

BE LIKE CHRIST!

(Scripture: 1 John 4:15-18)

Introduction:

You all may have heard of WWJD. What would Jesus do? It came as a huge movement and took people by surprise! Every situation made us think as to how Jesus would handle. It was a good thought-provoking movement. Then the businesspeople took notice of it, and started selling all kinds of products that said WWJD - they started making buttons, hair clips, bracelets, etc. That precious acronym WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?) became a marketing gimmick and it became more of a fad. Slowly, WWJD concept faded away. God wants us to act, and think, and walk like His Son Jesus Christ, and WWJD concept is a great self-analytical tool to accomplish that goal! Can we be like Jesus Christ in this world? Is it possible? Let us hear what The Word of God says!

1 John 4: 13,14.

13By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

14We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

This verse clearly tells us that the Holy Spirit is the spiritual umbilical cord between God and man. As many as are led by the Spirit of God they are the children of God. One who is born of the Spirit, he or she is the child of God. That which is born of the Spirit is Spirit, and that which is born of the flesh is flesh! Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, if indeed the Spirit dwells within us. Apart from Him we can do nothing! He intercedes for us. He holds us tight and reproves, rebukes, and chastises when we walk contrary to the commandments of the Word of God!

But the Holy Spirit plays another important role!

- ✓ He is the primary Witness of Jesus Christ!
- ✓ He is the primary testimony of Jesus Christ! He is given to us as a testimony and witness of Jesus Christ to prove that He indeed came from heaven, was born of the Holy Spirit, lived a sinless life, became the lamb of God for our sins, died on the cross for our iniquities, was buried, and on the third day He rose again for our justification,
- ✓ He ascended into heaven and is sitting at the right hand of His Father, and He will return one day to us, to redeem His people, and judge the living and the dead. **The Spirit of Christ is indeed our hope and the glory!**

So, you see we do have a heavenly testimony from Heaven, if we have Him in our heart! If we have Him, we have it all!

- ✓ He is our wisdom,
- ✓ He is our righteousness,
- ✓ He is our peace, and
- ✓ He is our sanctification

Note the phrase, **He has given us His Spirit.** Whose Spirit? His Spirit. It is Jesus who baptizes us with His Holy Spirit. In Romans 9: b, this Spirit is referred to as the Spirit of Christ! “If any man has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His!” Galatians 2:20. Christ lives in me!

In another place, Paul says that **I am in travail until Christ be formed in you!** We are to be born of the Spirit as baby Jesus.

Grow as a child like Him,
teenager like Him, and finally as
an adult like Him.

We must be fully formed as Christ and be fully matured as the adult Jesus.

We must practice walking as Christ walked on this earth!

That same Spirit of Christ that controlled the hearts of His disciples **is in our heart also.** It is important to understand that the same Jesus who dwelt in flesh on this earth is now dwelling in our heart in Spirit.

Yes, the same Jesus who moved around with apostles so close, He is in us shepherding us every moment!

This thought should really give us goose bumps.

Are you paying any attention to this chief Shepherd?

He is standing at the door of your heart and is knocking.

Can you hear Him and let Him come in? He is calling you by name and making you come close to Him.

Can you wear your spiritual hearing aid and start listening to His voice?

We have earthly witnesses of Jesus Christ also, who saw Him in person, who walked with Him, heard Him, and talked with Him, and witnessed His death, resurrection, and ascension!

1 Corinthians 15:3-8.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;

8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

According to this passage, we are surrounded by clouds of witnesses. Not only that, we have the Scripture to testify that Jesus Christ indeed died for our sins and rose again for our justification! So, there are four that bear witness of Jesus Christ! Scripture, disciples of Christ, GOD, THE FATHER, and the Holy Spirit! The very presence of the Holy Spirit in our body is the best assurance of our salvation, and the living Witness of Jesus Christ. He does not speak about Himself, but He always points to Jesus Christ, our Lord, and our Heavenly Father!

1 John 4:15,16.

15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

These verses are very similar to 1 John 3:23,24. Remember, we came across three important aspects of our faith journey.

Trusting the Son of God, as our Savior
Loving everyone, including our enemies,
and abiding in the Spirit!

This is the crux of our faith walk.

In John 4:15,16 also John emphasizes the need for believing in Jesus as our savior, the Son of God, and when we do that, with Father and Son abiding in us, we will also abide in Him. The one who loves will know that God is love, and God will abide in Him, and he will abide in God! So, this verse reiterates what we talked about earlier. The three essential aspects of Christian faith journey! Let me repeat –

faith in Son of God, Jesus Christ,
Love for God and others, and
abiding in the Spirit of Christ.

Friends, this is what Christian faith journey is all about! He that abides in Christ and loves as Christ loves us will become more like Christ!

1 John 4:17,18.

17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

1 John 4:17 is a loaded verse! This love can be perfected in us if we live in this world, as Christ lived! Because as He is, we are also in the world!

How did Christ live in this world? He lived as a transient stranger. Just like the song goes, this world is not my home, I am just passing through!

He lived to obey and carry out His Father's will.

He didn't identify Himself as Sadducee, or a Pharisees, or a Scribe.

He didn't engage in political struggles. As a matter of fact, He preached that His kingdom is not of this world! He ministered to all the people who came to Him, and He hardly turned anyone away. He said, "come unto me all ye heavy laden, I will give you rest!

He was very compassionate toward meeting all human needs.

He made time to be with His Father alone in prayer.

He ate and drank with the sinners because He came to seek and save that which was lost.

He fasted also for forty days!

He yielded Himself obediently unto death on the cross for our sins.

He was not afraid to lay down His life for others!

He was compassionate to all the people who were in need, and He met everyone's needs!

He spoke with authority because He spoke exactly what he heard from His Father!

He walked everywhere as a humble servant and was ready to stoop down to wash the feet of His disciples.

He was full of grace and truth. There was no deceit in Him, we must also be like Him in this world. It's a tall order but must strive to be like Him every day.

If we live like Christ, then there is no fear of judgement.

If we are constantly driven by unconditional love, and compassion for others, we will not have to be afraid of any judgement from God.

We need to be afraid of our God only if we hate other people and try to run over them!

The next passage is a repeat of what we talked about in other sermons.

1 John 4:19-21.

19 We love, because He first loved us.

20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

Beloved. We **cannot, cannot** love God, without loving others. God wants us to love our enemies also. As Christ forgave, we must forgive everyone, and love them. Please read my previous sermons posted on our church website acts242church.org I have spoken elaborately concerning this matter. Let me quickly summarize today's message!

Conclusion:

Holy Spirit is referred as the Spirit of Christ! He has the same essence, substance, and attributes as Jesus.

Just like the disciples held hands with Jesus and asked many questions, we have the same privilege to be with the Lord and learn from the Spirit of Christ, because He is in us! Yes, we can have intimate relationship with Jesus every moment. He travels with you closely as you tackle mountains of problems in your life.

Because as He is, so also are we in this world. Let us become more like Him every day. Read the 4 gospels of Jesus Christ and know Jesus even more.

If we become like Christ, then there will be no fear of judgement of condemnation.

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3.22.20

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