

Taking Our Spiritual Temperature

Jesus is so much more than a teaching. Oh, how we all believe that. He is so much more than ministry. We all believe that too. And that the Person of Christ far surpasses all our feelings we can all agree. But if He is not a teaching, feeling, or ministry, then what is He and how can we find Him?

Maybe that question seems too simple to ask, or even sounds a bit silly. But if we remove all the teaching and doctrines we believe, stop doing all forms of ministry, and not call our feelings our spirituality, then what Jesus is left?

Do we know the Jesus that is life coursing through our veins? Do we know the nature that possesses our inward parts, quickening our motives and intents with His mind and spirit?



If we were to be put on a “life support machine” that monitors our spiritual health in regards to the life of Jesus in us, what would our reading be? Would our “blood of the Lamb” pressure be running high or low? Would the temperature of His altar within us be hot or cold? What if our inward thoughts were monitored by the level in which they functioned by the mind of Christ?

The Bible tells us to “examine ourselves to see if Christ be in you” (II Corinthians 13:5). Paul spoke these words to the carnal church at Corinth that functioned in all the gifts of the Spirit and had plenty of great teaching straight from the Apostle himself, and yet one of Paul’s final sentences in his final letter to that church is asking them to **examine themselves to see if Christ is vitally alive in them**. Some people may question this approach of self-examination based on not wanting to be introspective, yet it would only be introspective if one were looking at themselves.



However, **we are examining ourselves to find JESUS within us as life.** We can easily look outside of and away from our inward being and find all kinds of things to examine... how God is using us, what we are doing, things we believe in, etc. etc. And yet, none of that constitutes LIFE. Vital living blood-flowing nature-motivated LIFE! Jesus came to give us His Life! He came inside of us with the ability to possess every inward part like the Joshua of all ages! He conquers and fills, all as a Lamb.

When Paul said to the Galatians that "it is not I but Christ who is living in me," he really meant it! **Paul was not quoting a scripture or professing something he was believing for.**

Paul KNEW it was NOT him but truly Christ LIVING in him. How? Paul said, "I always bear about *in my body* the dying of the Lord Jesus" (Galatians 6:17). Paul was constantly aware that in his very own mortal body the Lamb of God was dying daily. Now, if that was just a faith statement, Paul could be eating cookies all day while quoting some spiritual platitude. But I believe that Paul discerned what nature was truly motivating his daily walk and dwelling in his mortal flesh.

Oh, if we could be that real with ourselves, then how deeply the Spirit of God could work to bring forth Christ in us!

Maybe it's time to hook ourselves up to the heart monitoring machine of the Holy Spirit, stick on the electrodes, and begin examining if Jesus Christ the Lamb of God truly is our Life and begin crying out for Him to be formed in real ways where He is still something short of life within! I believe the Father will come running and the Spirit will descend upon a heart that sincerely wants the Son to live and die within them. Our hope is in God, and not in ourselves, therefore we cry out to God, "Form the Son in me in real ways!"

