

WEEK 4

Yet Not I, But Christ Liveth In Me! (Galatians Chapter 2)

Introduction by David Hayman

Could it really be that simple? Christ lives in me now and I live by him? I mean he walked by faith in his Father (who is in him) when he was here on earth, could he teach you and me how to do the same now he's living in us?

In this chapter Paul uses an example of a difficult situation he had with Peter (who is also an apostle) but who was not "walking uprightly according to the truth of the gospel". Christ was living in Peter why wasn't Peter acting like Christ would have in this situation? Why can there be a divide between Christ who is in us and our actions?

I think in this study we could explore what that famous verse in **Gal 2:20** means in its depth and how we can come into the victory of a life lived "by the faith of the Son of God" and not after the flesh. Paul spoke of Christ being formed in the believer (**Gal 4:19**); is there an aspect of growth here necessary for this progress to be made? Is it related to this fact that the "I" in you and me is still there, though crucified?

When we heard the truth of the gospel and the reality of our sin, we realised that Jesus has paid for our sin debt in full and gifted us eternal life as a result of grace! 😊 Jesus knew we couldn't live out this new Christian life in our own strength, so He "gives us more grace" (James 4:6) to empower us live like He did (1 John 2:6).

The Scripture uses grace and power/strength synergistically (2 Cor 12:9, Acts 4:33, 2 Tim 2:1, 2 Peter 1:2-3), so we can see that grace is far more than only the unmerited salvation of our souls.

1. What are some ways that the grace of God in your life, has equipped you to go beyond your natural ability? And a verse or two that you were clinging to for this victory.

We know that we are saved by grace through faith and not by works (Eph 2:8-9), so why do we often try to live out the Christian life in our own ability? Should we not also continue to live each day by grace through faith and not in our own strength (Titus 2:11-14).

2. Is there ever a circumstance in our lives that we abandon this formula of grace activated by faith and revert to our defaulted nature?

With Peter's hypocrisy in Galatians 2, we see how quickly we can stumble when we take our eyes off the Lord. We can only ever look at one place at the one time. If I take my eye off the ball, I'll "knock it on." If I have my face buried in my phone, how will I hear what you say when you're talking to me? If I take my eyes off the Lord, how can I expect to live a life well pleasing to Him (James 4:4-6)?

We need help (again) to continue on the straight and narrow road. Don't forget, we have Christ living in us through The Holy Spirit. (John 14:12-17, John 16:5-15, Romans 5:5, Acts 1:8, Phil 4:13, just to name a few)

3. How does The Holy Spirit help us live the Christian life?

All of this doctrine is great, but much better if we can walk in it daily (1 Cor 10:31, Col 3:17, 1 Thess 5:15-18). Let us not forget the power and importance of quantity of time with the Lord, as well as quality.

4. How do we get all of this 'head knowledge' and make it a reality in our lives? F__T_ (Mark 9:23 & Mark 10:27, 1 John 5:4)

5. "Lord I believe, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24). What are some ways we can increase or strengthen our faith? (Romans 10:17, 1 Peter 3-9)

As we are able to live each day by grace, activated by faith, the world should see this as an outward expression in our changed lives. Daniel 6:3 NJKV "Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm."

"If You Always Do What You've Always Done, You'll Always Get What You've Always Got." ~ Henry Ford

6. If you're sick of making the same failures and frustrating the grace of God in your life, what have you now been encouraged to try differently (repent) to unlock the power of grace in your life, moving forward (Heb 4:16)?

7. Do you have any additional thoughts on how we can live the Christian life by grace, not covered in this chapter?