

# Testimonials

“Devotional material that presents an insightful thought for the day is of great value to sincere readers. However, too often devotionals lack depth and practical instruction. In contrast, Fred Kosin’s perceptive resource provides substantial instruction. By focusing on a specific thought or idea from the Word, he presents related truth and helpful teaching. Readers will certainly be blessed and encouraged to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

– **Dr. Daniel H. Smith**  
**Chancellor, Emmaus Bible College**

“We have been using *Blessings All Mine* since January of this year and esteem it as one of the two best daily devotional books we have used in our 55 years of marriage.”

– **Gordon Wakefield**  
**Missionary in Lima, Peru**

“Both my brother and I have read through your devotional book for three years and have been blessed in the time spent. Thank you for making it available to the Lord’s people.”

– **Don Hudson, Franklin, TN**  
**45 Years in Christian Publishing**

“This book is not something you read lightly in a hurry, but something that invites deeper study. For me it answers some things I’ve wondered about but never had a satisfactory answer. It gives me some new thoughts I’d never heard before.”

– **Behring and Lois MacDowell, Wheaton, IL**  
**Veteran Missionaries of 60+ Years**

“Since I can’t have Fred exhorting Christ to me in person, this is the best extension of that wonderful gift God has placed in him.”

– **Ken Bradley, El Cajon, CA**

“If *My Utmost for His Highest* taught us abandonment to Christ, *Blessings All Mine With 10,000 Besides!* teaches us to fully appropriate the abundance of Christ.”

– **K. V. Simon, Mumbai, India**

“This volume is characterized as a daily devotional, and it is that, but much more. The background texts are gleaned from twenty four books of the scriptures, yet there is no randomness in its content. A unifying theme runs through the subject matter, blessings that are the gifts of God to all who are ‘in Christ.’ The author, Frederick L. Kosin, draws on his long years of study, serving Christ as a Bible teacher, conference speaker, and missionary, to give sound exegesis to the supporting texts. He sprinkles each devotional with just the right mix of illustrations and metaphors to achieve clarity, without giving the appearance of entertainment.

– **Elbert Smith, Florence, SC**  
**Itinerant Bible Teacher**

“Thanks for writing ‘*Blessings*.’ We are reading everyday together and find it great meat for thought with encouraging words. I admire your ability and willing heart to spend the time and concentration in writing these devotionals! We’ll be the better because of your investment.”

– **Judy Mayer, Fort Myers, FL**  
**Christian Counselor**

“What a tremendous blessing this book has been to me! I have been especially blessed to have the chains of legalism fall off and to have realized just how much God, through His Son, has given me that I’ve been leaving untouched.”

– **Ruthanne Batchelder, Chester, VT**

“I am really enjoying your recent book on blessings. I read it each day with my devotions and have been greatly helped and challenged. Thanks for such a fine piece of work.”

– **Don Dunkerton, Kenilworth, NJ**  
**Pastor / Teacher**

“What a blessing already is mine as I partake of this spiritual food. The book has made me eager to share these blessings with my grandchildren and family.”

– **Bob and Pauline Hewitt, Mesa, AR**

“*Blessings All Mine with 10,000 Besides* is a monumental work. May it encourage many to appropriate the abundance that is ours in Christ. Too many servants are struggling to serve in their own strength, not realizing the resources made available by the risen and ascended Lord. May these devotionals cause the Lord’s people to lay hold of that which He has purchased at so great a cost.”

– **Cedric and Gill Gibbs, Australia**  
**Veteran Missionary Statesman**

# **BLESSINGS ALL MINE WITH 10,000 BESIDES!**

**Frederick L Kossin**

**ECS**   
MINISTRIES  
*The Word to the World*

*Blessings All Mine With 10,000 Besides!*

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Dedicated  
to the many folks who  
have sat, survived or slept through  
sermons, preaching, sharing, teaching,  
arguments, discussions, panels, devotions,  
lectures and personal conversations and responded  
with “Uhu, Ummmm, Unah, Ug, Ump, Oh,” a few “Amens,”  
an occasional “I never heard that before,” an isolated applause,  
many a thank you and a lot of silence, to my expositions, illustrations,  
exhortations, alliterations, invitations, remonstrations, and occasional  
accusations relating to the subject of this series of meditations  
in churches, chapels,  
halls, homes, prisons,  
missions, sanctuaries,  
cathedrals, boats and  
the open air to family,  
friends, fellowships and  
a few foes during meetings,  
seminars, conferences, retreats,  
and advances, in most every state  
of the union and more than seventy  
foreign countries during fifty years of ministry.

“THANK YOU!”  
I couldn’t have done it without you!

# Introduction

## *A Few Thoughts*

**T**his book is a summary of blessings given to us in the Lord Jesus Christ. These blessings are ours because we possess Christ. They are promises that are being fulfilled by Christ who lives in us. Each meditation is designed to be a spiritual meal which, if absorbed into your heart, appropriated into your thinking, and applied to your behavior, will bring development. This spiritual growth will point people to Christ because our life is the vehicle by which God makes an invisible Christ visible. Consider these meditations as a sheaf of blessings. Like a field waiting to be harvested, each blessing is available for our claiming. Cut the sheaf, remove the chaff, and feast on the wheat.

Some people may wonder why God gives us these blessings. Is it so that we can become spiritually fat? Far from it! Paul told Timothy, “Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.” If a person gives themselves entirely to “fatty” food, it will be evident to all when they gain weight. If believers give themselves to biblical truths, it will be apparent as their faith grows, their understanding develops, and their behavior is transformed.

You will notice that the prayer at the end of each meditation does not conclude with the word “Amen.” It is omitted so you, the reader, can respond to God based on what He has taught you, thus embarking on a life of thanksgiving.

One powerful and practical question that will soon arise in the mind of the active reader is, “How do I make these blessings mine?” In answer, consider the digestive system. Intake of food is normal and repeated regularly. Once the food has passed the lips the mouth masticates, the throat swallows, the stomach digests, and the blood stream dispatches nutrition to the organs while the unnecessary is passed off in waste. We grow by this process. Eating is essential. The same process is necessary in the spiritual life. Jeremiah wrote, “Your words were found and I ate them” (Jeremiah 15:16). Truth must be taken in. That is the goal and purpose of *Blessings All Mine With 10,000 Besides!*

Repetitious reading of the Bible is absolutely essential and imperative. If you are not engaged in some program of memorizing Scripture, it will be more difficult to grow. Meditation is a conscious review, from memory, of Bible truths and principles. Without memorization, meditation is almost impossible.

The result of absorption in our minds is the spontaneous response of the mouth from the heart's storehouse. Jeremiah went on to say, "Your Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart." From your heart will flow rivers of "joy and rejoicing" because the truth is received, believed, memorized, meditated on, and manifested. Your life, lived from the truths stored in your mind, cannot be hidden from the eyes of others.

Worldly programs have stolen these principles of mental and spiritual exercise and used them to promote self. They encourage a prospective laggard to begin positive thinking and repetition. "I can do it" has been copied from Philippians. "You have it all" has been taken from Ephesians. "I am a winner" is plagiarized from 2 Timothy. "I am free" is taken from the lips of Jesus.

What is ironic is that worldly programs take these aphorisms and urge the slow starter to begin repeating and believing them in his life and business dealings. They use concepts from Scripture, taking Christ and God out, and promote them as self-help, motivational strategies or for the worship of self. They turn the truth of God into the lie and cause people to believe in themselves rather than in God. If they can do this with success in the business world, we, who believe the One who is Truth, should be able to more effectively repeat the truth, live the truth, and be changed by the truth.

Yet, although the principle is simple and direct, it demands much mental determination to learn and grow. The ultimate goal is maturity and likeness to Christ—the One who lives in us and empowers us to live like Him.

Read the daily verse and meditation. Write out a portion of the verse that speaks to you about that day's blessing, listing the specific gift. During the day review the verse and truth you learned. Respond to God in prayer, worship, confession, and thanks. Share the truth with someone who will accept accountability for you as you share what the Lord is teaching you. Refrain from arguing with the way the truth is presented or approached. The Lord will speak to you through the Scripture even though you may not always find the way it is presented comfortable. Expect to be challenged by the Scripture. At the end of the day, thank the Lord again for the blessing you employed that day.

# Foreword

*To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is CHRIST IN YOU, the hope of glory.*

Colossians 1:27

“Christ is in the believer. He indwells the heart by faith, as the sun indwells the lowliest flowers that unfurl their petals and bear their hearts to his beams. Not because we are good. Not because we are trying to be whole-hearted in our consecration. Not because we keep Him by the tenacity of our love. But because we believe, and, in believing, have thrown open the doors and windows of our nature. And He has come in.

“He probably came in so quietly that we failed to detect His entrance. There was no footfall along the passage; the chime of the golden bells at the foot of His priestly robe did not betray Him.

“He desires to be in us as His Father was in Him, so that the outgoing of our life may be channels through which He, hidden within, may pour Himself forth upon men. But there is a reason why many whose natures are certainly the temple of Christ, remain ignorant of the presence of the wonderful Tenant that sojourns within. He dwells so deep.

“Through the Holy Spirit, Christ dwells, as of old the Shechinah dwelt in the Most Holy Place, closely shrouded from the view of man.

“We repeat here our constant mistake about the things of God. We try to feel them. If we feel them, we believe them; otherwise we take no account of them. We reverse the Divine order. We say *feeling*, FAITH, FACT. God says, FACT, FAITH, *feeling*. With Him feeling is of small account—He only asks us to be willing to accept His own Word, and to cling to it because He has spoken it, in entire disregard of what we may feel.

“I am distinctly told that Christ, though He is on the Throne in His ascended glory, is also within me by the Holy Ghost. I confess I do not feel Him there. But I dare to believe He is there: not without me, but within; not as a transient sojourner for a night, but as a perpetual inmate: not altered by my changes from earnestness to lethargy, from the summer of love to winter of despondency, but always and unchangeably the same. And I say again and again ‘Jesus, thou art here.’



“When God’s secrets break open they do so in glory. The wealth of the root hidden in the ground is revealed in the hues of orchid and scent of rose. The hidden beauty of a beam of light is unraveled in the sevenfold color of the rainbow.

“So when we accept the fact of His existence within us deeper than our own, and make it one of the aims of our life to draw on it and develop it, we shall be conscious of a glory transfiguring our life and irradiating ordinary things such as will make earth, with its commonest engagements, like a vestibule of heaven.

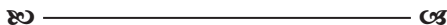
“Such glory, the certain pledge of the glory to be revealed—is within reach of every reader of these lines who will dare day by day to reckon that Christ lives within, and will be content to die to the energies and promptings of the self-life so that there may be room for the Christ-life to reveal itself.

“When this mystery, or secret, of the divine life in man is apprehended and made use of, it gives great wealth to life. If all the treasurers of wisdom, knowledge, power, and grace reside in Jesus, and He is become the cherished and honored resident of our nature, it is clear that we must be greatly enriched. It is like having a millionaire friend come to live with him.

“And we cannot live such a life till we have learnt to avail ourselves of the riches of the indwelling Christ. The grace of purity and self-control, of fervent prayer and understanding the Scriptures, of love for men and zeal for God, of lowliness and meekness, of gentleness and goodness—all is in Christ; and if Christ is in us, all is ours also. Oh that we would dare to believe it, and draw on it, letting down the pitcher of faith into the deep well of Christ’s indwelling opened within us by the Holy Ghost.

“But if only we would meet every call, difficultly and trial, not saying as we so often do, ‘I shall never be able to go through it,’ but saying, ‘I cannot; but Christ is in me, and He can,’ we should find that all trials were intended to reveal and unfold the wealth hidden within us, until Christ was literally formed within us and His life manifested in our mortal body II Cor 4:10.”

— F. B. Meyer



Usually a Foreword is done by someone who is alive and knows the author. On this occasion I could not ask Mr. F. B. Meyer (1861-1929) to write a Foreword. Instead I have taken the liberty of extracting some very pertinent thoughts from an extremely helpful book that has blessed me over the past 40 years. I found myself consuming these thoughts, digesting them, appropriating them for myself, repeating them, and dispensing them. I have appreciated the encouragement I have received as others enjoyed them as well.

The above selection is from the book by Frederick B. Meyer entitled: *Steps into the Blessed Life*, published by Henry Altemus, copyright 1896.

— F. L. K.

# January

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## THE "ALL THINGS OF GOD" TO GET YOU GOING

“. . . as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word . . .”

1 Peter 2:2

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide:  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!*

– Thomas O. Chisholm

# January

## *A New Born Baby*

**O**h, how sweet to hold a new born baby. What a marvelous miracle God gives when a child is born and handed to us for care. And no other biblical metaphor gives us a clearer picture of the fullness of blessing that we have in Christ when we are born again.

The completeness of the body and soul is an astounding credit to the creative genius of our God. The baby of 7 or 8 pounds is born with all that he or she needs for life. These permanent ingredients include dozens of organs, 206 bones, hundreds of muscles, thousands of nerves, and millions of cells.

What is so remarkable is that, as the child grows to adulthood, there is no need to exchange the child-sized organs for adult-sized ones. Everything grows as the necessary ingredients are applied to the body. Good food, regular exercise, fresh air, adequate sleep, and the application of challenges, interaction, social exchange, spiritual adjustment, and discipline make the child a man or woman who is well-rounded and capable of meeting the demands of society. There is no need for upgrading the bones or organs. All that was there at birth is there at death.

Spiritual life is just as complete at the spiritual birth. The needed ingredients for believers are employed by the application of truth and the challenges for expanding our capacities to trust God more and more.

The girl who wants to perform gymnastics cannot exchange her muscles for stronger or better ones. The boy who wants to play basketball does not go back to



the hospital to get longer legs and bones. Each learns to use what they were given at birth. We do not ask for more strength, either. What the child and the believer need to do is to exercise and challenge what they already have. For the believer, strength is found in Christ, who is our strength. Although we have strength, we need to develop and direct it in a way that is pleasing to God, who gave us strength in Christ.

The New Testament uses the body and its soul as an illustration of our life in Christ. A new-born baby is hungry for milk. Young men are strong. Fathers and mothers are mature. Old immature believers are a disgrace to the provision that God has given for growth. But a balanced diet of reading His Word and of prayer will feed our spiritual tissues. The exercises of obedience, evangelism, and self-discipline strengthen our spiritual sinews. Regular fellowship with our local church of believers builds us into men and women who are useful to the body of Christ.

This collection of meditations is a look at some of the resources for spiritual life that were given to us at spiritual birth. The comparison will take the form of many different metaphors, but it examines how those gifts, capacities, and abilities need to be accepted, appreciated, developed, employed, and exhibited.

Few of us are really happy with our physical bodies. We blame our parents, our culture, our country, and God. We covet others' abilities, build, skin color, mental acumen, and physical prowess. But most aspects of our physical make-up cannot be changed. They must be accepted as God's gifts to us, to the church, and to the world. Similarly, the Lord gave us, in Christ, the resources we need to serve in the sphere where He has placed us. Like children, however, we often ask for more than He has given. Each day's meditation will examine a special gift that God has given for which we should be thankful as we learn how best to appropriate and to expand the usefulness that the Lord expects of us. Every believer needs to acknowledge that God has adequately blessed us all at spiritual birth. We will grow when we develop and use the blessings to the highest possible good for the glory of Christ.

Some believers, after reading the introduction, will set this book down and not accept the biblical challenge of learning what they have in Christ, preferring to continue to ask and plead with God to give them something they already have in Christ. Others will accept the challenge of growing up "to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ," just as a mature adult learns to accept the gifts and abilities, strengths and weaknesses, given by God through his parents. A choice in life, both physical and spiritual, faces us all.

Take these blessings of life and enjoy the growing experience. But remember: growing pains and growth are the flower and fruit on the same tree.

## The Promise of God's Presence

*Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.*

Genesis 28:15

One of the most common prayers from our lips, repeated almost without thinking, is "Lord, be with . . ." We then mention ourselves or someone else who needs a "special portion" of God's nearness. Why do we pray this prayer when the promise of God's presence is prolific in every part of His Word?

Genesis 28:15 is the first of many promises that can be found in the Scriptures declaring the fact of God's presence with His people. The greatest resource for life is the presence of God with, or in, those who are His. God cannot be closer to His own than to dwell in them.

In the Old Testament, the promise of God's residence is repeated dozens of times—long before the promise of the Holy Spirit was given to Christ's disciples as a permanent, personal possession—reminding believers of every age that God has chosen to dwell with them in every circumstance of life. In Hebrews 13:5 the author summarizes this by quoting God as saying, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." He uses the strongest possible negative in the original language to convey this truth.

Is it that we want to have some *physical* evidence of God's presence? Do we want some miraculous *demonstration* that He will keep His promise? Or are we simply in a habit we find very hard to break? To pray "Lord, be with . . ." is "an exercise in unbelief" in the most foundational truth of our salvation. We who have been born again by the Holy Spirit should never question whether God lives in us when we read His promise so many times.

*God cannot be closer to His own than to dwell in them.*

Although we create long lists of Scripture that proclaim this fact, as believers we should not need God to tell us more than once. He is faithful who promised Joshua, "as I was with Moses, so I will be with you." And yet, through the Holy Spirit, even the newest Christian has a far fuller expression of the presence of God than either Moses or Joshua had. As believers, we cannot have more of God than He has given to every one of His children.



*Father, thank you for giving me all that You are by dwelling in me through Christ, Your Son. I confess I do not always believe this and thoughtlessly ask You to be with me. I desire to live every day in the joy of Your presence which You will never take away from me.*

## Our “Box” of Spiritual Blessings

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.*

Ephesians 1:3

**W**e often quote this verse to remind ourselves of the adequacy of our blessings for life. It can be a challenge to accept this verse by faith, although the message is crystal clear: we have every spiritual blessing in Christ! This means that all the spiritual blessings that are resident in Christ are ours as well. Since God has given us Christ as the sum and substance of our salvation, all that is found in Him is ours. The first chapter of Ephesians goes on to list numerous blessings that are included “in Christ.”

Have you ever played this old trick when giving someone a small but valuable gift? You begin with a small, attractively-wrapped box, which you then put inside a bigger box (also nicely wrapped), then in another, until the final box is quite large, decorated with excessive wrapping. Opening the gift is half the fun; each box is unwrapped only to find another, and another, until the gift itself is finally discovered.

God has given us Christ, who is like the initial big box. Inside each of the succeeding boxes is a further discovery of some other aspect of His wonderful blessing. Today’s Scripture reading does not specify what each individual blessing is, but instead gathers them up in one glorious “package,” which is Christ Himself. Our spiritual blessings are infinite in scope, just as the person of Christ is infinite.

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*All the spiritual blessings that are resident in Christ are ours as well.*

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Obviously, this gift from God does not include material or physical blessings. Christ is not health, wealth, a luxury car, a bulging bank account, an influential career, insulation from disease, or many of the other *things* we want. Requesting such things in prayer often confuses need with greed; it confuses wants with what has already been given by God in the person of His Son. Blessings that are in Christ are strength, love, grace, peace, meekness, gentleness, sonship, a spiritual inheritance, and many more.

A couplet helps us remember the all-encompassing gift of Christ: “He *is* what He *gives*, and what He *gives* He *is!*” The blessings of Christ are not given independent of Him or in addition to Him. It is unbelief that wants God to give us resources for life in addition to all our spiritual blessings in Christ.



*Father, You have given me all that is in Your Son. I accept these blessings by faith and begin today to appropriate them for Your glory and the blessing of Your people.*

## Nourishment for Life

*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

**T**he Word of God is the greatest source of food for development and growth in the life of the believer. What a privilege to have this great book in our hands and hearts! It is a fountain of truth for all who dip their cup in its fullness to satisfy their every thirst. How blessed to be able to pick up this handbook of life and know the Holy Spirit is ready and willing to be of comfort and help to those who trust Him.

The Word of God is the source for knowing the things that have been freely given to us. Its Author is our Teacher so that we might know the things that have been given to us by God. We cannot grow in the Christian life if we reject this book as the sole authority in areas of faith and practice.

*What a privilege to have this great book in our hands and hearts!*

One of the reasons we are unaware of what the Father has given us is that we are not reading the "operator's manual" for employing the abundant life He has given. We are ignorant of the inventory our Father has bestowed so generously in each of His children. Even when the Word itself points out to us that we have been blessed with this gift, we tend to disregard it. The Lord Jesus said to the Father in John 17:14, "I have given them [His disciples] Your word . . ." The Bible is the premiere documentation that all these blessings are actually ours as well.

Our walk of faith begins by accepting the promises and principles of the Word of God. The truth of the Word helps us take our first steps when we learn its doctrines. It will reprove our faltering steps, correct our false steps, and strengthen our forward steps by its instruction in righteousness. It is profitable!

The Scriptures are entirely complete. They also fully reveal their truth to anyone who applies his or her heart to their wisdom. Most of us do not need a greater revelation, but a willingness to obey what we already know. God is waiting for us to offer submissive hearts to the guidance He has so fully presented in the living pages of His Word. He longs to see us complete and thoroughly equipped for every good work He has given us.



*Father, thank you for this great book You have given me. I confess I am not as addicted to it as I should be. Thank you for giving me Your Teacher, the Holy Spirit. I submit to His instruction today.*



## *The Blessing of Citizenship*

*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.*

Ephesians 2:19

**T**raveling today is not as easy as it used to be. There are many surprises! We faced some in spite of the words we received as we left a travel office for one recent trip: “No problem!” said the agent. But when we tried to enter our destination country, new forms and requirements, additional pictures, and other procedures were demanded. This resulted in delays and a practical test of our patience.

The believer has received a “heavenly passport,” fully authorized and stamped in the precious blood of God’s dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The gift of God, eternal life, is a living “visa,” secured by Christ’s resurrection and delivered to us at the point of conversion. There are no special forms to complete, no added requirements, no changing regulations, and no delays or waiting for approval.

Maybe we’ll go on a “group tour,” when “the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven” as our “Tour Guide” to usher us all together into the presence of His Father, “and thus we shall always be with the Lord.” Or maybe we’ll leave by individual invitation, laying our head down for the last time and finding ourselves absent from the body and present with the Lord. Whatever our “travel arrangements,” they are all made. We need no paperwork. No payment. No pleading. All we have to do is enter!

What a blessing to have citizenship arranged by the Lord, appointed by the Scriptures, and available whenever He calls us home. Home! Not a foreign country, but the home He has been preparing for us. No uncertainties—no need to wonder if someone is going to be there to pick us up. No need to exchange money—we sent that on ahead long ago! No need to ask directions to our new dwelling. No need to be concerned about the culture, currency, or cuisine. No need to ask what kind of clothes to wear, for His righteousness is adequate and fits all His children.

Some of the sweetest words a weary returning traveler hears from the immigration officer are, “Welcome home!” Our Father will welcome us home as citizens of heaven. How much He wants us there. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!



*Father, I confess I do not long to go home as I should because I love this world too much. Help me set my affections on things above and turn away from the things of this earth. Thank you for my passport and visa that guarantee my entrance into the eternal home You have prepared for me.*



## Discovering God's Treasure

... in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Colossians 2:3

When we were children, one of the fun things we would do was have a treasure hunt. Someone would hide a treasure at the end of a long list of clues. After being divided up into teams, we would be given the first clue. Each team would then decide where the clue led. When we found another clue, we followed that until we found the "treasure" which—more often than not—wasn't of much real value.

In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. To seek such true treasure is no game; this is a serious "treasure hunt." Like gold that is hidden in the earth and must be found and mined, so these two blessings of the Christian life are hidden in Christ. And just as mining gold is worth it, so mining the "wisdom and knowledge" hidden in Christ is worth it.

*Mining the "wisdom  
and knowledge"  
hidden in Christ  
is worth it.*

A huge expense is often invested to find the minerals that are hidden deep in the heart of the earth, but there is no need to look elsewhere in search of wisdom and knowledge—it is all in Christ. There's no problem finding it; the problem is believing that the treasures of wisdom and knowledge

are found *only* in Christ. When we believe this, we are able to appreciate and appropriate the riches that are resident in Him.

When seeking real wisdom, we are easily confused. Is it to be found searching the libraries and literature of the world? Paul adds to his profound, inclusive directions for the miner by saying in 1 Corinthians 1:30 that Christ "became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption." *All* the treasures are resident in Him. Although we may be tempted to mix the "treasures" of this world and those of Christ, we must remember that the resulting alloy reduces the value of such treasure to ashes.

The tools of discovery include reading about the One who *is* true wisdom and *displays* true wisdom, memorizing the details of gems found in Him, meditating on the nuggets of wisdom explained by Him, practicing the art of thanksgiving for the principles of wisdom He has exposed to us, and surrendering our minds to the development and display of the glories of His wisdom and knowledge.



*Father, I acknowledge I have not sought Your wisdom as I should. I have been satisfied leaning on my own understanding. I open my mind to Your truth and the understanding of Your mind so the mind of Christ will be revealed through me.*

## *Filled to Overflowing*

*For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead  
bodily; and you are complete in Him.*

Colossians 2:9-10

**A**s children, filling a glass as full as possible with some special juice was a challenge. A further challenge was to get that very full glass to our lips without spilling a drop. The goal was to fill the glass so full that just one more drop would make it spill. Selfishness prompted us to not only want as much as possible, but to always want more than the others!

Because each believer has the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, each believer can enjoy all the fullness of Christ. One of the most powerful reminders of God's provision for our Christian experience is that, since we have Christ, "we are complete" or "filled full" with all the resources that are found in Him. It is hard for us to believe that this reservoir of blessing is always full. Because we doubt this truth, we pray for more, wonder why we do not have enough, and compare ourselves to others who seem to be "fuller." But God has given us all the fullness of Himself in His Son, and His reservoir never drains dry.

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*God has  
given us all  
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The swimming pool at a mission school in Zambia is filled with water from the Zambezi River. A gate is opened and the flow of the mighty Zambezi fills the pool. When it is full, it overflows back into the river. The fullness of the river is always adequate for the pool.

When we receive Christ, the door is opened and the flood of His fullness overwhelms our emptiness. It is not repeated prayer that opens the door. Receiving Christ as Savior opens the door! It is not more of Christ that we need, but stronger faith to believe He has already given us all He is and has. Believing that all the fullness of God is imparted to us at salvation is to accept His flood and then to wash, drink, walk, and swim in Christ's adequacy. It is our choice whether or not we allow that flowing river to fill us so we "swim" in all His fullness.

A river cannot give its fullness without giving itself. There may be some areas of our lives where we find huge displays of self. To remove these is to allow the fullness of God to fill what was previously filled with self. His fullness is ours to appropriate. He has opened the floodgates to all that Christ is and to all He has to give.



*Father, I confess I do not realize or partake of Your fullness as I should. I now empty my life of self and choose Christ to overwhelm that emptiness created by my confession. Thank you for filling me with all the fullness of Christ.*

## Reflections

*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

2 Corinthians 3:18

There is nothing we have to do to make a mirror work! No switch. No button to push. No warm up necessary—simply step in front of it and it reflects. Sometimes we forget this as we stand in front of the mirror of God's Word praying, "Teach me! Speak to me!" When we trusted Christ as our Savior, the great Physician removed our spiritual blindness and brought us into the glorious light of His presence. God's mirror is ready to serve us if we will simply stand in front of it with open eyes.

Physically speaking, we do not always like what we see in the bathroom mirror. Pimples and other imperfections. Another gray hair. A few deeper lines and wrinkles. Because we loathe the direction in which the body is going and do not enjoy this process, we try to cover up with paint and powder. The mirror of the Word gives a picture of reality, too. As a mirror, it serves two purposes: it shows me what I am, and it shows me what Christ, who is the glory of God, is like. All the beauties and glories of the perfect Man are fully displayed in God's Word for our open eyes.

*Day by day  
I see more  
that the Holy  
Spirit wants  
to change!*

Pinned to the wall by the door of our Army commander's office was a life-sized picture of a perfectly dressed soldier. Next to it hung a full length mirror. The mirror showed me what I looked like; the picture showed me what I *should* look like. I was expected to change whatever I saw in the mirror to conform to the picture: straighten my tie, level my awards, align my creases, polish my shoes, line up my belt buckle, tilt my cap. Only then should I go in to see my commander.

As believers, we look into the mirror of the Word and see the Savior. The Holy Spirit who lives in us points out the differences between my Lord and me, then urges and gives the strength to change so that I become more like the Master. Day by day I look, and day by day I see more that the Holy Spirit wants to change. Day by day I grow into the likeness of Christ, transformed from the inside by the Spirit applying the Word of God to me.



*Father, thank you for revealing the beauty of the Lord to me in Your Word. I confess I do not look like Him as I should. I surrender to Your Holy Spirit to change in me what He wants to change today.*