

**The Hope of Glory**  
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We are in a sermon series called Moving Forward in Hope. In my sermon last week, we saw that to move forward in hope we must rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. The hope here is that of participating in the glory of heaven. But it is also sharing in the glory of God now.

So, I'm preaching a message called The Hope of Glory. The Greek word translated glory here is doxa. It means splendor, brightness, magnificence, preeminence, majesty. Glory is the outshining of the holy character of God.

Yes, heaven will be filled with God's glory – but we can enter into a measure of His glory here on earth. 1 Thessalonians 2:12 says to:

*Live lives worthy of God, who calls you into His Kingdom and glory.*

The kingdom of heaven is not just future – it is present tense also! When Paul speaks of sharing God's glory, he means that the believer will share in the likeness of God. We will never be God – but we should be becoming more and more like God every day. The Amplified Version of 2 Corinthians 3:18 says:

*All of us, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transformed His very own image from glory to glory, in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another, by the Spirit of the Lord.*

The hope of glory we rejoice in is in heaven – but not just heaven. We are rejoicing in the fact that God is making us more and more like Him – from glory to glory – day by day! Thank God that Jesus died for our sins! But thank God that Jesus is living in us and Colossians 1:27 says:

*God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

Here we find the sum of Paul's preaching:

- He is preaching Christ, as the only Savior of all sinners.
- He is proclaiming Christ as being "in them."
- He is presenting this indwelling Christ as the hope of glory. For no one can "hope for glory" without the cross of Christ and the indwelling, sanctifying Spirit of Christ.

This isn't just hope for glory one day in heaven – as great as that is! This actually means sharing in His glory now. And the key to that is Christ in you, the hope of glory! The glory of Christ in us is God's goal. Hebrews 2:10 says:

*For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, to lead many children into glory.*

What is God's goal? His goal is first to have many children and second to bring them into His glory. That happens when we are born again through faith in Jesus Christ. Ephesians 3:16-17 says:

*I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.*

Paul is praying that Christ will dwell in us. And that happens through faith. When we place our faith in Jesus Christ, we are born again and Christ now lives in us.

Christ in us is everything to the Christian life. Christ in us is the proof of the Christian life. Romans 8:9-10 says:

*If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.*

Christ in us is the way to be fruitful in life. John 15:5 says:

*I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.*

This verse is proof that Christ in us is the key to the Christian life. Apart from Him we can do nothing. But through Him we can do all things! Many of us are not fruitful or accomplishing anything because we do not know who Christ is in us!

Too many Christians are trying to live their lives in their own strength. They give it their best but their hard work never pays off. They just keep trying and failing, trying harder and failing. But self-sufficiency will not get you very far. Trying harder in your own strength will not get you very far. Trying to succeed on your own will not get you very far. What a tragedy to rely on our own strength when we have Christ in us!

We cannot save ourselves by our own strength.  
 We cannot make ourselves righteous in our own strength!  
 We cannot overcome temptation in our own strength!  
 We cannot overcome Satan in our own strength!  
 We cannot change ourselves in our own strength!  
 The best you can do is REARRANGE yourself!  
 You can't FREE yourself! You'll just continue to BE yourself!  
 You need something greater than yourself!  
 You need the supernatural power of God!

You need to learn how to tap into the power of Christ in you! We all need power greater than our own and that power is Christ in us, the hope of glory – the hope of change.

Thank God that He sent His son Jesus to die for our sins so that we can be forgiven and have the hope of heaven. But Jesus didn't stop there! He took up residence inside of us so that we would have the power to live the Christian life. That power is not our own! That power is Christ in us, the hope of glory!

Don't stop short of all the fulness of Christ in you, the hope of glory! Maybe you've been saved and your sins are forgiven! Awesome! But don't stop there. Maybe you have hope in heaven! You should! But don't stop there. If you only have hope in heaven – but none for this life – you have stopped way short of the glory of God! Keep pressing in to the fulness of what it means to have Christ in you, the hope of glory!

Jesus does not just say – “Here's the way, walk ye in it.” He actually walks out the Christian life in and through us! When we understand this our whole life will be changed. We'll quit finding our identity in our job, our education, our friends our spouse or anything else - we'll find our identity in Christ in us!

Paul explains this in Galatians 2:20.

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

This verse shows us 4 keys to Christ in us, the hope of glory:

### **1- I have been crucified with Christ.**

We all know Jesus was crucified. We know that He was crucified for us. But few understand that we were crucified with Him. Not only did Jesus die FOR us, but Jesus died AS us. We were in Him when He was crucified. Our old man – the person we were before we were saved – is now dead.

This is more than having sins forgiven – this is having new life and identity in Christ. That's why 2 Corinthians 5:7 says:

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

The old is gone because it was crucified with Christ. That's why Colossians 2:20 says:

*Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations...*

That's why Romans 6:5-8 says:

*If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him.*

The phrase "I am crucified with Christ" speaks of a past completed action having present-day results. Being crucified with Christ in the past has benefits today. It enables us to walk in the resurrection life and power of Christ today!

We tend to think in terms of having a changed life – and we do. But this has more to do with an exchanged life than a changed life.

**2- I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.**

Our life is no longer in the realm of "I"; it has nothing to do with us anymore. It is not an evil "I" being changed into a good "I," or a filthy "I" being changed into a clean "I." It is to be "no longer I, but Christ."

Victory has nothing to do with us. Instead we exchange our defeat for Christ's victory! We exchange our sin for His righteousness! We exchange our death for His life!

Some people think: "It is easy for others to overcome. But it is very difficult for me to overcome. My problem is worse than anyone else's, my thoughts are more unclean than others', and I am more sinful than others are. I cannot control myself."

To which I say: "You are right. Not only is it difficult for you to overcome; it is impossible for you to overcome." Overcoming is not about you trying harder to change. It is about you giving up hope in yourself and placing all hope in Jesus! Thank God that victory is Christ; it has nothing to do with us. If it's up to us, we cannot make it! Victory comes when we realize it is no longer I, but Christ!

From now on there is no sin too great for me to overcome.  
There is no temptation too great for me to withstand. Victory is Christ; it is no longer I!

Is there any sin too great for Christ to overcome? NO!  
Is there any temptation too great for Christ to resist? NO!  
Is there any devil too strong for Jesus to defeat? NO!

Jesus has already defeated sin and temptation and the devil!  
And He continues to do that in us when we realize it is not I, but Christ!

The overcoming life is something that is obtained; it is not attained. What does it mean to obtain something? To obtain is to acquire something. What does it mean to attain? To attain is to earn something.

Everything we need is not attained by works, it is obtained by faith! It is not ACHEIVED by works; it is RECEIVED by faith! And it is obtained by Christ in us. Christ does not just give those things TO us – He IS those things in us! 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 says:

*You are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”*

Christ does not give us wisdom or righteousness apart from Himself. He is those things in us! That’s why this verse says to boast in the Lord. Because we cannot acquire these things on our own. We only have them because we have Christ in us, the hope of glory!

It is no longer I, but Christ. The I was crucified on the cross with Christ. When Jesus was crucified on the cross, God included us in His death. God concluded that we are all worthy of death because of our sin. We were beyond repair and without hope.

Christianity is not a self-improvement program! The cross is not about self-improvement – it’s about dying to self because self is the problem!

True change requires dying to self.  
Living for God requires dying to self.  
Being willing to help others requires dying to self.

So, what should we do to see the reality of this in our lives today? What does Paul mean when he says, “you died with Christ”? Notice this is past tense – you died with Christ. It’s already happened. When? On the cross! How? You were in Christ! Romans 6:5-14 says:

*If we have been united with Him in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him. The death He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life He lives, He lives for the glory of God. In the same way, consider yourselves dead to the power of sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin control the way you live so that you obey its evil desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as*

*an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.*

If you died with Christ – why are you alive to the world’s ways?  
 If you died with Christ – why are you living for the flesh?  
 If you died with Christ – why are you submitting to Satan’s schemes?

Sanctification involves a daily realization that we have died with Christ and in Christ we have been raised from the dead. Daily reformation is the result of daily resurrection!

Extreme self-denial does not get to the real issue – your heart. All of man’s rules and regulations and techniques and self-help approaches to change can never bring about internal transformation. They have an appearance of wisdom, religion and humility, but they have absolutely zero power to overcome the flesh! They all focus on what you do rather than on what Christ has done! The only way to deal with the flesh is to die to it!

Outside cleanup does not result in inside cleanup.  
 External rule keeping does not change the heart.  
 Behavior modification cannot change the heart.  
 Only the cross can do that!  
 That’s why only Christ in us is the hope of glory!

### **3- I no longer live, but Christ lives in me**

I have no life apart from Christ. Colossians 3:4 says:

*When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*

Christ does not just give us life – He IS our life. The problem with many Christians is that they just add Jesus to their life rather than realizing He is their life. They don’t change anything about their life or delete anything from their life. They just want to keep living the same life – but add Jesus to it.

Brothers and sisters, it does not work that way! Either Christ is the source of your life or something else is. Either Christ is Lord of your life or something else is! You’ll never experience the power of Christ in you the hope of glory until you die to yourself.

You can’t keep your sin around and have the hope of glory.  
 You can’t keep wanting your old life and live the new life in Christ.  
 You can’t keep finding your identity in your iniquity rather than in Christ.  
 You must come to the place of I no longer live, but Christ lives in me!

### **4- The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.**

Our new life is a Person, the Lord Jesus living in us!  
 The new life is a Person within a person, living out His life in that person.

Instead of attempting to live his life in obedience to a set of rules we now yield to Christ in us. And we do that by faith.

Yes, Jesus gave His life the sins of the world, but He did it all for you.

Some people have problems with songs like When He Was on the Cross, I was on His Mind because they think it seems self-centered. But Paul said Jesus gave His life for me. Yes, He gave it for everyone, but at some point it must become personal when we have faith that Jesus died for me.

And just like we had faith in Christ for the forgiveness of sin – we must have faith in Christ in us to provide power over sin. Just like we had faith in the cross for salvation, we must have faith in the resurrection life and power of Jesus Christ in our daily lives!

You know that Christ is your life when – not matter what you need – you know that the answer is not in you, it is in Christ.

You know that when you have to wait – Christ in you is your patience.

When you are in a storm – Christ in you is your peace!

When you are sinful – Christ in you is your righteousness!

When you need answers – Christ in you is your wisdom!

When you are hateful – Christ in you is your love!

When you are hurt by others – Christ in you is your healing!

When you are weak – Christ in you is your power!

When you need freedom – Christ in you is your deliverance.

When you are lost – Christ in you is your salvation!

All your needs are met according to God's riches in glory by Christ Jesus!  
 That's why Christ in you is the hope of glory!