

JOHN 14:23

Jesus answered 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...*"

LUKE 1:45

And blessed is she [Mary] who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.

REVELATION 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, *I will come in to him and eat with him*, and he with me.

The malleable aspect of Christ's indwelling;

1 CORINTHIANS 6:15-17 (see also Ephesians 4:30)

¹⁵ 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 prostitute?* Never!

¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." ¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

JOHN 15:7

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Do you have a conscious awareness of the reality that your ongoing sin is—in a sense—joining Christ to sin? What difference would it make in our lives if this reality were a constant presence in all our thoughts?

God's "spiritual homemaking" is a difficult teaching to receive;

JOHN 6:47-60

⁴⁷ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ *I am the bread of life.* ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ *I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh...* ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent me,

and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸ ...Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever" ... ⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "*This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?*"

God's "spiritual homemaking" is an on-going process of sanctification;

JOHN 13:8-10

⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean..."

Read (using a concordance) of the instances of a "filling of the Spirit" in Acts, making note of the context and the results of these "fillings." What similarities and connections do you see to Christ's "homemaking" work in this passage?

A fuller understanding of the indwelling of Christ in the believer: the persevering indwelling, and the transforming indwelling;

GALATIANS 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

GALATIANS 4:19

 (see also Ephesians 4:13)

...my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth *until Christ is formed in you!*

How can we reconcile the dichotomy that all of Christ is now ours (1:3-4) and Christ is still being brought to fullness/maturity in us (4:13)?

The context of the request: The strengthening of the inner man comes through the removal of self-reliance to be replaced with reliance upon the Spirit

How does this request of Paul connect to the initial request for "strengthening"? In what way is Christ's "homemaking in our heart" contingent upon the type of strengthening prayed for in verse 16?

The conflict between self-reliance and fellowship;

2 CORINTHIANS 1:8-9

⁸ For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. *But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.*

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-9

⁷ *So to keep me from becoming conceited...* a thorn was given me in the flesh... ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, *so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

Martin Lloyd-Jones once said, “Any Christian who is satisfied with their experience with Christ is in a sad and deplorable position.” In what way is this right and helpful? In what way is this misleading? In thinking of this, reflect upon Psalm 37:4

The faith connection;

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Faith is not just belief, but belief plus trust. Therefore, Jesus’ “homemaking” can only happen in the soil of biblical faith.

Ultimately, we are not praying for Christ to make His home in our hearts. Instead, the mature believer asks to be made increasingly aware that our heart is not our own;

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20

...You are not your own, for you were bought with a price...

Reflect upon some of the rich hymns of faith that express a deep and powerful love for and tangible connection to Christ. Ask yourself honestly how earnestly you desire a fellowship with Christ like that? Do your prayers and petitions to God reflect the burden that Paul had for the spiritual formation of Christ within himself and other believers?



SO THAT CHRIST MAY DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS THROUGH FAITH

EPHESIANS 3:17A

Spiritual strengthening does not happen without the indwelling presence of Christ;

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” ...

1 TIMOTHY 1:12

I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord...

2 TIMOTHY 2:1

You then, my child, *be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus...*

2 TIMOTHY 4:17

But the Lord [Christ] stood by me and strengthened me...

Fundamental truth: To be indwelt by Christ is to be regenerate;

ROMANS 8:9-10

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ *But if Christ is in you*, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Do you pray—as Paul prays—that you and other *believers* will be indwelt by Christ? If you do, what do you mean?

The biblical picture of God “making Himself at home” in/with the believer;

GENESIS 18:1-3, 22

¹ And the LORD appeared to him...as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth ³ and said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant... ²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD.

Is it biblical to “ask Jesus into your heart?” In what way does this text teach us to think of and ask for Christ to make His home in our heart?