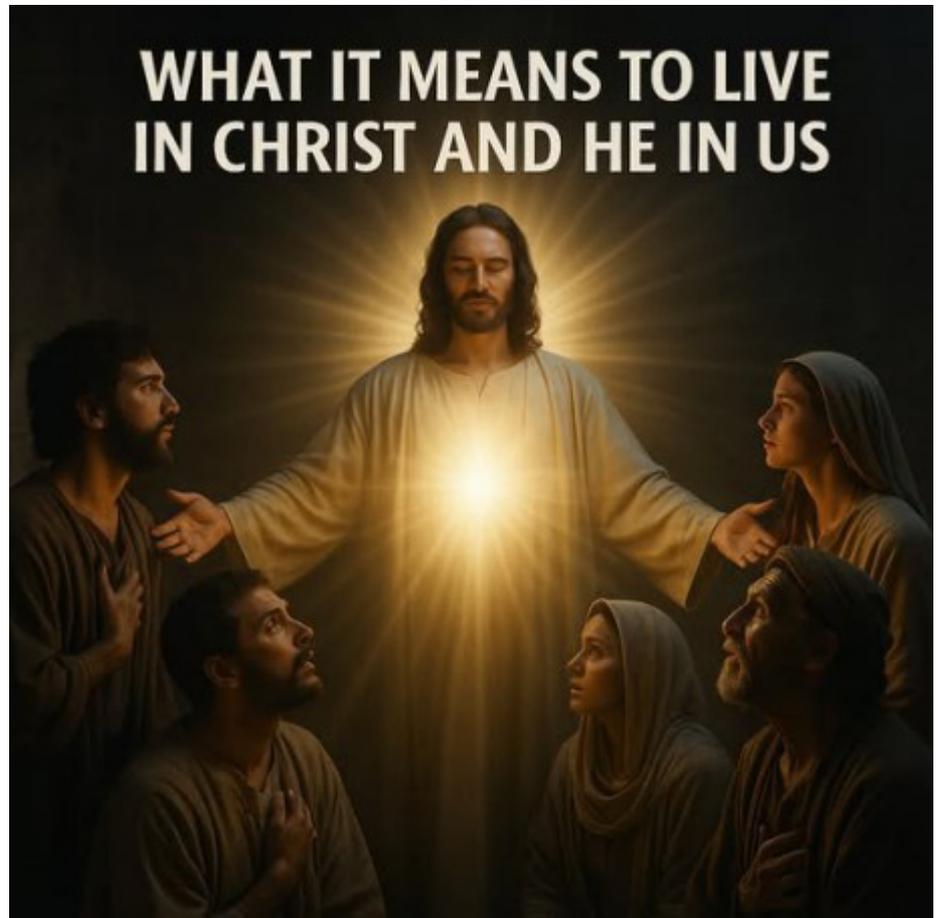


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[In Christ - What It Means To Live In Christ And He In Us](#)



By Dan Maines

What It Means To Live In Christ And He In Us

† Paul says in **Galatians 2:20** I've been crucified with Christ, and it's 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. To live in Christ means our old life has ended. The life of Adam was bound to sin and death, but in Christ we share His life, His righteousness, and His victory.

† John confirms this in **1 John 4:13** By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He's given us of His Spirit. We're not waiting for Christ to be near us in some future coming, He already dwells in us through the Spirit. This indwelling is the fulfillment of the promise: God with us.

† Jesus Himself taught in **John 14:23** If anyone loves Me, he'll follow My word, and My Father will love him, and We'll come to him and make Our dwelling with him. The Second Coming expectation denies this reality. Christ isn't absent. He didn't leave us waiting for thousands of years. He came to dwell with His people, and He remains.

† Jesus also said in **John 15:4-5** Abide in Me, and I in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches, the one who abides in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. This is the clearest picture of what it means to live in Christ and He in us. His life flows into us as the true vine, and we bear fruit only through Him.

† Paul told the Colossians in **Colossians 1:27** Christ in you, the hope of glory. This isn't a deferred hope, it's a present possession. To suggest that believers must still look for Christ in another coming strips away the very glory of the gospel.

† Futurists make the mistake of ignoring what Jesus promised in **Matthew 28:20** I'm with you always, to the end of the age. If He's with us always, then why do they speak as if He abandoned us, and must return again? The age that ended was the Old Covenant, and with its passing, the fullness of His presence was revealed.

† Living in Christ means our fellowship is eternal. Paul wrote in **1 Thessalonians 4:17** And so we'll always be with the Lord. That promise was to the first-century believers, fulfilled at His

parousia. To insist on another coming is to say we're not with Him now, but Scripture declares we are.

† To live in Christ is to walk in newness of life (**Romans 6:4**), to bear the fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**), and to rest in His completed work (**Hebrews 4:3**). He abides in us, and we in Him. That's the eternal reality of the kingdom.

† Paul affirms this new reality in **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation, the old things passed away, behold, new things have come. The old covenant world has passed, and the new covenant world stands forever. There's no need for another coming because Christ's work is complete and His presence is everlasting.

† Paul also explains in **Ephesians 2:19-22** So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. This proves beyond doubt that God's dwelling is already with His people. We are His temple, joined to Christ forever.

† Paul confirms this again in **1 Corinthians 3:16-17** Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy that person, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are. This leaves no room for futurism, God's temple is not a building to come, it is His people in whom Christ lives now.

† John confirms this vision in **Revelation 21:2-3** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and

they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them. This is not future, it was fulfilled when the old covenant order passed away. God dwells with His people now, and His presence is eternal.

† The writer of Hebrews reminds us in **Hebrews 13:5** for He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor will I ever forsake you. This seals the truth that Christ's presence isn't temporary or awaiting a second arrival. He's with His people forever.

† Jesus declared the timing in **Matthew 16:27-28** For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay each one according to his deeds. Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom. This promise eliminates all delay theories. He kept His word, and that coming is complete.

† He repeated this in **Matthew 24:34** Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. The fulfillment was tied to their generation, not ours. Futurism collapses under the plain words of Christ.

Those who expect a second coming ignore the testimony of Jesus, the apostles, and the Spirit within. They're like the Jews of old who waited for a Messiah when He already stood among them. To expect another coming is to deny that He's already kept His word.

† **This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

Source Index

† Galatians 2:20; 1 John 4:13; John 14:23; John 15:4-5; Colossians 1:27; Matthew 28:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Romans 6:4; Galatians 5:22-23; Hebrews 4:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Revelation

21:2-3; Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 16:27-28; Matthew 24:34

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