

# *The excellencies of life in Christ*

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.* 1 Pet 2:9-10

We exist to glorify God - or proclaim Him. To show what He is like, to tell others about Him, to publish the truth of Him.

*Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' John 3:5-7*

*The one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.*

1 Cor 6:17

*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.* 2 Cor 5:17

*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

Gal 2:20

*so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.*

*For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

*However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.*

*If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.*

*But 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.*

*So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh, for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

*For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.*

Rom 8:4-17

*for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth)*

Eph 5:8-9

*Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.*

Col 3:1-4

## **Believers believe the word of God**

I am a new creation.

2 Cor 5:17

I am born again by God.

John 3:5

Christ dwells in me.

Gal 2:20

Christ is my life.

Col 3:4

His Spirit lives in me.

Rom 8:11

I shall fear not the world.

Mark 5:36

I abide in Christ's love.	John 15:9-10
Christ has come to me.	John 14:18
I am Led by the Spirit.	Rom 8:14
I am a temple of God.	1 Cor 3:16
Christ will never leave me.	Heb 13:5
The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want.	Psm 23:1
In Christ I am untouchable by the darkness.	1 Pet 2:9
In Christ I am anxious for nothing.	Phil 4:6-7
In Christ I walk in the light as He is light.	1 John 1:5-7
In Christ I walk by the aid of the Spirit.	Rom 8:11
In Christ I am putting to death the deeds of the body of flesh in order to walk with Christ.	Rom 8:13
I Christ I Rejoice in all things.	1 Thess 5:16-18
In Christ I am loved beyond all human understanding.	Eph 3:17-19
In Christ I have been raised up with Him.	Eph 2:6
In Christ I will reign with Him.	2 Tim 2:12
In Christ I am already seated with Him on His throne.	Eph 2:6
In Christ I have already been declared victorious over the flesh, sin and the world.	Rom 8:37
In Christ I no longer live for myself but for Him who died and rose again on my behalf.	2 Cor 5:15

### **The examination of true faith**

*Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognise this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you, unless indeed you fail the test?* 2 Cor 13:5

**Is there evidence of self denial and a willingness to suffer with and for Christ in a hostile world?**

*"And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me."*

Luke 9:23

**Is there evidence that we are no longer living for self but living for Christ?**

*For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.*

*Therefore from now on we recognise no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

2 Cor 5:14-17

**Is there evidence that we are led by the Spirit to put the flesh to death that remains in us.**

*So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh, for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.....*

*The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.*

Rom 8:12-14,16-17

What say you?