

We've Been Made Complete In Him

To Fully Please The Lord Walk In That Completion

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Won't See It Naturally

Our senses and natural state of mind does not believe that we are *complete in Jesus*. We feel fear, worry, anxieties, and have only so much confidence in our spiritual life in general. Many of us have grown up being taught Christian doubts* which makes us double minded about the things of God—which contributes to our lack of confidence. We have lived in a vague Christian experience. In other words, if we take inventory in the *normal way* we will not see or accept this truth—**We've been made complete in Him.**

Col. 2: 8 **Beware lest anyone cheat you** through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.
9 **For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;**
10 **and you are complete in Him,** who is the head of all principality and power.

Being born again has often been taught and interpreted as our spirit man grows from infancy to maturity. We may think that like a physical birth our spiritual birth begins as an infant and progresses through being a baby, toddler, child, adolescent, teenager, to an adult. As this verse strongly implies:

1Pe 2:2 **as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,**

We have the idea that we start out with a part of the Spirit, a small portion, as a baby in Christ and then as we grow our spirit man enlarges to become at some point more mature. With this understanding there is

*See Vague Christianity booklet

this ultimate, almost unspoken sense, that none of us will become fully grown to be just like Jesus (I John 4:17). This won't happen until we are in heaven. **This perception greatly *limits* us in grasping, beholding, and asserting the completeness of Christ in us.** If we see our spiritual condition as growing from infancy to adulthood we are going to miss a great deal—and we have.

How We Grow

When the scriptures speak about us growing in the Lord, maturing in our faith and becoming to the full stature of Christ; **this is referring to our understanding and revelation of the truth.** We are growing in our awareness and ***skill in spiritual life***. It is like purchasing a **computer** and setting it up in our home. There is a learning curve as we begin to use it. The computer is “complete” in itself but our ability to take full advantage of its programming and functions takes time. When someone comes along with far more experience in using computers and shows us how to become more efficient, **we can immediately begin to employ those tips.** We could have been using those tips all along; however, our ignorance prevented us from doing so.

II Tim. 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
17 **that the man of God may be complete** thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We might get the idea that our lack of knowledge of scripture means we are but babies in spiritual growth. We might be babies but it doesn't refer to our *spiritual completeness or lack of it*. It refers to our mind *not being renewed* to agree with the Spirit (Rom. 12:1-3). It refers to our living life back under the law and naturalism denying the full work of Christ within us.

This scripture is encouraging us to get into the ***owner's manual of life*** so that we can comprehend ***what it is that we've been given in our new***

creation. Just like going to the owner’s manual for the computer helps us to understand **what we have in front of us when we use it.** The mirror invoked in the book of James supplies the proper understanding when reading, feeding, and acting upon the word of God:

James 1: 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, **he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself,** goes away, **and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.**

This means that the Word of God (Jesus) has been born into us and is complete. When we look into the written word we are seeing ourselves as if we were looking into a **mirror.** We are observing what we have become, what is in front of us, and what grace has made us! We’ve been made complete in Christ. Another verse verifies this:

John 1: 16 **And of his fullness have all we received,** and grace for grace.

Wrong Perceptions

We have received of His fullness when we became born again—we got the whole package! Therefore, don’t let **wrong perceptions** continue to hold us back. We’ve already got everything that is good that is in Christ Jesus when we became born again (Philemon 1:6). What we lack is our revelation understanding of what we got.

Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, **that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.**

If our spiritual development is based on our similar physical development then prayers like I’m presenting to you don’t make sense. How could we ask of our toddler to stand mature and fully prepared for life? How could we encourage our child to be full of knowledge in the will of God? An infant, a child, even an adolescent is too emotionally immature, too under developed to grasp adult things; yet, this prayer

states clearly that we may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God!

Consider this passage as well:

Col. 1: 9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask **that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;**

10 that you may walk **worthy of the Lord**, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work **and increasing in the knowledge of God;**

How can we pray for infants, toddlers, children, and adolescents, even teenagers, that they would be filled in the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding? Certainly, in time, as they grow up physically, emotionally, mentally, they could increase in the knowledge of God; but we are talking years down the road.

We must be convinced that our spiritual life is complete in us. When we received Jesus we received of His fullness. We've been made just as He is in this life (I John 4:17). Our physical development is not related to our spiritual condition. In fact, I've seen many fully grown adults who have been saved since they were physical children whose spiritual condition could easily be described as still being a babe in Christ.

Spiritual maturity comes through practice and acknowledging the right things. When we believe the right things *and do them* our spiritual life expands and becomes (through the work of the Spirit) conformed into the image of Christ (Rom. 8:9). **Our spiritual life matures only in the sense that we are learning to use it.** The Word of God lays dormant within us until we act upon it. Just like the programs in the computer we bought can lay dormant until we decide to use them.

The Renewed Mind Is Key

Our lack of embracing or accepting the fullness of Christ in our life right

now has to do with our mind *not being renewed* according to the Will of God. We are still thinking and agreeing with the old nature and the world. We are seeing ourselves the way the enemy would want us to see ourselves. For the most part we are still coming from a servant or slave mentality of being bound by the elements of this world (Gal. 4:3). We are still operating with a worldly mindset. We are to put on the mind of Christ (I Cor. 2:16)!

In the Colossians 1:9 passage the word for “*knowledge*” is the Greek word “*epiginosis*.” This word means “complete, perfect, or exact knowledge.” **It means we are being prayed for to have the very fullness of His ability and will operating in our life *precisely*.** How can we pray for infants, babes, or children to have this fulfilled in their life? That could only mean as they grow up over the years in a future time; however, this is referring to the present state of being for all believers.

Jesus has been made unto us wisdom from the Father (I Cor. 1:30). Jesus doesn’t come to us in part or in infant form; He comes to us in fullness! We have been given this amazing truth that God is in us to make known to us ***His will and exact knowledge of His power.***

E. W. Kenyon wrote: “**I have the knowledge of the complete and perfect substitutionary Work of Jesus.** Now I have the ability to *incorporate that knowledge* in my daily life.” (In His Presence page 181)

If I believe that I’m only an infant, a baby, a child, or youth in spiritual life, I’m going to greatly limit the call of God on my life. I’m called to walk worthy:

Col. 1: 10 **that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him,** being fruitful in every good work and **increasing in the knowledge of God;**

To walk worthy of the Lord is to walk in the life He provided us to its fullness! It means to walk in the way of Christ, the way He walked, doing the things He did! It means that His sacrifice and offering for our sins to make us righteous before God is not in vain. It means that we are to

take *full advantage* being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. Increasing in the knowledge of God means that we are growing in our awareness and rising out of our stupor (carnal mind), to become full sons and daughters.

We Have Within Us All The Resources We Need To Become Like Christ In The World!

We don't see this by our natural mind or understand it through the knowledge of the senses; we see this through spiritual life in us. We see it by faith in His grace.

Don't Be Cheated!

Paul the apostle exhorted us not to *be cheated out of this truth*—we are complete in Him. How?

We can be cheated from it by not embracing it.

We can be cheated by being *natural minded and bound by the senses*.

We can be cheated out of it by *putting experiences above what the Word of God declares*.

As James writes if we hear the word of God but do not put it into practice we are *forgetting what manner of man in Christ we've become*. We will be cheating ourselves from the truth by continuing to live as if it were not true. We would be letting the world choke the word out of us, distract us from it, and lure us to pursue other things.

One of the ways we have been cheated out of the completeness of Christ has been trying to live *back under the law*. We are born into a new kingdom and the old one is passing away. The new kingdom is of faith. This faith is the gift of Christ to us. We can now *know* God's will and as these verses above have stated, *we can know God's will exactly, profoundly, precisely, and powerfully!*

When we live to the law we are not living to the Spirit. For the law is for natural man, fallen man, sinful man to tutor, to hold him, and point him

to Christ (Gal. 3:24). Once we come to Christ our relationship to Him supersedes the law.

Ga 3:12 **Yet the law is not of faith..."**

We are to live to the Spirit for the letter of the law is death and condemnation but living to Jesus is life, peace, and joy in God (II Cor. 3:6). Jesus is our life and living in Him brings the manifestation of His completeness in us.

As I have already addressed we have been cheated from grasping our completeness in Him **by thinking we don't have all of Him**. If we believe we are spiritual infants, toddlers, or children, we are going to miss grace—**we will disqualify ourselves through ignorance**.

We are being cheated when we don't **grasp the meaning of being made complete in Jesus!** This means we are already created in the image of Christ in His fullness. It means that our natural man's condition, although it still contends with us, is dead to us (Rom. 6:11). We are forever established in righteousness and peace in the Lord. Our sins are forgiven and we have passed from judgment to life (John 5:24). We are complete lacking nothing. We have His name, His peace, His life, His faith, His joy, and His ability. We have His glory!

John 17:22 **"And the glory which You gave Me I have given them,** that they may be one just as We are one:

One of the more devious ways that we have been cheated from the completeness of Christ in us is by believing **it is not for today**. It has been put off to heaven when God's kingdom is fully realized. This misleading explanation is often given to those who try to see the completeness of Christ in us through natural means. This answer is given when we fail to see the power of God. This answer is given to excuse our lack of confidence in the Word of God.

A final way we are cheated from the completeness of Christ is by believing that the **sovereignty of God means that we have no contribution to its fulfillment in our life**. God's sovereignty included the

gift of dominion to choose to stand in God's grace. We are admonished to participate in the *divine nature* by embracing, asserting, and standing in the truth!

2Co 13:11 **Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete.** Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

What Completeness Does!

When we fully **grasp** what God has done in us through Jesus we are not going to remain the same! We are going to be free of condemnation, guilt, and shame (Rom. 8:1). We are going to let the past go and press into the skills of being complete in Jesus (Phip. 3:12). We are going to become bold because we are convinced of the truth that greater is He that is in us than He that is in the world (I John 4:4).

When we fully **accept** the gift of His righteousness in completeness we are going to stop being afraid, tentative, living to the spirit of fear; we'll put on Christ (Rom. 13:14). We are going to sense the *compassion of Christ* rising up in us to change the world around us just as He did (John 14:12). We are going to stop waiting for faith, waiting for courage, waiting for God to move us and start moving knowing by faith that we have been authorized, empowered, and commissioned (Matt. 28:20)!

When we fully **assert** the completeness of Christ in us we are going to live in the supernatural grace of God. We are going to stop being distracted, discouraged by circumstances, and self absorbed by the pleasures of this world. We are going to become focused on Jesus (Christ conscious), encouraged to speak and declare the will of God done, and know the Spirit's transforming power within us (II Cor. 3:18). We will be awakening to righteousness and **be complete thoroughly equipped for every good work (I Cor. 15:34).**

Conclusion

We will be living more in the Spirit *by accident* just because we believe we have been **made complete**. We will be enlightened, instructed, led, and revealed more of what completeness in Christ is. The results will be: **“that we will walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him**, being fruitful in every good work and **increasing in the knowledge of God...”**

The Word of God, which dwells in us, will operate, fulfill, and bring to pass all of the Father’s will in our lives (Phil. 2:13). What could be more fulfilling? What could be more inspiring? What could be more purposeful? What could be more rewarding than to hear in genuine truth, “Well, done thou good and faithful **son/daughter!**”

It is His good pleasure to see us fulfill His will. His will is for us to accept, embrace, and assert that we’ve been made complete in Christ:

Eph 1:5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, **according to the good pleasure of His will**