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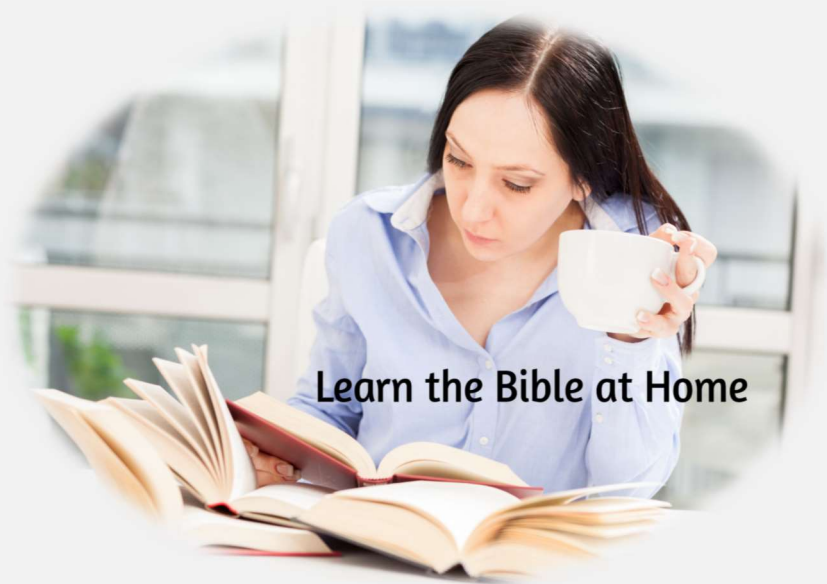
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God was in Christ.

(2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

God was in Christ.

- **2 Corinthians 5:18-19:** All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

The statement, "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself" does not mean that Christ was God. Jesus manifested God and God's word in the flesh so in this sense God was in Christ through the Spirit and the word reconciling the world to Himself. At Jesus water baptism God poured out His Spirit upon Christ without measure (meaning without limitation). Jesus was not only filled with God's spirit in power, but also filled with God's Spirit of love, grace mercy and forgiveness Jesus was the perfect reflection of God in every way this what the expression "God was in Christ" means. The following verses show that God can pour his spirit upon a person and even lift apportion of it off that person and place it place it onto others as He chooses:

- Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD and he gathered seventy men of the elders and placed them around the tent then the LORD came down in the cloud and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it and two men named Eldad and Medad remained in the camp and the Spirit rested on them and so they also prophesied (Num 11:24-26).

These verses very clearly show that God is able to pour out His Spirit in varying portions on whoever he chooses. Though brothers and sisters in Christ can be filled with God's Spirit no one thinks they can become God no matter how much of His Spirit they may be filled with, yet when Paul talks of Jesus being filled with God's Spirit it is used to support the mistaken theory that Jesus is God, but Paul is not teaching that Christ is God, but that he is filled with the fullness of God's Spirit in every way and without any limitations.

1

The following verse show that God dwells in the believer:

- 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. (Rom. 8:9).

Here we are told the Spirit of God dwells in every faithful believer, obviously no one thinks this truth means that a believer is God so why should the words God in Christ be taken to mean, Christ is God (as some believe). Added to this Paul's words, "Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him." Shows that those who confess to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are expected to have the Spirit of Christ dwelling in them otherwise they are not a Christian. Once again no one believes that having Christ's Spirit dwelling in them makes them Jesus. Christ Spirit dwells in a believer means that his love, compassion, mercy, grace and forgiveness etc., dwells in their heart and that the supreme desire and passion of their mind and heart is to honour God and bring a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ.

- If the Spirit of him (God) who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he (God) who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his (God) Spirit who dwells in you. (Rom. 8:11).

The Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead was the Spirit of God which means that this verse is also saying that the Spirit of God dwells in every faithful believer. So it would be right and proper to say, God is in every faithful believer (howbeit with limitations) no one would consider for a moment that this means the believer is God, yet when the same language us used of Jesus and it is said that God was in Christ, certain people believe it to mean Jesus is God. God is in every faithful believer by His

Spirit (with limitations) God was in Christ by His Spirit without any limitations. The Spirit of God that was in Christ refers to God's Spirit of love and miraculous power over creation and to heal. The Spirit of God that is in every faithful brother and sister in Christ is God's love and righteousness that God imputes to everyone who has faith in Christ as a free and pure gift. This is the glory of the Christian faith everyone is saved by faith and by God's grace and not by strictly and legalistically adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions. Every brother and sister in Christ are saved by Jesus righteousness and not their own.

- **Ephesians 3:14-17:** For this reason I (Paul) bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 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, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love.

Paul is praying that those in Christ would be strengthened according to the riches of God's glory. 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 is praying that God the Father would strengthen the inner being of the Ephesians and by extension every faithful brother and sister in Christ so that Christ would dwell in their hearts by faith in contrast to legalistically adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days, religious customs and traditions to be counted righteous as the Jewish believers were doing.

When Paul uses the word, riches it denotes abundance.

2

Paul's greatest desire was that every believer would comprehend that God's rich grace is not only inexhaustible and ample for all their needs for eternal 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 Paul 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 thus the earnestness of his prayer.

Paul's words, "That Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith" (v17) means:

- That the character of Christ may dwell in their heart.
- That the fruit of the Spirit may dwell in their heart.
- That the things that Christ loves may dwell in their heart.
- That God's best interest may dwell in their heart.
- That the desire to please and obey God is may dwell their heart.

Jesus says:

- Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends,” (John 15:13).

When a person’s spiritual eyes are opened to perceiving their fallen condition before God and understand what it cost God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ to save them their heart is filled with overwhelming love for the Lord, it is in this sense that Christ dwells in the human heart.

Christ dwells in the heart of every faithful brother and sister by love.

The following is a true story and a good example of how a person dwells in the heart of another. An eight-year old disabled girl, whose best friend was her mother was doing her first live school stage show. The mother loved her daughter but 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. The small girl with tears in her eyes said, “Yes I will miss her, but she will be in my heart where she belongs.” Love for a person creates the reality and presence of that person in the human heart. This presence is in direct proportion to the love (i.e., the greater the love the greater the presence).

YOU BEING ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE

The words, “that you being rooted” (Eph. 3:17) means that they would be firmly established. The words, “Being rooted” carry the idea that they would be as a tree whose roots strike deep and extend far and wide through the soil and as the roots of a tree penetrate deep into the earth so they would be rooted deep in love. This is the soil in which we are all to grow it is God’s infinite love that Paul prays will strike the roots of the inner most being of every brother and sister in Christ and that from this love they would find all the spiritual nourishment needed for their full growth, until they have the mind in them that was in Jesus and are filled with all the fullness of God.

The outward man is strengthened by earthly food, while the inward man is strengthened by the knowledge of Christ, the knowledge of God and by spiritual and heavenly influences (i.e., love, joy, peace and righteousness). These are the divine food of the inward man (i.e., of Jesus Christ). The enormity of Christ’s love that surpasses knowledge is comprehended when the inner man is fed and nourished by divine food as the body is by natural food (v18-19).

WE ABIDE IN HIM AND HE IN US

- **1 John 4:12-13:** No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

God abides in us is the same as saying God is in us. God dwells in every faithful believer by His Spirit of love, when the Bible says; God dwells in the believer it does not mean that the believer is God so why should it be assumed that because the Scriptures say that God dwells in the Lord Jesus Christ, Jesus is God? The expression God dwells in Christ and in every faithful believer simply means that God dwells in His Son and the believer by His love.

The cement that that unites and holds the global body of Christ together is God’s love.

- God is in every faithful believer by love and they are in Him by love.
- Christ is in God by love and God is in Christ by love.

- Christ is in every faithful believer by love and they are in him by love.

It is God's love that unites God and Christ to every faithful believer and them to Christ and God.

John wrote:

- Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love (1 John 4:8).
- So, we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him (1 John 4:16).

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