

## The Problem Every Believer Faces

You come into this world with “ears to hear” and eventually someone comes to you and tells you of your need for forgiveness of your sins, and to change the direction you are heading, from hell to heaven.

You recognize that there is nothing you can do to change this direction, except believe in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Nothing that you are able to “do” can change your direction. You can never be “good enough” to deserve a position in heaven, and this truth you finally believe.

After being instructed to “give your life to the Lord Jesus Christ” you simply believe the record concerning the work of Jesus Christ on your behalf, and receive Him as Lord and Savior.

Ah, the work is done – correct? Well not exactly. The more you study about this new birth, and the One who gave it to you, and the more you study about His character, His actions, His mercy, goodness etc. the more (if you are totally honest with yourself) you see the gulf between who He is and who you have become.

All too often, even though you truly believe that you are a new creation in Christ Jesus, your experience does not bare it out. For example we may very well talk of Christ living in me, however in a practical fact, far more of me shows up than of Him. We read where we are now a partaker of the divine nature and express Christ, but in fact do I?

Scripture teaches me that I have “put off the old man and put on the new” however at times it is very evident to me that the old man is still around.

Some would teach you that when the “new man” is not evident, that you were never part of Him, and that kind of activity will assure you a part in the “lake of Fire” promised to Satan and his followers.

Beloved, I have some very good news for you today.

When Scripture teaches us that “God is Love.” We tend to believe that this love is something that He gives to me. Love is not something He could share with me, it is He Himself. He cannot take parts of Himself and give it to me. He can only be Himself.

Scripture teaches us that He (God) is power. Not that He **has** power, He **is** power. His Word says He **is** life – (not **has life**, as though He gives us something apart from Himself). Scripture tell us that Christ **is** (not has) all and in all.

Our mistake is the idea that He would give things to me, and then I would become something. The truth is that humans do not exist to “become something” but rather to “contain Someone.” We tend to buy into the notion that we are to “be this” or “become that.” placing my entire attention of what I *am* or *ought* to be.

Once you understand this important fact, you will cease to look for improvements in yourself, and the center of your attention will no longer be around what you feel, don't feel, or whether you are this or that. You and I are not in view here. We do not fix our attention on ourselves, or my reactions, or my adequacies or inadequacies.

If you will notice we are referred to as **vessels**. “We have this treasure in an earthen vessel.”

Well what is the treasure? – Correct – the Lord Jesus Himself. Well who is the earthen vessel – of

course that is us.

This vessel has but one function. That is to contain. It exists to be a container. The vessel does not become the liquid it holds. They are separate entities.

So, I as a human do not become the power of love, or the wisdom of God, I merely contain Him who is all of these things.

We humans are not created to *become something*, We humans have been created to *contain Someone*. Where we used to contain the activity of the Devil, before we gave our lives to Christ, we now contain all that He is.

We now contain all that He is. Why? Because He is the living God, and therefore the All and in All.

When we grasp this truth, it will transfer our attention from worrying about myself, as the vessel not *being this* or *becoming that*. I am just a container. Clearly I contain the Person who gives nothing, but is Himself everything. The end result is that “as He is, so am I in this world.” It then becomes a “leap of faith” to believe this about yourself.

He doesn't impart certain gifts to me, but rather He imparts Himself and all that He is. You will notice in First Corinthians 12 where the various gifts are mentioned, they are all the manifestations of the same Holy Spirit. As He gives Himself to His people, He is also giving to each person a portion of Himself. Paul mentions this in relationship to a physical body. You are not able to break up the one body. Every portion of the body has a job to do, but it is the body that is in view, not the activity of a member of that body.

He summarizes his argument in verse 27 with “Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually”

You and I are the means whereby He can be himself in human containers. Once I understand this important fact, my main function in life changes from activity to receptivity. Activity centers around how I can be this or do that, around my human self.

Receptivity is occupied with receiving or recognizing who I contain, which is the only function of a vessel.

Look around you. All life is in this same relationship to God. My garden exists by what it receives. Sunlight and rain. The activity of the garden is the result of what it has received.

We tend to lose our way because we have been blinded to the fact of our being containers of God and have substituted our self-activity.

Our focus needs to be on who we contain. Let's face it folks. We contain God Himself. He is inside of every born again believer. And, His promise is that He will never leave us. His promise is that nothing can separate us from Him. Not even ourselves. Read it again in Romans 8: 31-37.

We would do well to meditate on the fact that we are always in **unity** with Him. Where we go, He goes. We never again seek Him as if He is somehow apart from us. Our unity with Him is all we are. He is the vine, we are the branches. We are His body, but He is the head.

We tend to talk to Him as though He had no idea what is going on. We pray “Lord heal my Aunt so in

so, because she is in the hospital in Houston and the doctors have given up hope on her healing. She is scared Father and you know how faithful she has been to your people and your church over the years, and on an on we go with it. The whole time the Lord is saying, ok Tom, what do you want done. We ask Him to be present, as though He has been absent. There is little understanding on our part of our Union with Him.

It was the Heavenly Father in the Son Jesus doing the work while Jesus walked on earth. Jesus said Himself, "the words I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father who dwells in Me, He does the work.

I know that there are some who would disagree with me when I speak of a second crisis in all of our lives. But if we are totally honest with ourselves, even though He is now our life, all to often we see more of us than of Him.

My objective in this writing is to have our focus upon our union with Him, and He now living His life in each of our lives. Not looking for improvement in ourselves, but rather concentrating on who it is that we contain. Relaxing in our relationship with Him. Seeking more of Him, knowing more about Him, and recognizing that there is no separation between Him and each of His kids.

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