

1. Jesus Lives in Your Heart

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1.1 Jesus by Heart

I want to thank you for the honor you have given me to share with you concerning this new life you have just embraced, walking together with the Lord Jesus Christ. You stated that you have just received the Lord Jesus as your Savior and are overwhelmed with the joy of knowing your sins all washed away.

Yet you also said that you had never before heard of the Bible or of Christianity or even of Jesus Himself, that, knowing nothing about this God with whom you had come into agreement, you desired to be taught all things that God says about this Jesus now living in your heart.

With great joy I would do just that through this little book.

Where We Begin. Paul said that **Christ lives in your heart through faith** (Ephesians 3:17). This is where we must begin.

Now, you noticed that the title of this book is “Knowing Jesus as He Is.” Paul also said that as we see Jesus as He is, **we are transformed from glory to glory** (2 Corinthians 3:18). That means that knowing Jesus is a big deal, something that does not happen overnight. Knowing Jesus grows inside of us step by step, transforming us in surprising and unexpected ways, all of them glorious.

I want to begin this introduction of Jesus alive inside of you by showing you this Jesus in two intertwined ways. One of those ways is knowing Jesus by heart and the other is knowing Jesus by Paul.

Paul’s Gospel. You see, knowing Jesus must begin with Paul and the several letters he wrote to

different groups of Christians. Paul is a very interesting fellow, and you will get to know him a lot better even as you learn of Jesus.

Paul, to say the least, is exuberant, and as a writer, he goes all over the place, assuming that his readers are staying with him, even though we often aren’t. And Paul talks about himself even more than he talks about Jesus, which is a lot. This tendency of Paul, always weaving Jesus together with himself, is very important. Paul is excessive, and part of his “excess” is his claim that his version of the gospel, different from what some of Jesus’ other disciples taught, is the only true gospel (Galatians 1).

Paul’s Jesus. Another part of Paul’s excessiveness is that he calls Jesus by many different names or phrases, Jesus or Christ or the Lord Jesus Christ or Christ Jesus – and so on. If you would look at Romans 8:11, you will see that to Paul, “Jesus” and “Christ” were referring entirely to the same one Person in all that He is. That means that, throughout the Bible, the name “Jesus” and the name “Christ” are always freely interchangeable.

So, when Paul says that **Christ lives in your heart through faith**, we are free to say “Jesus” as well as “Christ.” But because of Paul’s great claim that his gospel rules, we must know Jesus as Paul knew Him.

No Mental Images. We know Jesus only by heart, as the One who lives, for real and in Person, inside our own hearts.

One reason it is so important for us to begin with Paul’s Jesus, this One who dwells inside of our hearts in all that He is, is that some prefer to think of Jesus as an image held in their intellects of a “heavenly” Being

far away from them. Conjuring up a mental image in ignorance of Jesus as He is cannot be a good idea. Stay away from such a practice.

You see, everything I will share with you in this book and everything that is part of knowing Jesus as He is, not only begins in this one line, but remains in this knowing forever. **Christ lives in your heart through faith.**

Receiving Jesus. Although we want to know what God says in the Bible, and even more, what God means by what He says, we never treat what we read in the Bible as mental information. You are, personally and intimately, dealing directly with the Lord Jesus Himself through these words.

The first thing we must do with a word like Ephesians 3:17 is to believe that God is telling us the truth. The second thing we must do is receive Jesus through these words. Talk to the Lord in this way. “Lord Jesus, You say that You live inside my heart and that You enter into my heart through faith. I don’t know what that means or how You could be inside of me, but I believe that You are telling me the truth. Jesus, I receive You alive inside my heart, through faith.”

All of Jesus. Having received Jesus into us through believing these words, let’s look a little further at what these words might mean. **Jesus lives in my heart through faith.** First, we have the main phrase of the sentence, the subject/verb – **Jesus lives**. Then comes the where – **in my heart**, followed by the how – **through faith**.

When we say Jesus or Christ, we are speaking of all that Jesus is as He is. We have no idea what “ALL” of Jesus means, but we never think that “Christ” means only part of our Savior. So look again at your heart and say, “Jesus, I don’t know what it means, but I do know that ALL that You are in Person and in glory, that You are living, right here, inside my heart.”

At Home. What, then, is Jesus doing inside your heart? The action verb is to live or to dwell, and it means being at home. The Lord Jesus Christ in all that He is dwells at home in your heart. Your heart is His house, and even more than house, His home.

Now, we must add here something Jesus said as found in Hebrews 13:5. **For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”** Again, we never stack ideas up in our minds, rather, we must believe what Jesus is saying and receive His words into us. “Lord Jesus, no matter what I do, say, think, or feel, I know that You are ALWAYS dwelling right here, inside my heart.”

Inside Of. Then – where is Jesus? Jesus lives **in your heart**.

We have to start with the word “in.” “In” is almost the largest word in the English language, taking up more space in an exhaustive dictionary than just about any other word. “In” is also just about the largest word in the Bible and the most important word of the gospel. Both Paul and John made use of it innumerable times in relationship to God, to Jesus, and to us.

“In” means “inside of,” a more complete rendition that I prefer because it makes this little word stronger, as we must. Even more, we could say, “inside all the sphere of.” In other words what is IN, is truly IN and IN all.

A Most Literal Word. More than that, the word “in” is about the most literal word in the Bible. When find “in” inside a phrase like Ephesians 3:17, **Christ lives IN your heart through faith**, we take that “in” to be literal and absolute, spirit, soul, and body, heaven and earth. In means “in,” and it means ALL that “in” means.

In what? – **In your heart.** Look at your heart – you are looking at Jesus, for that is where He lives. What is the heart of a believer in Jesus? That is a big question, one as large as knowing Jesus Himself as He

is. Knowing your own heart and knowing Jesus as He is will grow in you at the same pace.

What Is Faith? Then Paul said, “**through faith.**” Faith is always the channel through which the Lord Jesus enters into us.

You see, we never think of Jesus as “static” or “unmoving.” Jesus LIVES, that means living energy. Yet it is not that the Lord Jesus Himself has to “come back into us,” rather, it is the Words that He speaks that are always coming into our hearts through the passageway of faith.

And what is this faith? The faith through which Jesus enters into us by every Word He speaks is two things. First, it is the simple human decision to believe that God is telling us the truth. And second, it is the willingness to receive these Words that God speaks as Jesus Himself.

Where Jesus IS. You might think, “I don’t know if I have enough faith.” You don’t ever need to think such a thing. Jesus is the One who dwells in your heart, and He gives you all the faith that you will ever need. He gives you His own faith.

And so the simple prayers you spoke (and always speak these little prayers out loud) are the very faith through which this simple line, “**Jesus lives in my heart through faith,**” becomes real and alive inside of you. You will never know Jesus as He is apart from knowing Him at home inside your own heart. Whatever Jesus is, that’s where He is, and how.

We know Jesus as He is only by heart.

1.2 God’s Heart First

Jesus said, “**No one comes to the Father except through Me**” (John 14:6).

Let me let you in on a secret. God has always been enormously involved in your life, though you did not know that at all. And God sent Jesus into the world and

into your heart and life in order to bring you to Himself. Jesus wants to be with you and you with Him, yes, but only because God wants to be with you and you with Him even more. Jesus is God’s wanting of you.

Here’s the thing. We know Jesus only as the Person living in our own hearts, but Jesus is sent into us by Father God. Everything begins with what God wants first.

Our In-Between. What does God want? And when we say, “God,” Jesus instructed us to say, “Father.” God, the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, is our Father as well.

Why does God want you, and what does He intend to do with you?

You see, we could say that Jesus is an “in-between.” Paul used the word “**mediator**” (1 Timothy 2:5), and a mediator is someone who connects two together. Jesus alive in your heart is always connecting you together with the Father and the Father together with you. And so, in order to know Jesus as He is, we have to know what God wants and why God sent Jesus into you.

God’s Purpose. When we say, “God’s purpose,” we are also saying, “God’s heart,” or, “God’s desire.” You see, God is the most personal Person in the universe, filled with heart. In fact, God made us just like Himself. So we never think of Father God as anything other than a Person, close and real, who desires with all of His heart.

What does God want with you?

Brace yourself, because we must put the heart and rule of the gospel right here, right out in front of us. And what God wants with us is WAY bigger than we can understand. That’s why we must never leave “**Jesus lives in my heart through faith.**” God is far more excessive than Paul.

The Ruling Verse. Here is the ruling verse of the Bible, and of our lives and our future – Romans 8:29 (with Hebrews 1:3).

For those whom God pro-knows, He pro-determines them conformed with [sharing the same form with] the image of His Son [the Lord Jesus, the express image of God's person] so that Jesus might be the firstborn among many brethren just like Himself.

Since we can know Jesus only by heart, we must make a word like this personal to ourselves.

Because God knows me, He determines me conformed with, sharing the same form with, the Lord Jesus as the image and revelation of the Father.

Two Companion Verses. Before we do anything with such an overwhelming statement of God to us, we must bring in the two close companions of this most important verse. We always put these two verses together, for they are speaking of the same thing, but from slightly different angles, 1 John 3:2 and 2 Corinthians 3:18.

Beloved, we are now children [birthed out from] God, and it has not yet been made visible {in outward appearance} what we will be. We know that if He becomes visible [to us], we will be just exactly like Him, because we will be seeing Him as He is. – But we all with unveiled face, reflecting as a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

The Set of Our Face. Be assured of this, dear believer in Jesus, this is all WAY too much for us. We will live and walk with the Lord Jesus living in Person in our hearts forever and the meaning found in the words and phrases of these three verses will never stop increasing for us.

You will never know Jesus as He is unless you set God's determination regarding you right out there in front of your eyes and the set of your face.

Say these words out loud. "God is determined to make me just exactly like the Lord Jesus Christ." Not only does Jesus live in your heart in all the glory of His Person, but God is also determined to make you just like Him.

A Stirring Witness. As shocking and as overwhelming as God's determination towards us is, I know that there is inside your heart a stirring witness to what He is saying to you in these three ruling verses. I know there is because I know the Jesus who fills your heart.

We won't expand here on the meaning found all through these three verses, Romans 8:29, 1 John 3:2, and 2 Corinthians 3:18. Indeed, it would take many large books even to begin such a study. Nonetheless, we must set God's goal and intentions for us in front of our eyes, because everything that is part of knowing Jesus as He is, is found going only in the direction of God making us just like Him.

God Is a Person. We want to look a bit further, however, at the determination of our Father towards us. God is a Person, and His determination towards us is very personal.

Now, you will notice that Romans 8:29 uses the term "**pro-determined**." This is the Greek word *proorisen*, from which we get the English word, horizon. Generally, the prefix "pro" means "beforehand," but it cannot mean such a thing when referring to God.

A big part of knowing Jesus as He is, is knowing God as He is. God is omnipresent Spirit. That means that God is all here now and Personal in every place and in every moment.

God All Here Now. God cannot be "a long time ago," because God is all here now. Everything that is

God is all now. Everything that is God is all here. Everything that is God is always Personal. We never think of God any other way. That is, we never give God some sort of “form.” We never outline Him or split Him apart. We never think “*God begins here and ends there, but over there, God is not.*”

Although we do know Jesus as a Man, we never hold any sort of image in our minds regarding God, neither a form in space or a form in time. God is always a Person and God is always ALL HERE NOW, whatever all, here, and now might mean. When referring to God, “pro” means – coming out of who and what God is, out of the core of His Being, out of His Heart.

Determination. In English, the word “horizon” means that circle of destination which we see in the distance. The Greek word Paul used, *proorisen*, includes that thought of a clear and visible destination, but it also carries the intention of determination. At the same time, it is a past tense word, not future tense. It does not mean that “someday” we will be conformed with the image of Christ; it means we are. And thus, “**God, out of His own Heart, determined us conformed with**” carries the meaning found in the Greek.

Determination includes purpose, it includes passion, and it includes certainty. God’s determination is fierce.

God’s Reason. “**No one comes to the Father except through Me**” (John 14:6). It is God Himself who sent Jesus into your heart to live there in Person in all that Christ is. And the reason God sent Jesus into your heart is so that He might connect Himself with you and you with Him through Jesus. Because God is fiercely determined towards you, to make you just like the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, John said that we don’t know what we shall be, or even what we are. That means that we never try

to “figure out” a word such as this. We simply believe that God is telling us the truth.

Receive All that God Speaks. You see, God’s Heart determination towards you, as expressed in Romans 8:29, is the rule over every word in the Bible. We read every other verse in the Bible only in the light of God’s Heart determination towards us.

But we know God’s Heart determination towards us only by these words – **Jesus lives in my heart through faith.** Whatever God means by what He says, Jesus is. And whatever Jesus is lives inside your heart.

In your quest to know Jesus as He is, do not ever limit God or what He says. God and His Word have no limits. That’s why we receive all that God speaks into our hearts, knowing that we are receiving Jesus.

Father, You Say. Speak these words out loud. “Father, You say that you are determined to make me just like the Lord Jesus Christ, that I would share the same form together with Him as Your image and revelation inside of Your creation. Father, I have no idea what that means; Your word is simply too big for me. But this is what you say, Father, and I know that You are always telling me the truth.

“And so Father, I receive these overwhelming words into my heart through faith, through believing with all my heart that Your determination belongs to me and that Your words are Jesus inside of my heart. Father, out from Your own Heart, You have determined me conformed together with the Lord Jesus as the image of Your Person.”

1.3 Knowing God

Just before He went to Gethsemane and then to the cross, Jesus prayed this prayer to His Father. **Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give age-unfolding life to as many as You have given Him. And this is age-unfolding life,**

that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent (John 17:1-3).

Our focus is on verse 3: **And this is age-unfolding life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.** Life, the life Jesus gives us, a life that unfolds in us forever, is to KNOW God and to Know Jesus living in our hearts.

Life. This lesson is on knowing God, but Jesus gives “knowing God” as the only definition in the Bible as to what the age-unfolding life we have received really is. First, in 1 John 5:11-12, John said this about that life. **God has given us age-unfolding life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son [Jesus dwelling in your heart] has life.**

The term “age-unfolding” is the Greek word *aeonian*, from *aeon*, a period of time. It carries the concept of the unfolding of our lives, step by step, out from Jesus living in our hearts. That unfolding of Jesus as our life will continue step by step, from glory to glory, forever.

But what is this life we now possess?

A Fountain of Water. Now, we said that we don’t hold mental images in our brains depicting God. Nonetheless, Jesus gives us a picture in John 4:14 that He wants us to have when we think about the life that is Father, knowing Father, inside of us. **Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become inside of him a fountain of water springing up into age-unfolding life.**

Picture a fountain of water always bubbling up inside of you, whether you feel anything or not; that fountain is LIFE, as defined by Jesus. But what is life, as Jesus defined it, the only definition of age-unfolding life in the Bible? Life is to know God.

The Covenant. But there is another side to this “knowing” of God, and to understand this other side we must continue with God’s Heart. What does God

want? We know exactly what God wants in the Covenant He made with us, also called the New Testament.

Here is part of that Covenant, in Hebrews 8:11 – **For all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.** Let’s ask a very simple question. Look around you at the people you know in this world. Do all of them KNOW God? No they don’t; in fact we who desire to know Him hardly know God at all.

Our Goal. Here is what we must realize. God wants something with all of His Heart, something He does not now possess. God wants all to know Him.

Let’s put three statements we have looked at together. **Jesus lives in my heart through faith – You cannot come to the Father except through Me – Life is to know God and to know Jesus Christ whom God has sent.** Our goal is to know Jesus as He is, for in that way, as John said, we are just like Him.

It is evident, then, that Father God sent Jesus to live in our hearts so that we might know Father, yes, but also, so that others might know God through us.

To Know God. You must place this rule, then, here at the beginning of your seeking to know Jesus as He is. The fulfillment of all that God speaks is for us to know God, and everything is made complete with God made known. Jesus lives in our hearts so that we might know God and so that God might be known through us.

You see, in the words **conformed with His image** – image means, “God known through us.” In His prayer in John 17, Jesus addresses God as “Father” all the way through, and He tells us to call God, “Father.”

So what does it mean to KNOW our Father and how could you and I ever do such a thing?

The Capacity to Know God. John says something absolutely incredible at the end of his first epistle, 1 John 5:20. We will give a slightly enlarged version of the meaning of John’s words.

More than that, we know that the Son of God IS presently and actively come [– Jesus living in our hearts] and has given us an understanding, a through-mind [a spirit-mind capacity], so that we might know [Him who is] the true; and we are inside of [Him who is] the true, in His Son, Jesus Christ. This is [we are speaking of] the true God and age-unfolding life [that is, knowing God].

Jesus living in your heart gives you the capacity, the ability, the mechanism by which you are fully capable of knowing God in all that knowing God might mean forever.

The Best Thing Ever. And even more than that, Jesus living in your heart gives you the capacity, causes you to be “God made known” (image) in all that “God made known through you” might mean forever.

If you like excitement, knowing God is the most exciting thing any human could ever do. If you like adventure, knowing Father is filled with more adventure than any human has ever experienced. If you like peace and quietness, knowing God is filled with more peace and quietness than you knew could exist. If you like knowing Jesus, you will like knowing Father even more. Knowing God is just the best thing that is or ever could be.

The Path of Life. In fact, here is what David said about knowing God in one of his poems, Psalm 16:11. **You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.** The path of life is knowing Jesus as He is, Jesus alive and at home inside of your heart.

One more thing to understand here about knowing God. The word, “to know,” both in English and in Greek, is an unusual word in that it contains a sliding scale of meaning. To be aware of something is “to know.” To live inside of God and God inside of you is “to know.” And “to know” is complete at every point from one to the other.

We Know God by Heart. We know God in just the same way that we know Jesus Sent into us. We know God only by heart; we know Him as a fountain of water billowing up as life inside our hearts every moment. That is one of the few “pictures” we are to have of Father as He is.

We know God by heart.

And as you continue knowing Jesus as He is, dwelling in your own heart, you will find that statement, “knowing God by heart,” taking on dimensions of reality that will simply take your breath away with joy and goodness. You knew when you asked Jesus to live in your heart that something big had changed. There is no end to discovering what that means.

Connect Personally. We will never make the mistake of receiving what God says to us as ideas for our heads. Rather, always be sure to connect directly and personally with the Lord Jesus through faith by every Word that God speaks.

Speak these words out loud. “Lord Jesus, You tell me that You live inside of me, inside my heart, so that I might know God, not just as Your Father, but as my Father as well. You tell me that you give me the capacity, what You call a “through-mind” so that I can actually know God in all that knowing God might mean. I have no idea what that means, Lord Jesus, but I believe that You are telling me the truth and I receive all that You speak as life inside of me.”

The First Three Parts of Knowing Jesus. As you continue reading, now, through the chapters of this little book, keep in mind these three things as you seek to know Jesus as He is.

1. You know the Lord Jesus Christ as He is only as the One who dwells in all that He is in Person inside your heart. You know Jesus only by heart and only through faith.

2. God's Heart, ruled by His determination, stands above and directs all that God speaks in the Bible. We are overwhelmed with God's determination that we would be just like Jesus as Father made known.

3. Your knowing of God and God made known through you is the completion and fulfillment of all that God speaks and does. It is the age-unfolding life that Jesus gives us.