

SET FREE!

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FROM

CRISIS LIVING

I have found that so many Believers live in a crisis mode much of the time.

They are worried about this thing and that. They are "calling out to God" for everything you can imagine.

No sooner do they get past that crisis and they are back at it, storming the gates of Heaven or Hell, which ever they figure it will take.

There are several reasons for this kind of living. Let's take a look as some of them and see that there is a way to live set free from crisis living.

In the Old Covenant we see many cases of the leaders of the Nation of Israel calling out to the Lord for protection from their enemies. Sadly enough they often didn't realize that freedom and deliverance was theirs by right of their covenant with God.

The Old Covenant was a reciprocal arrangement. You kept the Law and God could bless you. You broke the Law and the curse would follow.

When the curse came along they would then cry out for mercy and deliverance.

This kind of thinking and actions has continued on into today. You hear it in hymns and songs and prayers.

"When you are in trouble give God a call!"

God is often portrayed as someone you call out to for help when you figure *you* can't get through it on your own.

Prayers go out like this: "Lord I need you to help *me* do this." "God help *us* do this today."

I remember a personal license plate on a car that read: "God is my Co-pilot."

That attitude that goes like this: "I can do it with a little help from you Lord."

Perhaps you might be thinking about now "so what's the problem here?"

God is not your co-pilot or hired help!

Many Believers are still thinking that they are in the Old Covenant times where there was a whole different situation than we have today.

As a result they go from crisis to crisis looking for God to help *them* out of whatever situation they figure is not the way *they* think it should be.

Then when things don't change right away they surmise that they may need to "pray harder."

Or they begin to go into panic mode thinking that God doesn't hear them or that they don't have enough faith or that they have sin in their life or that they need to get a Prayer

Chain going so that we can all gang up on God and make Him do what *we* figure should be done to resolve the situation.

What the Church needs to be taught these days is that we are not in the Old Covenant anymore!

In the New Covenant we are in a totally different situation! We are not crying out across the universe for God to hear us. Why? Because He lives IN us!

That's what Paul was trying to teach the Jewish folk. He was trying to show them that we are now "in Christ." That was and is the "mystery."

**The living Spirit of God indwells us.
We are "in Him."**

When we get onto the understanding of the "exchanged life" we see that we are not out there trying to "do life" and calling out to God to help us out when we think we can't do it.

We need to understand that He is living through us!

The reason, it seems, that so many are not experiencing the life that Christ came to give us is because they are trying to "live the Christian life – with God's help."

The Christian life is, by definition, the "life of Christ." So, in order for us to live the Christian life, Christ must live His life through us while we get out of the way.

That's what is meant by the exchanged life. You have exchanged your life for His. It's not your life anymore – you died!

The exchanged life begins with the death experience.

Galatians 2:20 *"I have been crucified with Christ."*

Our crucifixion with Christ has already taken place. You may say, "But I don't feel crucified." That's alright. Dead people don't feel dead. You have been crucified because God says you are, whether you feel like it or not.

In that verse Paul said that since he had been crucified with Christ, *"it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me."*

When we exchange our life for Christ's life, he expresses Himself in and through us. When we think, Christ thinks through us. When we move, Christ moves through us. When we speak, Christ speaks through us.

A complete exchange has occurred.

Colossians 2:10 *"and in Him you have been made complete."*

Acts 18:28 *"In Him we live, and move and have our being..."*

Jesus taught that a branch cannot bear fruit; it needs the stock to feed that life through it in order to produce the fruit. We can't produce the fruit of the Spirit - it has to be Christ living through us, and us abiding in Him.

What does this all have to do with crisis living?

First, it keeps us from crisis thinking and praying. When you know that Jesus isn't just holding your hand or walking along side of you or ahead of you or in heaven just watching over you, but rather He is living His life through you, you will stop hollering across the heavens every time you figure things aren't going right.

Secondly, you will realize that the journey you are on in life is going to work out for the best no matter what happens.

How the trip goes might not be the way you may have planned it but you are not the one in charge here. God has seen the road ahead and knows what's coming a long time before you do.

Like that old radio/TV show was named "Father Knows Best."

Living by faith isn't just being able to pull down strong holds but rather it's about trusting Christ to live His life through you in every situation.

It puts meaning to the term "making Jesus the Lord of your life."

"Lord" means He is in charge, not you!

I've come across people who wanted "walking on the water faith" when what they really need to live was "walking on the ground faith."

Stop fretting! Stop going from crisis to crisis worried about everything!

Have you ever considered that most prayer seems to be fear based? Fear that you will do without, that things won't go like you want them to go.

Like when the disciples were in that boat on the lake fearing that if they didn't "wake Jesus up" they would drown.

Jesus isn't asleep!

So many people are afraid of death. Death is not a penalty for "getting it wrong."

The death of our body is inevitable. You will physically die some day. God knows when that will be and He has it all figured out. Don't fear death. It's just *what's next* on your journey!

Jesus is more aware of what is going on in your life than you are. He has seen your whole life from the day you were conceived until the day you walk into his physical presence in Heaven.

1 Peter 5:7 *"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."*

Let Jesus be the Lord of your life, not your Co-pilot who takes over when you can't do it. He is the Pilot!

The fact is you can't do it so relax.

Once you grasp that He is living his life through you, you will not spend your life living from crisis to crisis.

You will instead enjoy life, set free from crisis living!

