

## The Christ-Centered Life (Christ-enlivened)

The Bible always advocates that believers are to be soberly inebriated with God (see Eph 5:18!). To be so intoxicatingly enamored with the unfathomable riches of Christ is to have an inspired awareness of God Himself at the very core of our being-ness. It rests upon a simple "Aha" - NO MORE SEPARATION!

The very first order of "business" in Christ-centered living is overcoming the deadly distance between death and life. (It is the distance which kills us!) There was an infinite gap between our uncreated Creator and us, His created imagers. We were, to put it mildly, "far off" (Acts 2:39). So far off, we couldn't get there (to God) from here (our sinful selves). So far off we were "dead" (Eph 2:1) - without the breath, the Life, the Spirit of God. There was an infinite and personal gap between God and us. No finite being can bridge that gap - the Solution had to be Infinite and Personal.

And so it was. The Infinite Son of God came in Person to be and to do what we could not. God became flesh (Jo 1:14). The transcendent became immanent; God for us became God with us. Through incarnation God said to us that when a human being is lost, ALL OF GOD COMES TO FIND HIM. The incarnate God was crucified. The Righteous One became the sinful one (II Cor 5:21) in order to put away our sins and put an end to our sinful self (Heb 9::26). This old self was do bad off God couldn't even fix it - He had to kill it! Through Christ's crucifixion God said to us that when a human being is guilty, ALL OF GOD COMES TO DIE FOR HIM. The crucified God-man did not stay dead but was raised to life by His Father. The Dead comes to Life and, so too, all those who believe in Him. Through His resurrection God said to us that when a human being is dead, ALL OF GOD COMES TO ENLIVEN HIM.

And enlivened we were. We were brought to life by His Life! Such life cannot be purchased with any kind or any amount of human currency. It is a free gift (Ro 6:23) and can only be freely and joyfully received. Once believed and received, we entered into an uninterrupted union of lives - fully living, fully human, fully indestructible life (Heb 7:16). All the "gaps" have disappeared. The deadly distance was overcome. Any thoughts of separation now are deception or illusion (Heb 13:5; I Cor 6:17).

Now what? Get lost again! Lost in His unfathomable riches, His indescribable life. Celebrate a divinely approved drunkenness, "Drink and imbibe deeply, O lovers!" (Song of Solomon 5:1). Do so until all the fear of separation is gone.

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## *Praise Reports & Prayer Requests*

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Please inform us of any changes to your address



 **GREETINGS** 

So many of you who read this newsletter are doing so because of Laurie Hills. She has been (and continues to be) such a powerful and liberating voice of God to us along the way as we are coming to know ever more richly the liberating message of "Christ in you the hope of glory."

Laurie has been a teacher, an encourager, a sister, a mother in Christ. I have met very few people who could "speak the truth in love" like Laurie Hills. I was in awe of her gracious acceptance and humble authority the first time I met her nearly 30 years ago. Time in no way diminished that awe - it has only enhanced it.


I don't know how many times a single sentence from Laurie - in a note, a conversation, or teaching - radically affected my thinking from that moment on until this day. I will never, ever think of "soul" and "spirit" - and her God-graced ability to discern their difference - in the same way again after our first encounter in Wisconsin.

Laurie is now face to face with Amazing Grace Himself. Many of you have sent gifts to *OIC* in her memory (per one of her requests). I promise to make use of every cent in every gift to honor her life and her ongoing influence to "speak the truth in love" of our Savior to all!

 **CALENDAR** 

<b><u>JULY</u></b>	
3-8	Bar Harbor, ME
10,17,24,31	CCF
12	Alachua Study
<b><u>SEPTEMBER</u></b>	
16-23	Bozeman, MT
<b><u>OCTOBER</u></b>	
7-9	Binghamton, NY

 **PRAISE and PRAYER** 

-  The gift of Laurie Hills
-  Our Christ-enlivened lives
-  Pastors/families coming for ministry
-  Sober inebriation with Christ