

"The Word as Personal Fullness"
John 1:16

We've said it or heard others say it, "I've done everything I can do to make myself more spiritual - and it's not working!" What's wrong with that statement? Too much duty, not enough delight? Trying to be our own source and supply? The wrong objective? The wrong subject? (Me.) On one hand, perhaps all of these. On the other hand, however, maybe nothing is wrong with it. If "I" am doing what "I" can do to make "myself" more spiritual... it's not supposed to work! Want to grow weary, get discouraged, become increasingly frustrated? Try and add to what God has done. Attempt to finish what God started. Make plans to perfect what only God can do.

A Christian is a human being who has a fixed eternal and internal oneness with God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit. According to John 1:12, we "received Him." When we received Him, we received all "of His fullness" (1:16). He gave us a full supply of His life. If this is actually so, we are immediately moved from a "circum-stancial" to an "inner-stancial" identity and supply. Our primary identity indicators are no longer from the created realm. Our supply for living as God intended is not from the sphere of the ever-changing and temporal, but from God Himself who abides in us. To live Christianly is to live with Christ as our supplied life, our personal fullness, our moment-by-moment source. Only God can make us godly, only Christ can make us Christian, only the Spirit can make us spiritual. Our goal is not to make ourselves more godly, more Christ-like, more spiritual, but rather to live by faith out of the fullness of His Triune Life already graced to us.

A Christian, in other words, is one in whom God has supplied all we need for both salvation and living life as God intended. In Colossians 2:9, we read that Christ is complete - the fullness of God dwells in Him - and have little or no trouble believing it to be so. Then why do we not believe Him for Colossians 2:10 - "in Him we have been made complete"? Possibly because we immediately take our eyes off of Christ and put them back on ourselves! We no longer contemplate Christ and His deeds, but ourselves and our deeds. When Christ is not the center, when we became the "subject", when we are trying to get closer, be more Christ-like, become more spiritual, we forget who our Source and Supply actually is. We are prone to disregard the simple but liberating truth of Philippians 4:19: "And my God shall supply ALL your needs according to His riches... IN CHRIST JESUS." The "all" we need is in Christ!

What is it that you need? Forgiveness? Holiness? Righteousness? Peace? Patience? To be loved? Comfort? Can you hear our indwelling Savior say to you, "I AM your needs met!"



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GREETINGS

October brings some welcome changes in Florida. The days are somewhat cooler. The air is a bit less humid. While not all changes are pleasant, anytime the change is for "cooler" and "less humid" in Florida, we are grateful.

We know our bodies are changing at every season of life. As with the weather, sometimes for good, sometimes... well, you know what I mean. It makes us look forward even more so to our resurrection bodies that await us, doesn't it?

By the time you get this newsletter, both Ella and our oldest son Joshua will have had surgical work on their temporary, earthly bodies. Joshua will have a procedure that will hopefully relieve him of some of the unpleasant symptoms of gastroparesis - a stomach malady that has bothered him for sometime. Ella has a torn rotator cuff (left shoulder) and will have it reattached and face a period of rehab for quite awhile. We pray both will have changes for the better soon.

Don't all of these ongoing changes give us an ever-growing appreciation for the holy constants of God?

One In Christ, Inc.
13820 NW 172nd Avenue
Alachua, Florida 32615

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



CALENDAR



OCTOBER

3,17,24,31	CCF
7-10	Baton Rouge, LA (225-769-8844)
12	Alachua Study
26	Ocala Study
29-30	Orlando, FL

NOVEMBER

19-21	Louisville, KY (502-241-1550)
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Florida Retreat

"Perfecting The Perfect"

February 18-20, 2011

Alachua, Florida

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