

IN UNION WITH CHRIST

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To be in union with Jesus Christ means to be united with Him in His death. In other words, it is like His death was our death to everything of the old life of sin, sickness, trouble, poverty, and all evil. We arose united with Him in His resurrection life, which means we are sharing in His righteousness, peace, health, finances, protection, and everything else we need and desire. God says these are the real facts, and we cannot afford to see anything different. Paul says: *“Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.”* Or, God declares them righteous. *“Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again.”*

In the 2nd chapter of Ephesians, we find a passage of Scripture that comes right down to where we are; it meets us on our own ground. Satan always tempts people to think they have to rise to some height before God will do anything for them. He tries to make us believe that we must have some personal merit of our own to make God work for us. However, such ideas are all wrong because God always comes down to where we are and meets us on our own level. If we did try to find some good in ourselves, apart from the power of God, we could not find any.

Ephesians 2:4 to 9, from the 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 at that time we were 'dead' because of our offences. 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 lays the foundation for perfect faith, and living an overcoming life. Then in Romans 8:11, we have the same thought. *“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus Christ 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 within you.”*

That means “If the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus Christ from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Jesus Christ from the dead will impart the very resurrection life of Christ to your physical bodies; put perfect health and strength into your bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.” The teaching throughout the Bible is that real repentance brings perfect health to our bodies, or “Gave life to us in giving life to the Christ.”

Even when we were dead because of our sins and wrong doings, God gave us real spiritual life, or His righteousness, when He brought Jesus Christ back from the dead. God

did not give us the new life after we became good, but when we were dead in sin and under the complete control of Satan. Christ, at the present time, is sitting in Heaven, at God's right hand. We also are sitting in Heaven, spiritually speaking, with Him, and were made righteous when He arose from the dead. In other words, when Jesus Christ died, it was exactly the same as if we died and were buried--had died as a result of our sins and iniquities; and when Christ arose from the dead, it was exactly the same as if we were raised from the dead and came back to life again with all our old sins, diseases, troubles, poverty, and all the consequences of sin eliminated, just like Adam in the Garden of Eden before he fell.

If we think we must experience some good feelings and work up a big faith, we will begin to get all tangled up by Satan and not get anywhere. God's righteousness could never take possession of us under those circumstances. We are to receive His righteousness by believing what God says about the sufferings, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and not by anything we can do of ourselves. Anyone who is willing to believe the statement of facts God gives us, will receive remission of sins, just like Cornelius did. A willingness to believe will cancel everything God ever had against us and not only cancel it but give us 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 this life again a righteous person, in perfect health, in peace and prosperity, and 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."

1st Corinthians 1:30 verifies this: "*But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.*"

That means: "But of Him (that is, of God) are ye in union with Jesus the Christ, that as you have become united to Him in His death, you were also united to Him in His resurrection."

The word "sanctification" means deliverance out of all our troubles. The word "redemption" also means the same. Redeem means to buy back or to get back; it means that Jesus Christ redeemed or brought back to us, God's own righteousness, peace, health, finances, and everything else that He gave Adam when he was created in the Garden of Eden. What we lost through the first Adam, has been restored, or brought back, by the second Adam, Jesus Christ. Just to the extent we are willing to believe that, and there is no middle ground, we either believe it or we don't believe we are in union with Christ and He has been made unto us wisdom, righteousness, holiness and deliverance, it will take possession of us and we will also receive every other blessing. It is all founded on believing the testimony that God gives concerning His Son.

1st John 5:9-10. "*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 tries to make God's Word mysterious and always gives plenty of excuses, but God declares plainly, in Ephesians, that we are partakers of Christ's death, also His resurrection life, and it took place when we were dead in trespasses and sins. Not when we had any faith, or had any goodness of our own or had anything about us to recommend us to God; He just gives it to us as an act of His mercy and love.

He took away all condemnation and anything that Satan or any human being could have against us. The very moment we believe it, there will be nothing against us, because we will begin to live an overcoming life. But if we listen to the lies of Satan and try to see something good about ourselves, apart from the power of God and Blood of Jesus Christ, we are defeated before we start. God's power cannot work until we believe the testimony about His Son.

Paul said in 1st Corinthians 1:18, *"For the preaching of the Cross is to them that perish, foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God."*

The power of God is working for us, and that includes healing, finances, home trouble, and everything else. We are to have this teaching sink deeply into our minds until we know it thoroughly, that we died with Jesus Christ to everything that pertains to the curse that came through Adam's sin, and we are resurrected with Jesus Christ, or came back to this life, a new person, as righteous as Adam was before he fell, with God's own character, also with a new body of perfect health and strength, a body that neither draught, change of climate, dampness or anything else can affect. We have a body that is no longer subject to any kind of pain, sickness or weakness, because we are under the direct power of God.

When we eat our food, we are not to consider what our stomach can do naturally, like people do in the world. All stomach trouble was nailed to the Cross and buried in the grave with Jesus Christ, along with any other type of oppression from Satan. When Jesus came out of the grave, we came out with Him with a new body that is entirely free from all distress. We are to see ourselves with a new body, and, of course, we must act accordingly. Satan has no right to put any oppression on us. It is the same with any part or organ of our body. We cannot depend on the care we take, that will let Satan in as sure as we live.

Paul learned that lesson. He said in 2nd Corinthians 1:8-9, *"For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead."*

Paul had to learn not to depend on his natural health and strength, but on the living God, or the resurrection life of Jesus Christ.

We are never to pay the least attention to symptoms, because Satan works that to perfection in order to bluff us out of our rights, if we allow him. We are to be very persistent in maintaining the attitude that through the death of Jesus Christ, every disease and infirmity of our body went into the grave with Him, and we are as free from pain and disease as a dead man lying in a graveyard. We are as free from nerve trouble, poor eyesight, bad hearing, and every other physical trouble as a man who has been dead for ten years.

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

The reason we do not have to take precautions is because we are not under the laws of nature, which 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 delivered from home trouble, from things that do not suit us, we will find every unpleasant condition disappear. Through the resurrection of Christ, we have been raised from the dead with Him, and every member of our family is as kind and loving as Adam's children would have been if he had not fallen into sin.

We have all the results of the fall of Adam if we want it, but it is our right and privilege to have the peace and quietness in our home that the new Adam, Jesus Christ, gave us. All we are to see is Christ going into the grave and taking with Him all our home troubles and every unpleasant condition. The Blood of Christ has made us as free from home and family trouble as if every member of our family were lying in the grave. Their old evil natures were left in the same grave in which Jesus Christ was buried after His crucifixion. He not only left in the grave the cloth with which he was bound, but He left every sickness, disease, sin, sorrow, poverty and home trouble that this old world has ever been cursed with, and when He arose, it was a declaration that we were delivered, or freed from them forever. In other words, since we are in union with Jesus the Christ, when He came out of that grave, we came out with Him minus every evil thing that this world is cursed with.

If we listen to and accept Satan's word, we will get his curses; but when we believe the plain statements about the Atonement, we will receive every blessing that Jesus Christ died to give us.



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