

# **Christ Lives In Us And Does His Work Through Us (Part II)**

**Pastor's/Missionaries Convention**

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## **Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)**

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

## **Tonight I want to continue the message that I began this morning.**

Paul said, "When I met Jesus He transformed me! I am not the person that I was before I met Christ." The old me no longer exists. The old me was crucified with Christ."

That was not only true of the great Apostle Paul. That is also true of every person who has truly been born-again.

## **2 Cor. 5:17 (NKJV)**

Therefore, if **anyone** is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

You could say it this way, "Everyone who is in Christ is a new creation. That means you and it means me! The problem is, we must accept that fact by faith. We still live in the same old flesh. We still have our old carnal nature to deal with. We still live in an earthen vessel. And it's hard to accept the fact that we are not who we used to be before we got save,

That's why the Apostle Paul said.....

## **Romans 6:11-13 (NLT)**

**So you should consider yourselves dead to sin and able to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus.**

[12] Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to its lustful desires. [13] Do not let any part of your body become a tool of wickedness, to be used for sinning. Instead, give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God.

## **The NKJV puts it this way.....**

### **Romans 6:11 (NKJV)**

Likewise you also, **reckon** yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word “reckon” means, “to consider it as a fact”. The Word of God says that you are a new person. You must see yourself that way. God says you are a new person and so you are whether you feel like it or not.

Most people never realize their full potential because they don't know who they are. They're afraid to do anything because they think they have to do in their own strength. If you understand it's not you, but it's Christ in you, then you can accomplish what He wants to do through you.

One of the things that transformed the great evangelist D.L. Moody was the sudden realization that it was not the famous preacher, Charles Haddon Spurgeon who was building that great church in London and doing that great work: it was God working through him. And Moody realized that if God could use Spurgeon, He could use him too.

What I am trying to get you to realize is that the same God who lived in Moody and Spurgeon and who lives in Billy Graham, Benny Hinn, T.D. Jakes, Joyce Meyer, Mike Mille`, Randy Caldwell and every other person who is a Christian, is the One who lives in you. Don't tell me that He can work through them but He can't work through you. If that were true He would not be God. He would be impotent. He would be powerless! That's absurd! Either God can work through you or He isn't God. Incompetence melts in the presence of omnipotence.

So if the Lord appears not to be using you, it's not because you lack ability. In fact, God delights in displaying His power by using those who seem the least likely to succeed.

Listen to the words of Paul.....

### **1 Cor. 1:26-29 (NLT)**

Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes, or powerful, or wealthy when God called you. [27] Instead, God deliberately chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. **And he chose those who are powerless to shame those who are powerful.** [28] God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important, [29] so that no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

The world may not think that you are educated enough or that you can accomplish very much, but they don't realize who you are. They don't realize that you have become a new person. They don't understand that Christ lives inside of you and He's the One who works through you. The difference between who you now are and who you used to be is enormous!

So many of us are like the homeless man who was thrilled because he thought that he had inherited \$10,000, when in fact, he had actually inherited \$1 billion.

The problem is that our minds have not been renewed. We still think the way we used to think. We still think of ourselves as the same person we used to be.

We're like Gideon. God told him that he was a mighty man of valor. Gideon said, "God says we are mighty men and women in Christ. We say, "Lord, you must be thinking of someone else. I'm not a mighty man of valor. I can't do anything!"

### **Judges 6:14-16 (NKJV)**

Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?" [15] So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." And the Lord said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."

How was that possible? Because God said, "I will be with you."

We have got to renew our minds to think in terms of who we are now and not in terms of who we used to be!

**My friend, you and I are God's masterpiece!** We need to read and re-read the first two chapters of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. It is absolutely incredible! Let me just read a little of it to you.

**Ephes. 1:3-5 (NLT)**

How we praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we belong to Christ.** [4] Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. [5] His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.

**Ephes. 1:19-20 (NLT)**

**I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of his power for us who believe him.** This is the same mighty power [20] that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

**Ephes. 2:8-10 (NLT)**

God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. [9] Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. **[10] For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.**

**Ephes. 3:14-21 (NLT)**

**When I think of the wisdom and scope of God's plan, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father,** [15] the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. [16] I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you mighty inner strength through his Holy Spirit. [17] **And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him.** May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love. [18] And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is.

**[19] May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it.** Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

**[20] Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.** [21] May he be given glory in the church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever through endless ages. Amen.

**Wow!**

No wonder Paul said.... “**I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of his power for us who believe him.**” “Although it is so great that you will never fully understand it.”

If God’s people could only get a revelation who they are and the incredible power that they have we could transform the world in a matter of days.

**God’s incredible plan is to do His work through us!** Through Jerry Owens, Sandy Owens, Joe Mulford, Chris Holloway, Margaret Lavine, Josh Ramirez, Martha Ramirez, Chena Martin, Gerald Martin, Stacy Nissen, Debbie Nissen, Janet Nissen, Mark Walker and Blanche Walker....through every person in this room and every person who will be here this week and every born-again believer throughout the world...all two billion of us!

God wants to do His work through you! He wants to use your hands and your words and your abilities and your gifts. He wants to accomplish through you **infinitely more than you would ever dare to ask or hope that you could do.**

**He longs to release you into all that He created you for.** Think about it, the Creator and creature working in union to accomplish what otherwise would be impossible.

**I know you feel inadequate. And you are inadequate in your own self.** But you are not alone. Christ lives within you! Together you can do what He has called you to do.

**The work of Christ is being accomplished in innumerable ways through multiplied millions of people who are His body in this world.**

**You say, “Pastor Ron, how do I discover what Christ wants me to do?”**

The answer is, He will give you a burden or a desire or a passion for a certain need or ministry that He wants to do.

**His ultimate plan for you may be revealed in stages.**

Jesus said to the faithful servant... 'Well done, good and faithful servant; **you were faithful over a few things**, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

Whatever the Lord gives you to do, do it well; do it with all your heart and He will reward you by giving you more to do for His glory.

**I think about a lady who is here today, her name is Sherrel Muckleroy.**

For several years she ministered to Brother and Sister Barerra. The Lord knew that Brother and Sister Barerra needed someone to help them and so He gave Sherrel and some of the other ladies in our church a desire to help them. Sherrel and the others helped them and in turn, the Barerras ministered to them. As Sherrel ministered to the Barreras, God began to give her a desire to do missionary work. Sherrel received a prophet in the name of a prophet and received a prophet's reward.

God gave Sherrel a desire to go to Belize and work with the churches down there. So she went. After that, she was invited to go to Mexico and do some missionary work down there.

While she was there, God made her aware of the little girls who are being forced into prostitution down there and gave her the desire to do something to help them.

That desire became a passion. Sherrel knew she had to help those little girls.

Why? Because Christ lives in her and Christ wanted to do something to help those little girls and He choose to use Sherrel to do it.

It was not Sherrel's idea. It was God's idea! It's not Sherrel's ministry, it's His ministry. He is simply using Sherrel to do the work that He wants to do!

That's the way God's work is accomplished. He is using all of us to do His work.

And it's not just the five fold ministry. Paul said.....

**Ephes. 4:11-12 (NLT)**

(Christ) is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. [12] Their responsibility is **to equip God's people to do his work** and build up the church, the body of Christ,

**Are you one of God's people?** Then you are called to be do His work! The job of the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers is to equip you to do God's work!

**What is God's work?** It is every thing that needs to be done in the body of Christ. Barbara Smith is doing God's work as she prepares lunch for us. She and her helpers have been working for weeks getting every thing ready.

Eloy and his helpers are doing it. They've been working for weeks trimming limbs, mowing grass, setting up tables and cleaning rest rooms and picking up trash. They are doing God's work.

Stacy and all of the musicians, dancers, and choir members are doing it. They've been rehearsing for weeks preparing to lead us in worship.

The ladies in the nurseries are doing it, taking care of the babies so that the mothers can enjoy the services.

Cristina and Sister Vian and their helpers are doing it. They are teaching our children about the Bible and about Jesus.

The list goes on and on! God is doing His work through us.

He reveals a specific need to you and gives you the desire to do it. He reveals some other need to someone else and gives them the desire to do it.

The fact that you have a desire to fill a certain need in the church is proof that Christ is in you and reaching out through you to fill that need.

God has given Margaret Levine a burning desire to encourage missionaries. She's been here at the church for hours and hours putting up their pictures and designing a beautiful bulletin board for them and putting together wonderful little gift bags for them. She has spent a lot of her own money. God is doing a wonderful work through her.

That's what the church is. It's you and me and all of us together allowing Christ to do His work through us.

**.....glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.**

My prayer for you and me is the same as the apostle Paul's.

**I pray that we will begin to understand the incredible greatness of his power that is in us and for us who believe him.**

I pray that prayer especially for the missionaries, Pastors and evangelists who are here in this convention. God gave me this word especially for you.

If you are doing what you are doing because the Christ within you told you to do it, then stop worrying! Stop Fretting! Get up every morning and realize that you are not alone, Christ is in you to lead you and guide you and empower you and to use you for His Purpose.

Yield yourself to Him and apply yourself to the ministry He has given you to do. If God has placed that desire in you He will surely bring it to fruition. In the words of Paul... "it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

### **Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)**

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? [2] Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, **but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.** Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.

That's what I want God to do for me. I want Him to transform me into a new person by changing the way I think about myself!

**Stand with me and let's ask God to transform our thinking!**