

At Home Within Our Heart

The Lord Jesus takes up His residence and lives in every believer at the time of conversion (salvation). Yet Paul prayed in **Ephesians 3:17**: *“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love...”* Why would Paul pray that if the Bible already tells us that Christ lives within us? He prays that Christ may “dwell” in our hearts. The only logical explanation is that there must be a difference between dwelling and living. The word “dwell” means “to be at home.” In his prayer, Paul is asking whether Christ is at home in our hearts. Read the words of Jesus in **John 14:23**: *“Anyone who loves Me will obey My teaching. My Father will love them, and We will come to them and make Our home with them.”* Jesus also said, **Revelation 3:20**: *“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with Me.”* You see, it is not a question of God being in the believer, but rather of His feeling at home there! God is a permanent Resident in every saved person, but He desires to have full access to our mind and spirit; that He might not be grieved by sinful words, thoughts, motives, and deeds; and that He might enjoy unbroken fellowship with the believer. Our heart refers to the center of our spiritual life; it governs every aspect of our behavior, and the Christian heart becomes the home of Christ. Similar to how Jesus loved being in Bethany at the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, He also desires the same comfort with us. Paul’s prayer for all Christians is that Jesus Christ might live in our hearts and be at home there, that He might dwell there, and that He might be comfortable there. Jesus wants to be part of our daily lives. The more we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit, the more we will become like the Lord Jesus Himself. And the more we are like Him, the more Jesus will feel completely at home in our hearts. Consider trying this: when you wake up in the morning, think of the Lord first. Pray and talk with Him. And the last thing before going to sleep, reflect on what the Lord has done for you in your life. God wants the Holy Spirit to bring Jesus Christ into your life. So ask yourself: Is Christ at home in my heart? Have I made Him comfortable here? Have I given Him a place of honor? If not, make things right with Him. Do whatever it takes to ensure that Jesus, our Lord and Savior, dwells comfortably in our hearts, each and every day.