



Day One: #3 You Were Resurrected With Christ (7)

Baptised into His Resurrection Life

The fact that we are crucified and resurrected with Christ Jesus is such an important point that He wanted us to identify with it in a very memorable and symbolic way. Baptism is intended to be our picture of oneness with Christ Jesus as He was crucified and resurrected.

Colossians 2:12 (TPT) For we've been buried with him, immersed into his death. Our "baptism into death" also means we were raised with him when we believed in God's resurrection power, the power that raised him from death's realm. This "realm of death" describes our former state, for we were held in sin's grasp. But now, we've been resurrected out of that "realm of death" never to return, for we are forever alive and forgiven of all our sins!

Colossians 2:12 (AMP) ...you were buried with Him in [your] baptism, in which you were also raised with Him [to a new life] through [your] faith...

Wow, what a powerful truth! When we enter into the waters of baptism, we are identifying with His crucifixion and when we come out of the waters, we are identifying with His resurrection. Yet sadly, baptism has been completely stripped of its meaning! It's amazing how we can reduce something so powerful down to something that is good, yet nothing like what God intended it to be - and not even realise that we're doing it!

For most people, baptism has been taught as simply a symbol of our faith in Christ Jesus... like a sign where we say to the world that we believe in Jesus and that we are dedicating our lives to Him. That was me when at 17 years of age, I got baptised 'as a declaration of my faith in Jesus'. Of course, this is a good thing, and we certainly should publically declare our faith in Jesus. However, when we let the meaning stop there, we miss out on something incredible that Jesus wanted us to experience through our baptism – our oneness with Christ in His crucifixion and resurrection and consequently our affirmation of the death of our old identity and the life of our new identity, which is Christ IN us!

The true purpose of baptism is all about changing our sense of identity completely to 'In Christ'.



And I don't mean this watered down, 'who we are in Christ Jesus' Christian speak that we've more than likely been hearing and speaking for as long as we can remember, which is so blasé about the depths of what this statement means. If we are truly 'In Christ', then we see ourselves no other way! We are not in and of ourselves, and our identity is not in anything or anyone else. Everything about our identity has changed once and for all and it is no longer us who lives but Christ who lives in us! We are a completely new creation – that's what 'Who we are in Christ Jesus' means, and what baptism is about.

2 Corinthians 5:27 (ESV) *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

We need to remember that when we're saved, it's not just 'me with a fresh start'. We're a completely new person. The old life is gone, and a new life has begun (2 Cor 5:17). Our sins and our old man were wiped away at the point of the cross. We now live a totally new life, in a totally new identity.

When I realised this, I knew I had stripped the meaning from my baptism as a teenager... and that it was time to be baptised into my new identity in Christ Jesus. Praise God, what a day that was on the 18th of January 2015 when, at 37 years old (20 years after the first time), I did it again and affirmed the truth that my old man was dead and my new man was alive in Christ Jesus and I would live from that point on out of my new man – Christ in me, the hope of glory (Col 1:27).

Soak Time

(If you have been baptised previously) What did my baptism mean to me? Did I step out of the water with a new identity?



Day Two: #4 You Are Seated With Christ (1)

Of course, just when we think it can't get any better, the Gospel (which literally means 'Good News') reveals to us the next awesome revelation about how our identity was changed on the cross. And that is the truth that we have not only been crucified with Christ Jesus and resurrected with Christ Jesus, but that we were also translated with Christ Jesus and we are now seated in heavenly places with Him!

Ephesians 2:6 (NLT) *For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.*

Wow! Can you fathom it and what this reality means to our lives?!?! This is where things get very literal and we have to watch that we are not offended by the glory that Jesus offers us.

He took our place, and then we took His.

Our place was on the cross. His place is on the throne, seated in heavenly places. *"Do you mean to say that I have the same place with God as Jesus does?!?!?"* Well, He says in Ephesians 2:6 (which we've just looked at) that we are seated in heavenly places WITH Him. Hebrews 12:2 tells us that Jesus *sat down at the right hand of the Father*. And in Revelation 3:32, Jesus promises us that *"Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne."* I think Father, Son and Holy Spirit are trying to get a message of oneness through to us! Jesus sat down with His Father on his throne because He was one with His Father. Yet we are also seated with Jesus on His throne because we are one with Him. The honour of it all is beyond our wildest imaginations!

It sounds absurd, prideful and ridiculous all at the same time! If we have any insecurity in us whatsoever, it will rise up at the notion that we could be honoured in such a way. That we would be seated with Christ Jesus (on His throne) in the heavenly places. That He would give us HIS place!

Yet where else could we be? We're united with Him! And John 17:23 not only affirms this oneness (Christ in God; us in Christ), but also amazes us by saying that God loves us as much as He loves Jesus!



John 17:23 (NLT) I am in them and you are in me... that the world will know that...you love them as much as you love me.

In God's eyes, there is no distinction between Christ and us. In fact, He no longer sees us as anything other than 'In Christ'. Therefore, why would He dispute our being seated with Christ on His throne, on the right hand side of God, who is seated on His throne? It defies all logic, yet the Bible makes it clear:

You are seated in the heavenly places with Christ Jesus. It's your reality if you will believe it.



Do I feel disbelieving or offended at the honour Jesus has given me through allowing me to be seated with Him in heavenly places?



Day Three: #4 You Are Seated With Christ (2)

Jesus is Seated

If Jesus is seated, that means we are seated, too! When He was on the cross, just before He died, Jesus uttered these words:

John 19:30 (NLT) When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and released his spirit.

Jesus is seated in heavenly places BECAUSE "It is finished!" His work on the cross, and His subsequent resurrection, was a completed work. He made every provision possible for His people. He abolished the law and brought forth grace. He restored our identities, and then He sent His Holy Spirit to bring the fullness of the life of Christ to every single one of us who would believe.

He doesn't have to run around, making things happen. He's simply interceding for us, that we will believe. We are not waiting for Jesus to move. We don't even need an experience. Neither do we need to be overwhelmed, stressed out, frantic or use force to receive what Jesus has provided for us in the Kingdom. We simply need to believe. That means that both he, and us, can remain seated and operate from the place of rest.

When He Himself rested, He purchased rest for us.

It's our reality right now... if we will choose to believe that we are, in fact, seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 4:3 (AMP) For we who have believed...do enter that rest, in accordance with His declaration that those [who did not believe] should not enter... this He said although [His] works had been completed and prepared [and waiting for all who would believe] from the foundation of the world.

And what does that rest look like?

Hebrews 4:10 - 11 (AMP) For he who has once entered [God's] rest also has ceased from the [weariness and pain] of human labors, just as God rested from those labors... Let us therefore be zealous and exert ourselves and strive diligently to enter that rest [of God, to know and experience it for ourselves], that no one may fall or perish by the same kind of unbelief and disobedience [into which those in the wilderness fell].



Notice that it says the true rest of God is entered ONCE. When was that?

When Christ sat down, we sat down.

All that is missing from this being an experiential reality in our lives is for us to believe... if we don't see ourselves as seated with Christ in heavenly places as our reality, we won't experience it. This doesn't mean we aren't to work, but it means we no longer have to strive and exert ourselves through zealous force and painful toil. The only striving we are to do is to enter into His rest, through faith.

In Genesis 2:2, God ended His work and rested. He is seated on His throne (Psalm 47:8; Rev 7:15). Jesus then endured the shame of the cross and afterwards He also sat down, at the right hand of the throne of God (Heb 12:2).

The invitation is now given to us. Our spirit is at rest. It's already seated. But will we allow our soul and our body to sit down, too? Will we choose to align ourselves with this truth and begin to live from a place of rest? Will we refuse to leave this place of rest to wrestle again with our own works, human force, overwhelm, stress and toil?

Rest. This is what Jesus purchased for us. Aren't you relieved, honoured, thrilled and amazed, all at the same time!

Soak Time

Have I ever truly entered into His rest?

Do I see myself seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus?



Day Four: #4 You Are Seated With Christ (3)

Rest is one of the privileges of being seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus. Perspective is the other.

The Perspective of Heaven

Don't you think that the view from heaven is different to what we see when we look around us? Talk about freeing ourselves from our limited perspectives! Not only is it seeing the bigger picture of what's going on in this world from the perspective of heaven, but it's also seeing it through the eyes of Jesus – the Victorious One... the Overcomer... and the one with whom you are now forever united!

We never have to view any situation in life, as though we are by ourselves! The Christ within us is always with us in everything, and He has already overcome everything the world could ever throw at us! In fact, He'd done it even before the foundation of the world (Heb 4:3)!

This is not a fictitious dream or a vague hope. Spiritually speaking, we are actually seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus. We are looking down on the world, sitting with the One Who has conquered absolutely everything facing us on this earth, and nothing can separate us from Him. This is how we can live dead to the natural realm and instead of looking at the situations that face us from an earthly perspective, see everything from a heavenly one.

Colossians 3:1 – 2 (TPT) *This is why we are to yearn for all that is above, for that's where Christ sits enthroned at the place of all power, honor, and authority! Yes, feast on all the treasures of the heavenly realm and fill your thoughts with heavenly realities, and not with the distractions of the natural realm.*

Do you know what God, Who is never influenced at all by the natural realm, does while He is seated in heaven? He looks at those who have chosen to be His enemies on the earth, making schemes against Him and His Anointing – and He laughs! Yep! Right now, He's up there, laughing at man's attempts to destroy or stop His Kingdom on this earth. He knows Who has already won!



Psalm 2:4 (AMP) *He Who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord has them in derision...*

So when people are full of strife and accusation towards us, we can see from God's perspective and remember that we're not fighting with flesh and blood but that their behavior is motivated by spiritual forces that our Jesus has already defeated for us. And we can laugh.

When we are faced with situations of lack so dire we don't know how on earth we can pay the next bill, we can see from God's perspective and realise that His riches are endless and no amount of lack can ever consume them. And we can laugh!

If we have a dream burning in our heart that is so big we can't even fathom what the next step will be, we can see ourselves taking it with Jesus, who has all the backing and resources and wisdom of heaven, and suddenly what seemed to be impossible starts to look inevitable. And we can laugh!

If we have a giant in our life that appears stubborn and unwilling to move no matter what we do, we can look at the giant in comparison to God and suddenly he looks so puny. And once again, we can keep laughing!

God never intended us to be crushed by fear, overwhelm of disbelief. Jesus went to the most profound lengths possible to bring us into this seated oneness with Him. We can look at what's around us and cry.... Or we can look through the eyes of our seated King and we can laugh. The choice is ours.

Soak Time

When I think about some of the challenging situations in my life, how differently do they look when I consider them instead from the perspective of heaven? When I close my eyes and see myself there, what does it look like?



Day Five: #5 You Are One With Christ (1)

So if being seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus wasn't already exciting enough, we now get to look at how we have been made one with Him – and if ever anything changed our identity through what Christ accomplished for us on the cross, this was it!

1 Corinthians 6:17 is the most incredible scripture in the Bible I think – totally unbelievable, yet utterly true! I discovered this scripture and could scarcely take in what I was reading:

1 Corinthians 6:17 (AMP) *But the person who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him.*

I thought I had to be misunderstanding what it was saying. It wasn't really saying that my spirit became one with the Lord's Spirit when I accepted Him? Was it?!?!

And thus began a journey to find out what the Bible said about being one spirit with Jesus (who is one with God and Holy Spirit). And what I discovered is that this truth can be found absolutely everywhere! Old Testament, New Testament... the reality of oneness with Christ cannot be argued. Once you open your heart to it, you will see it everywhere you look. We were created to be one with Christ and one with each other.

John 14:20 (AMP) *...I am in My Father, and you [are] in Me, and I [am] in you.*

This scripture sums it up concisely. The fullness of God lives in Jesus (Col 2:9) and Jesus is in God (Col 3:3). Equally as true, is the fact that you are in Christ, and He is in you. Just as there is no separating God from Jesus or Jesus from God, there is no separating us from Jesus or Jesus from us.

Therefore, if we want to understand our oneness with Christ, we have to look at what the Bible says about it from both perspectives:

- Who we are in Christ Jesus.
- Who Jesus is in us.

And what we're about to find is that both aspects of this incredible truth are equally awesome!



Soak Time

How does 1 Corinthians 6:17 make me feel?

Do I truly believe that I am one Spirit with Christ Jesus? Why or why not?
