

Kenny Pittman—God in Us

The Assurance of His Unparalleled Power

John 14:20: “In that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in You.”

Colossians 1:26-27: “The mystery (secret) which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but has now been made manifest to his saints; to whom God would make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the nations, which is Christ in you the hope of glory.

Let's pray:

Lord, we thank You for Your Word. We come to You and commit Your Word to You that You would make it alive. I always think of what Peter said to You that day: You alone have the words of eternal life.” You alone speak, Lord, as we come. We need the Holy Spirit to enable our hearing or we cannot hear what the Spirit says to the churches. We need the Spirit of God to quicken our hearts that we can receive that word deep into our spirit and that it will make a difference. Without these two works that we depend upon this Comforter to do, we cannot hear anything of value; just words is all we will hear, clanging symbols, loud noises, but nothing of value. So speak, Lord, Your servants heareth. Amen.

I have been sharing on this series, and this is the last day we will share on this three part series about three astonishing realities. One, “God with us.” You remember those words of assurance, those deep words of assurance in the Old Testament to Moses and to Joshua and to the people that the writer of Hebrews repeated in Hebrews 13:5: “He said He will be with you; He will never leave you or forsake you.” God with us is an astounding reality, and we need to know that if we are going to live the Christian life.

The last time I shared was on “God for Us.” You remember Romans 8:1 where Paul wrote that famous closing in his closing argument. He said, “If God be for us who against us?” Not only is God with us, but He is for us. How do we know He is for us? Acts 1:3 says that there are many convincing demonstrations, many unfailable truths, and there are many signs that He is with us. When we read the New Testament, think for a moment that maybe God is not with us and God is not for us.

So today we will close this series with the last one, that phrase which has meant so much to me these past months, “God in us.” I believe this is the highest assurance. If you can imagine God in us, it makes all the difference, not some of the difference which does not help you. It is the secret; it is the way you live the Christian life. Brothers and sisters, you have heard me say it until you are bored to tears, but the Christian life is not difficult; the Christian life is impossible for you and for me. And the only way the Christian life is possible is because of God in us. That is the secret and that is the assurance.

The first one “God with us,” we called the assurance of His unfailing presence. The reason you can continue through all the trials and difficulties is that we have a secret. We have the assurance of His unfailing presence. It cannot fail. You remember the Lord Jesus said those last words recorded by Matthew in 28:20: “I will be with you always even to the completion of the age.” Those were the words of assurance given by Matthew.

I think of “God for us.” It is the assurance of His unlimited provision. You know God is for you because He has given you His unlimited provision. There is nothing that He has withheld from you, and this makes this great secret a marvelous reality and not just a hopeful thing. It is fact, pure fact, unequivocal fact that God is for us.

Then when I think of “God in us,” I think of the phrase ‘the assurance of unparalleled power.’ Think of it. Think of what He has done. You cannot imagine it. He has put Himself in you, and because God Himself is in you, you can live the Christian life, not barely but powerfully in an overcoming way. I think those assurances are very clear.

The Source of Unparalleled Power

So we will begin today looking at a few things. One is the source of that unparalleled power as I like to refer to it. With God, source is all important. Everything is about the source. What is our source? We had this wonderful experience today at the table where we were talking about our source of all things, our portion, our inheritance, our unfailing inheritance. Source is important with God, and with God source and power are always connected. Now if you forgive me this poor analogy of Dominion power which I still call it Virginia Power because I am old. Dominion energy is the source of electric power around here. They are the source, and we get everything from that source when we are hooked into it.

One evening Linda was at home, and she called me and said, “The power is gone.” What happened? It seems that the wire under my workshop failed, and they brought this little magic box, I could not believe it. This thing looked like an ancient tool. It was all rusty, and it looked like a cart you would haul drinks on, a hand truck, and they pulled out the meter base and they hooked in some wires. And I said, “What is that magic machine?” And they said, “It is the green machine.” So I told the electrical engineer the other day about the green machine, and he looked at me like I had lost my mind. So I showed him a picture.

Now God does not have a magic box; He is much more than a magic box. He puts Christ in you, *the* secret. How wonderful! There cannot be a higher assurance. There is a famous quote about power: “Absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Lord Acton, who was a British politician, a historian and a moralist, when he was writing to a bishop in 1887 said this, “Power tends to corrupt. It is true, absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Then he said, “Great men are almost always bad men.” How true that is! You think of the Roman Emperors who declared themselves to be God. You think of Napoleon who declared himself to be emperor. Then you think of the present day presidents for life, and Vladimir Putin comes to mind. Unconstrained powers. You think of China and President Xi Jinping, president for life. Absolute power corrupts absolutely. There is only one power that cannot corrupt, and that is the power from on high. It is beyond any description possible of any absolute power that will never corrupt.

To understand this you have to go all the way back to the garden in Genesis. This matter of power, absolute power, and the right source is illustrated by the two trees. You remember the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the beginning record of the Bible in Genesis. These two trees spoke of two sources. They were indicative of two sources of power. One was a power that could corrupt and bring death and world-wide destruction to humanity. You know, we worry about what Putin is going to do with all those however many, maybe 9,000 nuclear bombs he has, but here was a power in the garden for the absolute destruction of humanity.

Two Trees and Two Choices

Then there was another tree, the tree of life, the absolute source. The whole story of Genesis is the story about two trees and two choices. I think some people wonder about life. They say, "Too many choices."

I have told this story before. The reason I did not like going to the Cheesecake Factory was not because of the cheesecake, because I loved the cheesecake; I could not get enough of it. But it was the menu. When I went to this place, they handed me a book. I thought, if you want a book go to the library, but I wanted cheesecake. So hand me a sheet with a selection, and I will be happy with the cheesecake. Too many choices.

When it comes down to it, brothers and sisters, in this life there are only two choices. You may argue with that. You may say, "That seems wrong. I make choices every day." You do, and you will, but in the end in the final analysis, there are two choices. One, in Romans 12 it says that you can be conformed to the image of this world. Two, your mind can be renewed, and you can be conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus. They are the only real choices in life. All other choices are secondary choices.

Let me read some in Genesis and talk about this great thing in Genesis.

In Genesis 1:26-27, God said a remarkable thing. "God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over the whole earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth on the earth. And God created Man in his image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

To me, brothers and sisters, this verse is of tremendous importance. This is God's desire; this is God's purpose for us. This is what God planned. He said this phenomenal thing: "Let us make man in our own image and after our likeness." Think of it. We heard prayers this morning about privilege as we came to the table, but can there be a higher privilege than that? He could have made you a tree. He could have made you a cow or a dog, and I happen to like dogs, but He did not. This unspeakable privilege that God said, "Let us make man in our image after our likeness," and it was not just a thought because it follows up to say, "And God made man in His image and after His likeness." That was the great experiment. No other creature has that privilege. Just think about it, no other creature has that.

in Hebrews man is speaking of the Lord Jesus from Psalm 8:4-6 and it says that He was made as the Son of man a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death. Man is a little lower than the angels. You can also read in Hebrews 2:16 where it says, "God did not choose the angels, but He chose the seed of Abraham." Isn't that remarkable?! What a privilege, an unthinkable privilege! How wonderful it is! I think of this privilege, and it astounds me.

In Hebrews 2:16 is what I just mentioned: "For he does not indeed take hold of the angels by the hand, but takes hold of the seed of Abraham."

God in His purpose chose to make you in His image and likeness. That is the great experiment. Beyond anything we can comprehend fully, beyond anything we could imagine, it is the highest purpose there can be that God would do such a thing.

I like the way Brother Kaung puts it. He says, "Image is inward likeness." Likeness in the Bible is outward likeness. As a human being you have something special that no other creature on the earth has. You were created in the image of God, His internal likeness. In your very makeup and being, you were created in the likeness of God in His outward form. Even the Lord Jesus took on the form of man as we read in Philippians 2. We are created in His likeness. What an awesome privilege! This is the great experiment, and for that experiment He granted great power.

You remember those verses we read in Genesis 1:26. "That they may have dominion," and then there is that word, "over the cattle and over this, and over the world;" five times over all these things. With this purpose, this great experiment was to come great power and the thought behind it was man would have dominion. When this nation was formed, they said, "It was the great experiment." A speech given about George Washington in 1790 said something pretty marvelous: "The establishment of the new government seemed to be the last grand experiment for providing human happiness." That would be a sad day. If we thought this republic was the answer, that would be a sad day, but the great experiment was what God was doing in Genesis, and we are an essential part of that. That is what it means, 'God in us,' this unparalleled power.

Now the battle over this great experiment is enormous. Do you know how you know that? Satan was there in the garden. Again, when the New Testament begins, there was a great battle over this other Man, this perfect Man, this Son of Man. And it says that after He was baptized, He was taken by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And who was there? Satan was there. What a battle! Satan's plan was to destroy the purpose of God and to distract man from this great purpose He had in view. This great purpose included great power. This great purpose being this special creation, the only thing that was like Him in the universe, in all of His creation. What a tremendous battle! But there were great things in view, the destiny of man was at stake, the destiny of God's purpose was at stake. If Satan could have, and he didn't, although he almost did with us, it could have ruined God's plan. That is all he wanted. Well, I think this story in the Bible in Creation opens up tremendous things. We begin to see these two trees come into focus as it says in Genesis 2:8-9: "And Jehovah Elohim planted a garden in Eden eastward, and there put Man whom he had formed. And out of the ground Jehovah Elohim made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; and the tree of life, in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

These two trees were in the middle of the garden. They would have focused on what God was after. Which choice will you make? These are the only two choices. You can grab a pear from one of those other trees for food, but in the end what choice we make in life could not be more at stake. This is abundantly clear to me. Here in the cradle of civilization the great experiment began. In the midst of the garden were these two trees and the great experiment began.

In Genesis 2:15-17: “And Jehovah Elohim took Man, and put him into the garden of Eden, to till it and to guard it.” That was his purpose to take dominion, to be over. And Jehovah Elohim commanded Man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden thou shalt freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest of it, thou shalt certainly die.”

Think of this. When we think of God, and you may not think this way, but I often think that God is hard. Some of His demands are impossible, and they are impossible. There is only one source that makes them possible. We say, “Why did He deprive me of this? Why can’t I have this?” In the garden this is the way we ought to think. In the garden it says, “He gave every tree for food.” Every tree! He did not withhold one tree from those miscellaneous trees. He even gave the tree of life, if you could imagine. If they had partaken of that tree of life, they would have known the source of life, ‘God in us.’

God forbade the eating of that one tree—only one tree. I think we often say, “Boy, God does not let me do certain things.” He only excluded one thing. I think that is the way you ought to look at it. He gave everything, He excluded only one thing. We know the story. I think every Christian knows this story, and how it seems to be the center focus in the beginning.

We like to blame a lot on Eve. You know, us brothers are always blaming the sisters; you know how that is. We like to blame it on Eve. Even after Adam took the fruit and ate it, he said, “The woman did it. She is the one that gave it to me to eat.” But you would have thought that Adam, knowing this command in Genesis 2:15-17 which came before the woman was ever created, ever made, that he would surely not have blamed it on her. If you read later in the verses 18-25, she never heard it from God Himself. She only heard it from Adam her husband, and I suppose we can speculate and say, “Maybe Adam really did not tell her how serious it was.” She had some idea because when Satan was in that garden and said, “What about this tree of the knowledge of good and evil?” She said, “Well, he said that the day we eat of it we will surely die.” And he said, “Did God say?” Doubt! I have said it before. We are talking about assurance, and doubt is the worse cancer you can contract. It is deadly. Doubt will kill you for sure spiritually. “Did God say?” Adam had left her alone in that garden. She was alone when Satan tempted her. And think of Adam, Mr. Big Britches. He thought he was something else. It did not take much to convince him; Satan did not even have to come to him. His wife said, “Here try it, it is pretty good.” And Adam took and ate, and it was her fault by the way. That was his explanation to God when God came to him and said, “Adam, what did you do? Did you eat of the tree that I told you not to eat?” And he said, “The woman gave it to me.” He was pretty bold, wasn’t he? Maybe it was his failure. I believe this looked like the utter failure of the great experience. Was God’s purpose ended? It looks like it.

You remember what happened after this? It says in Genesis 3:24: “And he drove out Man; and he set the Cherubim, and the flame of the flashing sword, toward the east of the garden of Eden, to guard the way to the tree of life.” That flashing sword! No longer did man have access to that unparalleled power. He made the wrong choice, and judgment was swift and hard. And we have been living under the penalty of that disobedience for centuries.

The Flaming Sword

Thank God, that is not the end of the story. When you go to the New Testament, there is another garden, the garden of Gethsemane. You remember that story. Here is where that second man was. Here is where that perfect Man was, Here is where the Lord Jesus was. He was alone, and Peter, James, and John were called to a single request: “Pray with Me one hour.” And they could not. Again, in the great experiment man utterly failed. The Lord was alone. We read about those precious words where he turned to God and said, “If it be possible, take this cup from me.” And then those beautiful words, “Nevertheless, Thy will be done.” Aren’t they beautiful words. Just think, if Adam had uttered those words! The One who never failed did the right thing. They said, “The agony was so dark in that garden,” and the two verses that followed that declaration of the Lord’s obedience were, “Angels had to come to Him it was so intense, and ministered to Him.” I believe, and most commentators believe that the Lord would have perished at that moment, so dark was the thought of the sin of the whole world coming upon this One. All that Adam and Eve had done to ruin the great experiment, at that moment had fallen upon the Lord Jesus. Oh, the gravity of it. It said that His sweat turned into drops of blood and fell to the ground. How enormous that dark moment was!

And brothers and sisters, this is what I think happened. I believe that flaming sword in Genesis 3:24, which had guarded the way to the tree of life, was taken and being prepared to be plunged into the heart of our Savior at Golgotha. You may not like that interpretation. The Son of Man died upon a tree. Do you see any correlation? And that sword of the wrath of God that guarded the way to the tree of life was taken away, and it was raised upon Calvary and was plunged into the heart of the Savior. It is very clear to me. It may not be to you.

But I think of one of my favorite hymns is Anne Ross Cousin’s hymn, “O Christ, What Burdens Bowed Thy Head.” I think it is one of the most magnificent hymns written in church history. In verse 5 it says, “Jehovah bade His sword awake, O Christ, it woke ‘gainst Thee! Thy blood the flaming blade must slake, Thy heart its sheath must be—All for my sake, my peace to make, now sleeps that sword for me.” Isn’t that beautiful! The flaming sword was raised by God Himself and plunged into the heart of His Son. The tree of life died and was raised again, and the way to the tree of life has been forever open to you and to me. You have to see the connection between Genesis and the Gospels. It is very clear.

Thankfully, this is what is illustrated in the Old Testament, the choice. What is your choice? What will be your source? I believe this is what is clear.

The Sight of Unparalleled Power

The second thing is the sight of unparalleled power. Not only did he illustrate this unparalleled power in the Old Testament, but in the New Testament He demonstrated that unparalleled power. Brothers and sisters, you may argue with me on this, but I believe the main reason the Lord came was to demonstrate this life of living through unparalleled power. I believe that is His story. Surely He came to seek and save the lost. Surely He came to rescue His purpose that seemed to be an utter failure. The great experiment failed, but I believe above all He came to demonstrate how to live by that power. There is ample proof of that throughout the Gospels. Our Lord Jesus demonstrated what it means 'God in us.' I think when you read it, it is very clear. He said, "Not my will but Thine be done."

I think of that old worldly song by Paul Anka: "I did it my way." That should never be a Christian's song, by the way. Old blue eyes himself, Frank Sinatra made that song famous. If I had a nickel for every time Frank Sinatra sang that song I could have retired a long time ago. But boastfully looking back over life's choices this proud man states at the end of the song, "But more, much more than this, I did it my way."

Do you want that to be your testimony at the end? I believe the Lord's testimony was so different. He did it God's way. How wonderful that is! This is how He demonstrated living by the power of another. He laid down everything outwardly that had to do with deity. Now make no mistake about it. He remained very God of very God, but He also was the Son of Man. And when He was upon the earth, He never drew from that resource that was His right. I remember I talked to you about the difference between rights and privileges. It was His right; it is our privilege. There is a vast difference.

You will remember in Philippians 2, when Paul said that Christ did not consider this thing of equality with God a thing to be grasped. My version puts it 'repine' which means robbery, taken by force. He did not have to take it by force; it was His already; it was His right. It was who He was, very God of very God. But He refused to draw from that resource. He wanted to live through and by the life of another to demonstrate in this great experiment. That is the secret and ever will be. He took on the form of a man, and died on the cross, and He overcame. Thank God for that!

Think again about the two choices. These are two scenes you have to agree. It seems to be an awful lot of collaboration between these two scenes for God to describe to His people all their days what He was after and what He is doing.

I love what it says in II Corinthians 15:45-47. It uses words like the first man which is Adam. It uses words like the second man which is Christ. It uses words, the first Adam, and it uses words, the last Adam. Brothers and sisters, in God's eyes there are only two people. Now don't throw your hymn books at me yet. There are only two people. You are either in Adam or you are in Christ. That is what we refer to when we talk about the Bible, it is federal headship. Only two people and only two choices.

Look at what Jesus said in John 5:19, and this was after the man was healed at the well of Bethesda. "Jesus therefore answered and said to them, 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, (listen to

this strange expression of the one who was God) the Son can do nothing of himself save what ever he sees the Father doing, for whatsoever things He does, these things also the Son does in like manner.”

How incredible for the Lord to make this testimony! The Son does nothing of Himself. He only does what He sees the Father doing. I think this is a very great lesson in that. Certainly, if anyone had the power to do something of Himself it was our Lord Jesus, not you, not me, but certainly it was the Lord Jesus.

Colossians 1:19: “For in him all the fulness of the godhead was pleased to dwell.”

Colossians 2:9: “For in him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.” Certainly He had the power to do of Himself.

It says in Hebrew 1:3: “Who being the effulgence of his glory and the expression of his substance.” Surely He had the power. He did not use it because He drew from His own paralleled power that was in the Father and this is how the Lord demonstrated God in us upon the earth. This is the sight we behold as the Lord walked the earth, drawing from the power of the Father, doing what the Father is doing. “I do not speak of Myself but I only speak what I hear what the Father is saying.” How incredible it is!

John 5:26: “For even as the Father has life in himself, so he has given to the Son also to have life in himself.”

Now understand that. It is through the given life, and he makes a distinction here. The Father has life in Himself, surely the Son did. That is not the point He is making. The point that He is making is to clear up about this great experiment which is He has given life in me. You and I do not have the life to live the Christian life in ourselves. It is given to us, and that was the point He made abundantly clear.

In John 12:49: “For I have not spoken from myself, but the Father who sent me has himself given me commandment of what I should say and what I should speak.”

I do what he does, I speak what He gives me to speak. This is remarkable to me when you look at the introduction to the Gospel of John because John 1:1 begins: “And the Word was with God and the Word was God.” He was the Word. Surely He could speak of Himself.

John 1:14: “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of an only-begotten with a Father, full of grace and truth.”

Surely He had the power to speak. Surely He had the power to do, but had He done that, you would never know the secret of ‘God in us.’ That was what the Lord demonstrated while He was on earth.

Think of the Christians in Antioch. By the way, it was the world that first called them Christians. It says in Acts 11:20-21: “Believers were first called Christians in Antioch.” They looked at those people and they said, “These people; I do not know what is going on with these people, but they are so Christlike. Surely they are Christians.”

We call ourselves by that name, “I am a Christian.” Is there proof that we are Christians? Is there proof? Would anybody in a court of law accuse you of being a Christian? Or would you like Adam fail the test? I believe in Antioch we can see a different kind of people—Christ in them. I think that is marvelous. That is what He wants in us.

I think of the woman at the well. The whole story is about a new source of power. She came to that well every day, Jacob’s well, and the Word of God says, “she left her little water pot.” I think most of us are living life by a little water pot. Just give me enough to get through the day. At the end of the day, “Oh, I just got through by the skin of my teeth.” We are living by the source of the little water pot. I hope you do not get offended that I call you a little water pot, but you are. And you cannot draw much with that water pot. And if you do, it will be exhausted quickly. And just like that woman at the well, whose life was a mess and the Lord called her on it, so it will be for us if we draw from that source.

You remember what the Lord said to her in chapter 4:13-15: “Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again; but whosoever drinks of the water which I shall give him shall never thirst forever, but the water which I shall give him shall become in him a fountain of water, springing up into eternal life.”

How tremendous! That is the source. That is the tree of life. That is the spring of life. That is the eternal life. And that day the woman discovered that unparalleled power, and she left that place. She went to town, and she told everyone what He had said. I do not think she ever returned to that little water pot again. God in us was the secret in John chapter 4. In the Lord’s life this is the site of unparalleled power. When you look at the Lord, this is what you see. You see One who lived by the life of Another. The sight that comes into clear focus is this One who lived by the power of the indestructible life of the Father. That life was in Him, and that life which was given Him made all the difference.

The secret of the unparalleled power is my strongest conviction that what the New Testament is about is the revelation of the secret of the unparalleled power. In the pages following the Gospels, in the book of Acts, we see the demonstration in a people—not just a demonstration in the Lord—but we see what Jesus continued to do and to teach as Luke inferred through a people who had discovered a new power, through a people who had discovered the source, to a people that tasted of the tree of life, and through a people that changed the world. This is what the New Testament is about. And the epistles are not just instructions, commands, requirements, and duties. The New Testament is clearly about a power that can be in you. It is unbelievable. I hope you see that at least this power is inexhaustible. The power in us is surely exhaustible, but thank God there is a different power.

You remember the chapters in John 13-17. I do not think there is hardly any like it in Scripture. None of the other synoptic Gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke really covered these. But John, the one who leaned upon the Lord Jesus’s breast, covered these intimate discussions of the Lord for these five chapters, these most intimate encounters with the Lord. This is the mercy of God that the Holy Spirit has preserved for us these five chapters. We would not know that “God is with us” without these chapters. We would not know that “God is for us” without these chapters. And we certainly would not know “God is in us” without these chapters. Because

the Lord is going to the cross and then back to be with the Father to that former glory, I believe what the Lord is doing is giving them the ultimate assurance. Just read some words.

In John 14:16-17 he is speaking of the Holy Spirit. "And I will beg the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may be with you forever, (That would be marvelous!) the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see him nor know him; (And then he said this most remarkable assurance following that.) for he abides with you, and shall be in you." Can you imagine! The power of God, the Holy Spirit taking up in you permanent residence. Don't you think that is an unparalleled power? This is the assurance He gave before He left. "I am leaving, but look, I will beg the Father, and it is called the promise of the Father, and ask the Father to send another Comforter of the same kind, and that Comforter shall be with you." But then He said the most remarkable assurance. "And that Comforter shall be in you." How marvelous! Where would you be without that assurance of God the Holy Spirit in us.

What was illustrated in the Old Testament in the two trees and what was demonstrated in the New Testament in the life of the Lord Jesus on the earth is to be manifested in the people of God. This is not just to be some high level of teaching, even if you think it is that. It is to be reality in your every day life and in my every day life. It is to be the strength and the power that we live by, and because this unthinkable privilege was bestowed upon us, we do not ever have to fail like Adam and Eve. I think this is marvelous assurance.

In John 14:20 he went on to say, "In that day, (in other words when I send the Holy Spirit is that day.) ye shall know that I am in my Father, (that is what was demonstrated and then He gave this incredible assurance.) and ye in me, (then he gave an even more incredible assurance) and I in you." How marvelous!

Austin Sparks made a huge impact on my Christian life, one of the writers I owe a deep debt of gratitude to. He called this the all-inclusive in, I AM. He said, "In Christ and Christ in me occurs about 200 times in the Bible in different forms. He said, "There is no phrase or formula with greater frequency in the New Testament than this "in Christ." He said, "In the whole range of Christian dogma, there is nothing more expensive, and yet nothing less understood and appreciated." It is *the* secret. Do you understand?

This burden is so deep in my heart. The Lord went on and continued to give that assurance.

In John 15:4 he said, "Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abide in the vine, thus neither can you unless you abide in me."

And he ended with this being the secret of His high priestly prayer. You all know the famous words: "That they may one." In John 17:21 he said, "That they all be one, as thou, Father, are in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." This is amazing assurance.

The Holy Secret

The last verses on my heart is from Colossians 1:26-27, and if there is ever a verse I would want you to write on your mirror to look at every morning, it would be this verse. When you get

up in the morning to shave or wash your face or brush your teeth, let this be the secret that is ever before you.

“The mystery, the secret which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but has now made manifest to his saints; to whom God would make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the nations, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

What a mystery! What a secret! Christ in you. Brothers and sisters, it has been hidden from the ages and generations. It was not known but now it has been made manifest to you which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Could God have done more? It is impossible! He could not have done more. It is marvelous assurance, ‘God with us. ’It is another wonderful thing to discover ‘God for us. ’It is altogether a different level to know ‘God in us. ’It is *the* secret.

G. Handley Moule said, “It is the holy secret. It is not an it; it is a He. The dweller in you is God Himself.” What an assurance that is! I believe this is what Paul meant when he wrote in II Corinthians 4:17: “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us.”

The secret is not in the earthen vessel which you are. You are a clay pot, but in that clay pot God has done the unthinkable. The tree of life is in the clay pot. The Holy Spirit takes up a permanent abode. The Father is in the clay pot. I can hardly take this in. I often think, I can understand in Christ, this little speck of water that is me being in the ocean which is Christ, but I can hardly take in Christ in me which is that ocean being in this speck of water. It is marvelous! It is the highest assurance in the Bible and it is the full revelation of the tree of life. May the Lord help us to see this.

That hymn by Fannie Crosby, “Blessed Assurance” is one of the most beautiful hymns ever written. She was blind, by the way, the blind poetess wrote 8,000 hymns, often three a week. A friend, Phoebe Knapp, came to her who was an amateur musician, and after she played this little tune, she said, “Fanny, what do you think of that tune? What does it remind you of?” And Fanny Crosby said unmistakably, “It reminds me, Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine.” It would take me a decade of forty years, a generation, to write something even close to that beautiful hymn, but in two minutes she wrote those three verses and handed them to Phoebe, and those words have never changed since. This is the highest assurance, the assurance of His unparalleled power.

Father, we thank You for the deep secrets that are in Your Word. Where would we be without them? We would be adrift, lost, without hope, without God in this world, but thank God for the deep assurance that You give us. Thank God, it is almost unthinkable that You would take up Your permanent abode in us, and You would give us that secret to be manifested Christ in us, the hope of glory. Lord, write these words on our heart that are applicable and erase those that are not. Cause us to know what it means to live by the source and to overcome by Him. The secret is that we do not live for God. In the Epistle of I John he said, We live through Him.” May Your will be done. Amen.