

BAPTISM

(& Our Full Surrender)

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We are to start the real Christian life with the indwelling Christ. So, the first thing to consider is to see to it that Jesus Christ dwells within us. To have Christ dwelling within us, is the necessary and normal position of every Christian.

And, the conditions of the indwelling Christ are, first of all—to repent and be baptized—to give up our ways and accept God's ways. And to surrender this life to live according to God's will and Word. Now, our surrender hasn't any merit. Neither does it cause God to forgive and cleanse and take possession of us. It just removes the hindrances out of the way.

And, when I really and truly confess and forsake my sins, and really and truly surrender my life to God, and my decision is final, not only will I be pardoned and cleansed from unrighteousness, but I will be taken possession of, by the Holy Spirit, to have the very life of Christ. This is a real fact! (that we all need to realize!)

We don't have to see or feel anything. We don't have to have holy and pious feelings, or wonderful experiences. The less we feel, and the less we see in our real Christian life (in its beginning) the more valuable it is. Because, as Paul was inspired to tell us, Christ is to dwell in our hearts by faith.

Then, we are in a position to accept the testimony of God about His Son, and His great Atonement. Anyone whoever believed and accepted this—Christ took possession of them. Jesus destroyed the self-life on the Cross and made us righteous. And anyone who believes that, of course, will have Christ to live within them.

So, after our baptism and surrender, we ought to never take any other position, than that we have Christ dwelling in us. If we make that definite—that “we are crucified with Christ, nevertheless we live, yet not us, but Christ liveth in us.” And, “that we are dead indeed unto sin, but living for God thru our union with Jesus the Christ”, and never allow Satan to convince us that Christ doesn't dwell within, we will find the fruits of His indwelling will begin to appear, not all at once, but as we hold steady and insist that Christ has taken His abode in our heart and life, we will find there will begin to be some real fruits.

The Scriptures will have more weight with us, and what the devil says, less weight, until finally, the Scriptures will become all-absorbing to us, and what they say will be the great big thing in our life. We will find new spiritual light and understanding because, when we have Christ inside, His divine power will be working in there. We will not feel it. But we will find a disposition in there, to see things entirely different from ‘the old life of self that God took away.’

If you and I realize that in everything that happens to us in the will of God, we have some very valuable lesson to learn—we will have an opportunity of the greatest value, to grow and develop (which is the great big thing in the Christian life) and practically the all-important thing after we start. Everything here, and everything in Eternity will depend upon it. Therefore, we cannot over-estimate the importance of it.

So, the great result will be that we will more and more get away from the old ways of looking at and doing things. Under the power of the Holy Spirit and through the indwelling Christ, we will do just as God's Word says in every circumstance of life, and trust in Him alone for every need and desire of our life. That is the way God works! That is the way He perfects us! That is the way He brings us back to the Scriptures. And that is the way He teaches us to depend on

Him. And that is the way He perfects our Christian characters, and the way He prepares us for Eternal Life!

When the Holy Spirit is in possession of us, it will become natural of second nature to live right. It will become natural for us to trust God for everything, and to put His Will and Word ahead of everything and everybody. In fact, it will be our greatest desire, and our very nature will call for trusting in God for everything. That desire will be prompted within us by God's power, and that is the result of a clean heart, and a Spirit-filled heart.

God gives us a great promise to those who repent and give their lives to Him, so that His Word and Will, will be the power and control in their life. He says in (2 Cor.6:14-18) “come out and be separate and touch nothing unclean, and I will be a father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord God Almighty.”

So, as we hold steadfast in our surrender and our faith, we will find the fruits of this new life begin to appear. The Scriptures will begin to have more light and meaning with us, and what the devil says in his thoughts to our mind, to have less weight, until finally the Scriptures will become all—absorbing, they will be the big thing in our life!

We will find new spiritual light and understanding, because when we have Christ inside, His divine power will be working in our heart and life! (After making that new and right start to begin the true Christian life.) God can then enable us to inherit the ‘Humility of Christ’!!



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