

“...Because as HE is, so are WE in this world.”

1 John 4:17b (*HOW* we live by the faith of Yeshua)

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Last time we covered that we must not just live by our own faith, but by our Savior's faith, HIS faith. How do we do that? How do we look to HIM as the Author and finisher of our faith? This sermon goes into HOW to live by His faith. What's the KEY understanding we need in order to harness his faith? What does it mean to be “in him” and how does that help us live by and through HIS faith? Also: how focusing on our sins and weaknesses just makes them worse, and on what/whom we should be focusing instead to be victorious over self and sin.

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WELCOME all of you of the family and household of God as we explore another essential topic from the Word of God. Let's pray and ask the Almighty's presence in our message:

OPENING PRAYER...

Last time we talked about living by Yeshua's faith. Not our own human faith, *but by HIS faith*. Imagine that? If we could just have HIS faith 24/7, all the time. Imagine that. I strongly recommend you listen to the last 2 sermons/teachings first before this one. They build on each other.

This sermon today will take off from the last sermon about living by Yeshua's faith, by using a verse that says we should be much more confident and full of faith, because “as HE IS, so are WE in this world”. (1 John 4:17). *I'm covering this topic today because...* **Several of you have asked for more help and instruction on how to use Yeshua's (Jesus') faith** – and not our own – and so though I *included* this verse last time, I didn't have time to develop it. So we'll do that today.

I want to especially shine the light on 1 John 4:17. So let's read it, but let's start in verse 15:

“1 John 4:15-18

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, **God abides in him, and he in God.** 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; **because as He is, so are we in this world.**”

So the immediate context of the last part of verse 17 is that the Love of God saves us and gives us boldness in the judgment day – because as HE is, so are we. Yeshua took the judgment for sin upon himself for everyone who will accept him as their Savior. But when he was resurrected, he was accepted as having been the perfect sacrifice, now no longer under condemnation or judgment.

At the end of Romans 7 Paul exclaims, after discussing how many times he had failed – “Oh wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”—and answers his own question: Through Jesus Christ! And then therefore Romans 8:1—“There is now NO condemnation to those who are *in Christ*...” WHY? Because Yeshua took our condemnation upon himself for

us. Therefore – if we are IN HIM – we are not condemned, “for as he is, so are we in this world” – 1 John 4:17b.

Yeshua took all of your sins’ condemnation off you and put it on himself (**Romans 5:9-11**). He became sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in HIM (**2 Cor. 5:21**).

Now, if there is no condemnation for those in Christ – indeed we *can* have boldness in the Day of Judgment. I will have to give an entire sermon about the Judgment, because so many fear the judgment, but in Christ, we should not. *However - - if you are not in Christ, if you have not accepted Him as your Savior, then yes – the wrath of God abides on you and you should fear the Judgment.* All of that is the context of 1 John 4:17.

John 3:18, 36

“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

36: He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does *not* believe the Son shall not see life, *but the wrath of God abides on him.*”

1 John 4:17 is not a verse I rarely hear preached, except by one or two. So as Jesus has now been glorified and is no longer condemned – because he already paid the penalty for sin and incurred all the wrath for sin. So that’s all done, so now, if we are “in him”, the rest of **1 John 4:17** applies: “AS HE IS (i.e., uncondemned, boldly in God’s presence), SO ARE WE in this world.”

But 1 John 4:17 is usable by us in our daily walk when we realize we definitely are “in Him” or “in Christ”. I’ll want to spend some time explaining the “in Him” concept as we go along, because without a solid understanding of that, we will flounder in our OWN faith, rather than living by his rock solid faith.

But here are some quick initial tidbits about being in him

- **Does Yeshua have direct access to the Father at any time? Of course.** He sits beside him. Guess what? **In Christ, so do YOU** – because through Christ we now all have access by one Spirit to our father, any time, all the time. That’s what **Ephesians 2:18** says. In the book of Hebrews it says through Him we can come **BOLDLY** before the *shekinah* glory of our Father. (**Hebrews 4:16; Eph 3:12**) I don’t know about you, but on my own merits, I would not feel very bold in Yah’s presence, but in Christ I can.
- **IN Christ, you are also conveyed into the kingdom of God. NOW.**

As a dear friend in western USA wrote: “As citizens in His kingdom, having been translated into His kingdom (Colossians 1:13), we can, by faith, be as he is in this world.”

Colossians 1:13-14

“He [God] has delivered us from the power of darkness and **conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, IN WHOM** we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” (Notice it’s past tense)

We’re already considered a part of that heavenly kingdom, in Him, though the full realization of it is still future. Paul said our “citizenship IS in heaven” (Philippians 3:20). Present tense, right now. But all of this is only possible IN HIM –for HE is the one already there, literally.

My friend goes on to explain that the context of **1 John 4:17** of having boldness in the day of judgment, is because we now walk as he walked, we keep his commandments, because we are letting HIM live in US as he did the first time on earth. Compare **1 John 2:3-6**, part of the same book. But remember even that passage begins with “If you sin, you have an Advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous” – whose blood covers you and whole world it says (**1 John 2:1-2**).

Someday we are going to be presented to God as someone **without spot or wrinkle, faultless, holy, just and clean – without a single fault**. HOW? By our might and will power? **Jude 24** says HE is able to keep us from stumbling, to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with EXCEEDING JOY...” HE is able to present you and me faultless. HE is able. HE does it.

Jude 24-25

Now to HIM who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding JOY, To God our Savior...”

I don’t know about you, but I still see a lot of faults in me. A lot. Whenever I gaze and focus on ME, I *don’t* feel exceeding joy because I know I fall way short. So “being faultless” has to mean being “faultless” IN HIM, or do you think you’ll come to the point, in this life, when you can say you are “faultless”? We must focus on HIM and what HE is doing – including in us. We must grow, we must overcome, we must be becoming more and more like Christ – but I believe “faultless” in front of God, will be possible only IN Christ – ONLY if God sees Yeshua’s faultless life covering you.

Colossians 1:22 says the same thing – “to present you holy, blameless and above reproach in his sight”. But how? Keep reading, for a few verses later, note what Paul says:

Colossians 1:28-29

“Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may **present every man perfect (how?) in Christ Jesus**. 29 To this end I also labor, striving according to HIS working which works in me mightily.”

I’m saying all this because 1 John 4:17 says we have boldness in the judgment and as Christ is, so are we. And as we’ll see – we will grow and change and overcome faster and more effectively – *when we quit focusing on our problems and sins – and focus instead on our Champion and Savior, “For as he is, so are we in this world”*. Now watch the emphasis in 2 Corinthians 3:18.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

So again—as we focus on our Lord – instead of our problems, we start being transformed more and more into HIS one and the same image from glory to glory. How? By and through the Spirit!

Are we seeing the trend here? We have to be intently focused on HIM, looking to HIM, wanting HIM – and He will give us his very own righteousness. But what do we do? We focus on ourselves, on our faults, on our sins, on our weaknesses. And then what happens? Depression.

So this whole sermon is about what Paul said in Ephesians 3:8-19. Read it in your own Bible. It’s a lot of words, but Paul says he hopes the Ephesians grasp the riches of the mystery of Christ, of *being* in Christ... and that’s my goal and hope today as well. I will begin in **Eph 3:14-19**.

Ephesians 3:14-19

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened *with might through His Spirit* in the inner man, 17 that ***Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith***; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — 19 ***to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be FILLED with all the fullness OF GOD.***”

Paul prays that they “get it” and start experiencing Christ living in them, and they in Christ. And in so doing, they’d be filled with the fullness of God! And as we’ll see, that requires a solid grasp of what it means to be “in him”, or “in God” or “in Christ”. Study those phrases. When we accept being “in him”, we will eagerly await his return.

Hebrews 9:27-28

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. *To those who eagerly wait for Him* He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”

Let’s do a quick review of the last sermon about living by Yeshua’s faith – which sets the stage for this one. We will only understand *1 John 4:17* – that “as he is, so are we in this world” if we live by Yeshua’s faith.

Human faith vs. Yeshua’s faith (REVIEW)

Our own human faith, though useful, is often weak and fragile. Nobody whom Jesus healed had godly faith from the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet been given. But many of them were healed because of their human faith. “Be it according to your faith” – Yeshua often said. That was human faith.

Yeshua (Jesus) also talked about those of “little faith” (Matthew 8:26) or those having “no faith” (Mark 4:40) and a Centurion who had great faith (Matthew 8:5-13).

But human faith can be shaken. **So part of the fruit of God’s spirit is faith (Gal. 5: 22-23).** So that’s faith from God, by His spirit. That is one way to live by Yeshua’s faith. Then on top of that, we’re told in 1 Cor. 12:10-11 that some are given an extra dose of God’s faith to do miracles and healings. **And** we covered last time how true faith is for living ALL THE TIME, 24/7, not just in times of panic or times we need a huge miracle from God.

And finally I made a big point to say the faith we live by must be Yeshua’s faith.

We read Hebrews 12:1-2 where we’re reminded that Yeshua, Jesus the Christ, is the author and finisher of our faith. Right here we’re reminded the best way to overcome sin is to look to Jesus!

Hebrews 12:1-2 KJV

“Therefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, **2 Looking unto Jesus, the AUTHOR**

AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

And we read what Peter said in Acts 3:16 about how the lame man was healed:

Acts 3:16

“And His name, through faith in his name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. **Yes, the faith which comes through HIM has given him this perfect soundness** in the presence of you all.”

We also recalled how saints in the last days are described as those keeping God’s commandments and “the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12). When we have His Spirit, it will be HIS faith – if we get ourselves out of the way and let him function in us.

WHY WE DON'T live more by faith

There are many reasons why we don’t live by faith, especially HIS faith. I think it’s important to understand the MAIN BLOCKS we put up to living by His faith. Here are a couple in my opinion:

- **We don’t like giving up control over our lives and what happens next.**
- ***Whether we’re willing to admit it or not, we feel empowered when we can see what WE’RE doing. We like knowing and feeling like we’re doing something to work problems out. We like to focus on OUR working things out, rather than focusing and waiting on what God is working out.***

I realize we prove our faith by actions we do take. But I’m talking about when our actions become more dominant in our mind than what Yah is doing in us.

The POWERFUL 1 John 4:17B

Now then let’s get back to 1 John 4:17. Remember that the few verses **before** verse 17 say that as we live a life of God’s love, we live in God and he – Yah-- lives in us.

1 John 4:17 – especially the last phrase.

“Love has been perfected among us in this: *that we may have boldness in the day of judgment*; **because as He is, so are we in this world.**”

Again, the immediate context has to do with boldness in the day of Judgment, because if we have truly understood what Yeshua has done, and that **he’s taken our judgment and condemnation for our sins upon himself** and now covers us with himself, and puts us “into him” – and that now we are a part of HIM – yes, we can have boldness in the day of Judgment. Christ is not condemned now that he’s paid your and my penalty and died for us. He used up the wrath for repented sin. After that he was resurrected and accepted by the Father, and now is our holy Savior and High Priest – perfect, and righteous. If you’re covered by him, there’s now no condemnation for those in Christ – Rom 8:1.

If you are in him, you can come before the Father knowing you’re not condemned – because you are now as Christ is – uncondemned, honored and accepted.

SO do you feel ACCEPTED before God?

Once you and I understand what it means to be “in him”, all kinds of things become possible – including being accepted by our Holy Father in heaven. I’m sure everyone would say Christ was accepted by the Father! Ephesians 1:6 says we have been “*accepted* in the Beloved (Christ)” and WE are blessed right now with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies – again, IN Christ.

Ephesians 1:3-6

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us ACCEPTED (HOW?) in the Beloved.”

If you’re IN Christ, you are also accepted by the Father – because you are in the Beloved. Keep on reading verses 7-12 and see more wondrous things we have been given “in him”.

So we need to learn what “in him” means, and how that happens, and why it says “For as he is, so are we in this world” – and how all that plays into living by His faith.

So many times what God is asking us to do seems impossible or even silly – like when David was told to tell his men that they were to attack when they heard the angels marching at the treetops over there (**2 Samuel 5:22-25**), or that we’re going to cross right through the Red Sea on dry ground... or that we’re going to ask rivers of flowing water, enough to provide water for a whole nation, to come out of a rock! **But in faith we believe and ACT on that belief** – so in faith, we build an ark when we’re told to do so. We walk on water, like Peter did, when we’re told to do so. We start marching to the priests to show them we are no longer leprous, even when we still don’t see any results – yet.

So even when we don’t yet see, feel or hear the healing, the miracle or the wonders – we move forward as if it’s already done. God proclaims the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10). This one verse holds a big key. It’s not the only way to live by His faith, but it’s a big part of it.

We obey and do what God tells us to do in his word or by His spirit– because HIS faith is proven by our obedient deeds or works, and frankly, by living as He lived or would live in your skin.

So the key to really appreciating this message is learning what it means to be “in Christ”, to be part of his body, **to be “in him”** – and not just in him but also in God the Father, as we shall see.

WHAT is Christ’s BODY? It can be three things

This question goes back to understanding that you were purchased and made a part of his body. We know the term “His Body” can mean several things:

- **His own literal body** – The Son of God offered his own literal body to accept the wrath for all the sins of the world. He could do that as the Son of God, as his one perfect life was worth more than all of our wretched lives put together. At Passover He broke the Passover bread saying, “Take, eat, this is my body for you...”

So on earth, Yeshua had his own literal body. That body was crucified and he offered up his body and died for us. The women watched what happened to his body – Luke 23:55 – and where it was laid.

1. **“The Body of Christ” is also a term used for the “ekklesia” (commonly called “the Church”), the body or assembly of believers.** (But it doesn’t STOP here) Most people understand that to be part of the body of Christ means to be among his followers who are led by God’s Spirit (**Romans 8:14**). Anyone led by the God’s spirit is a part of this body of Christ regardless of denominational affiliation.

Ephesians 1:22-23—he is the head **of the church (the believers)**, “**which IS His body...**”
Colossians 1:24 – “...for the sake of his body, which is the church.”

Romans 12:3-5

“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. **For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body IN Christ, and individually members of one another.”**

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many. 15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body?

[Then in verses 16-26 Paul explains we should not have superiority or inferiority feelings in the body! We are all part of HIM, His Body. Let’s pick up in verse 26).
26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now YOU are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Ephesians 5:30, 31

“For WE are members of His Body, of his flesh and his bones. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the Church (*ekklesia*).”

2. **But I also believe it is more personal than just stopping there: It also refers to EACH of us who has the Holy Spirit, being IN Christ directly by His Spirit as a “member” or “part” of HIS body.** This is the understanding that doesn’t get preached much, if at all, because it is just so awesome, so powerful, so humbling... so unbelievable. Paul even says, as we read earlier, “...part of his flesh and his bones.”

- a. Paul, for example, didn’t stop at describing being “in Him” as just being a part of the congregation. NO – it’s much more personal than that. This is vital in getting the most out of this sermon. Paul says in **Galatians 2:20** for example, **“I am crucified with Christ. I no longer live....”**--- he doesn’t say, “We all were crucified with Christ and now He lives in the church”. No, Paul was more

personal than that: Paul says, Christ lives in ME, he died for ME, I am crucified with HIM.

- b. Very important: Paul explicitly goes on to explain that what is happening to Christ, or *has* happened to Messiah, is also happening or has happened *to us*. So when Christ was resurrected to new life - -are you ready for it? – so *were we!* That’s so clear in **Romans 6:3-6**. And Paul goes on to say that we are now, *right now*, transferred to the heavenly in, through and with Christ- by being IN HIM. We’ll read all that in a minute.

Let me explain: I am me. My toe is a part of me. It’s not me, but a part of me. Wherever I go, guess what? My toe goes with me. I take it with me. It’s a part of me. So if I’m in Christ, and He’s in ME, wherever I go – so does HE. Wherever HE goes, so do I, at least in spirit, BY HIS spirit. Now with that in mind, let’s read a familiar verse and see if we can glean more from it (v. 17)

1 Corinthians 6:15-17

“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” **17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.**”

Are you joined to the Lord? Were you baptized by water and the spirit – placing you in him? Then you’re ONE SPIRIT with Him, or cut that verse out of your Bible! **And the SPIRIT IS the Lord, it says in 2 Cor. 3:17.**

I know that sounds odd to some of you, but how else will you explain some verses I’m about to read? And once we understand this, the power of Christ himself can start to be released in each of us. I’m still learning this. I’m not living entirely yet by the Power of Christ. Far from it. But I’m understanding what’s been limiting me is that *I’ve* been limiting GOD, like Israel did (“They LIMITED the holy One of Israel” --Psalm 78:41).

So – Christ is in you and you are in Christ and are officially a part of HIM. Let that sink in. It’s far more than just being a member of his group of believers (“the church”). That’s ALSO part of the meaning, but the more PERSONAL meaning is that YOU are a “body part” of Christ. **HE is the head of His body** (Col 1:15-18) – but he needs skin, arms, legs, tongue, ears, heart, feet, fingers, etc. – **and you are one of the HOLY body parts of Holy Jesus Christ.** (Romans 12:4-5). He has no unholy body parts!

So that also makes us parts of each other as well (Rom 12:4-5) And why it’s so crazy for us to be fighting other parts of the body of Christ. We take care of our body parts – and we should be doing that with people with God’s spirit. Are you getting it? So you are officially IN Him.

But what do we know about Yeshua/Jesus? You’re in him now. Does Yeshua have any unholy part in his body? The Corinthians, who had issues and problems, were called SAINTS – holy ones. We are holy because HE is holy, be holy as HE is holy. **HE** is perfect. He is sinless. He is a spirit in perfect condition – with no health issues, no pain, no disease. He is full of zeal and energy. And most of all, he embodies the fruit of the spirit. HE is love. He is joy. He is peace. He is all of those fruit aspects – like kindness, goodness, faith, longsuffering and self-control.

And the marvelous thing is that through Christ we can come before the Father – and boldly at that, without the fear and terror the High Priest felt on the Day of Atonement, once a year.

So now God sees Yeshua when he looks at YOU – if you are being led by His Spirit and are in Christ.

2 Cor 5:21—We become the righteousness of God Himself – in and through Christ.

“For He made Him who knew no sin [that’s Christ] to be sin for us, *that WE might become the righteousness OF GOD (HOW?) in Him.*”

Yeshua takes all we have to give – including all our sins – and He gives us all HE’s got, including His righteousness to cover us. I suggest you hear my Righteousness series to value this great teaching you can find all through the Bible. YOUR righteousness won’t EVER be good enough to reach the PERFECT requirement of the kingdom of God, and that is why Paul says what he does in Philippians 3:8-10. He didn’t want his own righteousness from the law, but God’s righteousness available to us by faith through Christ, in Christ!

On your own time, read **Ephesians 1:1-10**-- of what we’re lovingly told by our awesome Daddy. ALL of this, once we understand it, will make 1 John 4:17 so clear – how “Because as HE is, so are WE in this world.” – 1 John 4:17. This is why I’m spending the time to set the stage for it properly.

Ephesians 2:4-8

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and **raised us up together, and made US sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us **IN CHRIST** Jesus.”

Eph 2:18—“Through HIM (Christ) we have access by one spirit to God the Father.”

Colossians 1:13-14

“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

So yes, we are citizens of that kingdom now. We are ambassadors of that kingdom now. IN Christ.

Folks, love it. Accept it. It’s powerful truth... but we tend to prefer “Do it yourself” salvation, DO it yourself overcoming. Even Philippians 2:12 that says “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”, goes on to say in v 13 HOW: “For it is GOD WHO WORKS in you, both to will and to do according to his good pleasure.” Verses 12 and 13 are part of one sentence.

I didn’t create my own self in my first birth, and I’m not going to create myself in my NEW birth. That’s the Father’s job – that’s why he he’s called FATHER. Yeshua says he’ll finish what he started in me and in you (Philippians 1:6). Yeshua is the Way. He is the LIFE. He is the AUTHOR and FINISHER of our Faith – so we look to HIM.

I’m IN HIM. So look what Paul says in Colossians 2 – that even the Gentile Colossians could say they were in fact circumcised. How? In Christ – when HE was circumcised at 8 DAYS old (I said the wrong word in the audio – saying “8 year old”...no, He was an 8 DAY old baby). We’re in him. Let that sink in.

Colossians 2:11-15

“In Him YOU were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised HIM from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive TOGETHER WITH HIM, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”

So we’re part of Him, we’re IN him, we become ONE SPIRIT with him - just like a man and wife become one flesh, we become one spirit. HIS SPIRIT. We’re in HIM.

HOW we come to be “IN Christ”

This in turn explains how we are said to have DIED with/in Christ, and been resurrected in him, and to be crucified with Christ – all of that is clearly stated in **Romans 6:1-9**. I’ll quote just a bit of that here for time’s sake, but be sure to study it carefully on your own.

Romans 6:1-9 (summarized)

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall **we who died to sin** live any longer in it?

[So how did you die to sin? When Yeshua died on the cross, that was YOU! Next verse]

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as **were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?** 4 Therefore we were **buried with Him** through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that **our old man was crucified with Him****, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now **if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him**, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.”

*So folks: all this happened because we’re no longer talking about YOUR body, but HIS body. You’re not just a part of the church – but a part of HIM, you’re IN HIM. Because Christ was crucified, and we are now in Christ, you also were crucified with Christ. Now you no longer live, but the life you live is Christ, by his faith (**Galatians 2:20 KJV**).*

Then you received the Holy Spirit after baptism and were immersed not just in water, but now immersed (baptized by the Holy Spirit) into the Body of Christ – 1 Cor. 12:12.

*****1 Corinthians 12:12-14**

“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are **one body, so also is Christ**. 13 For **by one Spirit we were all baptized (immersed) into one body** — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many.”

So now, with the Holy Spirit – we become the Temple of God’s *shekinah* presence – and HE and the FATHER come live in us, and we live in God the Father and IN the Son.

But even then, I doubt we realize what that means. Father and Christ come to live in you and me – abiding in our bodies, living with us. Imagine if we were more conscious of God living with me, every moment we live and breathe, God is there – part of us, and we’re part of Him.

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; **and My Father will love him, and WE will come to him and make Our home with him.**"

WOW. Holy, holy, holy Yahweh and Christ come live in you and in me by their Spirit. Let that sink in. Would you keep doing what you do, would you watch what you watch, go where you go – if you really realized Father and Christ come live with you, in you? And if you grasp that you are in the Father and Christ?

This is not a concept that is being preached correctly or often enough. But it’s the KEY to experiencing the true joy of salvation, and to live in the peace of knowing who you are – because of being in Christ.

Do you realize you are also IN our most Holy FATHER, the King of the universe, the Father of our Savior?

John 17:20-23

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, **as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one IN US, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. “**

THE POWER OF ONE. That “one” is not you. It’s you in the ONE body of Christ. IN HIM. HIS perfection.

1 Thess 1:1 – “brethren who are IN GOD THE FATHER and Jesus Christ.

1 John 4:12-16

“No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, GOD abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. **13 By this we know that we abide IN HIM, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.”**

But HOW do you and I – as imperfect as we are -- get to be in our perfect Holy Father? You have no problem accepting that Christ is in the Father, right? Yeshua said that. “I am in the Father, my father and I are one.”

John 14:10-11

“Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; **but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me....”**

So how do you and I end up being in the Father also? Here it is: because you died to the self, you were buried in water baptism, you were baptized into Christ by His Spirit, so we are IN Christ. And if you are IN Christ – and we know Christ is in God his Father – then you are also in God by being in Christ. Colossians 3:3 says so.

Colossians 3:2-4

“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. **3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.** **4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”**

There’s the key to being in God the Father! By being in Christ. Yeshua is now our life. We will be spotless and faultless – IN HIM, by HIM, through HIM. But we usually let this drop. We don’t focus on Him nearly enough.

So those who have received the Holy Spirit are no longer seen as being “in the flesh” (though we are still flesh and blood). We’re not seen as being carnal and evil anymore – but now we are IN Christ, in HIM. We have HIS MIND that we have to LET FUNCTION in us – Philippians 2:5. We have HIS heart that is no longer enmity against God or God’s laws. We have become a NEW CREATION – In Christ! 2 Corinthians 5:17, 21 says that.

Romans 8:5-10

“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, *those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

9 But YOU are NOT in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”

Romans 8:12-13 remind us that we must use God’s spirit to “put to death the deeds of the flesh” and that if we continue to live by the flesh, we will die. We cannot go on living a way of life of sin. If we do, we will not be in God’s kingdom, no matter what you hear other preachers say. Read it for yourself in Gal. 5:19-21. So we still have the carnal flesh nature residing inside us alongside with God’s new nature in us – and we must feed God’s nature, God’s spirit, God’s way of Life and *starve* the carnal, sinful nature we all also still have. It’s made crystal clear in Galatians 5.

Galatians 5:16-26

16 I say then: **Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.** 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; *and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.* 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, **that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

22 But the fruit of the Spirit IS love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are

Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

So if you have God's spirit, walk by the spirit, are LED by the spirit, FOCUS ON spiritual things more than carnal things of the flesh – you are IN Christ. So now when we pray – we can pray as Christ, in Jesus name – since we are IN HIM. And that gives us boldness to come confidently into the very presence of perfect, thrice holy God!

GRASPING the exciting understanding of being IN HIM and HE in us

OK, so you are in God the Father himself and in Christ. And Father and Christ are in you, all the time, 24/7. They live with you. God sees, hears and experiences everything you do, therefore. Everything. If it gets bad enough, God's spirit can leave, as David knew – hence his prayer in Psalm 51, “Take not thy spirit from me, O Lord”. But imagine how honored, humbled, ecstatic, excited we'd feel if we could only live with the realization that ...GOD... is right here! All the time.

Imagine how empowered you would feel to do the right, if we could really see and feel the actual Shekinah holy presence of GOD himself inside of us?

Never mind all the wonderful artwork showing the Holy of Holies and the sacred ark. YOU and I are now that Holy of Holies. You and I are now the abode of the Almighty. But we don't remember or even grasp this. But yes, God himself is IN you and you are IN HIM.

Therefor God knows what you're going through, have been through and are about to go through – because he is the God who is, and was, and is to come. He is completely in control (even when events seem totally out of control to us). He knows what his plan is. He often allows things we don't understand. Sometimes some things that seem incredibly bad and tough and we wonder why He acts or doesn't act the way we wish He would. *But in and by Yeshua's FAITH, we must like Christ, sleep through the storm, accept Father's will, and live in HOPE of a great future.* This life is temporal, temporary. We must come to live with that. What we don't see is eternal. But we see the eternal things through Yeshua's eyes of faith.

Just as Elisha (2 Kings 6:17-19) prayed that his servant would see the angelic armies charging invisibly above them – and he did – so must see with those kinds of eyes and realize God has everything in control. Always. So then we start to thank him even before we see the answers WE want, for what we want may be different than what GOD wants. But we're told what HE wants, and what he is preparing for us, is far better than we can imagine (**1 Corinthians 2:9**).

So in times of distress, we remember “He who is IN you is greater than he who is in the world” – 1 John 4:4. And if you've liked what I've just said in the past 4 minutes or so, much of that came from dear friends in FL and WA going through a world of HURT RIGHT now, but they've inspired me and you with their eyes of faith. May Yahweh heal them in Yeshua's mighty name, Amen.

In fact, we often see more clearly what is vital, important, and eternal – when we're in our greatest pain and need. Isn't that true? So like Paul, we begin to praise and thank him—for when we are WEAK, then we- through HIM – become strong. We learn we CAN do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13). And v 11- “in whatever state I'm in, I've learned to be content.”

It’s not our strength. It’s not our willpower. It is Christ. And He is in us and we are in him. So when we have mountains of problems – we are to do what God told Zerubbabel to do: “Shout ‘GRACE, GRACE’ to those mountains and they will become a plain” (Zechariah 4:6-7). Call on God’s grace, which is renewed every day and His grace is greater than any of our sins. God’s grace is greater than my sin(s), for where sin abounds, grace SUPER-ABOUNDS (Romans 5:20).

Romans 5:19-21

“For as by one man’s disobedience (Adam) many were made sinners, so also **by one Man’s (Yeshua’s) obedience many will be made righteous.**

20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. **But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”**

Zechariah 4:6-7

"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel:

'*Not* by might nor by power, **but by My Spirit,** ' – not by your willpower, or your abilities... Says YHVH of hosts.

7 'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone *with shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"*

So though outwardly we are getting worse, inwardly we’re getting stronger.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet **the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.**”

So how are we doing on not focusing on the temporary material things around us? I’ve sure had to grow in this area! Read, and re-read this passage in 2 Corinthians 12.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. **9 And He said to me, "MY grace is sufficient for you, for MY strength is made perfect in weakness."** Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10 Therefore I take PLEASURE in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**”

SO HOW DOES 1 John 4:17b WORK DAY BY DAY?

OK, let’s read 1 John 4:17b in context.

1 John 4:12-19

“No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of

His Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

When we focus on ourselves, on our pain, on our worries, on our issues – don’t we just get more depressed? Start focusing instead on YESHUA, ON Jesus – WHY? “BECAUSE AS HE IS, SO ARE WE in this world”, because we are in him.

HE IS our joy. We don’t strive to become more joyful, we strive to be stronger in HIM and let HIS joy become our joy. HE is our love. He is our Peace. HE is our FAITH. HE is our goodness, and so on. It’s HIS strength. HIS love. HIS joy that will get you through – not all the trying, mustering strength that you can do – but living by His Faith. The JUST (righteous) shall LIVE by faith, and as I showed in the last message, it must be Yeshua’s faith. It STARTS in faith and ends in faith. Yeshua is the AUTHOR and finisher of our faith, -- so we must focus on HIM. Not on US. Not on the problem. Not on the issues. But on HIM.

But what do we typically pray about? HOW do we usually pray? It’s asking Him to bless us, to open doors for us, a lot of requests for carnal and temporary things. It’s so often a detailed wish list we hope he’ll satisfy.

But as we grow in our Lord, our prayers take on a new priority like Paul’s prayers. “May YOUR will be done. Father, DO what you think is best. Help me trust you, seek you, and help me kill sins in my life. Help me become more like you and have the peace that surpasses all understanding, in Christ.”

You hear the difference?

So, let’s say you’re trying to be more loving. You see a mean streak or unkindness in you. What do you do? (What I’m going to say in the next 5-7 minutes will sound simplistic to many... but try it.)

Repeat several times a day in quiet meditative prayer: “Master, YOU are full of kindness. You are love personified. You are longsuffering and don’t get mean. I look to you – and I’m IN YOU. You are loving, and as YOU are, so am I in this world, for I’m in YOU, and you’re in ME.”

Do you remember what 2 Cor. 3:17-18 says (we read earlier)? A paraphrase: “As we gaze at the glory of the LORD, we’re being transformed from glory to glory into His same image by His Spirit”.

Let’s say your mind is becoming worried, anxious and not at peace. You look to Yeshua again – for AS HE IS, SO ARE WE in this world. 1 John 4:17b

You repeat many times a day in quiet meditative prayer, “Lord, you are never worried. You know the end from the beginning. You are in complete control of all things, all forces, all situations. You sleep soundly in a storm. I look to you. I gaze upon your perfect peace and no worry. I’m in you and you’re in me. As you are, so am I becoming. IN YOU, I am at peace, for you gave us your peace. You ARE my peace.”

You see what you’re doing? You’re focusing on HIM. You’re declaring the end – which is Christ the finisher of our faith – from the beginning. We become what we focus on.

Let’s say you are lacking in energy, you are constantly tired and fatigued. You look to Messiah. You gaze upon his glory, upon HIM – and as you do, as 2 Cor 3:17-18 says, you will be transformed from glory to glory, more and more in his image. You remind yourself that when He brought Israel out of Egypt, after they came under the blood of the Lamb, they were all healed and energized. **Psalm 105:37** says that when they came out of Egypt, there was NO ONE FEEBLE among them!

“Yeshua, Son of God, I look to you. You are full of zeal and energy. In your spiritual state, you never slumber or sleep or need to. I give you my fatigue and tiredness. I look to you, to your energy. You said those who call upon you will never be weary. I am in you and you are in me. I call upon YOUR strength, your energy, your vigor.” Then repeat Isaiah 40:28-31.

Isaiah 40:28-31

“Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The everlasting God, YHVH, the Creator of the ends of the earth,

Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

29 He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary and the young men shall utterly fall,

31 But those who wait on YHVH shall renew their strength;

They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary,

They shall walk and not faint.”

Are you getting it?

Let’s say you have an illness, or a cancer, or a pain, or any health problem. Now you tell me:

what are you to do? Are we getting the idea? We focus on our Healer, not on the problem. Whatever you focus on will become dominant in your life. Where are your thoughts? What do you spend time thinking about?

“Yahweh our HEALER, I focus on you. I have a lump in my breast... (Or a back that is in awful pain... or whatever the issue is). I know you made our bodies and I look to you. I know you have no health issues. You are perfectly healthy. You are strong and without pain. And you can command the problems to leave and they will. I’m IN YOU, and you in me – and so I look to your painless, healthy body and ask you to live THAT LIFE in me too— healthy, pain free, **for as YOU ARE, so am I in this world...** healthy, pain free. Amen.”

And what does 2 Cor 3:17-18 say? As we gaze upon HIM, we go from glory to glory and change into HIS image by His Spirit.

APPLY THIS TO ANY PROBLEM YOU HAVE – COMMIT TO HIM, FOCUS ON HIM, LEAVE IT with him.

Lustful thoughts – look to HIM. He is pure and does not feed any lust. As he is, so are we.

And what you’ll find is that your thinking changes.

OUR PART –

- Deeply repent and turn from your worldly, wicked ways. Why am I seeing the F word showing up among believers, on their Facebook posts, etc.? WHY? Don’t use filthy language!
- Seek him – not because HE’s lost, but because WE are. SO many scriptures tell us to seek him with all our heart.
- When he appears in your life, open the door to him. Bring him HOME – into YOUR home, your heart. Don’t let him stay outside knocking on your door!
- Abide in him. John 15. That’s our hard work, folks! STICK with him. SPEND TIME with him...or do you spend more time on Facebook than on seeking and speaking to/listening to our King.
- FOCUS ON HIM. FOCUS ON HIM. FOCUS ON HIM.....

Don’t dismiss this sermon. “For AS HE IS, so ARE WE in this world.” (1 John 4:17b) Let’s conclude with some well-known passages of scripture and see them in this light – of being IN Christ and ALL things pass THROUGH him. Assure Yeshua you want to be just like HIM. Look to HIM! For as HE is, so are WE in this world...

(Other examples given on the audio). Overcoming and changing won’t happen by OUR power – but by His grace and power. Call on the faith and grace and power of Christ. Focus on HIM and the positive opposite of the sins. Don’t focus on the sins. Focus on *him* for having already won!

Romans 8:28-39

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom **He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified [made righteous]; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, [comment: thus removing the condemnation and wrath we caused] and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written:

"For Your sake we are killed all day long;

We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

37 Yet in all these things **we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.** 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Let’s end with Romans 11.

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?"

35 'Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?"

36 For OF Him and *through* Him and to Him are ALL things, to whom be glory forever.

Amen.

I hope this message has excited you. I hope you feel the newness and power of focusing on Yeshua, the author and Finisher of our faith, focusing on the positives of what He's already done – and not on the weaknesses of our life. Accept one another. Christ took the wrath of our sins on himself. He is changing you and me to be more and more like He is.

IN the end, we SHALL be like Him, and SEE him as He is – 1 John 3:2.

(Closing prayer).

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If you've found this and other messages on this website to be helpful, please tell others; spread the word of this free website. It's a labor of love. If you have suggestions, comments, prayers or encouragement for us, we'd love to hear from you. If you want prayers for yourself or loved ones, I'd love to help you with that too. So please don't keep us a secret. We pray more and more people will hear God's word boldly spoken. – Philip