

IN UNION WITH JESUS CHRIST



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To be in union with Jesus Christ means to be united with Him in His death. When Jesus Christ died, we died and were buried with Him along with our sins and iniquities; and when Jesus Christ arose from the dead, it was the same as if we were raised from the dead and came back to life again with all our sins, diseases, troubles, poverty, and all the consequences of sin eliminated. Not just eliminated but when Christ came out from the tomb, our sins, diseases, and all problems of this life remained there in the grave. They are still there, and we are free. He took them all to the grave and buried them all for us out of His great love and mercy.

When God brought Jesus back from the dead, He gave us real spiritual life or His righteousness. God did not give us the new life after we made changes, but He gave it to us when we were dead in sin and under the control of Satan.

Satan always tempts people to think they have to rise to some height before God will do anything for them; they must have some personal merit or some asset of their own to induce God to work for them. Such ideas are all wrong, straight from the father of lies, Satan himself.

God will always come down to where we are and meet us on our own level. If we tried to find some good in ourselves, apart from the power of God, we could not find any, and that is why everything must come from God alone.

Ephesians 2:4-9, (20th Century translation)
“Yet God, in his abundant compassion, and because

of the great love with which he loved us, gave Life to us in giving Life to the Christ. Even though we were 'dead' because of our offenses, it is by God's mercy that you have been saved. And, through our union with Christ Jesus, God raised us to Life with him, and also caused us to sit with Him on high, in order that, by his goodness to us in Christ Jesus, he might display in the ages to come the boundless wealth of his mercy. For it is by God's mercy that you have been saved, through your faith. It is not due to yourselves; the gift is God's. It is not due to anything that you have done—for fear any of you should boast.”

That passage of Scripture lays the foundation for perfect faith and living an overcoming life. Romans 8:11 (KJV) tells us the same thing, “*But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*” In other words, He will give you perfect health and strength in your bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

That is the teaching throughout the Bible that when we are repentant and have His Spirit dwelling within us, we have that perfect health and strength in us. As Paul said, “Gave life to us in giving life to the Christ.”

If we think that we need to experience some good feelings or work up some big faith, we are allowing Satan to get in and we will not get anywhere. God's righteousness could never take possession of us under those circumstances.

We are to receive God's righteousness by believing what He says about the sufferings, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and not by anything that we can do of ourselves. Anyone willing to believe the statement of facts that God has given to us, will receive remission of sins. A willingness to believe will cancel everything that God ever had against us. Not only cancel it, but we will receive God's righteousness in place of our old evil nature.

We are to take the attitude that when Jesus Christ went into the grave, we went with Him, taking with us our old sins, our sicknesses, diseases, poverty, and trouble of every kind, and left them in the grave.

Then, when Jesus Christ arose from the dead, it was the same as if we arose and came back to life again, a righteous person, in perfect health, a person of peace and prosperity, one who has the very image of Christ.

That is what Paul meant when he said, “He gave life to us in giving life to the Christ.” There is another passage in 1 Corinthians 1:30 (KJV) that verifies this; “*But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*”

Redemption and sanctification would mean ‘deliverance out of all our troubles’. Redeem means to buy back or bring back; it means that Jesus Christ redeemed or brought back to us, God's righteousness, peace, health, and everything else that He gave to Adam when he was created in the Garden of Eden.

All that we lost through Adam's sin and rebellion; Jesus Christ has restored it all. We need to be willing to believe that there is no middle ground, we either believe it or do not believe that we are in union with Jesus Christ. He has been made unto us wisdom, righteousness, holiness, and deliverance. If we refuse to accept God's testimony concerning His Son, it is the same as calling Him a liar because we refuse to accept the Word of God which cannot be broken.

That's what 1 John 5:9-10 (KJV) tells us, “*If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.*”

Satan always tries to make God's Word seem mysterious and will try to give us plenty of excuses, but God declares plainly in Ephesians, that we were partakers of Christ's death and His resurrection to life. Not when we had any faith or any goodness of our own to recommend us to God; it was just given to us out of God's great love and mercy.

To be in union with Christ means to be united with Him in His death. His death was our death, to everything of the old life of sin, sickness, and all trouble of any kind. When He arose, we arose, united

with Him in His resurrection life, sharing in His righteousness, peace, health, protection, and everything else we need or desire.

We can never afford to pay the least attention to symptoms, because Satan likes to work that to perfection, in order to bluff us out of our 'Atonement Rights' if we allow him. We are to be very persistent in maintaining the attitude that through the death of Jesus Christ, every disease, ache or pain, and every infirmity of our body went to the grave with Him.

We have a right to believe that we have as good a body as Adam had before the Fall. A perfectly well body that can do anything that a person in perfect health can do or eat anything that a person in perfect health can eat.

We are not to pay the least attention to symptoms or take precautions like the people of the world do. The moment we begin to take precautions in our eating or dress a certain way for fear of catching something, we have thrown the Word of God to the winds. That would be the same as to say in our hearts that the Blood of Christ and the power of God is not sufficient protection, and we must add something to it.

The reason that we don't have to take precautions is because we are not under the laws of nature, they were made for fallen man. We are under the direct power of the living God, and the resurrection life and health of Jesus Christ is to flow through these mortal bodies, regardless of their natural condition, age, or anything else.

The work of Jesus Christ on the Cross has also given us the right to be delivered from home troubles, as much as from sin, sickness, and disease. As we claim our deliverance and see ourselves as persons delivered from home trouble, from things that do not suit us, we will find every unpleasant condition disappear. It is our Atonement right and privilege to have the peace and quietness in our home that Jesus Christ has given to us. All we are to see is Christ going into the grave and taking with Him all our home troubles and every unpleasant condition.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (KJV) tells us, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; (or if any man be in union with Jesus Christ,

he is a new creation) *old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;*"

That takes us back to the Garden of Eden before Adam sinned. That was the first, or the old creation. It was a perfect one, because when Adam was created, he was a man of peace, a man in the image of God. He had perfect health, no aches, or pains, nor weakness of any kind, everything was perfect.

In Genesis 1:31 (KJV), it says; "*And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.*"

That was the first creation, then after the first Adam turned everything over to Satan, the second Adam, Jesus Christ, brought back a new creation, a model just like the first one. He has restored the Garden of Eden in our individual lives.

Therefore, if anyone is in union with Jesus Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away—the power of sin in our lives, our old evil nature, the old aches and pains, diseases, sickness, home trouble, they have all passed away forever.

Now that is such a blessing to realize that everything that has ever troubled or tormented us, and the power of Satan over our life, has passed away---it is gone forever. Satan could not harm anybody in the Garden of Eden while they remained in God's will. Neither can he harm us any more than he could harm Adam before he turned everything over to Satan.

Behold, or be sure to take note, all things are become new. A new creation spiritually, instead of an unbelieving heart, we have a tender, Christ-like nature and heart. Instead of feeling weak and no appetite, we have a strong healthy body that can eat anything a well person can eat. Instead of commotion and disturbance in the home, we have a home that is as peaceful and harmonious as Adam had in the Garden of Eden before the fall. We have God's perfect peace and rest, in the place of Satan's torments. That is the new creation.

Romans 6:1-11 (KJV) pretty much sums it all up, what it means to be IN UNION WITH JESUS CHRIST. "*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into (union with) Jesus Christ were baptized (in union with Him) into his death? Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (or live an entirely new life) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man (our old evil nature) is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*"

Or we could say for that last verse, "always believe and settle it that you have become dead indeed unto sin, through your union with Jesus the Christ in His death and are living for God through your union with the resurrection life of Jesus Christ.

God never asks us to live an overcoming life or to obey one passage of scripture until we have settled it finally and forever that we have become dead indeed unto sin and everything of the old life and are living for God through our union with the Resurrection Life of Christ.



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