

Year A #106
Master of Circumstances
030602-1

Hello! This is Dorothy -

I was just thinking on the thought about our Lord Jesus Christ being exalted far above all things in heaven and earth. Do you realize that as a believer, I have been co-crucified with Christ; I have been co-buried with Christ - death to self; I have been co-risen with Christ? What is so extraordinary is, I have co-ascended with Christ and in Christ, according to **Ephesians 1**, I am in the heavenlies! I am living in the heavenlies in Christ. It is possible for the believer to be the master of the circumstances in which she finds herself, and superior to all the environment and all the happenings around. You see, in Christ, this resurrected life through me is living a different life from all the lives that might be surrounding me who don't know Christ.

That is why it is so important to understand we are part of the Body of Jesus Christ and He is the Head. Body relates to body parts. My hand is happy to scratch my head, if it needs to. In other words, this is not an unusual happening, but it gives me a new insight to understanding the same work of the same Holy Spirit, glorifying Jesus in the believer next to me. Now the believer next to me is also going through the process of being made ready forever and ever and ever with the Lord. That means that often stone rubs against stone, like in the old temple

days when they prepared the stone outside of the city, so there would be no noise where they assembled the temple.

You see, it is stone rubbing against stone that works out what God wants to do in my life to take away the chips. Perhaps I don't realize I have a certain problem, but the very person He puts working with me brings that out. Perhaps I did not realize I was like this, but God just so causes I have a sister or God so causes that He puts me with this husband, and He is working inside of me a new work. It is so important to understand God is doing that work. I cannot change and think that I will just get away from her or that I will just go down the road and quit this marriage, because I cannot stand the man any more! No. God is bringing to pass what He wants to do in you through those circumstances. God has promised that He will not allow us to go through any temptation above what we are able to bear. **(1 Corinthians 10:13)**. In other words, that little verse, . . . **Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. (Matthew 6:34)** means He allows so much in twenty-four hours. He allows, at this moment, as He is working in and through you, that which is going to bring you to that place of body member to body member under the headship of Jesus Christ. You begin to love in a new way and you understand the overflow of His life.

What happens out of this? Well, it is an amazing thing to me. It is because God the indwelling Holy Spirit, who lives within us when we

come to know Jesus Christ, is fulfilling a task and that is to do a totally new work through us. That work is to allow our lives to be so dealt with that we are not filled with self, but that we are filled with His Holy Spirit. Now when we are filled with His Holy Spirit, according to **Romans 5:5**, it means I am choosing to love, because the Holy Spirit sheds the love of God abroad in my heart. I want the love of God to be shed abroad in my heart, but I don't choose who I am going to love. I find that the people I didn't think I was going to love, it is His Holy Spirit who will do that work.

There is an amazing verse in **Psalms 46:4**, which speaks of the Holy Spirit as a river. It says -**There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.** In other words, it is the ongoing work - like a river of love - through my life. Now when that is working for me, that means that in regard to the person who is the irritant, I am suddenly finding I am going overtime in praying! I am not praying that they will be nice and not give me any more trouble; I am identifying with the process of what they are going through as a member of God's family. God works within them and brings them. It is not because I think I have the answer as to what has to happen to them, but by the love of God. The greatest weapon of my praying is being sent to those people by the Lord, because His love is treating that individual just like His love is treating you in your problem. Do not think you are separate from

them and that you get special attention. No, God uses His same work of love, this overwhelming weapon, as it were, to chip away and do a work in us. He is doing the same in that life that you are having trouble with. So start praying. Ask to be filled with His Spirit and that His Spirit will have you praying and loving that person. Just love them. Keep lifting them up. Suddenly, you will find that you view them totally differently. Suddenly, you realize that could be you in those very circumstances! That is the Body of Jesus. That is the Body which is brought together for the glory of the Lord. Jesus is the Head and He is doing a new work through His body. Let's trust God for that happening in our own lives.

In Jesus' lovely Name. Amen.