



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – March 25, 2023

The Lord be with You.

It's two o'clock at night. You can't sleep, you toss and turn the night seems so dark and you're calling out to Jesus. Where do you imagine Jesus to be at two o'clock on a dark night? Are you wait nervously in the doctor's office, wringing your hands fearful about what the test results are going to show? And you're calling out to Jesus. Where do you imagine Jesus to be? When you think of Jesus, do you think of Jesus primarily as high up there in the heavens far away from you and your troubles and fears? Well, you ask most any child in Sunday school and they're gonna get it right. You ask them where Jesus lives. And they will tell you. They will tell you that Jesus lives in our hearts. I was at a birthday party for a little girl who just turned four, and as she's getting ready to take her first big bite of birthday cake, she says excitedly says, as this cake goes down to my tummy I want Jesus to take a bite. Well, I like her theology because she is right in knowing where Jesus lives, as Jesus makes his home within every believer.

But I frequently talk with Christians who think of God is just high up in the heavens far away. Some even think it's New Age to talk about it, God within us. But one of the important distinctions between the old New Testaments is the distinction between God external to us and God within us. In the Old Testament, for example, God lives outside people. God's temple was located in Jerusalem, and that external Temple was the home of God's presence. That temple was where God dwelt on earth. But in the New Testament, it's all different. As in the New Testament, there is no external temple where God dwells because God's own is in the believer. The apostle Paul tells us about this in 1 Corinthians chapter 6:19. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you? Now, I've not always taken seriously that God lives in me... But listen to what Paul says in Galatians Chapter 2:20. It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.

So for the next few moments, I'm gonna share a passage of scripture where Jesus is talking to his disciples on the night before he dies on the cross. And Jesus is telling them that he is leaving them, but he's telling them that in leaving them that He will be with them, and that he will be to them all that he has ever been to them, He will be their provider, their teacher, their helper their counselor, their guide. I read John Chapter 14, Verses 18 to 20. "I will not leave you orphaned, I'm coming to you. In a little while, the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day, you will know that I am in my Father, and you



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and me, and I in you." Here Jesus is encouraging his disciples that it is leaving. He will be with them and He will care for them. I will not leave you as orphans, Jesus says, You're not going to be on your own. I am coming to you. Note Jesus does not say, I will come to you. He says, I am coming to you. That is the speed in which Jesus is coming to them. I am coming to you in the very act of going away from them. I am coming to you.

Then Jesus says, On that day, you will know. On that day, you will recognize that I am in my Father and you in Me, and I in you. Well. What is that day? On which they will know, they will recognize that Jesus is in the Father, and the believer is in Jesus, and Jesus is in the believer. Well, that is at his death and resurrection, they will know, they will recognize, they will understand Jesus oneness with the Father and Jesus oneness with every Christian, you and me and I in you. This isn't new age, this is Gospel that the God who created the universe has chosen to make His home in us. So at two O'clock at night, when everything can be so dark and God is not in some temple in Jerusalem, that God is right there inside of you, inside of me. As San Augustin said, closer to us than we are to our own selves.

So we pray to God who lives right there inside of us, at home within us, we're not trying to get prayers up through the ceiling to Heaven, we're talking to God who is within us, that's where we enjoy God within us, that's where we live life from within us. My four-year-old friend had it, right, she had great theology and taking that bite of birthday cake, she knew that God lives within the believer, and on that day of His resurrection, you will know... You will know that I am in my Father, and you in Me, and I in you. So the next time you're tossing and turning at two at night, or you're afraid about problems that you face, just remember... Just remember that you are in Jesus and Jesus is in you.

Here's a prayer of Saint Patrick. I rise today to the strength of Christ and birth in His baptism, to the strength of his crucifixion and his burial, to the strength of His resurrection and ascension. Christ with me. Christ before me, Christ behind me. Christ in me, Christ beneath me. Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left. Christ, when I lay down Christ, when I sit down, I arise today in the strength of Christ.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thanks for listening until next time.