

Summary

- a) Christ in you is the difference maker in your life. But if you don't know He dwells in you, it won't make any difference in your life.
- b) Based upon this statement, this session looks at the wonder of Christ in you and the need for a true revelation of Christ in you.
- c) This session describes what the term indwelling Spirit means and it proves the indwelling Spirit is the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of the Father.
- d) This session also unpacks what the term indwelling life means from Scripture.
- e) Finally, this session stresses that ignorance is a hinderance to you abiding in Christ. Therefore, you should pray Ephesians 1:17-19 for a revelation of the surpassing greatness of His power in you.

The Stunning Advantage

- a) Jesus stunned His disciples when He told them, "It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you" (John 16:7).
- b) What an amazing statement. This has to be one of the most remarkable declarations Jesus ever made.
- c) Let these words sink in.
 - It is to your advantage that I go away (NKJV).
 - It is best for you that I go away (NLT).
 - It is for your good that I am going away (NIV).
 - It is for your benefit that I go away (CSB).
- d) How can this possibly be true? After all, the disciples walked with Jesus as His close friends for three-and-a-half years.
 - They witnessed Jesus walking on water, casting out demons, raising people from the dead, healing the lame and leprous, and feeding five thousand with a few fish and a little bread.
 - They listened to Jesus teach with great authority, watched Him restore sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf, observed Him reveal secrets to people only God knew, and saw Him turn water to wine.
 - They witnessed His resurrection, watched as He walked through walls only to disappear, and they put their fingers through the nail marks in His hands.
 - These twelve men looked at, heard, and touched the Word of Life—the eternal Son of God incarnated in human flesh, the very One who created the universe.
 - They were best friends with the Messiah foretold by the prophets.
- e) Though Jesus became their intimate friend, the Lord had an even more intimate plan—He would dwell inside of them through His Spirit.
- f) Jesus' going away meant the Holy Spirit would come and take up permanent residence within their spirits. The same is true with us.

God In You

- a) Amazing as it would have been to walk with Jesus, be his friend, and to personally see Him minister, Jesus basically told them—and indirectly us—it is more advantageous to have the indwelling Spirit than to have walked with Me for three-and-a-half years. Wow!
- b) Jesus promised the disciples that the Holy Spirit, whom they had become familiar with because they spent so much time with Jesus, would come to live in them because He was going to the Father.
- c) Jesus assured them, “The Spirit of truth . . . will be in you” (John 14:17).
- d) Shortly after making this statement, Jesus prayed to the Father that “the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them” (John 17:26, emphasis mine).
- e) Jesus’ burning desire from eternity past has always been to dwell within His people by His Spirit.
- f) During Christmas, I love the focus upon Jesus as Immanuel, which translated means “God with us.” But there is a truth far greater than God with you—it is God in you by the Holy Spirit.
- g) This beautiful reality has the power to completely transform you if you know it and believe it.

A Revelation of Christ in You

- a) Many Christians live defeated and remain immature because they don’t have a personal revelation of Christ in them.
- b) If you want to live victorious by Christ’s indwelling life, the first step is having a revelation that Christ dwells in your spirit.
- c) When I speak of revelation, I mean far more than head knowledge. I mean far more than quoting a verse about it, teaching on it, or even writing a book about it. I mean having an eye-opening, heart-illuminating, life-transforming revelation.
- d) When you really know the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead, created the universe, impregnated the Virgin Mary, and “breathed out” Scripture dwells within your spirit.
- e) **Christ in you is the difference maker in your life. But if you don’t know He dwells in you, it won’t make any difference in your life.**
- f) A revelation of Christ in you will transform you more than any other revelation. You will go from living in guilt, shame, condemnation, discouragement, and defeat to living in victory when your eyes are opened, and you know Christ dwells within you.
- g) After the Holy Spirit gives you knowledge of Christ in you, it completely changes your life from the inside out.
- h) Nothing will accelerate your spiritual progress like the revelation of the indwelling Spirit.
- i) Having a revelation of Christ in you is truly transforming. It is the difference between:
 - joy and sadness,
 - selfless love and self-centeredness,
 - peace and anxiety,
 - hope and despair,

- purpose and aimlessness,
 - victory and defeat,
 - faith and unbelief,
 - purity and lust,
 - power and impotence,
 - maturity and immaturity,
 - and humility and pride.
- j) **A revelation of Christ in you is the difference between knowing Christ intimately and merely knowing about Christ intellectually.**
- k) When the eighteen-inch gap between your head and heart is closed by divine revelation, your life will be dramatically different.
- l) As it pertains to living by Christ's indwelling life, a revelation of Christ in you is the only way you can live the abiding life. It's the only way to produce Christlike fruit for God.
- m) John said, "By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit" (1 John 4:13).
- n) The indwelling Spirit is the only way you can live the abiding life. The indwelling Spirit alone makes the impossible possible.

The Carnal Corinthians

- a) Christ in you is the difference maker in your life. But if you don't know He dwells in you, it won't make any difference in your life.
- b) The Corinthian church, focused on signs and wonders, became fascinated by speaking in tongues, miracles, prophecy, and the other gifts of the Spirit. They were very familiar with the outpouring of the Spirit but were largely ignorant of the indwelling Spirit.
- c) Paul accused the Corinthians of being unspiritual, men of the flesh, carnal, infants in Christ, full of jealousy, envy, and strife, and babes who could only drink spiritual milk, unable to handle solid food (see 1 Cor. 3:1-4).
- d) The real zinger was they behaved "like mere men" (1 Cor. 3:3 NKJV).
- e) These believers had the living God dwelling inside of them, yet they acted as if they were average Corinthians off the street. Though new creations in Christ, they behaved like they were still old creations.
- f) What was their problem? They lacked personal revelation of the indwelling Spirit. They lived in the flesh because they did not know who lived inside of them.
- g) They were familiar with the external manifestations of the Spirit but ignorant of the internal residence of the Spirit.
- h) This is why Paul said to them, "Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1 Cor. 3:16).

Do You Not Know

- a) Living by the indwelling life of Christ is impossible until you can answer Paul's question: "Do you not know . . . that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"
- b) Here's some questions to answer:
 - Do you know that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
 - Do you have a personal revelation of this truth?
 - Do you truly know that the same God who raised Jesus Christ from the dead dwells in you?
- c) I'm not talking about a Sunday school answer, quoting a Scripture, or nodding your head in agreement. I'm talking about a life-changing, personal revelation of God the Holy Spirit dwelling in you.
- d) Living by Christ's indwelling life is impossible until you have a personal revelation of the indwelling Spirit.
- e) The trouble with the Corinthians was they lacked a life-changing revelation of Christ in you. They didn't realize the greatness of the One who dwelled in their spirits.
- f) The same problem exists today. Many born-again believers act like mere men because they don't have a personal revelation of the indwelling Spirit.
- g) Because they can't discern Him with their five senses, rationalize His internal presence with their minds, or feel Him with their emotions, they are unaware of their spirit-to-Spirit union with Him.

Knowing By Perception, Experience, and Revelation

- a) The word for *know* is *oida* (i-doe) and it means:
 - To know by perception;
 - To have seen or perceived;
 - To come within the scope of one's perception;
 - To perceive with the eyes or by any of the senses;
 - To discern;
 - To experience any state or condition.
- b) *Oida* suggests fullness of knowledge and therefore means:
 - A full knowledge that comes by perception (intuition), experience, and revelation—not by mental knowledge or intellectual understanding.
- c) *Oida* is used in:
 - 1 Cor. 2:11 – to show the spirit knows intuitively the thoughts of a person;
 - 1 Cor. 2:12 – to state that we can know by revelation and experience all that God gives us;

- Eph. 1:18 – to declare that when the eyes of the heart are enlightened, we can know something previously unknown by perception, experience, and revelation.
- d) Many American Christians are still influenced by the Enlightenment and the Age of Reasoning, which is really the Greek mindset that Paul experienced in Corinth that searched for wisdom (1 Cor. 1:22). We falsely believe we know something as God intends because we have mental or intellectual understanding.

Ignorance Is a Hinderance

- a) Ignorance is the main hinderance to you living in victory by His power.
- b) The ignorance I have in mind is a lack of knowing by perception, intuition, experience, and revelation. Not a lack of mental or intellectual understanding.
- c) The indwelling Spirit is not a theory or doctrine for theologians and pastors to discuss and debate. It is the blessed reality of every born-again believer.
- d) When you have a personal revelation that God the Father and God the Son have made their home in your spirit through the Holy Spirit, it changes everything.
- e) When you know that you know the Spirit of God dwells within you, you will become a spiritual person who fellowships with the Holy Spirit regularly and walks in the Spirit daily.
- f) If you are born again, but lack revelation of Christ in you, I encourage you to pray for a revelation of this truth regularly.
- g) Paul prayed for the Ephesians that “the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation . . . that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know . . . what is the surpassing greatness of His power in us who believe” (Eph. 1:17-19).
- h) The Amplified version expresses this verse more richly, stating, “So that you will begin to know what the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His active, spiritual power is in us who believe” (Eph. 1:19 AMP).
- i) The spiritual power working in you is Christ in you. And if you want to live by His indwelling life, you really need to know by divine revelation that He dwells in you.
- j) Not merely knowing this in your brain but knowing this in your heart.
- k) This power in you, wrote Paul, is the same power that raised Christ from the dead, seated Him at God’s right hand in heaven, gave Him preeminence over all powers of this age and the ages to come, and placed all things in subjection to Him (see Eph. 1:20-22).
- l) This same power is in you and available to you at any time because Christ dwells in you.

The Indwelling Spirit Is God

- a) Scholars and Bible teachers use term *indwelling Spirit* when referring to the Holy Spirit dwelling in a believer. This language comes from Romans 8:9, when Paul said, “the Spirit of God dwells in you.”
- b) The only way you can be born again, experience salvation, and be in Christ is if the Spirit of Christ comes to dwell within you.
- c) Paul made this clear when he said, “If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him” (Rom. 8:9).

- d) Paul exhorted the Corinthians to test and examine themselves to see if they were truly in the faith. He asked them “do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless you fail the test?” (2 Cor. 13:5).
- e) The litmus test of salvation is that Jesus Christ is in you.
- f) When you think about the indwelling Spirit, it’s vital not to think of Him as some type of impersonal force, an it, or an influence. Though symbolized as a dove, fire, and oil, He is not a dove, fire, or oil. He is fully God.
- g) The indwelling Spirit:
- Has a mind (see Rom. 8:27), a will (see 1 Cor. 12:11), and emotions (see Rom. 5:5);
 - He speaks (see Heb. 3:7);
 - He teaches (see 1 Cor. 2:13);
 - He can be grieved (see Eph. 4:30);
 - He can be insulted (see Heb. 10:29);
 - And He can be quenched (see 1 Thess. 5:19).
- h) The Spirit within you is fully God.
- i) **The indwelling Spirit is the difference maker, enabling you to live the abiding life, know Christ intimately, and produce fruit for God.**

The Indwelling Spirit Is Christ

- a) Jesus told the disciples, “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever” (John 14:16, emphasis mine).
- b) There are two Greek words translated as “another” in the New Testament. The first is *allos*, which means “another of the same sort.” The other word is *heteros*, which means “another of a different sort.”
- c) To illustrate how a Greek-speaking person would use these two different words, consider this example. Suppose you just ate an apple and wanted another apple. You would use the word *allos* to request a piece of fruit of the same sort. On the other hand, if you wanted an orange, you would use the word *heteros* to request a piece of fruit of a different sort.
- d) When Jesus said He would give us another Helper, He used the word *allos*, revealing the Holy Spirit is just like Him.
- e) In essence, Jesus was saying to the disciples, “In the exact same way I have been with you, the Holy Spirit will be within you. The Holy Spirit is another of the same sort as Me.”
- f) Jesus told the disciples, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father” (John 14:9).
- g) Those who know the Holy Spirit intimately know both Jesus and the Father. Why? Because the Holy Spirit is both the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of your Father (Rom. 8:9; Matt. 10:20).

Christ In You—the Hope of Glory

- a) The indwelling Spirit is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

- b) Paul told the Colossians, “The mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col. 1:26-27).
- c) This mystery—Christ in you—had been hidden inside of God’s heart for millennia.
- d) Most of the great men and women of God in biblical history had no concept of God dwelling within His people. This was a revelation hidden from Abraham, Moses, David, and many of the prophets.
- e) Even the angels, likely amazed at such an idea, longed to gain a clearer glimpse into Christ dwelling within His people (see 1 Pet. 1:12). They probably couldn’t comprehend the One whom they worshipped in such glory and beauty taking up residence in the spirits of men and women.
- f) Christ in you is the great eternal plan of God.
- g) What a privilege we have. Humanity has the exclusive opportunity to become the dwelling place of the uncreated Creator. This is unique among God’s created order.
- h) Neither the angels, the cherubim, nor the seraphim will ever have God’s life within them. They can only relate to God externally, not internally.
- i) Only humanity was destined to have the life of the Son within them.

Indwelling Life

- a) Since Christ dwells within you, this also means life dwells within you, for Christ is the life (see John 14:6).
- b) If you search the New Testament for the word *life*, you quickly realize how often the Scriptures refer to the Son as the Life.
- c) Jesus is:
 - the bread of *life* (John 6:35);
 - the resurrection and the *life* (John 11:25);
 - the Word of *life* (1 John 1:1);
 - the light of *life* (John 8:12);
 - and the *life-giving* Spirit imparted into all who believe in Him, giving *life* to their spirit, heart, soul, and body (see 1 Cor. 15:45).
- d) John said:
 - The Son has *life* in Himself (John 1:4);
 - He gives *life* to those who believe in Him (John 7:38);
 - He wants to release His *life* in fullness to those who yield wholly to Him (John 10:10);
 - And the Son’s *life* is a well of water in you springing up into rivers of *living* water, flowing outward to a dark and desperate world (John 4:14; 7:38).
- e) Paul said:
 - The Son wants to become your *life* (Col. 3:4);

- The Son wants to live His *life* in you and through you (Gal. 2:20);
 - And the Spirit wants to empower you to walk in newness of *life* (Rom. 6:4).
- f) Jesus wants to fully save your soul by the power of His indestructible *life* (Heb. 7:16).
- g) John said, “He who has the Son has the *life*” (1 John 5:12).

Abundant Life

- a) The Greek word for *life* in most of these passages is *zoe* (pronounced zō-ā').
- b) When referring to God’s life, *zoe* is the highest life, the superlative life.
- c) God’s life is infinitely higher than animal life, human life, and angelic life.
- d) God’s *zoe* is the uncreated, divine, indestructible, and eternal life the Father and Son possess in themselves.
- e) Because Christ, who is life, dwells in your spirit through the Holy Spirit, this means you have indwelling life in your spirit.
- f) Jesus said in John 10:10: “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (emphasis mine).
- g) Jesus came to put His life within you, not just in a small measure, but with such abundance it saturates and permeates your entire being.
- h) Jesus came so His life could be released in you in fullness—without limits, without hindrances, and without measure.
- i) Since you are a branch and Jesus is the life-giving Vine, His indwelling life is meant to be released from your spirit, where Christ dwells, outward into your heart, soul, and body, producing abundant Christlike fruit from the inside out.

Application

- a) I encourage you to seek the Lord for a greater revelation of the indwelling Spirit.
- b) To spur you on a little, here’s a great litmus test of whether you have head knowledge or revelation knowledge of Christ in you.
- Are you stunned—virtually speechless—by the wonder of Christ, the eternal Son of God, dwelling in you?
 - If so, has this revelation knowledge transformed the way you live?
- c) If you can’t honestly answer yes to both of those questions, then it is my sincere hope that you seek the Lord in prayer for a greater revelation of the indwelling Spirit.
- d) Take some time during the week to pray Ephesians 1:17-19 for a greater revelation of the surpassing greatness of God’s power in you.