

God Is In Me

Lesson 03 of the series, "God is..."

A. God is in me.

"To (the saints) God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colossians 1:26-27 (NIV)

"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you." John 14:16-18 (NLT)

"Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself..." 1 Corinthians 6:19 (NLT)

Life Application: Jesus came to give us abundant life as well as eternal life.

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly." John 10:10 (NKJV)

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord..." Acts 3:19 (NIV)

1. Through Christ's death on the cross we have been set free from the penalty of sin.

"We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood."

Romans 3:22-25 (NLT)

2. Through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit we are being set free from the power of sin.

"So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death."

Romans 8:1-2 (NLT)

3. In heaven we will be set free from the presence of sin.

"And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us." Romans 8:23 (NLT)

B. God is in me to transform me into a new person who lives an abundant life.

"...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

1. God is in me to transform the way I think.

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)

“No one can know a person’s thoughts except that person’s own spirit, and no one can know God’s thoughts except God’s own Spirit. And we have received God’s Spirit (not the world’s spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us... But people who aren’t spiritual can’t receive these truths from God’s Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can’t understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means... For, ‘Who can know the LORD’s thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?’ But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 2:11-16 (NLT)

Life Application: I can learn God’s thoughts by reading the Bible.

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts. The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.” Isaiah 55:8-11 (NLT)

2. God is in me to transform the way I act.

“So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses. When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!” Galatians 5:16-23 (NLT)

Life Application: I must surrender control of every part of my life to the Holy Spirit.

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.” Galatians 5:24-25 (NLT)

“God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.”

Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

3. God is in me to transform me into a powerful witness for Jesus.

Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, “Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’” (When he said “living water,” he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him.) John 7:37-39 (NLT) (See also Isaiah 44:3, 58:11)

Life Application: We need to “Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.” Philippians 2:15 (NLT)

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Resources:

You Version Bible Reading Plans. www.bible.com/reading-plans

Join a Connect Group: www.centeringlives.com/ministries/connect-groups/

Seven Days of Prayer: www.centeringlives.com

Connect Group Questions:

1. In what area of your life would you like to see God bring growth?
2. Read John 10:10, 1 John 1:9, and Romans 8:23. Do you know that salvation is more than just having our sins forgiven? Why is this important?
3. Read Ephesians 1:13-14, Galatians 5:15-23, and Romans 12:2. How do we know Jesus is in us?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19. How should the knowledge that Christ is living in us impact our daily lives?
5. Share an example of a time in your life when you experienced God's presence in you.
6. Read Galatians 5:24-25. What does it look like to surrender control of our lives to God?
7. Are there areas of your life you haven't surrendered to God? If so, what is holding you back?
8. Discuss the spiritual orphan vs. child of God chart below.

Spiritual Orphan	Child of God
Independent/Self Reliant	Acknowledges needs/asks God for help
Anxious, fearful, angry and frustrated (re: lack of control)	Secure, confident, peaceful and content because God is in control
Insecure, jealous of others	Serves, celebrates and helps others
Worries about "what's mine"	"There's always enough to share."
Feels unloved	Knows he/she is deeply loved
Identity in accomplishments, appearances, and possessions	Identity in relationships with God and others