

## Romans 8:9-11

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I have mentioned that when I was a young boy my second cousin told me the gospel of Jesus Christ.

One thing he told me that day was this:

*“You need to ask Jesus into your heart.”*

I didn't know what that meant. It wasn't until years later that I learned what he meant.

These words in Romans 8 are some of the clearest in the bible describing what he meant.

God is telling us here that as believers Christ comes to **LIVE IN US.**

That is the main point of these words.

God is telling us when we repent and believe in Jesus Christ He comes to **LIVE IN US.**

How does He do this? How can Jesus Christ LIVE IN US when He has a body as we do?

Jesus can't literally and PHYSICALLY LIVE IN US as another human being with a body like ours.

And he surely CAN'T literally and PHYSICALLY LIVE IN the millions of other Christians throughout the world. There literally ISN'T ENOUGH of Him to go around (contrary to what the Lutheran Church claims about his “*ubiquitous body*”).

So HOW can Jesus LIVE IN US as believers?

He does it by His **SPIRIT.**

Remember – I mentioned last week – Romans chapter 8 is about the **HOLY SPIRIT.**

And HERE God is telling these believers that the **HOLY SPIRIT LIVES IN THEM.**

Did you notice this is the emphasis in all three of these verses – verse 9 – 10 – and 11?

Look again at **verse 9:**

*“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God DWELLS IN YOU. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.”*

Notice Paul told these believers that as those people who have repented of their sin and turned to BELIEVE Jesus Christ they are now NOT IN the FLESH – but IN the SPIRIT.

He then says: *“...if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.”*

There is debate among some commentators whether Paul is using this conditional statement “IF” to cause them to QUESTION whether they really DO have the Spirit of God.

In other words, they think Paul is saying something like this:

*“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit – IF in fact the Spirit of God REALLY DOES DWELL IN YOU – but you may be one of those people who really THINK you have the Spirit of God – but you may not.”*

In other words, he is telling them he is NOT SURE of them. He is telling them to EXAMINE themselves – because the Spirit of God MAY NOT REALLY dwell in them.

And Paul surely DOES say things like that at other places in his letters.

There are times (**2 Corinthians 13**) when Paul DOES tell people in the church to:

*“**Examine yourselves**, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!”*

But the whole context of what Paul is saying here in Romans chapter 8 seems to tell us that is NOT what Paul means by this word “*IF*” here in verse 9.

Paul’s whole point in chapter 8 is to tell these believers what is TRUE of THEM – and to give them great ASSURANCE and CERTAINTY of God’s work of GRACE in CHRIST. He is telling them – as believers – they are now in a whole NEW CONDITION. They are in a whole NEW PLACE because of what Jesus has done.

Jesus Christ has transferred them to a WHOLE NEW CONDITION.

They are NO LONGER IN THE FLESH – but they are now IN THE SPIRIT.

So now – in verses 9-11 – he is pressing home to them precisely WHAT that MEANS.

He is ASSURING them that it means the SPIRIT of GOD DWELLS in them.

So this “IF” is not intended to make them QUESTION their salvation.

This “IF” is being used to PROVE what he just said.

He just told them: “*YOU, however, are NOT IN THE FLESH – but IN the SPIRIT.*”

And now he is CONFIRMING that statement with a proof.

So he is saying something like this:

“IF in fact you have the SPIRIT OF GOD DWELLING in you – and you KNOW you do!”

But back to the MAIN POINT being said here:

“...if in fact **the SPIRIT OF GOD DWELLS in you.**”

Notice those word “DWELLS IN YOU.”

To DWELL means to TAKE UP RESIDENCE somewhere – and make it your home.

Some of you are familiar with this Greek work “**oikos**”

Oikos refers to a HOUSE or a DWELLING PLACE where someone LIVES.

We get our word “**ECO**” from this word “oikos.”

An **ECO**system is a place where animals or people LIVE. Many people tell us we need to be **ECO**-friendly in this world – because this is the PLACE where we all LIVE. This world is our HOME. We all LIVE IN IT TOGETHER.

So this word “**DWELLS**” – in **verse 9** – is simply the VERB form of that word. It means to TAKE UP RESIDENCE in the place and to LIVE there.

So God is telling us this is what’s true of people who TRUST Jesus Christ and are IN THE SPIRIT: the SPIRIT of God DWELLS IN THEM.

GOD the SPIRIT LIVES IN this person. He takes up RESIDENCE WITHIN him.

And notice the same thing is said in **verse 10**:

*“But if **CHRIST IS IN YOU**, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”*

Paul is saying these words as a matter of FACT for the believer in Jesus Christ.

Notice those words:

*“**CHRIST IS IN YOU**.”*

Paul is telling these believers Christ is IN YOU.

What does it mean that He is IN YOU?

God is telling them that **CHRIST LIVES IN THEM**.

It is the same concept as “oikos.”

It means Christ DWELLS in them. He has TAKEN UP RESIDENCE in them. He LIVES IN THEM.

And notice the same thing in **verse 11**:

*“If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead **DWELLS IN YOU**, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who DWELLS IN YOU.”*

There’s that word again! “Oikos.” TWICE this time!

The Spirit of God **DWELLS IN YOU**.

God tells us here through the Apostle Paul that HE DWELLS IN CHRIST'S PEOPLE.

God literally LIVES IN THEM.

HOW does GOD LIVE IN US?

By His SPIRIT. The HOLY SPIRIT – the third person of the Godhead – LIVES IN US.

### [SIDE POINT]

Before I go any further – I need to call your attention to a very important SIDE POINT.

It's not the MAIN POINT – so I don't want to go off track for long – but it is an important point.

Notice how GOD is revealing Himself to us here as the TRIUNE God.

The God of the Bible – the ONLY God – reveals Himself to us as the TRIUNE GOD.

That means He is ONE GOD – but exists in THREE PERSONS – the SAME in SUBSTANCE – and ALL equal in power and glory.

Some people say: But the Bible never uses the word TRIUNE or TRINITY.

And they are right. It doesn't.

So WHY have Christians throughout history believed God is the TRIUNE God?

All you need to do is read – and really digest – what we read in these verses to see.

Did you notice God the FATHER, SON and SPIRIT are all spoken of here – and all used INTERCHANGABLY!

In **verse 9** Paul says:

*“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.”*

Did you catch that?

At the beginning of the verse Paul mentions the **SPIRIT** – who is the **HOLY SPIRIT**.

In the next breath he refers to the Spirit as the **SPIRIT OF GOD** – who is Spirit of **GOD the FATHER**.

And in the next breath he refers to the Spirit as the **SPIRIT OF CHRIST** – who is **CHRIST JESUS** – the **SON of GOD**.

WAIT a minute, Paul!

Let's get this clear.

Is He the **HOLY SPIRIT**? Is He the **SPIRIT OF GOD**? – or the **SPIRIT OF CHRIST**?

He must be ONE or the other of these. He can't be all three?

But notice, Paul speaks in these terms without hesitation or confusion – and doesn't even address the question because it is a fundamental understanding of **WHO GOD IS**.

He is the ONE GOD of the “*shema*.”

“*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!*”

And He is **GOD the FATHER**, **GOD the SON**, and **GOD the SPIRIT**.

God reveals Himself to us here in this way. He is the TRIUNE GOD.

And that is why we believe this is **WHO GOD IS** – and the **GOD we LOVE**.

He is the TRIUNE GOD. It is His very nature. He ONE GOD – and EACH PERSON does His specific work to accomplish our salvation.

**[END SIDE NOTE]**

Now BACK to the MAIN POINT.

God is clearly telling us here – as believers in Jesus Christ – that **He LIVES IN US**.

And this is something we DESPERATELY NEED as human beings.

Many years ago – in the year 1677 – a Scottish theologian and pastor named **Henry Scougal** wrote a little book which had a deep impact on the great preacher **George Whitefield**.

The book had an interesting title: **The Life of God in the Soul of Man**

I am not endorsing Scougal's approach in the book – or the book as a whole.

But the title and the book get to the very HEART of the Christian gospel.

The LIFE of GOD in the SOUL of MAN.

THIS is what we all DESPERATELY NEED as human beings. And this is precisely what GOD GIVES US in Jesus Christ.

It is the LIFE OF GOD in the SOUL OF MAN which was LOST in the Garden of Eden. And THIS is what we DESPERATELY NEED restored to us.

We desperately NEED the LIFE of GOD in our SOULS.

It was LOST in the Garden of Eden – and ever since that time NONE of us have KNOWN or SEEN it in ourselves or anyone around us. Our whole way of viewing ourselves and our world around us (as human beings) is from the view of a DEAD SOUL.

This DEADNESS has become NORMAL. We are all DEAD SOULS.

So we DO NOT KNOW what the LIFE OF GOD in the SOUL OF MAN looks like.

That is, we DID NOT KNOW – until CHRIST came into the world – by taking on a human nature. JESUS CHRIST is the ONLY human being with the LIFE OF GOD in His soul. In that sense He was the FIRST truly LIVING SOUL since the first Adam.

What do I mean by a DEAD SOUL?

It is only another way of describing what Paul has been describing here in this letter to the Romans as being IN THE FLESH. He describes it in another letter as being “*DEAD in trespasses and sins.*”

It is being WITHOUT GOD HIMSELF – (the ONE TRUE GOD who CREATED you and LOVES YOU) – and WITHOUT LOVE **FOR** GOD.

We were created – and designed – with the LIFE OF GOD in us.

The first man, Adam, had this LIFE of GOD in his soul. He walked with God – and TRUSTED God – and LOVED God – having a relationship with God.

But that all changed when he ate from the tree of which God warned him not to eat.

God told Adam:

*“...in the day you eat of it you shall SURELY DIE.”*

Adam ATE – and Adam DIED that day.

The LIFE of GOD in his SOUL DIED that day. It took YEARS for his PHYSICAL BODY to decay and DIE. But it took an INSTANT for his SOUL to DIE.

Adam became a DEAD MAN WALKING.

And from that day HE – (and all his descendants) – became DEAD MEN WALKING.

That is the way God describes it to us in the Bible.

In another letter (**Ephesians 2**) Paul told believers this was their condition before Christ:

*“And you were **DEAD** in the trespasses and sins<sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world...and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”*

In WHAT WAY were they DEAD?

They were surely not PHYSICALLY DEAD – because Paul says they were WALKING.

They were DEAD of SOUL.

In that way, the bible says, we are all like DEAD MEN WALKING in this world without Jesus Christ.



YES, we may have PHYSICAL LIFE – but we are DEAD in the SOUL. We have NO LIFE OF GOD in us.

But that is NOT the way we see ourselves in our world today.

We DON'T see this as the core PROBLEM for mankind.

We don't see that our main problem is NO LIFE OF GOD in the SOUL OF MAN.

Instead, we believe the main problem in our lives and the world is in many other places.

Many believe the problem with mankind is ECONOMIC INEQUALITY, or LACK of MORAL EDUCATION by PARENTS and SCHOOLS, or GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION – or a million other things.

But GOD tells us the SOURCE of ALL our problems is this:

NO LIFE OF GOD in the SOUL OF MAN.

Our SIN has CUT US OFF from God – and our SOULS are DEAD.

God tells us ALL of mankind's problems can be traced back to this.

That point was made in an interesting way in a novel written many years ago by a Scottish writer, Bruce Marshall. The story is titled: **The World, the Flesh and Father Smith**.

At one point in the novel the protagonist, the faithful **priest Father Smith**, was walking home one day when he encountered a beautiful, seductive young woman standing on her front step.

**Miss Dana Agdala** was a provocative young woman. And introduced herself to Father Smith with provocative words.

She then asked the priest, "*Tell me, do you get much response to the old, old story these days?*"

She mentioned how she had long rejected "[a]ll that poppycock about baptism, and purity and the Virgin Birth..." because, of course, "*it's against all modern science.*"

She explained to Father Smith that she had “...*been dying for years to meet a Catholic priest, but somehow there never seems to be any at the parties she goes to.*”

She said she had “*many things to ask him about but didn’t know if he ever had time.*”

So he invited her to walk along with him to his next appointment and ask away. Among her many questions, built upon her rejection of the Faith, she asked about his own sexuality and how he manages to, as she put it, “*live without us?*”

Easily and confidently, **Father Smith answered** that, in his view, “*women’s bodies are rarely perfect; they soon grow old and sag, and always the contemplation of them even at their best is a poor and a boring substitute for walking with God in His House as a friend . . .*”

Miss Agdala judged that Father Smith’s answer proved what she had always maintained about Christians. She said believed the for them “*their religion is only a substitute for sex.*”

But then Father Smith said this to Miss Agdala:

“*I still prefer to believe that sex is a substitute for religion and that the young man who rings the bell at the brothel is unconsciously looking for God.*”

That is a powerful insight. And it describes what God tells us in the Bible.

Father Smith was basically saying:

Human beings have NO LIFE OF GOD in the soul –and they DESPERATELY NEED IT – but they are looking in ALL the WRONG PLACES. As human beings we are all DESPERATELY LOOKING for SOMETHING to SATISFY us!

WHAT are we looking for? WHY are we NEVER SATISFIED with what the world has to offer? Even BILLIONAIRES are not SATISFIED.

I've read some of **Elon Musk's** biography – the second (or third) – RICHEST man in the world – and he is clearly NOT a SATISFIED man. He can have – or buy – ANYTHING the world has to offer. Yet he is a very RESTLESS and TROUBLED man.

What is the problem? WHY IS IT that a person who can have EVERYTHING the world has to offer – and NOT be SATISFIED?

It's because what we so DESPERATELY NEED as human beings can't be bought.

We desperately need the LIFE OF GOD in the SOUL OF MAN.

And God tells us here that is PRECISELY what He HAS GIVEN US in Jesus Christ.

God sent His Son into the world to RESTORE the LIFE OF GOD into the SOUL OF MAN! That is what WE HAVE as followers of Jesus Christ. And Paul is remind us of that here.

Notice we are told TWO WAYS the LIFE OF GOD is given to your SOUL as a believer.

FIRST, **Christ LIVES in you** – giving you LIFE NOW.

SECOND, **Christ LIVES in you** – guaranteeing you LIFE TO COME.

**MP1: Christ LIVES in you promising LIFE NOW** (10)

FIRST, Christ LIVES in you GIVING you LIFE NOW.

We see this at the **end of verse 9 – and all of verse 10**.

*“Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if **Christ is in you**, although the body is dead because of sin, **the Spirit is life** because of righteousness.”*

Notice Paul says “Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.”

Paul is describing an UNBELIEVER here. If a person DOES NOT HAVE the SPIRIT of CHRIST living in him – then he DOES NOT belong to Christ.

In other words, everyone who BELONGS to Jesus Christ by faith – HAS the Spirit of Christ. CHRIST LIVES IN HIM. This is the very ESSENCE of being a Christian. CHRIST LIVES IN YOU by His SPIRIT.

Then notice Paul makes a COMPARISON right after that in **verse 10**:

*“But if **Christ is in you**, although the body is dead because of sin, **the Spirit is life** because of righteousness.”*

The COMPARISON is BODY being DEAD because of SIN – and the SPIRIT being ALIVE because of RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Notice the COMPARISON.

**BODY – SPIRIT.**

**DEAD – LIFE.**

**SIN – RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

There is one place where experts in the bible differ here.

Is the word SPIRIT here referring to the GOD the HOLY SPIRIT?

Or is it referring to the SPIRIT (or SOUL) within a person?

The Greek word could refer to either.

And ONLY CONTEXT will make it clear which is intended.

Obviously the English translators for the **English Standard Bible** believe Paul is referring to the HOLY SPIRIT in verse 10. That is why the word has a CAPITAL “S.”

But other English translators disagree. Translators of the **New International Version (NIV)** and the **New American Standard Bible (NASB)** make it a SMALL letter “S.”

Frankly, it does NOT make a difference in the overall meaning of the verse.

I can see both sides. But personally, I believe it should be a SMALL “S.”

I don't believe Paul is referring to the HOLY SPIRIT – but HUMAN SPIRIT (or SOUL).

One reason is that it makes sense in the context. He is making a series of CONTRASTS:

**BODY – SPIRIT.**

**DEAD – LIFE.**

**SIN – RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

So the CONTRAST to the HUMAN BODY – is the HUMAN SOUL.

The BODY is DEAD – the SPIRIT is LIFE.

What Paul is saying is that BECAUSE the SPIRIT OF CHRIST LIVES IN YOU – as a believer – your are SPIRIT (or SOUL) is ALIVE. It has LIFE!

And that LIFE is CHRIST'S LIFE in you.

You have the LIFE OF CHRIST in our SOUL. You no longer have a DEAD SOUL – but you have a LIVING SOUL – because CHRIST LIVES IN YOU.

It is the LIFE OF GOD – in the SOUL OF MAN.

God is telling you THAT is what is now true of you as a person who belongs to Christ.

Jesus Christ LIVES IN YOU.

HOW does He LIVE IN YOU?

He LIVES IN YOU by His SPIRIT!

God is only telling us through the Apostle Paul what Jesus Himself told His disciples.

On the night Jesus was betrayed – He told His disciples at that last supper (**John 14**):

*“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the*

*Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and WILL BE IN YOU."*

*I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will LIVE. <sup>20</sup> In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I IN YOU...If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."*

Jesus told them they would SEE HIM AGAIN after His death. He would be RAISED to LIFE again.

And Jesus told them the Father would send them a helper – the HOLY SPIRIT.

And the SPIRIT would be IN THEM. He would LIVE IN THEM.

And Jesus told them BECAUSE HE (JESUS) LIVES – THEY ALSO would LIVE.

What did Jesus mean by saying they would LIVE?

They were ALREADY LIVING physically.

Jesus meant they would have LIFE IN THE SOUL. CHRIST Himself would LIVE IN THEM – by His SPIRIT – giving them LIFE.

He would TAKE UP His RESIDENCE in their SOULS – and LIVE IN THEM!

So this is what's TRUE OF YOU as a follower of Jesus Christ.

JESUS CHRIST LIVES IN YOU. HE is IN YOU – giving LIFE to your SOUL!

**App:** Think about what that means for you.

Jesus Christ is truly LIVING IN YOU right now.

That means Jesus Christ is LIVING IN YOU in a DEEPER way than His DISCIPLES experienced during His ministry in this world.

Jesus was WITH His disciples – physically – in this world. But He was NOT ALWAYS physically present with them. There were times when He went off to pray – and they didn't know where He was.

There was a time when He sent them out two-by-two on a mission to proclaim the Kingdom of God. When He sent them out on that mission He could NOT be physically present with all of them.

But after Christ DIED and ROSE from the dead He came NOT simply to LIVE WITH THEM – but to LIVE IN THEM! And to LIVE IN THEM PERMANENTLY!

That is why Jesus told His disciples when He was about to be crucified **(John 16)**:

*“I tell you the truth: it is to YOUR ADVANTAGE that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.”*

Jesus said it was TO THEIR ADVANTAGE that He go away to pay the DEBT for their SINS – and RISE to LIFE – and SEND HIS SPIRIT to them.

It was TO THEIR ADVANTAGE – because He would LIVE IN THEM by His SPIRIT.

THAT is what YOU HAVE as a BELIEVER.

You have JESUS CHRIST actually LIVING IN YOU!

Your body may be OLD. Your body may NO LONGER be able to do what you once did.

Your body may be WEAK. Your body may be SICK. Your body may have CANCER.

You MAY NOT LIKE your body.

But you can know this: **JESUS CHRIST LIVES THERE**.

It's His ADDRESS.

And Jesus Christ is NOT ASHAMED to LIVE IN YOU!

You may not have much in this world. You may be the POOREST person in your family.

You may not have the greatest INTELLIGENCE. You may not have the greatest JOB.

But do you know what?

You have **JESUS CHRIST LIVING IN YOU!** The KING of KINGS has taken up RESIDENCE in your SOUL – giving you LIFE.

Jesus says in the **John's Revelation:**

*“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”*

In other words, Jesus says:

*“If you repent and open the door – I'll come in!”*

Jesus Christ says that to ANY and EVERY human being.

You may be a person who has TURNED AWAY from Jesus Christ. Jesus tells you:

*“OPEN the DOOR by confess your sin – and I WILL come in.”*

You may be a person who has NEVER believed in Jesus Christ. Jesus tells you:

*“OPEN the DOOR by confess your sin – and I WILL come in.”*

Jesus is a WILLING GUEST! You may invite some other important person to your home – and they may REJECT your offer.

But Jesus Christ NEVER WILL!

Or you may be a believer who TRUSTS Christ. But you are a DISCOURAGED believer – or a LONELY believer – or a WEAK believer.

Maybe you have FORGOTTEN this. JESUS LIVES IN YOU!

Jesus LIVES IN YOU – and can SUPPLY the strength you need.

Jesus LIVES IN YOU – and is WITH YOU in your LONLINESS in a much DEEPER way than a husband or wife – or parent – or friend ever could be. Jesus is literally WITH YOU when you WALK through the valley of the shadow of death.



Jesus is literally WITH YOU in those dark nights of the SOUL.

So FIRST, CHRIST LIVES in you GIVING you LIFE NOW.

**MP2: Christ LIVES in you guaranteeing LIFE TO COME** (11)

SECOND, Christ LIVES in you guaranteeing LIFE TO COME.

We see this in **verse 11**.

*“If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also GIVE LIFE to your MORTAL BODIES through his Spirit who dwells in you.”*

Notice Paul is talking about the physical RESURRECTION of the BODY.

If the SPIRIT OF GOD RAISED Christ from the DEAD – that SAME SPIRIT OF GOD who LIVES IN YOU will “... *GIVE LIFE to your MORTAL BODIES...*”

Notice he describes them as “*MORTAL BODIES.*”

They are MORTAL – meaning they are DYING and GOING TO DIE.

But Paul’s POINT is that the SPIRIT OF GOD will RAISED Christ from the DEAD LIVES in you – and SO will ALSO RAISE YOUR BODY from the DEAD.

In other words, the SPIRIT OF CHRIST LIVING IN YOU – is a GAUARANTEE of LIFE TO COME for your physical BODY.

In other words that LIFE OF CHRIST IN YOU will CONTINUE forever!

The LIFE that JESUS CHRIST GIVES YOU – as He LIVES IN YOU – WILL NOT END. It will CONTINUE FOREVER – EVEN RAISING your BODY so that your BODY will CONTINUE to LIVE FOREVER.

This is what Jesus meant when He told Martha (**John 11**):

*“I am the resurrection and the LIFE. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he LIVE...”*

What did Jesus mean by that?

He was talking about the PHYSICAL RESURRECTION of the body.

He was saying: *"I AM the LIFE – and whoever believes in me may DIE once (physically) – yet he will be RAISED again and LIVE forever!"*

And Jesus taught His disciples (**John 14**):

*"Because I LIVE, you also will LIVE."*

In other words, as long as I LIVE IN YOU – YOU will ALWAYS LIVE – because I ALWAYS LIVE!

Jesus TOOK AWAY all your SIN – which brought DEATH.

And JESUS now LIVES IN YOU – and always will LIVE IN YOU.

So you too will ALWAYS LIVE.

But you ask:

*"Then WHY do I have to DIE as a believer?"*

But Jesus has CHANGED the NATURE and PURPOSE of DEATH for us as believers.

In itself DEATH is the PENALTY of SIN. And it remains that way for people without Jesus Christ.

But – Jesus TOOK AWAY our SIN and it's PENALTY – and by doing this also CHANGED the NATURE and PURPOSE of DEATH for us.

Because of JESUS – DEATH is no longer the PUNISHMENT for SIN – but the DESTRUCTION of SIN. It is NO LONGER a CURSE for the believer – but a BLESSING.

Christ CHANGED death from a CURSE to a BLESSING for us.

It is the END of the OLD PERSHABLE body – and the BEGINNING of the NEW IMPERISHABLE body.

And it is ALL BECAUSE you have the LIFE OF GOD – in the SOUL OF MAN.

CHRIST is LIVING IN YOU – and it is a GUARANTEE of the LIFE TO COME.

The SPIRIT OF CHRIST is the DOWNPAYMENT– or EARNEST MONEY – of your FINAL INHERITANCE in the LIFE to COME.

You HAVE CHRIST – and His LIFE in you NOW – and He and His LIFE will CONTINUE to give LIFE to your BODY FOREVER!

**App**: This is why we look at DEATH differently than other people in this world.

Physical DEATH is no longer the ultimate ENEMY for us as Christ's people.

Jesus Christ has taken away the STING of DEATH for us.

Because Jesus Christ DIED for our SINS – and ROSE again – and now LIVES IN US – DEATH is SWALLOWED UP in VICTORY!

Because Jesus was RAISED from the DEAD – and LIVES IN YOU – YOU TOO will surely be RAISED from the DEAD!

The SPIRIT OF CHRIST will NO LONGER DIE – and HE LIVES IN YOU you're your BODY WILL NOT REMAIN DEAD either!

### **Conclusion:**

That is a great help for you when you face the DEATH that will surely come.

DEATH is no longer an ENEMY to FEAR – because GOD has given you what you so DESPERATELY NEED as a human being.

You have the LIFE OF GOD in the SOUL OF MAN!

You have that LIFE OF GOD in your SOUL – because Jesus Christ DIED to TAKE AWAY your SINS – and ROSE from the DEAD to LIVE IN YOU – and

GIVE LIFE to your SOUL.

And that's what you remember when you come to this table of the Lord Jesus.

You remember His DEATH UNTIL He comes.

Jesus DIED for your sins – but He was RAISED – and will COME AGAIN.

And when Christ – who is your life appears – then you also will appear with him in glory.

Let's pray...