

Yesterday we looked at the reality that God is with us...always. He never leaves us even though we think we have left Him. We can feel like He is distant and has left us but that is not true according to Hebrews 13:5...

“He Himself has said, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever abandon you,”

And some of the last words Jesus spoke to His disciples and us in Matthew 28:20 are ...

“...I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

So, it should be extremely clear that if you have truly been born again by the Spirit of God then you have become a member of His family...eternally...forever...till the end of time and beyond.

I know...I know people say that God will never leave us, but we can leave Him. I am sorry but that is just stupid reasoning...if God will NEVER leave us then what part of NEVER do you not understand. And it is impossible for us to leave God...since He exists everywhere...that is what being omnipresent means.

Now in today's What If... let's take that idea even further. What if God is not only always with you...but He actually dwells inside of you. This to me is one of the least understood and most underappreciated truths in the Bible. How can God exist inside of us? Well...let's start with what Jesus said to His disciples in John 14:16-17...

“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, so that He may be with you forever; the Helper is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you.”

Three incredible truths are in this passage. First when Jesus uses the word “another” in Greek it means one of the exact same kind. Not close to...or almost like...but a Helper of the exact same kind as Jesus was...equally God as much as Jesus was God.

The second incredible truth is that Jesus says, and I quote...

“...so that He will be with you FOREVER...”

Jesus had been with them for about 3½ years. However, He had just told them that He was leaving to go and prepare a place for them in heaven. At this news they freaked out and were immediately struck with abandonment disorder. So, Jesus is assuring them that He is not leaving them alone...the Holy Spirit will remain with them but in a more powerful way...

“WILL BE IN THEM...FOREVER!!!”

Critical truth # 1 - After Jesus leaves another Helper will come exactly as much God as Jesus was God and The Spirit would be with them and remain with them.

Critical truth # 2 - This helper identified as the Spirit of Truth will not only be with them...as Jesus had been with them...but the Spirit of Truth would be with them FOREVER. And

FOREVER means ALWAYS. He won't come and go as Jesus did on some occasions. They will never have to go looking for Him. There will never...ever be a time when the Spirit is not with them...PLUS...

Critical truth # 3 - Unlike Jesus...The Spirit of Truth would not only remain **WITH THEM FOREVER...but He will also be IN THEM FOREVER!!!**

Now listen my friends...this may be the most important truth we need to understand about our Christian life and battling with porn and sexual brokenness. See what Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 6:18-20...

"Flee sexual immorality. Every other sin that a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought for a price: therefore, glorify God in your body."

So, what if the Spirit of God literally and actually lives inside of your body? Well...He does and what can that mean to us in our battle with the lusts of our flesh? Well, first it means that when you are being tempted you do not need to go looking for help from God. The Spirit is right there with you...even in you and He sees and knows everything that is happening.

He does not just jump to rescue us. Well, He actually might do that or does it without us even seeing the temptation. However, He is there. He is God Almighty. And He is God Almighty dwelling inside of you who, rumor has it, wants to help you resist the temptation and will provide a way of escape to that you can stand up under the temptation.

Now let me add one more thought that seems strange, but I find it in the Bible in several places. Not only is the Holy Spirit with us and in us...He is the Spirit of Christ and sometimes He is referred to as Christ. Having the Spirit in us is exactly like having Jesus in us because He is the Spirit of Christ.

Note what Paul says in Galatians 2:20...

*"I have been crucified with Christ;
and it is no longer I who live, **but Christ lives in me;**"*

Now notice in Romans 8:9-10 how Paul talks about the Spirit being in us...

*"...you are not in the flesh **but in the Spirit**, if indeed the **Spirit of God dwells in you**. But if anyone does not have **the Spirit of Christ**, he does not belong to Him. **If Christ is in you**, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness."*

Seems to me that in Paul's mind having the Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ is Christ Himself living in us. He is talking about the same entity. He calls Him the Spirit...the Spirit of God...the Spirit of Christ...and then Christ.

This is an incredible truth that we need to know and understand. The Spirit of God literally lives inside of our bodies. Our bodies at the Temple of the Spirit. He is always **with us** because He is always **in us** and everything we face in life needs to be seen under the spotlight of the Spirit...and it is from THE SPIRIT we can begin to walk in the Spirit so that we **do not fulfill the desires of our flesh.**

So, when we are tempted we need to immediately reach out to the Spirit and ask Him to help us take the best next action to evade temptation. Ask Him to guide you out of the temptation. Ask Him to show you the EXIT sign, which we are promised, and then take it.

And lastly after calling on the Spirit...call in some friends to help you break out of the tempting isolation you are in and to help you. Another good reason to be in one of our Online Support Teams. Those men are texting each other daily helping when anyone is being tempted. Do you not think that would be a good thing for you as well?