bear it, the Holy Spirit will give you
understanding.

FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

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CASSETTE ~~XR~~ TAPES AVAILABLE

Identified With Christ

The Authority of the Intercessor