



FREEDOM MINISTRIES

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LIVING BETWEEN THE ALREADY AND NOT YET

"For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." ~ Colossians 3:3-4

Jeanine and I have been studying Colossians and are in chapter 3. This has been one of my favorite books of the Bible because of its practical theology. These verses give me such security as I picture Jesus surrounding & covering me in His robes of righteousness. Because of that security, I can freely live for Him in this fallen world.

But what does it mean to have died with Christ? In verse 3:1, we were raised with Christ in connection with His death found in 2:20, *"Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world."* Paul writes of this death in 2:11-12, noting that in baptism believers have died with Christ. The idea is that we, who are in Christ, have crucified the old self. We have put off the old nature, and now, with our new nature, that is, in Christ, we are raised to new life. Galatians 2:20 says, *"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."* In salvation, we spiritually participate with Christ in His crucifixion as well as His victory over sin.

As a result of this death, our life as a believer is now hidden with Jesus Christ in God. Note the verb tenses. Having died (past tense) we can now presently

live in Christ, as our life is hidden with God in Him (present tense). The past consequences of dying with Christ leads to the current, present state of life in Him. The word **hidden** actually indicates that act of being hidden in a safe place! This is a protective place where our eternal security in Christ is found because we are being hidden from the evil powers that seek to take us away from the clutch of God's hand.

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It is for this reason the Psalmist writes of God's protection in times of trouble, saying *"For He will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent..."* (Psalm 27:5). Psalm 91:1,4 *"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart."*



With this protection, **"hidden with Christ in God"** means:

- As a believer, we can share a common life with both God the Father and God the Son
- As a believer, we have an incredible new life in Christ, which unbelievers do not understand, a life that is concealed from the world, because it is spiritual. *"Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for*

Mission

Freedom Ministries of the Quad Cities exists to help couples and individuals experience freedom in Christ through identifying and resolving spiritual and emotional conflicts thus strengthening, empowering and helping fulfill their relationship with Jesus Christ and others.



2018

LET'S MAKE 2018 A YEAR OF PRAYER

as he is.” (1 John 3:2)

- And we have eternal security, never having to fear the loss of salvation; God protects us from the spiritual foes of the world. “... who by God’s power are protected through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:5)

So, we not only focus on the present life as believers, but our future life as well. It is commonly referred to as “**living between the already and not yet.**” We live life as a forgiven sinner in Christ, but not yet perfected and glorified until Christ’s return.

Here is the important point, the phrase ‘**in God**’. It reminds us that in the **time between**, when we came to salvation in Christ, and His return, is actually a time in which **God is at work to keep believers secure in their relationship with Him.**

Put all these verses together and we see how we have been called to live, keeping our focus completely towards the things above. Then, being oriented towards the place where Christ is seated at the right hand of God, we can live a life that is worthy of the calling in which we have been called.

Adapted from the Blog: Soli Deo Gloria—Growing in Christlikeness for the Glory of God

Memorial

Thanks to Sandy Hagberg who gave Freedom Ministries a memorial in honor of

Neil Hagberg

Praise and Prayer

Praise

- ◆ For the freedom we have to minister to couples and individuals using Christian principles.
- ◆ For strength mentally, spiritually, physically and emotionally to encourage people who come hurting.

Prayer

- ◆ For couples and individuals who are scheduled to meet with us this Spring, that they will find freedom and healing in Christ.
- ◆ For the Annual CFTH Directors Retreat March 19-23, with many counselors like us from around the U.S. and Canada. Pray for R&R & encouragement.
- ◆ For more people to be willing to be trained to help others find spiritual and emotional freedom.

Testimony

Your compassionate, nonjudgmental hearts showed you have a genuine interest in seeing people reach freedom from the pain of the past. Prior to day 1 my spouse was dragging me there to fix me. By day 4, I ran up the stairs and couldn’t wait for our session to start. As I was leaving, I described feeling like my heart was overflowing and the backpack of pains, shame and failures has been emptied out.

The best part is, as God brings other painful memories to our minds, you have provided us the tools to work through each new situation.

Just a quick update on how things are going since our sessions with you. God has shown me that I was not a safe place for my husband to share the hurt and pain in his heart. Being critical, judgmental and pressuring reinforces an already established wall. Using the tools you provided, we prayed God would give me a new heart that would be safe for him, and He did. I don’t believe any previous prayer has been answered so fast. God is SO good. He brought to mind Ephesians 4:2. Every day he has opened his heart and started sharing more and more. We are communicating and making each other a priority.

I have been more affectionate toward my husband and our daughters. In the past, I frequently told the girls, “Don’t fight, love each other with the excess love God has put in your heart.” I was saying that on an intellectual level without realizing I didn’t know how to do that myself. I can truly say that I now know what that looks and feels like!

Thank you both so much for sharing the abundance of love God has filled your hearts with. You and your ministry are a blessing!!



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