



# Salvation, Grace

and the

# Spirit of Christ.

(2019)

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# Salvation, Grace and the Spirit of Christ.

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## Topics.

- Christ and the word of God.
- In Christ and being in Christ.
- The crucifixion of Christ was God's eternal plan.
- The Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ.
- Transformed into the image of Christ.
- Love that surpasses knowledge.
- My God will supply every need.
- The mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed.
- Christ dwelling in the heart.
- God's Spirit and Christ's Spirit.
- God's great love and majestic forgiveness.

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## JOHN 1

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### CHRIST AND THE WORD OF GOD

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- **John 1:1:** In the beginning was the Word (logos) and the Word (logos) was with God, and the Word (logos) was God.

The word in this context comes from the Greek word logos which though it never refers to a person the logos/word can be personified as a person which of course it is. It is common for the Greek language to use personification (especially when the object in focus is the nature, character and persona of human life). This is why the Greek language is referred to as a romantic language. The Bible personifies:

- Jerusalem as a mother with children.
- Wisdom and patience as a woman.
- The grave as a hungry mouth that is never satisfied.

The word is personified in the Bible as a person, because it is God's word. No one believes the grave has a mouth or that wisdom and patience are actually women, so why do we think the word is a literal person, just because it is in some places personified in the same way as wisdom, Jerusalem and patience? Jesus not only spoke the logos/word of God, but by his life manifested the:

- The righteousness of the logos/word.
- The power of the logos/word.
- The eternal life of the logos/word.

Since there are many different views and interpretations of the first few verses of John chapter which are far too involved to cover in this study, but for anyone who is interested see John chapter one in Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Some in the Christian faith use these words of John to support the mistaken theory that Jesus is God. Since this teaching has a great stronghold on much of Christianity the following should comfort and encourage faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe in some doubt and unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son. The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states:

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim:

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life. Jesus himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). For further information see the title:

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity) in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## JOHN 14

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### IN CHRIST AND BEING IN CHRIST

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- **John 14:20:** In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

Christ in you and being in Christ carries the following three ideas:

1. Christ is the head of a new race and a person enters into this new race by faith in belonging to Christ. Adam was the head of the old race that believers were in prior to being in Christ's new race therefore in this context the words, "Christ in you" means fully belonging to Christ. Those who belong to Christ are in the new race by faith in belonging to Christ Adam was the head of the old race, that all those without Christ were in. Christians could say they used to be in Adam, in Adam's race and in Adams world. Being in Christ means those who belong to Christ are together and in union with Christ, agreeing with Christ and sharing in the divine nature of Christ.
2. Fully belonging to Christ; being together and in union with Christ; agreeing with and sharing in the divine nature of Christ and having the same mind as Christ (i.e., desiring to honour his heavenly Father).
3. From Strong's Concordance the word in also means together with therefore the words of Jesus, "In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you," could read, "In that day you shall know that I am together with My Father, and you are together with me and I am together with you." Immediately following these

words Jesus said, "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." Christ is in the Father by love, the Father is in Christ by love and those who belong to Christ are in Christ by love and Christ is in them by love. Love is the Spirit that unites the Father, Christ and those in Christ together.

The following three examples help give an understanding how one person can be inside another.

1. An eight-year-old girl who had a disability was doing her first live stage show for her school concert, her best friend was her mother who loved her daughter, but sadly could not be at the opening show as she was in hospital with terminal cancer. A television reporter asked the young girl if she would be sad and miss her mother at the opening of the show, she with tears in her eyes said, "Yes she will miss her, but she will be in my heart where she belongs." Love for a person creates the spiritual reality and spiritual presence of the person that is loved in the human heart. The greater the love the greater the spiritual reality and spiritual presence.
2. When the spouse of a couple who have been happily married for many years has to go away for some purpose they remain spiritually joined together in the mind, the heart and the spirit, added to this if the love is great enough they will even experience a spiritual presence of the one they love being with them even though they may be on the other side of the world, such is the spiritual power of love.
3. When a young teenage couple fall in love for the first time their mind is obsessed with the one, they love, the heart is overwhelmed with joy and suddenly the entire world looks rosy regardless of how dark the clouds in the sky are. Their hearts, mind and emotions are spiritually connected with each other in such a powerful way that even when apart they are spiritually together in mind, thought and emotion.

This is what Jesus meant when he prayed:

- That the love with which his heavenly Father has loved him with may be in those who love him and that he would by this same love be in them (John 17:26).

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## JOHN 15

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### THE GREATEST MANIFESTATION OF LOVE IS LAYING DOWN ONE'S LIFE FOR A FRIEND

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- **John 15:13:** Jesus said: Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends.

God has shown His love toward us in that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). Sadly, some in the Christian faith, because of a lack of perceiving this great love God has toward us that these words of Jesus shine a spotlight on tend to determine whether God loves them by their good or bad circumstances. They feel if life is charmed and blessed God loves them, but if it suddenly takes a turn for the worse and trouble comes, they feel God has withdrawn his love, but this is superstition and judging God according to the fickle circumstances of this world.

When anyone who believes in Christ doubts God's love all we have to do is look back to the bloodstained cross and see what it cost the heart of the Father to save us and how much his Son suffered to redeem us and spiritually crown and cloth us with a royal and majestic robe of righteous so that we could be justified and granted eternal life in everlasting glory apart from self-effort and strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days or keeping religious customs and traditions.

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**THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST WAS GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN**

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- **Acts 2:23:** this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

Here we see that even the horror of the cross was in the purposed eternal plan and foreknowledge of God for the salvation of all mankind. Peter wrote:

- Christ was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but was made manifest in the last times for your sake (1 Peter 1:20).

Some have mistakenly taken these words to mean that Jesus was with God before the foundation of the world, but this is reading into the verse more than what Peter is saying. Peter does not say Jesus existed, but that he was foreknown before the foundation of the world meaning Jesus was the central focus of God's eternal plan that He purposed in His eternal and divine mind before the world began. It is in this sense that Peter says Jesus was foreknown. The following two examples will help understand this principal:

1. An architect long before a building is constructed plans the entire structure in his mind, he sees every detail of it in vivid clarity long before the builders begin to construct it and long before the workers even set foot on the site where it is to be built.
2. An excited expectant mother plans in her mind her baby's room long before the baby is born, she not only sees in her mind the design and colours of that room, but also the lighting, furniture and clothing long before the child is born.

In the same manner God planned and purposed in his timeless mind that Christ would be the central focus of His sovereign plan for mankind's eternal salvation long before Jesus came into the world. Christ was predestined to be the centre of God's plan of salvation. Then it was predestined that those who from their own free will choose to accept all that Christ is and did and was will not only be saved but will also receive a predestined inheritance. God's foreknowledge is a stunning mystery to the human mind but majestically manifests the wisdom of God who has given mankind free will. By foreknowledge God is able to allow us to do as we please and come what may our free will is still mysteriously working within God's Sovereign will and bringing about His eternal plan that He set in motion before the beginning of time such is the wonder of God's foreknowledge. God through the prophet Isaiah said:

- My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD, for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

**NOTE:** we must always keep in mind when we are speaking of God's sovereignty, God's timeless mind, predestination and God's foreknowledge that it is with a fallen and finite mind that is limited to time (as we understand it) that we are attempting to understand God's eternal wisdom and God's eternal knowledge which is far higher than our limited fallen mortal mind can comprehend therefore we should never be dogmatic and absolute in our understandings and explanations concerning God's eternal sovereignty, but always allow for certain amount of mystery.

- **Romans 5:6:** For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

This is the most perfect example of love and the most splendid and humbling of all Scriptures since it clearly shows how much Christ loves us. These words of Paul means that even though we were living to gratify the flesh (self, ego pride) and living for the things of this world and living with our bodies full of sinful dysfunctions and aberrations and not giving God or the Lord Jesus Christ a thought Christ died for us, he laid down his life that we could be made righteous by faith apart from the law, self-effort and works and apart from having to adhere to ceremonial rites, holy days, and keeping religious customs and traditions.

In spite of our corrupted fallen nature that we have inherited from our earthly father Adam, God counts our faith in Christ as our righteousness God imputes it to us as a pure and free gift. Though some of us might die for a friend or loved one, Christ died for us while we were enemies and ungodly (Rom. 5:10-11) meaning indifferent to God and His ways and in many cases blasphemers. This truth should comfort every faithful brother and sister in Christ since it is certain if God was prepared to sacrifice his Son for us, while we were indifferent and apathetic toward Him and uninterested and unconcerned about what honoured Him and what didn't He will with great joy do everything to keep us for eternal life now we love His Son. (He does this by daily lavishing us with grace)

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## ROMANS 8

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### THE SPIRIT OF GOD AND THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

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- **Romans 8:9:** You, however, are not in the flesh but in the spirit, if in fact the spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

Paul is writing this letter to Jewish Christian brothers in Rome, who have been indoctrinated in keeping Moses law, its customs and Jewish traditions for around four thousand years. One of Paul's greatest battles was with Jewish brothers that though they believed in Christ they also believed they had to continue to maintain Moses law, keep the covenant of circumcision and adhere to ceremonial rites, holy days and keep their religious customs and traditions to be saved. It is in this sense they were setting their minds on the flesh meaning they were trusting in self-effort to be made righteous and counted worthy of eternal life rather than setting their minds on the Spirit and on faith since it is our faith in Christ that God counts as our righteousness and not any self-effort we might in vain attempt to do.

The words, "Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him" could be stated, "Anyone who trusts in religious works for their righteousness does not have the Spirit of Christ nor do they belong to him. This is because the new covenant is a covenant of grace not a covenant of law. It is by faith and by grace we are saved and have the Spirit of Christ and not by self-effort and works of the law. The following words of Paul show the enormous importance of trusting in God's grace in Christ. Paul in his letters wrote:

- I do not nullify the *GRACE* of God, for if justification were through the law (or any form of religious self-effort), then Christ died for no purpose (Gal. 2:21).

This means, when a brother or sister in Christ begin to justify themselves through the law and self-effort, they nullify the grace of God and by their actions declare that Christ's death was of no value. Equally as horrific as this Paul states:

- When we forsake *GRACE* we separate ourselves from Christ because it was only by *GRACE* that God made us alive in Christ (Gal. 5:4) (Eph. 2:5).

Paul to highlight even more the majestic glory of grace wrote with absolute boldness that:

- It is only by *GRACE* that any brother or sister has been saved (Eph. 2:8).

Paul in these verses is shining a brilliant floodlight on the truth that every brother and sister in Christ is saved, solely by faith and by grace and it is not their own doing, but the gift of God. This means that without grace no-one can be united to Christ and whoever is without Christ is separated from God and without God no-one can be saved to eternal life. This means in regards to eternal salvation, Christ, God, grace and faith, are all on an equal par with each other since no-one can be saved to eternal life without any one of them.

This is the reason the author in the book of Hebrews spends so many chapters brilliantly and skilfully explaining to the Hebrews that they must stop their sin of trusting in religious works, the Levitical Law and their priesthood to be counted righteous before God and start trusting in the grace of God that is in Christ and in his righteousness to be saved to eternal life. By extension this means that Christians must stop trusting in attending a church building every week, strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions to be saved. Though the practise of some of these maybe good in themselves they become grossly sinful when believers trust in them for their salvation since not one of them has any power to save to eternal life.

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## 2 CORINTHIANS 3

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### TRANSFORMED INTO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST

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- **2 Corinthians 3:17-18:** Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

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Some might tend to think the glory of Christ was his miracles and wonders, but as spectacular as these were, they are not what his heavenly Father considered his glory. In Gods eyes the glory of Christ was the unselfish life of love that he lived for others especially the poor and the less fortunate and his willingness to lay down his life to a brutal, bloody and cruel death so that even the lowest of sinners who seeks God could be saved to eternal life by faith and God's grace. It is not spectacular achievements, success or miraculous power that God considers glorious but a life lived in love and compassion toward others. Paul is saying that as we behold the life of Christ in our minds, we will be changed from being driven by self, ego and pride to being humble and serving, we will be changed from being self-focused to others-focused. Being changed into the glory of Christ means we will take on deeper levels of love. The glory of Christ is that:

- While we were sinners, he laid down his life for us (Rom. 5:8).

In the eyes of Jesus heavenly Father his glory is his love.

Paul fully understanding the importance of love wrote the following:

- If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal and if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love I am nothing. If I give away all I have and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love I gain nothing (1 Cor. 13:1-3).

To highlight even further the importance of love John wrote:

- Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love (1 John. 4:8).
- God is love and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4:16).

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**THE RICHES OF GOD'S GLORY**

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- **Ephesians 3:16:** that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being.

Here Paul is praying that those in Christ would be strengthened according to the riches of God's glory in this context refer to the richness of:

- God's character and God's holiness.
- God's grace and God's mercy.
- God's justice and God's love.

Paul's desire for the Ephesian brothers and sisters was that God the Father would strengthen their inner being so that Christ would dwell in their hearts by faith in contrast to keeping Jewish laws. When Paul uses the word, riches it denotes abundance. Paul's greatest desire was that the Ephesians would comprehend that God's rich grace is not only inexhaustible and ample for all their needs for salvation, but can never be exhausted. This is no-doubt why he is on bended knees earnestly and passionately praying such a beautiful prayer for those in the Ephesian church. On behalf of the Ephesians he is praying that the Father by His Spirit would powerfully strengthen the Jewish brothers and sisters with the courage to forsake all their religious laws, customs and traditions and to give the Gentile brothers and sisters strength to completely forsake any remaining attachment they may still have to their pagan faiths and grant them the fortitude to endure the persecution and conflict that may result from these actions so that they would not only know that Christ dwells in their heart through faith, but also be filled with his love that surpasses knowledge (v17-19).

Paul knowing the love of Christ as deeply as he did was fully aware that without total surrender to Christ and depending solely on him alone for eternal salvation the rich abundance and fullness of God's love is hindered and limited from flooding the heart to overflowing this is the reason for the earnestness of his prayer.

**Christ dwelling in the heart means:**

- The character of Christ is in the heart.
- The fruits of the Spirit are in the heart.
- The things that Christ loves, is in the heart.
- God's best interest is in the heart.
- The desire to please and obey God is in the heart.

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**LOVE THAT SURPASSES KNOWLEDGE**

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- **Ephesians 3:17-19:** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love <sup>18</sup>may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Here Paul is praying that those who belong to the family of Christ would know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. It was love which led the Son of God to be a man of sorrows, to be brutally persecuted and cruelly put to death in the most shameful manner – an innocent man on a cross as a common criminal; and nailed there not for himself, but for others. Who could understand that? Where else has there been anything

like that? What is there with which such love can be compared? And how could it be fully understood? Yet Paul knew something of its immeasurable magnitude can be known and felt it in our inner most being. Paul desired that as far as possible everyone would not only understand, but also experience this great love which the Lord Jesus Christ had manifested for a dying world. Paul had brilliant knowledge of the Old and New Testament and Jesus chose him to proclaim the Gospel, yet with all this wonderful knowledge he prays that brothers and sisters in Christ would know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge for the following two reasons:

- It is the love God and of Christ that comforts, strengthens and keeps brothers and sisters in the faith through persecution and the trials, temptations and hardships of life.
- Living from God's love honours God, brings a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and makes us the best witness to the unsaved world that we can possibly be. John wrote:
- Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love (1 John 4:8).
- God is love and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him (1 John 4:16).

These verses shine a spotlight on the truth that living in love is not only living in the Spirit and living in God, but also outwardly manifesting the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ to the world in the best possible way we can.

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## PHILIPPIANS 4

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### MY GOD WILL SUPPLY EVERY NEED

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- **Philippians 4:19:** My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

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This does not mean God will give us everything we want in this world as some teach, but that in Christ God will supply everything we need to be saved to eternal life. It means whatever a person needs to be saved to eternal life is in Jesus. God's riches in glory do not refer to worldly riches, but to God's love, kindness, forgiveness, compassion and His great grace that he lavishes on those who seek after Him these are the riches God will supply to those in Christ. The Bible teaches; whoever has faith in God's Son is a brother or sister of the Lord and therefore an adopted child of God and as such a rightful heir to all the glorious majestic and eternal promises God made to Abraham the father of faith thousands of years ago. This is why Paul was able to say with total confidence, "God will supply your every need" meaning our every need to be saved to eternal life because everything we need to be saved to eternal life and everlasting glory and inherit the eternal breathtaking and awe-inspiring promises made to Abraham is in Christ.

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## COLOSSIANS 1

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### THE MYSTERY HIDDEN FOR AGES AND GENERATIONS BUT NOW REVEALED

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- **Colossians 1:26-27:** the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup>To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery which is Christ in you the hope of glory.

The word mystery in these verses, refer to the fact that the people of Israel believed that all the promises God had made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David regarding the coming Messiah the Christ and all that the Old Testament prophets had spoken about the promised seed to come who would bless and rule the nations where restricted solely to the nation

of Israel. The Jews clearly believed that God's promises and the coming Messiah the Christ were for their nation and their nation only. The mystery of Christ that was hidden in the Old Testament embraces the following things:

- The Kingdom of the promised Messiah the Christ would embrace the Jews as well as the Gentile nations.
- All the promises God made to Israel would also apply to the Gentiles, (because all God's promises are in Christ).
- Both Jews and Gentiles would be saved by faith in Jesus Christ.
- The plans, purposes and promises of God would be revealed in Jesus and would all be obtained through faith in Christ.
- Everything that is needed for salvation for Jews and Gentiles would be in Christ.
- The character nature and power of God and God's love, grace and mercy would be revealed in Christ to both Jews and Gentiles alike.

Paul no-doubt in magnificent and triumphant joy tells the Colossian brothers and sisters that the riches and the glory of this mystery not only refers to the glorious truth that we are all (Jews and Gentiles) saved through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and in him we have the wonderful hope of eternal life in everlasting glory, but also includes the truth that in this present age Christ dwells within the heart of all who are devoted to him by his spirit and by love.

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## CHRIST IN YOU

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The word (*in*) from Strong's Concordance means, in, by, with, among, at, on, through and together with which means that the words, Christ in you can mean together with. Therefore Paul statement: "To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (v27) could read, "To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ among you or together with you the hope of glory. Based on these facts some teach that the verse should actually read, "Christ amongst you" meaning that Christ by his spirit is amongst the church and those who gather together in his name.

Though this is certainly a true statement since the Lord himself said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them" (Matt. 18:20) it does not mean that the verse is wrong in saying, "Christ in you" since Christ by his Spirit and by love and through faith dwells in the heart and mind of every devoted brother and sister who faithfully follows him.

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## THE HOPE OF THE FAITHFUL

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When salvation to eternal life is spoken of as the hope of the faithful in Christ, it is not called hope because it might or might not happen, but because it is unseen and yet future. The hope itself is guaranteed because it is based on God's promise and he cannot lie (Rom. 8:24). The apostle Paul wrote; "In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began" (Titus 1:2). The Christian hopes to be resurrected from the grave to be raised up to eternal life and everlasting glory to be made perfectly free from sin; to be everlastingly happy, but it is faith that gives these things a mental reality in the mind and it is under this influence of faith that those in Christ allow these unseen and yet future events to control their mind as if they were a reality now.

The difference between faith and hope is that by faith alone we are sure of eternal salvation it is certain and guaranteed by faith whereas by hope we look forward with confidence that we will be raised to eternal life. All Christian hope stands on faith since it is faith that secures and guarantees the promise of God. This means that faith and hope go together they are partners that complement each other since the same things that are the focus of our hope are the same things that our faith is trusting in. faith secures while hope looks forward to what is secured by faith.

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### BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS

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**Having the Spirit of Christ:** is being in the likeness of Christ, being humble as he was humble and endeavouring to live in attitude and lifestyle as he did in love, compassion, kindness, mercy, grace and forgiveness it is about being humble and putting others first.

**In Christ:** carries the idea of fully belonging to Christ. Christ is the head of a new race those who belong to Christ are in this new race by faith in belonging to Christ. Adam was the head of the old race that all those without Christ are in. Christians could say they were in Adam, or in Adams race or in Adams world, but are now in Christ, or in Christ's race or in Christ's world.

**Salvation in Christ:** when a sinner comes to saving faith, by the word of God planted in the heart, the seed sown on the right soil germinates in the heart and they receive the indwelling Holy Spirit of God and of Christ.

#### **Christ dwelling in the heart can be defined as:**

- The character of Christ is in the heart.
- The fruit of the Spirit (love, mercy, kindness, compassion etc.), is in the heart.
- The things that Christ loves, is in the heart.
- God's best interest is in the heart.
- The desire to please and obey God is in the heart.

The Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of God and the Holy Spirit in us means that the vital principal of a person's heart, mind and passion is:

- Always seeking to know God and the Lord Jesus Christ and aiming to please them.
- Having a continual desire to understand the Bible and to fellowship with other Christians.
- Being thankful to God and the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.
- Hating wrongdoing, but loving justice.
- Desiring to keep God's law and endeavouring to manifest the fruits of the Spirit toward others.
- Being aware of inward sin before God and desiring to be free from it.
- Having a heart and mind that is longing for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ is in us when the above desires are the vital principal in our heart, our mind and our life, it is when the inner man (the real and authentic person) of those in Christ, love the same things that he loves. These desires are the inward evidence that the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit and

the Spirit of Christ are dwelling within, because they are the desires and the character of God and of Christ. These desires will vary in strength amongst all Christians in their outward manifestation and lifestyle, it will depend a lot on what background they come from, what religious teachings they have had, what abuses and hurts they suffering or have experienced, but when a person deliberately lives contrary to these desires they are limiting themselves from experiencing God's love, peace, joy and contentment, because they are living contrary to who they really are in Christ.

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## **GOD'S SPIRIT AND CHRIST'S SPIRIT**

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God's Spirit and Christ's Spirit are in perfect unity, perfect love and in perfect harmony of mind in will and purpose therefore the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ can be viewed as being identical. To attempt to dissect down to microscopic detail the difference between the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ is (I think) to do God and the Lord an injustice since there is nothing in prayer, we can say to Christ that God does not hear. Added to this is the truth that there is nothing we can say to the Father that the Son is not also listening to and there is nothing we can hide in deed or action from either God or the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the reason God's Spirit and Christ's Spirit are often indistinguishable, especially in prayer since they are united together in perfect love, mind and purpose and both God and Christ dwell in the heart of every faithful believer by faith, by love, by grace and by the Spirit.

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## **GOD'S GREAT LOVE AND MAJESTIC FORGIVENESS**

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The Scriptures state God's love is toward those who belong to the family of Christ, but we must believe this or we will not experience such great unconditional and heavenly love. Whoever belongs to the family of Christ and does not experience God's love in their heart should know that it is not because God does not love them, but because they don't believe it. God's love is always over-flowing as a river toward those who love His Son, it is only disbelieve that dams this river of God's glory flowing into the heart of those who belong to the Saviour who willing laid his life down for them.

Every faithful brother and sister in Christ should arrive at a place of heartfelt assurance and confidence in their faith that God loves them. God's love for them is so great that He gave his only Son so that they should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). What more can the heavenly Father do to show how much He loves those who love His Son? But the breathtaking majesty of God's love is not limited to Christians only, but longs to dwell in the hearts of those who do not yet know God's forgiveness and the grace that He so abundantly desires to lavish on those who by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ come to Him.

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## **DEVELOPING A RELATIONSHIP OF LOVE**

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Some may wonder, how people who believe in Christ, who they have never seen develop a heartfelt love relationship that is so great that they are prepared to die for him (he has already died for them). With today's modern technology this is quite easy to understand. Multitudes of men and woman worldwide communicate to each other over the internet for weeks, months and even years before they meet. Though they have never met or had any physical contact because they live thousands of miles apart through their regular communication with each other they become best friends. They get to know each other on a personal and intimate level like no other person does and many fall in love even though they have never physically seen each other. When they finally meet in reality the

joy is overwhelming. Likewise, faithful Christians over many years develop the same relationship with the Saviour and King who they have never seen and when he does appear, they like the man or the woman who is meeting the one they have grown to love will also be overwhelmed with eternal and overflowing joy.

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Bible House of Grace