

The Christian Life

**We think of the Christian life as a
'changed life,' but it is not that.**

**What God offers us is an 'exchanged
life,' a 'substituted life,' and Christ is
our Substitute within.**

Watchman Nee

Jesus Our Example

- Jesus himself showed us the Exchanged Life.
- Philippians 2:5-8
 - ⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ **but emptied Himself**, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

He Did Not Fill Himself. He Emptied Himself.

- Ponder this.**
- Very strange to the Western way of thinking.**
- Jesus Exchanged His Life for the Father's.**
- As An Example to us.**

Christ Is Our Example

- Emptying or Dying to Oneself is not easy and He knows it. He led the way!
- 1 Peter 2:21
- **²¹ For you have been called for this purpose, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you would follow in His steps,**
- ²² HE WHO COMMITTED NO sin, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT found IN HIS MOUTH; ²³ [a]and while being abusively insulted, He did not insult in return; while suffering, He did not threaten, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ and He Himself [b]brought our sins in His body up on the [c]cross, so that we might die to [d]sin and live for righteousness; by His [e]wounds you were healed. ²⁵ For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and [f]Guardian of your souls.

Not the Happy Church Message

- But it is the Joy Filled Message! Joy Unspeakable!
- Cracked Pots!
- 2 Corinthians 4:7-12
- ⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen containers, so that the extraordinary *greatness* of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; ⁸ *we are* afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying around in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ For we who live are constantly being handed over to death because of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death works in us, but life in you.
- So death WORKS in us. (*Interesting...*)

Tired of Religious Games and a Powerless Church

Hebrews 6:5

- “and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come”
- Pull from direct context, but apparently, we are supposed to be experiencing “powers of the age to come” and not just a normal life.
- 2 Cor 4:7 again:
- “so that the extraordinary *greatness* of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;”
- Being a Catholic and seeing nothing of this Kingdom I knew there was more.
- And the search for power was not for power itself, but because I needed something real. Eastern religions often have more “power” than Christians. Many false signs and wonders. Why there are so attractive.

My First Encounter

- I was stationed in Germany for 3 years with 66th Maintenance Company, 2nd Support Command, Kitzingen, Germany



- Finally, was able to live off post and did in Sulzfeld, Germany









My First Encounter

- 2 Corinthians 1:
- Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and *our* brother Timothy,
- To the church of God which is at Corinth with all the [a]saints who are throughout Achaia:
- ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in [b]any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For just as the sufferings of Christ are [c]ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ. ⁶ But if we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; or if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which is effective in the patient enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer; ⁷ and our hope for you is firmly grounded, knowing that as you are partners in our sufferings, so also you are in our comfort.
- ⁸ For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers *and sisters*, of our affliction which occurred in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹ Indeed, we had the **sentence of death** within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead, ¹⁰ who rescued us from so great a *danger of death*, and will rescue *us*, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us, ¹¹ *if* you also join in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons in our behalf for the favor *granted* to us through *the prayers of many*.

Power of the Age to Come

- Once I simply acknowledge this call...(I honestly did not understand what this meant and told Him so.)
- **Luke 9:1**
- **“Now He called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all the demons, and *the power* to heal diseases. ² And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.”**



Power of the Age to Come

- Philippians 2:12-13
- So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; **13 for it is God who is at work in you**, both to desire and to work for His good pleasure.

Power of the Age to Come

- Identifying and cooperating with His work should be our main task.
- James 5:11
- ¹¹ "We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the **Lord's dealings**, that the Lord is full of compassion and *is merciful*.
- **Did you think Job was God's dealings, His work?**
- **This is why many preach it was Job's fault, his fear or whatever. Many in our circles. We miss what He is doing.**