

## Summary

- a) This session introduces the Indwelling Life class and explains six reasons why learning how to live by Christ's indwelling life is important.
- b) This session also explains how you can get the most from this class and how you can turn what you learn into an ongoing experience with Christ.

## Christ In You

- a) Colossians 1:26-27 states, "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."
- b) Hidden from past ages and generations.
- c) Neither the prophets nor the patriarchs had much insight.
- d) This likely stunned the angels (1 Pet. 1:12).
- e) Redeemed humanity is privileged.
- f) The born-again spirit of the justified has become the dwelling place of the uncreated Creator.
- g) No other created order has God's life within them.
- h) Only men and women destined to relate to God internally, not just externally.

## Questions

1. What does it mean to you that Christ dwells within you?
2. Why is it important to live by Christ's indwelling life?
3. How does living by His life help you in your everyday life?

## Start with Why

- a) People want to know the *why* before the *what* and the *how*.
- b) You only pay attention if you think it's relevant to your life.
- c) If you don't know the *why* you will quickly get bored by the *what* and the *how*.
- d) We're all wired this way.
- e) We always asked our parents, "Why? Why? Why?" to everything our parents said or did.
- f) We hated when our parents told us, "Because I said so"?
- g) We must know the *why* before we give our best time, energy, and effort to a task.
- h) I want to explain six reasons why learning to live by Christ's indwelling life is so important.

1. Enables you to have a deep, intimate, internal relationship with the Lord.

- a) God is supremely relational.
- b) The Father and the Son were intimate throughout eternity past (John 17:22-26).
- c) Human language can't explain it.
- d) The Father and Son were intimate, had deep conversations, and unending communion.
- e) No relationship rivals theirs.
- f) The Father burned with affection, rejoiced with ecstatic joy, overflowed with pleasure, and delighted deeply in His Son (see John 17:24).
- g) Out of this eternal love relationship, the Godhead determined to create humanity and invite us into their joyful fellowship.
- h) The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were so happy in their relationship they wanted to share this with a creation.
- i) For their good pleasure, they invited men and women to experience their joyful relationship (see Eph. 1:5).
- j) This is God's eternal purpose and the reason why you exist.
- k) You were created to experience the never-ending bliss of pleasure God has enjoyed within Himself for all eternity.
- l) Your spirit-to-Spirit union with the indwelling Spirit is how you do this.
- m) Learning to live by Christ's indwelling life brings you into a glorious, sublime, internal relationship with the Lord.

## 2. Empowers you to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil.

- a) You are meant reign in life (see Rom. 5:17).
- b) You can be a king in life, extending the victory of Christ in all that you are and to all that you do.
- c) You are more than a conqueror because of Christ in you (see Rom. 8:37).
- d) Because Christ dwells within you, you already have everything you need to overcome the antichrist world system.
- e) You no longer have to think, talk, and act like the world.
- f) You don't have to be a slave to fear, depression, lust, anger, jealousy, criticism, or bitterness.
- g) Through Christ's indwelling life, you can overcome your struggles—no matter how long you have been deceived, enslaved, and defeated.
- h) 1 John 4:4 states, "Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world."
- i) You can prevail in your struggle with demonic powers.
- j) Learning to live by Christ's indwelling life is how you become an overcomer, as Jesus exhorted His church in Revelation 2-3.

- k) Learning to live by Christ's indwelling life gives you sustained, continuous victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil.

### 3. Produces lasting fruit in abundance.

- a) Because Christ dwells in your spirit, you already have love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control inside of you (see Gal. 5:22-23).
- b) *Love*. You already have all the love you will ever need to love God and love others.
- c) *Joy*. You already have unspeakable joy inside of you, overcoming sadness and depression.
- d) *Peace*. You already have peace residing inside of you, silencing the voice of fear, anxiety, and worry.
- e) *Patience*. You already have all the patience you need to deal with difficult people, especially when they exhibit their faults, shortcomings, and sins.
- f) *Kindness*. You already have the kindness you need to quell the quick-triggered culture, so easily offended.
- g) *Meekness*. You also have all the meekness you need to fully surrender and submit to God's will, ways, Word, and voice.
- h) *Self-control*. You have all the self-control you need to live a disciplined, focused, and holy life, conquering the external cravings of the flesh and the internal desires of the soul.
- i) Learning to live by Christ's indwelling life helps you overcome the flesh and the soul so you can produce the fruit of the Spirit in abundance.

### 4. Helps to make you ready as a bride for Jesus.

- a) The *Indwelling Life* class is the perfect follow up to *A Theology of the Bride* class.
- b) *A Theology of the Bride* class stressed the need to get ready, but didn't go into detail on how to do it.
- c) The *Indwelling Life* class explains how to do it—it's by learning to live by Christ's indwelling life.
- d) No matter how dark it gets, Jesus will not return until the bride on the earth is glorious, holy, blameless, and spotless (see Eph. 5:27).
- e) Revelation 19:7-8, which takes place just prior to the second coming, states, "His bride has made herself ready.' It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."
- f) Making yourself ready is not something God does for you solely by His sovereign power alone.
- g) You have a part to play and God has a part to play.
- h) You can't do His part and He won't do your part.
- i) The bride makes herself ready through righteous acts.
- j) What you do with and from the gift of righteousness imputed and imparted to you at salvation will be the wedding garments you will wear for all eternity.
- k) The theological term for this is sanctification.

- l) You now have a responsibility to work out what the Spirit has already worked into you (see Phil. 2:12-13).
- m) The way you respond to this responsibility will determine your eternal wedding garments forever.
- n) You don't make yourself ready to be saved. You make yourself ready because you are saved.
- o) You don't make yourself ready to stay saved. You make yourself ready by working out the salvation that has already been secured within your spirit.
- p) You get ready from a *position* of righteousness accomplished by *the finished work of the cross* and a *condition* of righteousness that has *already been accomplished* in your born-again spirit (see 2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 4:24).
- q) Getting ready from righteousness is what the "righteous acts of the saints" means.
- r) Learning to live by Christ's the indwelling life is how you do the righteous acts that become your wedding garments, making you ready as a bride for Jesus Christ.

## 5. Confirms you into the image and likeness of Jesus as a mature son of God.

- a) The Father's eternal purpose is to transform men and women into the image of His Son and thus have a family of sons—a corporate son—patterned after His beloved Son (see Rom. 8:29).
- b) The Holy Spirit develops sonship in you through crucifixion, circumcision, and intense training.
- c) Sonship is being transformed from an immature, selfish child into a mature, Christlike son.
- d) The indwelling Spirit educates you in the ways, purposes, and nature of your heavenly Father, preparing you to reign from the throne.
- e) The indwelling Spirit sands and chisels away pride, rebellion, and selfishness as He relentlessly adheres to the pattern Son.
- f) He forms Christ's nature and character in your heart and soul, developing the nature of the Lamb within—humility, meekness, gentleness, kindness, self-sacrifice, generosity, and love.
- g) Paul said, "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God" (Rom. 8:14).
- h) "Being led by the Spirit of God" is the Spirit-led life, or as I have titled this class, living by indwelling life.
- i) The word for "sons" often means a mature son.
- j) Thus, the indwelling Spirit develops sonship within you by teaching and equipping you to live by the indwelling life of Christ.
- k) Learning how to live by Christ's indwelling life is the only way you can ever mature, grow, and be conformed into Christ's image and likeness.

## 6. Equips you to stand strong during the trials and tribulations of these end times.

- a) You might experience a health, financial, relational, or personal crisis or a crisis from the unique pressures of the end times.
- b) Learning to live by Christ's indwelling life gives you the inner strength to stand.

- c) 2020 was a time of crossing over into a new era.
- d) The nations experienced a great shaking. From lockdowns to inflation to economic recession to social unrest to government overreach.
- e) Hebrews 12:26 states, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven” (Heb. 12:26).
- f) This shaking of created things is divinely designed to establish His kingdom in fullness on the earth.
- g) I’m convinced we are living at the end of the age. I’m not saying Jesus is coming back tomorrow. But we are certainly in the final years leading to His return.
- h) Whether He returns in ten, twenty, or thirty years, I don’t know. But if we are in the season of His return, the years ahead will be some of the most challenging times in human history.
- i) I don’t say this to discourage you, make you fearful, or strip you of hope. Honestly, I don’t think there has ever been a more exciting time to be alive, for we are entering into the church’s finest hour.
- j) The days ahead are sure to be the best of times and the worst of times at the same time.
- k) What does this have to do with living by Christ’s indwelling life? Everything.
- l) The Lord is returning for a victorious church in the face of the greatest evil in history.
- m) The bride at His return will be an overcoming, conquering, joy-filled people who gladly lay down their lives without flinching.
- n) As darkness increases, God’s glory and light will rise up within His people, who will be strong, fearless, bold, and powerful (see Dan. 11:32; Isa. 60:1-2).
- o) This type of strength, resolve, glory, light, holiness, and power comes one way—by a people who have learned how to live by Christ’s indwelling life.
- p) The end-time church will discover the secret life—the life of Christ deposited in their spirits at new birth—to be more than enough to sustain, encourage, and empower them to overcome trials, tribulations, and adversity.
- q) Learning to live by Christ’s indwelling life is how you stand strong during the trials and tribulations of these end times.

## How to Get the Most from this Class

- a) I love podcasts and blogs where people share what they would tell their younger self.
- b) At fifty, I would definitely tell my twenty-five-year-old self, master the Spirit-led life. Make this one of your highest priorities. And I would say the same thing to you.
- c) If you can learn to master the Spirit-led life, or as I have called it living by indwelling life, everything about your life will be so much better.
- d) When Christ lives instead of you, you will become a better husband or wife, father or mother, employee or employer, and a much better person—the person God created you to be.
- e) One thing I love about books is you can learn in thirty days what took an author years to learn.

- f) As it pertains to this class, you can learn in 5 months what took me 15 years to learn. That is a 1 month to 3-year ratio.
- g) If you will take the truths and principles I share in this class and implement them into your life, your life will be transformed. I know this because it happened to me.
- h) Rather than just taking a class about indwelling life, make it your goal to learn how to live by Christ's indwelling life.
- i) For all who take this class, I encourage you to make it your goal to learn how live by Christ's indwelling life.
- j) Then use this class as a guide to help you accomplish your goal and to experience Christ in a deeper way.
- k) Much like a travel guide helps you experience a foreign nation.
- l) My hope and prayer is the *Indwelling Life* class will be somewhat like a travel guide to you, helping you to experience Christ in a much deeper way.
- m) My encouragement is to take this class, not just to gain knowledge, but to glean truths and principles you can apply so you can encounter the Lord deeper.
- n) As you go through each session, ask yourself how can I take these truths and principles and turn these into an experience with Christ?
- o) Not just a one-time experience, but an ongoing experience that goes deeper every day.
- p) Whether you are just getting started living by Christ's indwelling life, you have been on this journey longer than me, or you are somewhere in between, I believe this class will help you go deeper into the Spirit-led life.

## Overview of the Class

- a) There will be 20 sessions taught in 3 parts.
- b) Part 1 – The Abiding Life (4 sessions)

When God designed us, He had the abiding life in mind. The Lord created us spirit, heart, soul, and body for the express purpose of living by Christ's indwelling life. When you know Christ dwells within you and your spirit is joined to Him through the indwelling Spirit, the abiding life becomes possible. Part 1 explains how you can live the abiding life and the hinderances you must overcome to abide in Christ.

- c) Part 2 – The Treasure in You (5 sessions)

Because Christ dwells in you, you have God's glory, rivers of living water, the Helper, the anointing, the truth, access to the mind of Christ, resurrection power, creative power, power for ability, and the kingdom of God residing within you. Because Christ has transformed your spirit, your spirit is now regenerated, resurrected, a partaker of the divine nature, righteous, holy, Christlike, and complete. Part 2 explains the treasure you have because Christ dwells within you and He has transformed your spirit.

- d) Part 3 – The Spirit-Led Life (10 sessions)

Living by Christ's indwelling life hinges upon the law of the Spirit. If you disregard the law of the Spirit, you will inevitably live from the soul in the power of the mind, will, emotions, and five senses. The law of the Spirit is not a list of dos and don'ts. Rather, the law of the Spirit are principles you must adhere to if you want to live a Spirit-led life. Part 3 examines ten principles that foster Spirit-led living.

## An Invitation to Go Deeper

- a) As I was writing this class and as I waited on the Lord for what He wanted to do in this class, here's what I sensed:

I sensed a special anointing on this class. This is not because I am special. No, I am a flawed vessel and this class is only a tool. It's because the Lord is special, the time is urgent, and God is gracious. The sensed the Lord will use this class to do a deep work.

For those who are hungry, humble, and who take this class seriously, grace will be released for personal revival and inward transformation.

This *invitation* is for a *visitation* that will produce *transformation* to those who believe and take the next 6 months seriously.

The grace released in the next 6 months will help you be made ready as a bride and to stand strong in the end times.

This invitation is for those at Restoration Life, those enrolled in the Forerunner School, and for those who will take this class in Lifeschool in Africa.

This has nothing whatsoever to do with me. It's about you coming to the Lord, relying on Him to teach you how to live by His life. It has everything to do with you coming to the Lord yourself and depending on His Spirit to teach you in the way only He can.

Beware: Like the Jews in the first century, you can miss the vision for an inward move of God by not recognizing the season we are in.

Beware: You can receive this class in various depths. Some will receive nothing from it. Others will receive a 30-fold, 60-fold, or 100-fold return. If you receive nothing from it, you won't even know you missed out. If you receive a 30-fold return, you will not even know you could have received a 60-fold return. And if you receive a 60-fold return, you will not even know you could have received a 100-fold return.

Therefore, let's all take this class seriously and go for the 100-fold return.

- b) While waiting on the Lord in prayer, Mark 4:21-25 was quickened in my spirit for us in this class:

He said to them, "A lamp is not brought in to be put under a basket or under a bed, is it? Is it not [brought in] to be put on the lampstand?"

For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been kept secret, but that it would come to light [that is, things are hidden only temporarily, until the appropriate time comes for them to be known].

If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear and heed My words."

Then He said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear. By your own standard of measurement [that is, to the extent that you study spiritual truth and apply godly wisdom] it will be measured to you [and you will be given even greater ability to respond]—and more will be given to you besides.

For whoever has [a teachable heart], to him more [understanding] will be given; and whoever does not have [a yearning for truth], even what he has will be taken away from him."

Mark 4:21-25 AMP

## Apply What You Learn

- a) For each session in this class, I end the notes with an *Application* section. The reason for this is to help you take the truths and principles you learn and turn these into an experience with Christ.
- b) You can think of this as an implementation guide. This will help you integrate these truths into your everyday life, especially into your prayer life.
- c) In the Application section, I ask you some questions to prayerfully consider. I might also give you some examples of how to turn what you learned into prayers that become a normal part of your private conversation with the Lord.
- d) I encourage you not to skip this, but to prayerfully take what you learn and apply it to your life. To develop new spiritual habits and disciplines so you can live all day every day from Christ's indwelling life.

## Application

- a) I highly recommend getting a journal or notebook to record some of your prayers, questions, and meditations.
- b) Take some time in prayer during the week and write down the answers to these questions in your journal:
  - 1. What does it mean to me that Christ dwells within me?
  - 2. Why is it important to live by Christ's indwelling life?
  - 3. How does living by His life help me in my everyday life?
- c) Prayerfully write down your personal goal for this class. For example, if you are just learning how to live by Christ's indwelling life, your goal might be: *I want to begin to learn how to live by Christ's indwelling life over the next six months.* If you have been on this journey for a while, it might be: *I want to master the Spirit-led life over the next six months* or *I want my self-life to be completely crucified so Christ in me can live over the next six months.*
- d) To help accomplish your goal over the next six months, prayerfully write down the answers to these questions in your journal:
  - 1. Is there anything in my life that I need to surrender so that I have more time to spend in prayer and quiet meditation? Examples: TV, social media, video games, etc.
  - 2. What time am I at my best? Examples: when I first wake up, before I go to sleep, during my lunch break, etc. Give this time to the Lord so you can work on learning how to live by His life.
  - 3. What radical steps do I need to take to position me to receive the most from this class?
- c) What breathing is to living, prayer, meditation, and Scripture reading are to living by Christ's indwelling life. That's why, to live by His life, you will need to spend time waiting on Him in prayer, meditation, and reading Scripture. If you struggle making time for the Lord, create a schedule for when you will meet with Him and then do whatever it takes to keep your appointment with Him. I recommend taking at least three days per week waiting on the Lord.