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## *A Letter from Pastor Marr*

Newsletter - May 2008

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. - Galatians 2:20

Dear One in Christ:

Suppose someone asked you to submit a plan to build a great missionary ministry ... one that would send out hundreds of foreign missionaries ... one that would result in thousands of pagans coming to Christ.

What if your plan were to force the head of the mission• to direct all its affairs alone from his bed in cramped quarters at the home base thousands of miles from the mission field?

Crazy, you say!

But that is exactly what God did with Hudson Taylor and the China Inland Mission. And because he lived Galatians 2:20, he could write of this experience:

"Difficulties afford a platform upon which He can show Himself. Without them we could never know how tender, faithful and almighty our God is. He knows why He placed me here. Whether to do or learn or suffer. I could do nothing but rejoice in the Lord and see Him meeting all my needs." living in Victory.

I thank the Lord that the ChristLife Board has taken responsibility for this ministry's daily affairs.

This may allow me to seek the Lord with what energy I have. I hope also to continue to write you, counsel you by phone, pray for you, and help you in every way possible.

I believe the Board members will also seek to live in Christ as He lives in us, share this message with all . . . and seek to win the lost through our evangelistic tracts and The Great Escape salvation book. Let me urge you to support them in every way possible to help them with our exciting task. Write or phone the ministry, and tell them you are with them.

Together with us all, expect great things from God.

Lovingly in Christ Jesus, our Lord, and soon-coming King,  
Pastor Marr

*Proclaiming Christ Jesus All Sufficient Always in All Things to All Men Everywhere*

# *Living In Victory!*

One of the growing Christian's greatest problems is constant and increasing awareness of his sinful failure.

We often feel so guilty, so wrong, so hurt, so sinful. We wonder why we're not making more spiritual progress, why we succumb to the same old temptations, why we can't live in uninterrupted victory.

For some of us this leads to discouragement and despondency. For others it leads to acceptance of failure as all we can ever hope for.

But, if we must fall to wondering, let us wonder why we've ever expected anything better of ourselves than sin and failure. What gave us the idea we could ever be good anyway? Certainly not the Bible!

As it is written,

There is none righteous, no, not one. -Romans 3:10

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. -1John1:8

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? -Jeremiah 17:9

Yes, there is goodness for us. There is righteousness for us. There is spiritual victory for us. It just plainly isn't in us. **It's in Christ alone.**

This once set the great missionary leader, Hudson Taylor, to asking how we get the victory that's in Christ out of Him! We don't!

We take advantage of the magnificent reality that Christ Himself is in us -not just His power, His goodness, or even His life, but Christ Himself is in us.

The riches of the glory of this mystery. .. Christ in you, the hope of glory: -Colossians 1:27

And we take advantage of the matching magnificent reality that we are in Christ.

God. .. hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, for we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. -Ephesians 2:6, 10

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. -John 15:5

The life of the branch is in the vine. It is vine life that works in the branch causing it to bring forth fruit. The branch has absolutely no independent life of its own.

No more do we.

Christ. .. is our life. -Colossians 3:4

If it's goodness, or righteousness, or holiness, or victory over sin that we need, we have it, not in ourselves, but in Christ, in God who lives in us, and in whom we live.

Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: -Matthew 19:17

I'm no good! You're no good! **God is good.**

We're in Him. He's in us. And He has all we need, whether its sanctification (holiness), or wisdom, or anything else we need.

But to allow His life to flow freely in us freely supplying all we need, there is a prerequisite.

Not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called; But God hath chosen the foolish

things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea., and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are, that no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; that, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord -1 Corinthians 1:26-31

God has said He will not give His glory to another. If we would have His life flowing freely in ours, bringing spiritual success in place of failure, we must be willing to let it be His life, His success, and His glory!

It is ours to humble ourselves to be nothing to let Him be Glorious Everything.

Christ is all, and in all. -Colossians 3:11

For of him, and through him, and to him are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen. -Romans 11:36

When we try to live the Christian life by our own abilities and efforts, if we could succeed, we would deserve the credit! But all we can achieve is failure. And for that we deserve the credit, too.

All we're good for is to die.

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. - Galatians 2:20

When we received the Lord as our Savior, we died with Christ to our old sin-dominated life. So we're no longer obligated to live under sin's power.

Now He lives in us with His own omnipotent, perfectly holy life. And it's ours to give Him our heart's attention and love. It's ours to delightedly die to our wishes and our glory -to all but Him. It's ours to happily accept suffering and death as His way of releasing His life in us.

What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ... that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death. -Philippians 3:7, 10

We cannot give ourselves, our heart, our time, our interests, our affection to the things of this world and live freely in Christ, He in us with His life freely flowing in us in spiritual power.

We need to make Him our goal, our hope, our life. We need to spend time with Him, wait on Him, meditate on Him, abide in Him, and set our affection on Him. We need to trust Him, rely on Him, and depend on Him. We need to receive from Him all we need.

We need to give ourselves constantly and with each new temptation/opportunity to seek Him and His all-sufficiency so His life is released into that new situation

We seek Him so for two reasons.

One: We want to please Him and glorify His name. Because we're spending the time and effort to get to know Him in all His beauty and wonder, we want not to displease Him.

Two: We need Him, and we know we need Him. Only He can please Him. We'll never be able to please Him. So we turn to Him to do the pleasing in each new circumstance.

But the basis for it all is not any effort of ours at all. None. It is the quiet assurance that He in us is all we can ever need, completely capable of handling absolutely every circumstance that may come our way. All we need to do is turn our attention from ourselves and our circumstances, failures, and fears to rest ourselves quietly in Him and His all-encompassing capabilities.

To do anything less is to continue in our perpetual failure, fear, and frustration.

*To God be All the Glory! He Alone is Worthy!*