



May 2002

He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him (1 Corinthians 6:17).

This month, this truth was reaffirmed to me as the key to all of life! Life in union with Christ! I just can't get over this truth, and I hope I never do. I suppose that's what eternity is for...to forever bask in Christ and in this truth. Consider this word:

When Christ WHO IS OUR LIFE appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory (Colossians 3:4).

How tremendous is that! ☺ This intimate union is all because of the cross of Christ:

*For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death,
CERTAINLY we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection (Romans 6:5).*

Joy and I have been pressed to prepare for her back surgery in San Francisco on June 6th. A lot has happened, but I can sincerely say that God is in control. It's when I seek to help Him in His control that I experience frustration and anxiety.

I have been so busy that I fell for the temptation of trying to do all the right things for Joy. However, God doesn't want me to live trying to do right! ☺ I can do what is right in my own eyes and still be unconcerned for God's glory and honor (see Judges 17:6). God wants me to live solely by trusting (resting in) the life of His dear Son in me (Hebrews 4:1).

I also fell for another temptation of doing things for Joy with God's help. However, God doesn't just want to help me! ☺ Oh how He wants to live through me in the life of His dear Son to minister to His dear Joy (Galatians 2:20)!

These two attempts at "living" are based on the subtle deception that I have a separate identity from Christ – that I have something in me that can do something of real value. I do have a unique personality, but it is truly manifested only when Christ lives through me. My oneness with Christ is an answer to His prayer for me in John 17:22.

The Holy Spirit's primary ministry is to shine the spotlight on Christ (John 15:26), and He does this by reminding me of my union with Christ. Listen to His heart:

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God (Romans 8:16).

He lovingly did this through recent anxieties and frustrations. My confession (agreement) with God is a fruit of Christ's life in me, not a fruit of a separate effort. The great good news of the gospel is that I can entrust ALL of life to Christ – it simply is not up to me. He is perfectly trustworthy! I'm still struggling with circumstances, but that's ok, for Jesus assures me...

... My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).

**Jesus said in John 15:5, "I am the vine, you are the branches.
He who abides in Me, and I in Him, bears much fruit, for without Me you can do nothing."**

This analogy is that as sap is the life of the tree, Jesus is my life who flows through me to bear eternal fruit (see also Romans 7:4). Apart from my union with Christ, I can do absolutely nothing. The secret is to abide in Christ, to simply believe that Christ is my life whether I feel it or not. He promises to live through you. This month, a single mother, a friend, a pastor, and nine people in a Grace Life Conference in Simpsonville joyfully received this truth.

See www.eternitynow.org/5.htm?qibq0203-theordjesus.shtml for a short article on union with Christ.

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A satellite office of Christ Life Ministries in Hendersonville, NC*

See back for a prayer and information regarding Joy's surgery plans. I hope it is encouraging to you in your own circumstances.



A prayer for Joy, and for you

Dear Lord, I entrust precious Joy to You. Thank You for revealing your life to me through her life, her smile, even her suffering. Thank you that You are not standing off from Joy pointing out how she should and shouldn't live...for your arms are busy fully embracing her all of the time. Lord, she is so close to You that she can hear your heart beat! And the beauty of the gospel is that You have given that same heart to her! She said the other night that "God is good all the time, isn't He?!" I was reminded how in the past I claimed to be blessed when things were working out well for us on this foreign planet...but I see now that I was exalting circumstances and not You. Oh how we are blessed because of our union with You no matter what! I no longer have to pray for your blessings...we could never ever be more blessed than in being one with You! You alone are all we need! Thank you that You still will be embracing Joy on the operating table. Lord, your loving embrace of Joy extends through many special friends, and it even extends into the work of the doctors and nurses. And I am overwhelmed to realize that when people have a desire to pray for Joy, and other people that come to their minds, that a most glorious miracle is rising up in them – your very life! You remind me of Joy's daddy right now in the hospital himself...thank You for embracing him as your little boy, too! Lord, thank You for already healing us through the cross. We now want You to shine through us in all things. In union with Jesus' Name, Gregg

Contact Information

*At Bob & Shellie's through June 6.
Will return home before end of June.*

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*Add room # and the words "Patient Mail"
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