



Authority & Completeness in Christ



OUR AUTHORITY & COMPLETENESS IN CHRIST

Discerning & understanding the will and purpose of the Lord and His Kingdom and discerning the schemes of the enemy and his demons is central and fundamental and crucial to living the overcoming life in Christ,

EVERYTHING WE COULD POSSIBLY NEED TO LIVE THIS JESUS-KIND-OF-LIFE ON EARTH HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN TO US AND SET WITHIN US.

1. CHRIST IN US - God's Empowering Presence

- The first creation is fallen, marred, twisted, ruined and heading for destruction:

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

2 Peter 3:10-13

- In the midst of this first creation, God makes “new Creations” to live to reveal his new life, power and presence:

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

- The essence of the new creation is that man or woman is indwelt by the Holy Spirit:

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

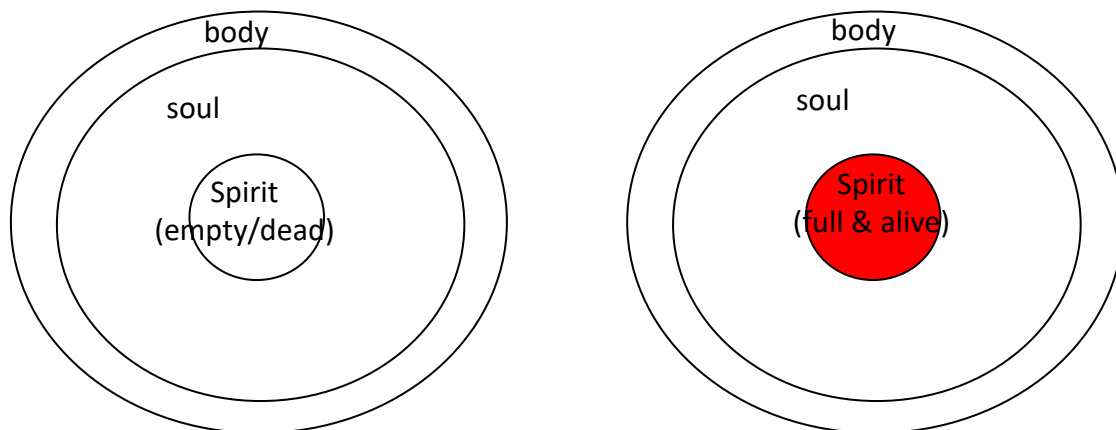
Romans 8:9-10

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

Galatians 2:20

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:27



We are now in Christ. We have a new identity and nature, for everything that belongs to Jesus is imparted to us. (Paul uses the phrase ‘in Christ’ 86 times!) I am becoming what I already am!

In this time on earth, who we are in Christ is veiled within our natural bodies, but will be fully revealed when Christ returns:





Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your heart on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3:1-4

2. WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

A Christ's Authority is the source of all authority

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. Ephesians 1:18-23

- Definitions:
 Authority = **the right to rule**
 Power = **the ability to rule**
- The Christian enters into Christ's authority at salvation:

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:4-6

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. Colossians 2:9-10

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. Luke 10:17-19

We must use our weapons, exercise our authority and do battle in the spiritual realm. The enemy cannot stand up against us in a direct confrontation of the authority we have in Christ.

The only weapons available to Satan are lying, deceiving, intimidating and causing fear. He cannot withstand a power encounter against God's children who stand in righteousness, holiness and Christ's authority.

- The Christian enters into Christ's power at salvation:

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. Ephesians 1:18-21

B We are full in Christ

Christ in us imparts to us every supernatural resource, blessing and inheritance we need to live like him. His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

2 Peter 1:3,4





Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
Ephesians 1:3

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.
Colossians 2:9,10

LIES

- I'm waiting for God to do something – so often we wait when God has already spoken – PASSIVITY
- I need the anointing – IT IS ALREADY THERE – experience more of anointing as live it
- I need more healing – if we wait until we are perfect then
- Feel it before I can do – understand it – etc
- If they treat me wrong I have a right to live in the pain
- I don't feel up to it

C We are fully loved by God

- God doesn't just fit us for service like a recharged power tool! We are his children, loved and adored.
- God cannot love us more than he does today, but we can walk into greater and greater revelation and experience of his love.
- Our experience is not the barometer of his love. We know his love by faith and truth. When we experience it we rejoice, but we never look for the experience of it! We seek Jesus, to know him, to be surrendered and yielded to him and to rest in his loving arms.
- The experience of Jesus' nearness and dearness is the by-product of seeking him. Once it becomes the goal, then we are focussing on self again.
- Look at your Birthright cards.

3. BLOCKAGES TO OUR INHERITANCE

A. Sin / Our Flesh

- Those parts of our souls not yet redeemed and restored by God's truth and love.
- Still believing and acting upon the lies sown by Satan in the past.
- Desires and appetites given permission to reign.

B. Devil

- His influence operating in and against us. Acceptance and agreement with his lies and oppression.
- The essence of spiritual warfare is a "Truth Encounter"
- Satan only has as much influence as we allow him.

C. World

- The fallen society in which we live is ruled and directed by the powers of darkness. There is huge pressure exerted on us to conform to its pattern.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.
Romans 12:2





4. SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is the process by which we are “conformed to the image of Christ”.

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. 2 Thessalonians 2.13

- We are becoming what we already are!
- We cannot force this process. God is at work in us and we must allow the Spirit to lead, guide, convict and change us.

The foundational key for growth and transformation is DESPERATION.

We need to be aware of our own brokenness, emptiness, sin and powerlessness outside of Jesus. We need to consciously determine to meet with Jesus and allow his life and power to transform us daily.

