

Where Christ Lives

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

I met a man who was smoking a cigarette outside of the church, and he said to me, "I don't want to smoke inside the sanctuary."

And I said, "What does the sanctuary mean to you? I agree with you, but what does the sanctuary mean?"

He said, "That's where God lives."

I said, "Have you been saved?"

And he said, "Yes."

"I'm not even going to deal with your smoking" I said. "That is not the issue. That is between you and God. But, you need to know that the Holy Spirit is living inside of your body, not the church building. The Bible says that *you* are the sanctuary of God. *You* are the temple" (1 Corinthians 6:19).

If we would consider the One who is living inside of us, I'll guarantee that we would be very careful about the things we expose ourselves to. We would take care of our physical

bodies. We would get proper rest, eat properly, and have our bodies in the best possible condition, because of Who is living in us.

As this booklet reveals, God is in the bodies of believers to stay. He wants to make us happy. He wants to make us well. He wants to mobilize each individual member of His body to make us prosper and be in good health (3 John 2). When that is the case, His whole body—the corporate Body of Jesus Christ—can operate at its maximum potential, revealing the Savior to a lost and dying world.

Chapter One

HABITATIONS OF THE SPIRIT

“For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

“In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

“In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit” (Ephesians 2:18-22).

I want you to be very careful that you understand what the Word of God is teaching here; and with the pleasure of accountability, listen to those words. Verse 18 says, “For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.” This reveals the working of the Trinity.

The passage goes on to say that we are members of the household of God, the family of God, a building fitly framed, “builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”

The average Christian does not have a revelation of the Body of Jesus Christ and, therefore, cannot comprehend it. Sadly, for the average congregation, this teaching is far from their experience.

Jesus Christ saves people to build them together and to fitly frame them together in spiritual unity. Christ is not interested in developing independent spirits to cohabit in superficial social relationships. Rather, He wants a Body of believers who are fitly framed together by the Trinity, who are growing together as a holy temple in the Lord.

We Are His Temples

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy [Spirit] which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own?

“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Each individual believer is a “habitation of

God through the Spirit." We are temples of the living God. We are the spiritual sanctuary of the living God on this planet.

If we were asked the question, "Where is Christ living?" most of us would give the answer that He is omnipresent, that He is everywhere, and of course He is. Or, we might conclude that He is on His throne in heaven. But what I want you to see is that Jesus Christ is building a spiritual temple, a holy habitation for Himself, and that He dwells within everyone who is born again.

Now that we have been saved, we have access to the Father through Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit. We draw nigh to God. We don't have to go through a man to get to God. We don't have to go through a pastor. We do not have to go through a priest, or a rabbi, or anyone else. We have access to God the Father through Jesus Christ by means of the Holy Spirit. And, thank God, we can confess our sins directly to God (1 John 1:8-10).

"Nothing Between"

Charles A. Tindley, born in Maryland in 1851, was one of the greatest men of God who ever lived. The son of a slave, he became an or-

phan at a very young age. Raised by his sister and having no formal education, he taught himself how to read and write. As a young man, he moved to Philadelphia, where he took correspondence courses and earned a Divinity degree while working as a janitor at the Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church. When the pastor left, it was suggested that Tindley—the janitor—be allowed to speak to the congregation, which at that time had fewer than 150 people. After his message, he was called to be the church’s pastor. A most faithful servant, Tindley built a church of 10,000.

This man of God was very compassionate. Known as “the people’s pastor,” he moved the audience with his fervency and his love, while he accurately preached the Scriptures. At one point, during a conspiracy in the church, he came under heavy persecution and became deathly ill. During this difficult time, this precious man of God wrote a song that many of you know, called “Nothing Between”:

*Nothing between my soul and my Savior,
Naught of this world’s delusive dream;
I have renounced all sinful pleasure;
Jesus is mine, there’s nothing between.*

*Nothing between, like worldly pleasure;
Habits of life, though harmless they seem;
Must not my heart from Him ever sever;
He is my all, there's nothing between.*

*Nothing between, like pride or station;
Self or friends shall not intervene;
Though it may cost me much tribulation,
I am resolved, there's nothing between.*

*Nothing between, e'en many hard trials,
Though the whole world against me convene;
Watching with prayer and much self denial,
I'll triumph at last, there's nothing between.*

After writing that song under tremendous stress, God gave him a release through another song, called "Leave It There":

*Leave it there, leave it there,
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.
If you trust and never doubt,
He will surely bring you out.
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.*

Mr. Tindley came out of his affliction as the song was completed. This man of God wrote

that song and prayed five or six hours in the night, and then the Spirit of God raised up his weak body that was so extremely ill. Within two days, the guilty people in the conspiracy were revealed, and the church went on to brand-new heights.

He had access to God the Father through Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit. His access to God not only gave him an answer to his prayer for healing when he was close to death, but it also released him from the persecution. His church, once again, had precious unity.

Chapter Two

RELATE TO CHRIST WHO LIVES IN YOU

God is building one of the most wonderful things in the universe. He is building a spiritual sanctuary, a spiritual temple, a place where the Holy Spirit of the living God indwells. Jesus Christ is living within every believer, even as He was living in the holy of holies. This was the most sacred place in the temple where only the High Priest could go in, just once a year. Think of it! Jesus Christ—the Creator of the universe, the Redeemer—is living in every single person who is saved.

Have you ever considered how to relate to Christ in people?

At one time when I was trying to figure out how to deal with a certain situation, God showed me at my prayer altar that because they were saved, Jesus Christ was living in the people in that situation.

Every Christian is a member of the Church, which is the Body of Jesus Christ, and every individual Christian has the Holy Spirit in him. I believe that we often treat this as an abstract fact. I believe we treat it very unrealistically. I don't think it is real to the average person, even though we believe it.

That day at the altar, I did something very different. I was miles and miles away from a certain person in that situation, and the Holy Spirit said, "Pray to Jesus Christ who is living in that person right now." So I addressed Jesus Christ, who is in the person I was praying for. I wasn't praying to the person; I was praying to Jesus Christ who indwells that person. And because it was someone that I love very much, the tears began to come down from my eyes, and I said, "Lord Jesus, starting now, move in that person's human body and work in their life as You have never worked before."

By the grace of Almighty God, exactly thirty-six hours later, I received a telephone call, which revealed that the problem, the tremendous bondage, had been released in her, and she said she wanted me to be the first one to know.

Another girl went into deep sin. Nobody could seem to touch her with the Word of God. I

couldn't; no one could. The Spirit of God led me to have her come in to the office. When she came in, we knelt in prayer, and I addressed Jesus Christ inside of her. I said, "Father, I come to Jesus Christ who is living inside of this girl's body. You are living inside her body, so please move her to repentance. Please move her by God's grace. Please move her into getting right with You and give her victory."

Two days later, this girl was changed, and she has been fantastic for over a year now.

Address Christ and Him Alone

Jesus Christ is in every single Christian. We don't need to address the sinner for him to have victory over his sin. But we can, and we do, address Jesus Christ in the believer.

We have seen hundreds of people healed here in the past twelve months. Silently, I have addressed Jesus Christ in people's bodies for their healing. I have come to God the Father through the Holy Spirit and addressed Jesus Christ in the human body of someone who is sick in order to release His precious healing life and heal the body, or heal the nerves, or heal from habits of sin.

Colossians 1:27 says, "Christ in you, the

hope of glory.”

Christ is your hope. What does that mean? Certainly it means He is your hope of final sanctification and glorification of your body. But that particular verse is addressing the Church. It means that “where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty, and we are all changed from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” It means that Jesus Christ, because He is in us, is the hope of our human soul reflecting God’s nature, reflecting God’s character, reflecting God’s complete and total distinct Person. When we reflect the glory of God through the Spirit, we reflect the very nature of God.

Do you know why David said, “I have set the Lord always before me” (Psalm 16:8)? The Lord was between Jonathan and David (1 Samuel 20:42). The Lord was between David and King Saul (1 Samuel 24:10-15). Why? David knew that the Lord was in his body and the Lord was in the other person’s body.

One of the greatest ways to solve a problem in a marriage is to begin to be tender, kind, meek, compassionate, and broken. The way that can happen is to know that no matter the state of the individual, Jesus Christ lives in the other person’s body. Maybe that person is not ex-

pressing Him. Maybe they are not revealing Him. But if they are saved, He is still there. The Holy Spirit may be grieved or He may be quenched, but He lives in the other body just as He lives in your body.

It is an awesome sight to have 1,200 people gathered and to realize that every single Christian in those seats has God Almighty living inside. Oh, the faith potential! Oh, the possibility of love, of power, of revival. Oh, the possibility of the Word of God becoming real. Oh, the possibility of rejecting familiarity and profanity! Imagine the possibility of abundant living, with happiness, health, and wholesomeness. Imagine the realization of peace and joy, of forgiveness and cleansing—of experiencing life with God.

He is living inside of us right now.

My Body Belongs to Him

Often, when I drive to church alone in my car, I quietly begin to talk to the Lord. It is not I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. Even though I am very much alive, still Christ lives in me. It is not something that is abstract. It is something that is very sacred because the Bible says, “our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit.”

That is why immorality is so desperately wicked.

God possesses my body, and God possesses your body. When people commit immorality and are filthy in their minds, the Bible decrees that as being evil, because God is in their bodies. An act of sexual immorality means that you have, in one sense, become married to that person. You may never become legally married, but you have become one body.

Here is someone who has had five affairs. He has become one flesh with five women. He has broken the seal of the dignity of Redemption. He has broken the seal of the dignity of the New Creation. He has broken the seal of the body that is inhabited by Jesus Christ. He has been one flesh with five women, and he still takes it so casually. He is indifferent to the sacredness of purity and holiness—of God living inside of him.

That is why teenagers should lovingly and graciously be taught that their bodies are definitely temples of the Holy Spirit. When we are all gathered together in a local assembly, God is taking us, spiritually speaking, and building us up into a holy sanctuary that grows as a holy temple in God. We are a habitation of God

through the precious Spirit.

Do you realize that when you shout at one another, Jesus Christ has to listen to that on the inside of that person? Do you understand, some of you cheap men, who are as cheap as you can be, that when you have playboy-like thinking in your mind, you are an incredibly evil person? You are a Christian, and inside of you lives the Holy Spirit. But you never have sacred moments. You never have moments when you are broken and contrite in your heart. You never have the times when you stop and think, "My God, Jesus is not only the Creator of the universe; He is living inside my body, and my mind is polluted. My mind has been corrupted by sin. I've been absolutely grieving His Spirit and quenching His life."

What do you do then? You address Christ who is in you. That is why the Word of God says, in Romans chapter 10, that you don't go way up to heaven to get faith, or way down below, or way out there. The Holy Spirit is nigh, even in your heart.

When you want to get right with God, close your eyes and isolate yourself from people, and say, "Father, I'm coming to Jesus Christ who is in me. I know that my vessel desires to be a ves-

sel of honor, not a vessel of dishonor. I want my body to reflect the glory and the nature of God. I want to have liberty to be free, to think clearly, to choose properly, to live accurately in God's life."

As you do this, there is an ever-growing intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

Chapter Three

OFFERING OURSELVES TO HIM

As long as I live, I will never forget a couple I married many years ago. The woman, who was gloriously saved in our ministry, was happy and victorious for six years. Then she became involved in an affair and left her husband. She continued to listen to us occasionally on the radio, and one day she heard a message preached to our teenagers in our school. In that message, we said that the reason Jesus Christ does not want you to practice fornication or to have any evil exchange is that He is living inside your precious body.

He wants your eyes to be His eyes, your tongue to be His tongue, your hands to be His hands, and your feet to be His feet. This is why, in the Old Testament times, once every year when the people brought a sacrifice, the priest would put the sacrifice on the altar, and he would cut it into pieces (see Leviticus 1:4-9).

I can just picture the priest and the person with the offering. He would cut off the paw and the priest would say to the one that was offering the sacrifice, "Reach out your hand. Are you telling me that you want your hands to serve the Lord?" And the offerer would say "yes."

They would cut the tongue out of the animal, and they would say, "Are you saying that your tongue is going to glorify God?" And the offerer would say "yes."

And then they would cut the legs off and say the same thing. "Are you saying that you're presenting your body by the mercies of God to be a living sacrifice?" That was the application we would use today. And the offerer would say "yes."

And then they would take the ears. They said, "Are you saying that your ears are going to listen to the things of God?" and they would say "yes."

How much more today, because of the Lord Jesus Christ living inside us, should our precious bodies be presented to God as a living sacrifice? Not as an offering of dead works. Not as one who is indifferent, arrogant, or proud, living in the materialistic world and desiring materialism and gain without the Cross, but as a

body that is surrendered to the Holy Spirit of the living God.

I am asking you right now to give your body to Jesus Christ—your eyes, your ears, your tongue, your hands, your feet. He is in you. Address the Jesus Christ who is in you.

Our Need for the Body of Christ

The Bible clearly teaches that we are not to be independent. My hand can not be independent of my arm. My fingers can not be independent of my hand. My throat can not be independent of my head. And my eyes can not be independent of my head.

Individual body members must also have a revelation of the Corporate Body life. We must understand through the Holy Spirit that the Body is Jesus Christ's body. He is the Head. We are His body, the fullness of Him on the earth, that filleth all in all. The Father gave Him to be the Head over us, His body. We are His Corporate Body. And individually, we are His human body.

We would have so few problems if we were to understand the revelation of Body life. My hand is conscious of the life in my body. Every part of my body is conscious of my body life.

Everything about me is conscious of the life of my head. Thank God it is, because if it were not, if a person experienced a shock, some member of the body would not get the life of the blood into that area of the body.

When you have a genuine, realistic revelation of Body life, you will sense the life of the Body. You will sense God's life in each other. We will sense God's life as it flows from vessel to vessel. We will sense what it is like to have God's life in the entire Body. We will realize that we are members in particular, placed there as it pleases Him. We will find our place in the Body, a place where we have been set by God. We will love the Christ that is in every member. We will minister to those that are weak and frail and small in soul. We will begin to realize that we are dealing with this mighty Christ inside of a human body that lives in the Corporate Body.

Stay Connected

If the Church were to really catch hold of this revelation, there would not be any members who live in individual independence. You might as well cut off your arm tonight as to live outside of the Body of Jesus Christ.

Christians are to marry people who have

Jesus Christ in them. "Be ye not unequally yoked," says 2 Corinthians 6:14. "For what fellowship hath light with darkness? What concord has Christ with Belial? What agreement has the Spirit of God with idols?" When you marry a man who isn't God's man, or a woman who isn't God's woman, spiritually speaking (in this analogy), you might as well marry a corpse, because those people don't have God's life in their bodies. So you might just as well marry a corpse and have it over with.

If you were Mary, or Lazarus, or Martha, and Jesus said to you, "I'm going to come to your home this weekend," what would you think? You have seen Him raise the dead. You have seen Him heal the sick. You believe He is the Messiah, and He is going to come into your home for the entire weekend. What would you do to your home?

Jesus said, "It is necessary that I go away, but I'm going to send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit who is God, and we will come to live in you."

That is so real for us. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit will come to live in you to control your eyes, your ears, your tongue, your mind, your emotions, your reflexes, your responses, your initiations, your decisions, your plans, your

purposes, your ideas, and your entire life.

I'm so grateful that a man who knows this Christ is not insecure. A man who knows this Christ isn't easily intimidated. A man who knows this Christ doesn't have to live in abstract feelings. He's praying to the Christ that is in him.

Today, I can talk to the Christ who is in me, and the Holy Spirit is glorifying the Christ who is in you as I speak. One of the most personal reasons that we do not want to offend another Body member is that we would risk offending Christ, who is in that person. If the person is backslidden, we must treat them as somebody whom Christ indwells, because this is the principle of Galatians 6:1.

Live in the awareness of where God lives—He lives in you. Let Jesus Christ heal you and deliver you as you've never been delivered in your life. The Word of God says you will never be alone. You will never have to be alone ever again, because He is with you, and never will He forsake you. You will never again have to be alone—even when you think you are. You will never be alone because Christ lives in you.

CONCLUSION

There is a reason that God says, “Meet together more than you’ve ever met, have more assembly meetings than you’ve ever had, because the day is getting late” (see Hebrews 10:25). He wants all of us to come together—all who have Christ dwelling within them. If there are 1,200 people in a congregation, that crowd represents 1,200 inhabitations for the Trinity—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In one building, there is power to minister His energy, to manifest His love, to reveal the potential of faith, to communicate the possibility of mercy, and to express what it means to be mobilized by categorical doctrine.

We can live by the Word of God in the Throne Room of heaven, which is God’s Throne Room in the heart of anyone who has confessed up-to-date. It is a room filled with the Holy Spirit. I can go to God directly in the Throne Room of my heart. That is what Hebrews 4:16

teaches.

“I am in you to teach you,” Jesus says. “I walk in you. My Word is in you. My principles are in you. And I am in you. I am not some impersonal influence that you might dwell on for a few times a week for a message. I live in you. You are Mine. Please give Me the right to reflect My glory in you and through you.”

May God do that in marriages. Let Him do it in individual lives. Let Him do it in some of you who are guilty of being filthy-minded. Let God do it, and He will do it immediately.