Christ Lives In Me!



(A Resurrection Day Message)

Selected Scriptures

4/4/10

Introduction:

Yes, the Risen Christ dwells in those who know Him and Savior.
Galatians 2:20; Col. 1:27; John 14:18-20

**** The Living Christ Works in us and for us!***

What are some of the things that our living Savior does in us and for us?
(By no means is this an exhaustive list but is a broad picture of the great activities Christ can do in and through all who belong to Him)

I. The Living Christ PRODUCES FRUIT through us *(John 15:4-5)*

II. The Living Christ IMPARTS SPIRITUAL VIRTUE in us *(1 Corinthians 1:30)*

III. The Living Christ SUBDUES THE SIN NATURE in us *(Romans 7:4)*

IV. The Living Christ GRANTS INCOMPREHENSIBLE PEACE to us *(Philippians 4:7)*

V. The Living Christ INFUSES SPIRITUAL STRENGTH in us *(Philippians 4:13)*

VI. The Living Christ SUPPLIES EVERY NEED for us *(Philippians 4:19)*

VII. The Living Christ MEDIATES IN HEAVEN for us *(Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34)*

VIII. The Living Christ PERFORMS HIS GOOD WILL & WORKS through us *(Hebrews 13:20-21)*

IX. The Living Christ SPEAKS & MINISTERS through us *(1 Peter 4:11)*

X. The Living Christ CONTROLS THE DURATION & DESTINY of our lives *(Revelation 1:18)*

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Galatians 2:20
I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Col. 1:27 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:

John 14:18-20
I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

**** The Living Christ Works in us and for us!***

What are some of the things that our living Savior does in us and for us?
(By no means is this an exhaustive list but is a broad picture of the great activities Christ can do in and through all who belong to Him)

I. The Living Christ PRODUCES FRUIT through us

John 15:4-5
Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

v. 4
"Abide" – the key verb in this context. The word "abide" means to remain or dwell (as in Jn. 14:2 where the noun form has the meaning of an abode or dwelling place).

The word means to stay with; to continue in close proximity (Mt. 26:38); to stay put and not move (Mt. 10:11); or to dwell in something (as in a house) (Acts 16:15).

What Jesus is saying is this: Stay connected with Me (not in relationship, for that issue is God's doing and it is settled, but in fellowship).

In other words, Jesus is saying: "Stay close." "Stick with Me; your abundant life depends on it."

Are we close to Jesus when we don't:

Talk to Him?
Think about Him?
Love Him?
Obey Him?

"Abide in Me and I in you" – the connection is a mutual one.

"The symbolism of the Vine and branches is similar to that of the head and the body: we have a living relationship to Christ and belong to Him" (Wiersbe, p. 355).

"Of itself, a branch is weak and useless. . . the branch cannot produce its own life; it must draw that life from the vine. . . [We as believers must] recognize our own weakness and confess our need for His strength" (Wiersbe, p. 355).

No branch can produce fruit if it is detached from the vine, and no Christian can who is detached from the fellowship of Christ.

v. 5
"Much fruit" – the degree of our fruitfulness is determined by our degree of attachment in close communion with our Lord Jesus.

"Without Me ye can do nothing" = Apart from me, you are not able to do anything (which is of spiritual and eternal significance).

Yes, apart from Christ the natural man can perform (temporarily) physical functions. Most people are detached from Christ in relationship and in fellowship, yet they go to school, work a job, and reap the harvest of their worldly sowing. In the world's eyes they are quite successful.

However, the believer has an extra dimension to his life (a spiritual one), whereby we have the privilege of knowing God's truth, passing on a Godly heritage, demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit, being used of God in reaping souls for His Kingdom, etc.

II. The Living Christ IMPARTS SPIRITUAL VIRTUE in us

1 Corinthians 1:30
But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

"Of Him" - Your salvation is solely due to God; you are not converted because you are wiser, better, or more diligent than others (C. Hodge, p. 26).

"But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus" - It is out of the sovereign plan of God the Father that you have a refuge, salvation, and relationship in Christ.

No one would be in Christ outside of God taking the initiative and drawing us to Christ (Jn. 6:44).

Who gets the credit that you are "in Christ Jesus?" God does.

God's plan of salvation is one of grace, not works (Ti. 3:5; Eph. 2:8); He by His grace has "blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 3:3).

Thanks be to God that Christ is our:

1) Wisdom(spiritual intelligence)
2) Righteousness(spiritual sinlessness)
3) Sanctification (spiritual separateness)
4) Redemption (spiritual freedom)

If our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption come from Christ, it is implicit that those virtues do not originate with ourselves.

"Wisdom" - spiritual perception and insight which produces skillful living.

You are "plugged into" true wisdom when Christ is your Savior. You are illuminated (Heb. 10:32) or enlightened (Eph. 1:18; Heb. 6:4) via your union to Christ.

If my wisdom comes from Christ, what do I have to brag about?

In Christ "dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Col. 2:9).

In Him are "hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3)

"No man knoweth the Father but the Son, and he to whom the Son shall reveal Him" (Jn. 1:18).

The greatest wisdom is to know God, and you cannot know Him without knowing the Son.

"Righteousness" - You are right (just) in the sight of God because of your relationship to Christ.

We are "justified" (or "just as if we had never sinned" - Rom. 5:1) because of our connection to the perfect One - Jesus Christ.

II Cor. 5:21 - "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

If you were saved by your righteous acts and character (Rom. 3:28), you would have grounds for boasting. But since it is because of Christ's righteousness, He gets the credit.

"Sanctification" - The day you were married to Jesus Christ, was the day He set you apart from the world to belong only to Him.

Your positional holiness (set-apartness) is not manufactured by your efforts to scrub your life clean, but by His imputed purity that was given to you via your oneness with Him.

--We don't make ourselves saints, He has made us saints.

--Saints are not born, they are born again!

"Redemption" - To purchase in order to free or liberate from bondage; to buy back so as to release us from sin, Satan, and suffering.

The price paid to free us was <u>not</u> a price we paid or could pay; it was a price Jesus paid with His own blood.

Gal. 3:13 - "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree."

I Pet. 1:18 - "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, form your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers."

Rev. 5:9 - "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation."

"Redemption" not only refers to our present deliverance from sin but also to the future <u>rapture</u> which is called the "day of redemption" (Rom. 8:23; Eph. 1:14, 4:30; Heb. 9:12).

Because Christ is our "righteousness",

we have victory over the penalty of sin.
Because He is our "sanctification,"
we can have daily victory over the power of sin,
And because He is our "redemption,"
one day we have total victory over the very presence of sin!

All the glory should to go Jesus, not us. "He must increase..." Cp. I Cor. 4:7.

III. The Living Christ SUBDUES THE SIN NATURE in us

Romans 7:4
Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Romans 8:2
For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

"For" = introduces the reason why those in Christ are not condemned.

The Spirit of life - the Spirit that results in life

The law of sin and death - the law that results in sin and death.

"Spirit & life" - always go together, and "Law, sin, and death" always go together (I Cor. 15:56 - "The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law."

Where the Spirit is, there cannot be death and where sin is, there cannot be life. Death cannot co-exist with the Spirit, and sin cannot co=exist with life.

Life is only "in Christ Jesus" (I Jn. 5:11, 12).

We were spiritual criminals, hand-cuffed, on death row and awaiting eternal execution.

Breaking God's Law resulted in sin, and sin always results in death (Rom. 6:23; Ja. 1:15).

The law demanded payment! But praise God, He freed us!

"Free from the law" = cp. Rom. 7:4 - The law has no claim on the believer. It cannot condemn you who are saved.

Romans 8:10-11
And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of

righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

IV. The Living Christ <u>GRANTS INCOMPREHENSIBLE PEACE</u> to us

Philippians 4:7
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds <u>through Christ Jesus</u>.

This is not speaking of peace <u>with</u> God (justification) (Rom. 8:1) but the peace <u>of</u> God which comes after salvation.

<u>Inner rest</u> can only comes to you when you are absolutely sure that you are trusting in one who is <u>trustworthy</u>.

God's peace <u>protects</u> us. With <u>inner</u> protection.

His peace stands like military guards at the door of the believer's heart and mind to keep out invaders who would seek to make your life miserable.

ILLUS: Daniel's peace while in the lion's den(Dan. 6)

A "peace that passeth understanding" - we sing about it, talk about it, preach about it, but never seem to experience it. Why? We neglect the Lord.

We do not empty out our dump truck of anxieties on the Lord!

Jn. 16:33 - "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

V. The Living Christ <u>INFUSES SPIRITUAL STRENGTH</u> in us

Philippians 4:13
I can do all things through <u>Christ which strengtheneth me</u>.

"I can do all things"

Circumstances tend to change (alter) our service.

"Fair-weather Christianity" - When things are good, we serve. When things are bad, we split.

"I can do" = lit. "I am strong enough to do" . . . "I have the ability to do"

Present tense - indicates <u>continual</u> ability (strength)

Get your eyes off yourself and realize that in yourself you can do nothing; in Christ you can do all things!

"Through Christ which strengtheneth me"

ILLUS: of getting behind a little boy and helping him hold the baseball bat and hit the ball. When the ball is tossed, WHAM! "We hit it hard" The little fellow would jump up and down, thinking he had knocked a home run.

"Through Christ which strengtheneth me" = lit. "by the one who is <u>infusing me with power</u>" . . . "by the one who is <u>putting strength</u> into me."

He <u>charges</u> us up with power (ILLUS: charging up battery)

Eph. 6:10 - "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

VI. The Living Christ <u>SUPPLIES EVERY NEED</u> for us

Philippians 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory <u>by Christ Jesus</u>.

"Shall" = will certainly
We do not have a God who may supply, could supply, might supply; but a God who promises He will supply.

"All your needs" - lit. Every one of your needs.
The emphasis is on each individual need you have in life.
"All your needs" - A need is that which is essential or necessary for you to live.

Needs and wants (lusts) must be distinguished.
Need = Adequate food
Adequate water
Adequate clothing
Adequate shelter

A "need" is that which is necessary to live. A need is that which without it, you could not exist.

A need is a bare essential of life.

To have more than you need is to be rich or wealthy.

God did not say that He would supply all your "greeds," but all you needs.

"according to His riches in glory"

God's resources are unlimited!

"He is possessor of Heaven and earth" (Gen. 14:22).

He owns "the cattle upon a thousand hills" (Ps. 50:10).

Lee Iococca is not the richest!

Donald Trump is not to be envied!

If anyone is to be envied it is a child of God - a Christian - because he is the son of a rich Father!

"By Christ Jesus" = God's riches are in Christ. If Heaven is the bank, Christ is the vault which holds all of the believer's blessings (Eph. 1:3).

There is no life outside of Jesus (Jn. 11:25; Eph. 2:5).

There is no exaltation outside of Jesus (Eph. 2:6).

There is no grace outside of Jesus (Eph. 2:7)

There are no blessings outside of Jesus (Eph. 1:3).

There is no truth outside of Jesus (jn. 14:6).

There is no true wealth (riches) outside of Jesus (Phil. 4:19).

In Christ dwells all richness (Col. 1:27, 2:3), and those in union with Him are linked to the source and supply of limitless divine wealth.

Col. 2:9-10 - "For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power"

If the source of God's provision is Christ, and if Christ will never leave us (mt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5), then neither will his supply!

VII. The Living Christ MEDIATES IN HEAVEN for us

Hebrews 7:25
Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Romans 8:34
Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

VIII. The Living Christ PERFORMS HIS GOOD WILL & WORKS through us

Hebrews 13:20-21
Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work

to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The phrase ***"make you perfect"*** refers to God's work in us of equipping us for His service. The word "Make perfect" *(katartidzo)* refers both to supplying a need and mending that which is faulty or defective.

"This is an unfamiliar word to us, but it was familiar to the people who received this letter. The doctors knew it because it meant 'to set a broken bone.' To fishermen it meant 'to mend a broken net' (see Mt. 4:21). To sailors it meant 'to outfit a ship for a voyage.' To soldiers it meant 'to equip an army for battle'." (Wiersbe, p. 155).

The word is used of:

--Mending (repairing) broken fishing nets
(Mt. 4:21)

--Restoring an erring brother (Gal. 6:1)

--Building up one's faith (I Thes. 3:10)

--Furnishing God's people with His Word (Eph. 4:12)

We need God to enable us for good works. No man can enable himself.

(A soldier cannot be fighting and at the same time be manufacturing his weapons; such artillery must be given to him. So it is in our spiritual battle. God equips us so that we can win over evil and do good works).

"To do His will" - This is God's immediate purpose for equipping us; that we might fulfill His desires and plan for our lives. He does not equip you so you can do your will, but His will.

So we can please Him

"Working in you" - It is not via independent self-effort that we do His will. He must work in us (motivating us, strengthening us, guiding and directing us, etc.) to *"will and to do of His good pleasure"* (Phil. 2:13) (Col. 1:29 - *"Whereunto I also labor, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily."*)

"Through Jesus Christ" - God enables us in the person of His Son (an implicit proof of the unity of the Father and Son).

God equips us by means of Christ's Spirit who dwells in us who believe. *"Without me, you can do nothing."*

Because Jesus does the work in us, He will receive the glory! Not just for time, but for eternity! Anything we have done for His good and glory is because Christ did it in us and through us!

IX. The Living Christ <u>SPEAKS and MINISTERS</u> through us

1 Peter 4:11

If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified <u>through Jesus Christ</u>, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

"Minister" - Serve (same word as "deacon")
"ability" - ( ) Physical & intellectual strength, might, power. (Ex. We are commanded to love God with all our strength. Mk.12:30)
"giveth" - To supply, furnish, provide.

"Which <u>God</u> giveth":
We can't do it in the flesh. Spiritual work accomplished by decaying flesh stinks!
Why do we do work for the Lord in the flesh? Confidence of self-strength, or desire for self-glory.
(Ex. of Hymn: "Brethren we have met to worship" says: "<u>All is vain</u> unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down".

<u>Why should we have a strengthened service</u>? "that (for the purpose and result that) God alone will receive the credit, and praise. ("Glory" N.T.- ( ): radiance, that light or brightness which shines out from God. Honor, fame, repute.

The Godhead (Father, Son, and Spirit) are the **power house** (power source)
Jesus Christ is the **power line** (channel of power) "through"
God's Servants need to be **plugged** in to God's power! (Usage of power).

"in all things" - in every sphere of life.
Why should Jesus Christ receive Glory? Because He <u>is</u> Glory; (the light of world) and He <u>is</u> the power & might (dominion). (All power is given unto me)
"All men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father..."(Jn. 5:23)
When you minister <u>by God's power</u> (people know it isn't you who is doing it) but it is God through you. And consequently all the praise goes back to God (who really deserves it)

X. The Living Christ <u>CONTROLS THE DURATION & DESTINY</u> of our lives

Revelation 1:18

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and <u>have the keys of hell and of death</u>.

"was dead" = Became dead. This One who is eternal entered into death. Death = When the spirit leaves the body (Mt.27:50, Jn.19:30).

"Alive for evermore" - no matter what may happen in this world, you can rest on the confidence that Christ is alive.
He knows what is going on in your life and He cares.

HE IS <u>SOVEREIGN</u>! (v.18b)

Christ is sovereign in the area of physical death.

"keys" denote: <u>ownership, authority, control</u>.
Christ has the right to say who goes where. He is in control. He controls when you will die.
No one dies without God's permission (ex. Job - Satan was allowed to test, but not kill)
(ex. in Rev.9 men are tormented for 5 months but death flees from them.)
"key" symbolizes undisputable authority **<u>see Rev.3:7</u>**.

<u>Believers should not fear death or Hell.</u>
(This is the comfort John received by the statement)

--He has all <u>authority</u>
Mt. 28:18 -*"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth"*

--He <u>sustains</u> the universe
Col. 1:17-18*"And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."*

