

ETHAN TEMPLE MINISTRIES TOOLS FOR LIFE

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THE PATH TO DISCOVERY

The abiding-in-Christ teaching in the Bible is one of the most important truths that a Christian can understand. Everything hinges on experiencing the reality of abiding in Christ and Christ abiding in the believer. However, every Christian who discovers this glorious truth of Christ in us has followed a similar path as their fellow travelers. They had accepted Christ as their Savior but were burdened and bewildered by their Christian walk that was so sporadic in obedience and unfruitful in service. They longed for a consistently faithful walk with their Lord, but never found it. They struggled with besetting sins, but the sins seemed to win the battle. They prayed and studied their Bibles, but that didn't seem to bring the victory they longed for. After perhaps years of struggle, they came to the point of despair and weariness. Their sense of failure was overwhelming. The life of continual victory over sin seemed impossible to attain. Then one day they discovered the reality of the mystery of union with Christ – Christ living in them. Once discovered, they were amazed at how simple this marvelous truth is, yet it had eluded their understanding for years. After this discovery their life was never again the same. Their joy in the Lord was deep and abiding. Their life was now consistently victorious, even over besetting sins. They no longer felt burdened or anxious in their service for the Lord, and their service became the most fruitful.

The truth of abiding in Christ and His abiding in us, and how we are to experience a victorious Christian life is so simple – and yet so elusive – that most Christians have never discovered it to the fullest. Today God is calling us to this amazing experience in Christ. Why? Jesus is coming soon! All who are ready to meet Him will be just like Him:

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2).

Their daily experience will have had to become one of complete victory in Christ if they are to be “like” Jesus when He comes:

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously” (1 Peter 2:21 – 23).

Therefore, this wonderful biblical truth is of no small consequence to Christians living in our day. Jesus is coming soon, and God is calling us to a much higher experience with Him than most of us have ever had. This devotional section is dedicated to the goal of leading all who read it to understand and experience the abiding God is offering to us; Christ in us, the hope of glory for His people.

“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27).

When this truth is understood and discovered, the believer will proclaim from the depths of his heart, “Christ did it all.” The deliverance Christ gives lays all human boasting in the dust. Man can claim no glory for the victories over temptation and sin. All the glory will go to God and will be proclaimed throughout all eternity:

“That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: that, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord” (1 Cor. 1:29 – 31).

Personal Reflection and Discussion

Describe the path most Christians who have discovered the truth of “Christ in you, the hope of glory” have followed:

How will understanding and experiencing this truth change the Christian’s life?

Why is this truth essential for the Christian to understand and experience?

How desirous are you to understand and experience the truth of abiding in Christ and Christ abiding in you?

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