

## **PRAYER IS THE ANSWER : John Kirkpatrick**

### **1.CONNECT TO DOWNLOAD**

We connect to God through prayer. When we first become Christians our prayers are simply, but as we grow our prayers need to develop. We need to keep and strengthen our connection with God, and we will as we strengthen our prayer life.

Galatians 2.20, 1 Corinthians 5.17

How can we develop our connection?

Paul says, 'I have been crucified with Christ.' When we accepted Christ as our Saviour, at that point we too were crucified. Our sins were forgiven – nailed to the cross – Jesus took our sin and our judgment on himself.

Our old sinful nature died and we rose as new creatures in Christ.  
Do we feel as if we are new creatures, and dead to sin?

Paul goes on to say, 'It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.'  
We need to know that the old life, has gone, and now Christ lives in us.  
Again, do people see this? Do they look at us and see Christ?  
Whether they do or not, it is true.

The body can be killed, but Christ in us can never die.

Paul wrote to Corinth having heard that there were quarrels among them, as they argued who they belonged to – Paul, Apollos, Cephas, or Christ. He asks; 'Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you?' The answer of course, is 'No'. He continues, 1 Corinthians 3.16, God's Spirit dwells in you, 3.23, You belong to Christ.

Jesus wants to speak and act powerfully in and through you, to bring your mind into alignment with the Holy Spirit so that we pray as he prays.

Christ living in us – this comes by faith. We don't have to plead or beg or struggle for him, we receive him when we are saved – by faith.

**Living with Christ : The exchanged life- Christ in us**

Jesus took our sin and punishment and gave us his righteousness, and eternal life. Through his presence, his mind is in us, 1 Corinthians 2.14-16.

A hymn : May the mind of Christ my Saviour live in me from day to day. By his love and power controlling all I do and say.

Is that your prayer?

Galatians 2.20

Jesus gave himself for us, and we give him our life and receive his life

2 Corinthians 5.17 **We are in Christ**

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. So Christ is in me and I am in Christ.

The inseparable union – conjoined bodies like Siamese twins – we are separate but joined.

Ephesians 1.7 Our sins are forgiven

1 Corinthians 1.2 – We are made holy

Philippians 4.7. – we have God's peace

2 Corinthians 1.20 – we have God's promises

1 Corinthians 15.22 – we are made alive in Christ

Jesus explains what it means to be in him, in John 15.1,4.

What does it mean to **remain in him**?

It requires resolution, it doesn't just happen.

If we don't remain in him, we will dry up, we will be unfruitful.

John 15.7. If we remain in him, maintain our relationship with him, what can we do?

Our prayers are effective as we remain in him, because we ask the things he wants to give us, our desires are the same as his.

The word 'remain' in Greek, means 'to cling to', 'inhabit' 'adhere', 'dwell'. It's not a once in a lifetime thing, but an ongoing life. Where were we before we were grafted on to him? We in 'Adam', - dead to spiritual realities. In Christ we are taken out of that old dead vine and grafted into the living vine, Christ's life is flowing into us,

We are in him because of what he did.

So there are two components : Christ is in me

I am in Christ

These combine to make us connected to God, as we remember these truths and live in them.

God says, "Those who honour me I will honour". We honour him as we remain in Christ.