

GOD IN YOU

- A. Introduction: We have been talking about the fact that Jesus said God has given us His kingdom (Luke 12:32) and about how that knowledge will help us walk in effective faith or faith that experiences results.
1. One of the greatest enemies to effective faith is awareness of our sin and the resulting sense of unworthiness. To walk in effective faith awareness of sin and unworthiness must be dealt with.
 - a. The remedy for that sense of unworthiness and awareness of sin is righteousness. Righteousness removes our sin and the resulting sense of unworthiness.
 - b. When you are born again the kingdom of God comes into you (Luke 17:20,21). It is a kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy (Rom 14:17).
 - c. When you believe the facts of the gospel and you are born again the kingdom comes into you and produces a change in you that results in righteousness, peace, and joy.
 2. The entrance of the kingdom, or the new birth, gives you righteousness. It makes you righteous or right with God. Rom 10:9,10; Rom 5:17
 - a. Through the Cross of Christ God has provided men with two kinds of righteousness -- imputed righteousness and imparted righteousness.
 1. Imputed righteousness means we are declared righteous or counted righteous. Righteousness is written down to our account. Rom 4:22-24
 2. Imparted righteousness is the righteousness of God put into us at the new birth. It is the life and nature of God imparted to us. II Cor 5:21
 - b. Through the new birth we received eternal life or the uncreated life in God Himself. We now have union with God and partake of His life or His nature. II John 5:11,12; I Cor 6:17; II Pet 1:3
 1. The word pictures used to describe our relationship to Jesus all depict union and shared life: vine and branch (John 15:5), head and body (Col 1:18), husband and wife (Eph 5:30-32).
 2. Whatever is in that life is in you because His life is in you. Through union with Christ we partake of His righteousness. I John 4:17--For we realize that our life in this world is actually his life lived in us. (Phillips)
 - c. Being made right with God then produces peace with God. Peace means reconciliation. Because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus we have been reconciled to God. Rom 5:1
 1. We now stand before God in union with Him, partakers of His life and nature through and with Christ. We stand before Him with the same position Jesus had when He was on the earth because we have the same eternal life in us Jesus had.
 2. Col 1:21,22--Yet now He reconciled (you and me) in the body of His flesh through death, in order that He might present you holy and without blemish and unchangeable before His searching and penetrating gaze. (Wuest)
 3. We stand before God holy, blameless, and unchangeable. Therefore we can be joyful. Jude 24
 3. In this lesson we want to continue our discussion of what all of this means.
- B. God's plan has always been to give His life to men and make them His sons through union with Himself.
1. God's intention was that Adam eat from the tree of life, choose dependence on God, and be united to the life in God, eternal life. The Bible begins and ends with the tree of life. Gen 2:9; Rev 2:7; 22:2,14
 - a. Adam chose independence from God, ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and united himself and the race in him to sin, Satan, and death. Gen 2:17
 - b. As a result, human beings are born into a fallen race, and, apart from Christ, are unrighteous, are sinners by nature. They are partakers of spiritual death which is the nature of Satan. Rom 5:19; Eph 2:1-3; 4:18; I John 3:10

- c. We all then choose independence from God and become guilty of our own sin. Isa 53:6; Rom 3:23
2. God did not make men to sin or for sin. God's goal has never been to punish men for sin but rather to remove it -- every trace of sin and the destruction it has brought, including even the memory of it.
 - a. God made men knowing that men would sin, would rebel, would choose independence from Him. But, He had a plan in mind to deal with it all through the Cross of Christ. Rev 13:8
 - b. Eph 1:4--Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own, through what Christ would do for us; he decided then to make us holy in his eyes, without a single fault -- we who stand before him covered with his love.
 1. Man's problem is more than what he does. His problem is what he is by birth, by nature.
 2. God's plan not only has to deal with our sin, His plan has to make it possible for us to be changed. Jesus died to deliver us from sin and then purify us. Titus 2:14
3. God works by love and by law. They are not mutually exclusive. God's Law is an expression of His love. By law, God cannot overlook sin in the men He loves. God's own Law says He cannot acquit the wicked. To acquit means to drop all charges. Ex 23:7; Ezek 4:14; 44:31; Nahum 1:3
 - a. The penalty proscribed by the Law must be carried out. The penalty is death or eternal separation from God. Rom 6:23; Ezek 18:4,20
 - b. God had to devise a plan whereby man could be restored to perfect relationship and fellowship with Himself on legal grounds.
4. God came up with a marvelous plan. He took our place in judgment. Jesus took on flesh, became a man, so He could die, so He could take the death due to us by law. Heb 2:14
 - a. Jesus is God become a man without ceasing to be God. While on earth He did not live as God. He lived as a man in dependence on, in union with, the Father. As a man, Jesus perfectly kept the Law of God so He had no sin of His own to pay for.
 - b. Because of the value of His person as the God man He was able to satisfy the claims of justice against the entire human race with three days and nights under the penalty of death.
 1. His resurrection is proof that our sins have been paid for and removed. All charges dropped.
 2. Rom 4:25--Who was delivered up because of our transgressions and was raised because of our justification (acquittal). (Wuest)
 - c. Once our sin was paid for, once justice was satisfied, God could do what He always intended to do -- make us His sons by giving us His life. The Cross gave God a legal right to make unrighteous sinners into holy, blameless sons.
 1. God is righteous. He has upheld the Law and carried out the penalty proscribed by the Law. And now, He has become our righteousness by giving us His life and uniting us with Himself.
 2. Rom 3:26--For the showing, I say, of his righteousness at this present season: that he might himself be righteous and the righteousness of him that hath faith in Jesus. (Margin, American Revision)
 - d. Through union with Christ we become partakers of His righteousness. Righteousness is part of our being because we partake of the divine nature. II Cor 5:21; Eph 4:24
5. Righteousness gives us the ability to stand in God's presence without the sense of guilt, condemnation, or inferiority, the ability to stand in God's presence as though sin had never been, as free as Adam was before sin, as free as Jesus was in His earth walk. Our sins have been removed and our nature changed.
 - a. All of this gives us a sound basis for faith. It shows us that God is not arbitrary or capricious (given to change) Your standing with God is secure because it is the result of union with Christ, as a result of the kingdom within.
 - b. Rom 8:10--Although your bodies must die because of sin (Williams) your spirit is full of life because of righteousness (Montgomery); the spirit is life itself because you have been justified

(NEB). When God looks at you, looks in you, He sees His life and nature.

- C. To fully appreciate what this union means, to fully appreciate what it means that the kingdom is within you, you must understand some things about your makeup as a human being.
1. Man is a tri-part being -- spirit, soul, and body. You are a spirit being who is clothed in a physical body and you possess a soul (your mind, emotions, and will). I Thess 5:23; etc.
 - a. At the new birth the life of God comes into you, into your spirit. At the new birth your spirit is united to God and transformed or made alive by and with the life in God, the life of God.
 - b. Your soul and body were not directly affected by the new birth. We are now supposed to renew our minds with the word of God and bring our bodies under the control of our transformed spirit.
 - c. Our souls and bodies will ultimately be transformed by the life of God and fully conformed to the image of Christ (Rom 8:29--another lesson for another night).
 2. The point for our discussion is this: Christians often have the wrong idea about what it means to be a spirit being, and, as a result, the marvelous changes in their spirit have little affect on their lives.
 - a. The terms spirit and heart are often used interchangeably so we tend to view the spirit portion of our make-up as a little heart-shaped dot somewhere on the inside of us. We talk about Jesus coming to live in our heart. But, that is not accurate. He has come to fill us -- our entire being.
 - b. According to the Bible, we are made in the image of God (Gen 1:26) and God is a Spirit (John 4:24). His whole being is spirit. Jesus said the one who is born of the spirit, born again, is spirit. John 3:6--Whatever is born of the spirit is spiritual. (Williams)
 1. Your spirit fills your body, every cell in your body. If your outward and inward man were to separate (that's what happens at death), you, your spirit, would look like you.
 3. Luke 16:19-31 Jesus talked about two men who died at about the same time. Even though they (who are spirit) were separated from their physical bodies they still were recognizable and they recognized each other. They still had memories, thoughts, feelings, etc.
 - c. People without their physical bodies, without the outward man -- are just as real as when the inward man and outward man are together. In the Book of Revelation the Apostle John saw heaven and he described some of what he saw.
 1. Rev 4:4,10,11--John saw people (not dots, not ghosts) with clothes, sitting, then falling down, throwing crowns which had been on their heads, people worshipping and talking.
 2. Rev 7:9,10--John saw people of clearly different nationalities, wearing clothes, holding palm branches, crying out praise to God.
 3. Rev 7:13-17--John talked with one of the elders who explained who the multitudes were. Obviously, he can see, talk, reason, remember, recognize, etc.
 3. When the Bible speaks of the changes in the one who is born again it does not speak of Jesus coming into the little dot in us. It speaks of becoming a new man, a man who is union with Christ, alive with the life of God. Eph 4:24; Col 3:10
 - a. We become a new creature. Creature is the word creation. You who are spirit have been recreated by the entrance of the life of God. II Cor 5:17--Therefore, if anyone is in union with Christ he is a new being. (20th Cent); He becomes a new person altogether (Phillips); There is a new creation whenever a man comes to be in Christ (Moffatt).
 - b. You (the man) have been changed. You (the man) have been made alive, made new, made holy, made righteous, by the kingdom coming into you, by being born again.
 - c. We are of God. I John 4:4--Of God's family (NEB); Out of God you are, little born-ones (Wuest). God is in you by His life, by His Spirit.
 4. The Bible also speaks of us as being made up of an inward man and an outward man, a physical part

and an immaterial part. II Cor 4:16

- a. God's original intention was that the inward man dominate the outward man. But when men were cut off from God because of sin, the outward man took the position of dominance. As a result we are all presently much more aware of our body and what it tells us than we are of our spirit.
- b. Until we are born again our mind get all of its information from the senses. But our senses do not have all the facts about reality. They cannot give us any information about the unseen realm.
- c. We must now get our picture of reality from the word of God and we must begin to assess ourselves according to the changes in us. II Cor 5:16--Once convinced of this then, I estimate no one by what is external. (Moffatt)

D. The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. God is now in us by His Spirit through His life.

1. After we are born again the Holy Spirit wants to work in us to bring to pass in the outward man the effects of the changes which have taken place in the inward man.
 - a. Rom 8:11--And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives within you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give Life to your mortal bodies, through his Spirit living within you. (20th Cent); Shall endow with life also your dying bodies (Conybeare); Shall make alive [even] your death-doomed bodies (Rotherham)
 - b. Eph 3:20--God does above what we can ask or think according to the power that works in us. That power is His life, His Spirit.
2. The Holy Spirit does not work in us automatically, apart from our will. We must cooperate with Him. We cooperate through faith. Faith is agreement with God.
 - a. Philemon 6 says the communication of our faith becomes effective as we acknowledge what we are, what is in us, because of our union with Christ.
 - b. Acknowledge means recognition, full knowledge, full discernment. Communication comes from a word that means to share with; an associate, a partaker; partnership. The same Greek word translated communication is used to describe our relationship with the Holy Spirit. II Cor 13:14
 - c. For these marvelous changes to benefit you, you must find out from God's word what they are and begin to acknowledge who and what you are as a result of your recreation, the new creation. The Holy Spirit is in you to then give you the experience in your life.
3. You must become God inside minded. I have the Godhead in me and I am complete because of my union with Christ.
 - a. Col 2:9,10--So you have everything when you have Christ, and you are filled with God through your union with Christ. (Taylor)
 - b. God is in me -- unseen, but real. I am united to, filled with, a partaker of health, strength, wisdom, holiness, etc.
4. You must decide to give the word of God first place. That means you take its testimony over and above every other source of information all the time and in every situation -- despite how you feel, despite how it looks.

E. Conclusion: Awareness of our sin and a sense of unworthiness undermine effective faith. However, Through the Cross God satisfied the claims of justice against you for your sin and declared you righteous.

1. Because all charges against you have been dropped, God was legally able to put His life in you, to put His righteousness in you, and unite you to Himself.
2. You are now of God -- holy, blameless, and righteous in His sight. He dwells in you, in every cell, to bring to pass outwardly the effect of all the changes in you. But, you must begin to agree with Him.