

The Perfect and Complete Assurance that Every Situation in My Life is Going to Turn out Both Splendid and Bright 01: Where is Jesus

This is the longest named series I have done; I could not think of a word to remove or change. I want to talk about the reason that we have a hope. And if you lose your hope – you go back to the same reason and your hope will grow again. If you have a hope – and you go back to this same reason – your hope will get even bigger and bigger.

We need to build some real foundational things into your heart in the next few weeks. And we need to start with an amazingly simple question: where is Jesus right now?

Where is Christ? Where is the power and glory of Jesus right now?

You see different churches answer the question “where is Jesus” in different ways, but we must answer it according to the Word of God.

Read Romans 10.5-10. Verse 5 tells us that there is a way of being right with God, a way of having God on our side, having peace with God, that involves law. It is based on what you do. It is based on your actions. All you must do to be right with God via the law is keep all 613 commandments in the law perfectly all the time and never break any of them no matter what.

So, now we have established that this does not work, we need another way to be right with God, a way of having God on our side, of having peace with God, that does not involve the law. This second way is the way of faith – you do not approach God with your behaviour, you approach God because of what He did, confident, believing in His work to cover your sin and make you right with Him. This way of being right with God has nothing to do with your behaviour, and everything to do with whether you believe in what Jesus did.

Many people still do not realize their salvation, healing, and all their blessings come from the behaviour of Jesus Christ not their behaviour. I believe most people in the Tree are aware though, but I want to dig deeper than that, I want to help you get your hope to a higher level than it has ever been.

One of the biggest hope destroyers is condemnation: a sense that your past behaviour is linked to your future blessings. A sense that your past is somehow holding back God from showing you love, promoting you or blessing you. And this destroyer of hope is common to all of us – all of us have broken the law of Moses, we have broken our own principles, we have acted selfishly, unkindly, stupidly – all of us have done things that have hurt other people – and an awareness of that affects our believe that we can enjoy a life of health and abundance and blessings and finances and freedom.

We have a mental conversation that can destroy our hopes. You read the Bible, you listen to my teaching on the boom, on the Word, on the blessings, and you start to dream of

being out of debt, dream of having enough, dream of being a big blessing to others, having an income that means you never have to worry about money again. You dream of never having to say no to an offering.

But then as you start to dream, your internal voice starts to speak and tell you that you do not deserve that, you do not deserve to be blessed, you are not good enough, you are too inconsistent, you are too evil, too selfish, too foolish to walk in the blessing.

Most people will try to argue with the voice, and they will say something like that I am not that bad, but that does not work, because you know that you are not that good a person, you are just not that brilliant. So, you beat yourself up and beat your own dreams to death!

The key is to stop disagreeing with the voice, and just admit you are not that good. But then not to rollover and beat yourself up, but to then realize that the fact that you are blessed is nothing to do with your behaviour, but to do with the behaviour of Jesus on the cross. Point your mind to Jesus and His work! Believe it and benefit from it. Doubt and fail to benefit from it.

The WORD IS NOT THE BLESSING, but if you believe the WORD, if you have faith in the WORD, you can live in the blessing. IF YOU STAND ON THE WORD, DECLARE THE WORD, then the whole universe starts to apologize to you and good things come your way and manifest.

STAND ON THE WORD OF GOD – BELIEVE THE WORD – and the first place you need to BELIEVE IS “I AM RIGHT WITH GOD” Why won’t HE HEAL ME? Why won’t HE BLESS ME? OF COURSE, HE WILL – WE ARE LIKE THAT! You need to develop a mindset that says, “Jesus will bless me as we are best friends, we are soul mates, we are one spirit”.

Of course, Jesus will help you. He loves you. You need to realize this and stand on it. Now, we need to unpack this so it can benefit you. But the foundation is that faith is the way of getting right with God, faith in the cross and resurrection, not faith in your behaviour or ability.

Read Romans 10.6. Notice that faith’s way of getting right of God never says go up to heaven to bring Jesus down. If we are people of faith, we never ever say that we need to bring Christ down to earth. We never need to do anything to bring Jesus down to earth. But the funny thing is that a lot of churches, that have Romans 10.6 in their Bible, seem to spend a lot of time trying to get Jesus to move from Heaven to earth.

If you want to know if you are aware of your righteousness, and aware enough that you are about to manifest some blessing, you need to carefully consider the answer to this simple question: where is Jesus.

It should be a remarkably simple question. The answer is all over the New Testament, but I meet Christians all the time who do not know the answer. The Bible tells us do not go up to heaven to bring Jesus down from heaven, in fact, never even ask.

But there is a lot of activity being done to bring Christ down. We go to some church services, and they start the service by praying for God to be with us, and for the Holy Spirit to come down and be with us. But He is not in Heaven needing prayed down to earth!

Then we sing “Come Holy Spirit, Fall Afresh on Me”, then we sing “We Need Another Pentecost”, then we sing “I am desperate for you”.

Then it's offering time, and we are told that you must tithe or the windows of heaven are closed and we cannot get blessed, Jesus is trapped in heaven and the closed window has meant he cannot sneak out and bless you, out of the window. But then we tithe and our tithe opens the window, and poor, trapped Jesus can now escape from Heaven.

None of this is in faith, because faith never says who or what goes up to Heaven to bring Jesus down. It never says that.

Then we have the sermon, and the preacher preaches up a storm on bringing down Heaven, and how we can open a portal to Heaven, and how if we repent, we can stop the Heavens being brass, and how if we repent and pray and humble ourselves, God will open the Heavens and Jesus can then come down and save us.

Then we sing again “Come Down Jesus”, then pray for people. “Give them more Lord”. Has anyone leaked this week? Then Jesus come down and visit this dear saint, they need a fresh touch from Heaven, come again and visit them.

None of this is in faith because it answers our simple question wrongly. It presumes Jesus is in Heaven.

Read Romans 10.7. Here is another wrong answer. Some people think Christ is in the place for the dead. The Greek word is abussos, it is deep in KJV and abyss in the Amplified. It means the deepest hole you can imagine.

Christ is not in a deep hole; we do not need to climb down to get to Jesus. Some people think the only way to connect to Jesus is to climb into the biggest hole possible. We get to church, and we pray “Oh God, we have sinned so much, so very much, so very very very much, we are worms, horrible broken smelly foul stinking worms... oh Lord you are too pure to even hear my voice but have mercy on me.”

I see people kneel sometimes, not in reverence and honour – I am not against kneeling. I kneel often before the Lord, but there is a kneeling that is self-flagellating, it is trying to put yourself in your biggest hole possible because you think that is where you find Jesus. You think that if you beat yourself up and get down as low as possible, then you will encounter God. If confess every sin you have ever committed and throw yourself down on the floor and roll around, you think God will be there.

When some people are praying, they want to make the need as big as possible because they think the bigger and deeper the whole, the more likely we are to meet Jesus. They beg and wail and tell God how big the problem is over and over. Now again, I am not against volume in prayer, or passion in prayer. I love praying loudly and I love praying with passion. What I am against is people digging a pit to try and meet Jesus there.

JESUS IS NOT IN HEAVEN UP THERE SO FAR AWAY.

JESUS IS NOT IN A PIT DOWN THERE SO FAR AWAY.

SO WHERE IS JESUS?

Read Romans 10.8. The word “message” is here in Greek is rhema, it means the breathed, spoken word of God. The moving, living presence of Jesus Christ of Nazareth is not in

Heaven! The power of God to change things, the breath of God is not in a pit, it is not far away from us. Jesus is close at hand.

The Greek word is enggoos, and it actually means to strangle someone. It means to be close enough to grab someone by the neck and squeeze it. Then as a word it started to be used about royalty, it meant someone who was a close enough friend to be allowed to stand that close to a member of the royal family. If you were an ancient king, you would not let anyone and everyone get physically close to you, only those who were close enough for you to trust.

How close is Jesus? He is always right within reach. That close all the time!

Read Ephesians 2.13. We are near. Notice that the blood of Jesus being shed did not move Jesus, it moved you. It moved you to right next to Jesus.

Where is Jesus? It's a simple question, and the answer is just as simple. He is right here, right now. The Lord is at hand!

- Are you sick? THE HEALER IS HERE
- Are you broke? THE PROVIDER IS HERE
- Are you exhausted? THE GOOD SHEPHERD IS HERE
- Are you broken? THE RESTORER IS HERE
- Are you lonely? THE GREATEST FRIEND is here
- Are you stupid? THE WISDOM OF GOD IS HERE

He is not in Heaven waiting for you to beg Him down or be so good you can get up there. He is not in a pit waiting for you to climb down and get so low He can meet you. He is here, where you are. He is in whatever you are in. He is in the midst of our meeting, He never leaves us, He never forsakes us, He is right here with us, He is at hand.

He is close enough to grab your neck! He is that close, and He, as the King of Kings, trusts you to be that close to Him.

Now notice, if we do not preach that Jesus is here, you are not preaching faith. You are not building faith in people, you are not inspiring people to dream, you are not building people's hopes, you are not helping people dream big and imagine big. And so sadly, there is a lot of teaching out there, that makes Jesus far away unless we climb up a mountain or dig deep into a pit to find Him.

Generally, the charismatics are climbing up, the evangelicals are climbing down, some churches do both in the same service! And all that activity is a waste of time! Jesus is not up high or down low, He is at hand. He could not be any closer to you than He is right now. He is at hand. That is good news that He is at hand, but He is closer than that.

Read Colossians 1.27. The riches and glory of Christ are for you! Abundance and glory are for you! You can have a life that makes others jealous, you can have a peace of mind in every storm, you can walk in the glory, you can walk in the light.

The word for riches is ploutos and it means to be rich and have stuff. I have been teaching on this Wednesday nights, and I recommend you join us! But today I want to focus on the word for glory, which is doxa. You can be rich, but riches without glory will destroy your life.

Doxa means to shine as bright as the sun, moon and stars. It means to be magnificent, it means to always win, it means to have dignity, it means to be full of grace, it means to be in the right place at the right time, it means to be supreme and to be at the top.

THAT IS THE KIND OF LIFE GOD WANTS ALL OF US TO HAVE. NOT JUST RICH, THAT'S NOT ENOUGH – WANTS YOU TO BE THE MASTER OF WHAT YOU DO, HE WANTS YOU TO BE IN CHARGE, HE WANTS YOU TO WIN, HE WANTS YOU TO MOVE AROUND ON EARTH LIKE JESUS, HE WANTS YOU TO BE LIVING IN THE ATMOSPHERE AND PEACE AND COMPLETENESS OF HEAVEN EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY.

- You wake up happy, you wake up full of life, you wake up with energy, You start your day in the presence of God, you start your day thanking God. You start influencing people for the better, you change lives, you heal the sick, the post comes and it is letters of encouragement, unexpected cheques. You go to work and inspire people and do a job you love, you are at peace, you are surrounded by love.
- Oh, storms will still come, tough times will still come at you – but you SPEAK BACK TO THE STORMS, THEY SCREAM AT YOU, AND YOU SPEAK WITH A CALM, GLORIOUS AUTHORITY AND THE STORMS RUN FROM YOU. You command things to happen, and they do, you always have more in your pockets than you think. YOU EXPECT A LIFE OF GLORY AND YOU HAVE IT.

How can I dream like that? How can I think that of my life? Don't you know how weak I am, don't know you how badly I messed up, don't you know I am average, I am just normal, I am not even average, I dream of being average, I am broke, I am broken, I am nothing and I am never going to get out of this mess.

You keep that mindset, and you will start CLIMBING UP TO FIND JESUS, or crawling into a pit to TRY AND FIND JESUS. You will start on a journey to FIND JESUS, YOU WILL WANT TO FIND JESUS – that is the basis of RELIGION, you will find a law and either try your hardest to keep it, or you will USE THE LAW TO BEAT YOU WITH AND TRY AND BEAT YOURSELF INTO A PIT TO FIND JESUS.

BUT JESUS IS NOT IN HEAVEN, CHRIST IS NOT IN A PIT.

You want to live a life of RICHES AND GLORY. You want to live a life of abundance and peace, and joy, and life, and splendour. DO YOU WANT TO SHINE IN YOUR STREET, YOUR SCHOOL, YOUR UNI, YOUR LIFE – LIKE THE SUN IN THE SKY?

This is the secret: Christ lives in you.

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE JESUS IS – CHRIST LIVES IN YOU. He is not in HEAVEN, HE is not in the PIT – not unless you are in the PIT, then HE IS IN THE PIT. BUT YOU DO NOT NEED TO GO TO THE PIT TO FIND HIM – HE IS HERE, HE IS IN STRIKING DISTANCE, HE IS CLOSER THAN THAT – CHRIST IS IN YOU.

This is a foundational truth of CHRISTIANITY – CHRIST IS INSIDE YOU – CHRIST is CHRISTOS – it is NOT JESUS LAST NAME.

His last name would have been BAR-JOSEPH, the son of Joseph. CHRIST IS A TITLE – it means the ONE WITH THE ANOINTING. THE ANOINTED ONE. What is the ANOINTING – it is the power of God to lift every burden and destroy every yoke. WHERE IS THE

ANOINTING – IT IS ON THE ANOINTED ONE – WHERE IS THE ANOINTED ONE – ON YOU.

Every burden can come off your life – NOT BECAUSE I AM ANOINTED AND LAY MY HAND ON YOU AND COMMAND YOU TO BE FREE! NO – because THE ANOINTED ONE LIVES IN YOU! THE POWER OF GOD LIVES IN YOU – every burden – every heavy weight, everything that hold you down, that holds you back, everything that takes the spring out of your step CAN BE LIFTED OFF YOUR LIFE.

Every YOKE can be destroyed. EVERYTHING THAT IS PULLING YOU THE WRONG WAY, STOPPING YOU WALKING IN YOUR DESTINY, is going to be smashed to pieces.

NOT BECAUSE I SAID SO, BUT BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE THAT THE ANOINTED ONE IS IN YOU.

This gives you assurance of sharing his glory. THIS GIVES YOU ASSURANCE OF SHARING – HAVING IT IN YOUR LIFE – HIS GLORY – the SPLENDOUR OF A KING – it's all yours.

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CHRIST IS NOT UP THERE OR DOWN THERE, HE IS IN ME.

Start to believe it, start to expect those burdens to melt away, those yokes to just smash to pieces. SOME OF YOU – debts are about to be destroyed, sicknesses are going to just melt right now.

CHRIST IS IN YOU – START DREAMING OF A LIFE WITHOUT BURDENS, A LIFE WITHOUT YOKES, START DREAMING OF SHINING. START DREAMING OF BEING THE HEAD AND NOT THE TAIL.

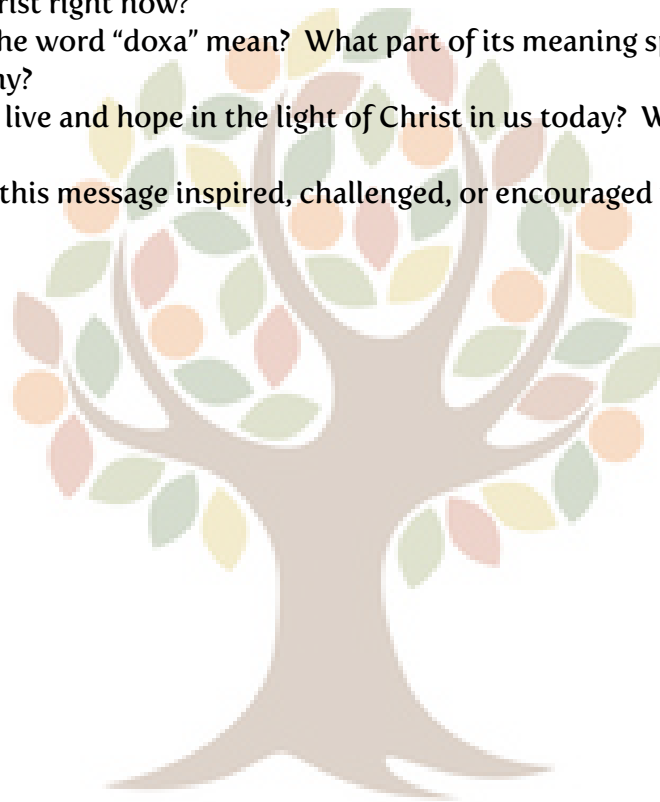
You are right with JESUS, and HE IS RIGHT WITH YOU and HE IS RIGHT WITH YOU!



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The Perfect and Complete Assurance that Every Situation in My Life is Going to Turn out Both Splendid and Bright 01: Where is Jesus QUESTIONS

1. Where is Jesus?
2. Why is condemnation such a hope-destroyer?
3. What is the best way to respond to condemnation?
4. What kind of things do we do when we mistakenly think we need to bring Jesus down from Heaven? Have you ever done things to try and bring Jesus down from Heaven?
5. What kind of things do we do when we mistakenly think we need to bring Jesus up from the pit? Have you ever done things to try and bring Jesus down from Heaven?
6. Where is Christ right now?
7. What does the word “doxa” mean? What part of its meaning spoke to you the most and why?
8. How can we live and hope in the light of Christ in us today? What sort of things can we do?
9. What about this message inspired, challenged, or encouraged you the most?



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