

Christ in You!

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Many people today are trying to find and experience Christ through mystical practices and other religious experiences or church rituals. It's often believed that Jesus Christ is someone that we try to find and experience only when we attend a church, or when we pass through some sacramental ritual while attending a church. However, the Bible clearly reveals to us that Jesus Christ lives within every believer, who is a true child of God, and He is there to reveal Himself on a daily and constant basis. The tangible things of religiosity give way to the real life of Jesus Christ who lives within our hearts as Christians.

Colossians 1:27 teaches, "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." Galatians 2:20 also reveals: "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."

First, in these verses we find the *permanence* of Christ's presence. Jesus lives within us on a constant basis and as a permanent resident. His presence is with us. Jesus said elsewhere, "lo I am with you alway" (Matt. 28:20). Christ's presence is meant to be real and life-transforming. I can on a daily basis live "by faith of the Son of God" (Gal. 2:20), which simply means I can depend upon Him for everything I need in life – strength, peace, stability, unconditional love, security, fellowship and companionship.

These verses do not give us the idea that we find Christ in ritualism, church traditions, or the sacraments. They reveal that we experience Christ's dynamic presence in our daily life on a continuous basis. Christ's ever-present companionship helps us to face life's demands and allows us to experience His power, peace, and permanent love, which enable us to go on life. In other words, Christ meets all of our needs in life. His sufficiency is what keeps us going in life. Jesus taught in John 15:5, "for without me ye can do nothing."

We don't find and experience Christ's presence in sacraments, in religion, or church traditions. As Christians, who know Christ as Savior, we find Christ's presence within us on a daily and moment-moment basis. His life is revealed to us whenever we need Him. Jesus is there for us, providing us with daily sustenance and power to live an effective and victorious Christian life.

“Moment by moment I'm kept in His love;
Moment by moment I've life from above;
Looking to Jesus till glory doth shine;
Moment by moment, O Lord, I am Thine.

Never a trial that He is not there,
Never a burden that He doth not bear,
Never a sorrow that He doth not share,
Moment by moment, I'm under His care.”

Second, in the verses stated above we find the *promise* of Christ's presence. The Bible says, “**Christ in you, the hope of glory.**” Galatians 2:20 reminds us that it is Christ “**who loved me, and gave himself for me.**” The fact that we possess the life of Christ within gives us the blessed promise and hope of entering the glory of Heaven someday. Christ is all we need to get us to Heaven. Jesus said in John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” He is our direct link to Heaven. There are no other mediators (earthly priests, Mary, sacraments, baptism, church traditions, etc.) that come between man and Heaven. Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man. 1 Timothy 2:5 reveals, “For *there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*”

Yes, Jesus Christ lives within us. We don't have to look for Him in church traditions. He does not mystically appear in the giving of sacraments and momentarily present Himself in other pseudo experiences such as dreams, visions, and trances. Jesus is our daily companion, inspiration, power, and brings to us the hope of everlasting life in Heaven. So, let's keep “looking unto Jesus” (Heb. 12:2) and experiencing His daily presence in our lives. Jesus gives us strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow!