

The Missing Experience in the Believer's Life

John Hunter

I. Introduction.

A. Many Christians find something missing in their lives.

II. If a person is a Christian, he or she is already complete in Jesus Christ. (Colossians 2)

A. The Spirit indwells a Christian the moment he or she is saved.

B. Christians who are looking for a missing experience already have completion.

C. If a Christian thinks that he or she has found something super-extra that takes him or her away from the centrality of Christ, that person is on a tangent and in danger of greater uncertainty.

D. We limit God.

III. The early Christians had a quality of life that many Christians do not have today. (Romans 5)

A. The first Christians had no things nor any status, but they grew and they prospered.

B. They had peace. Everything depends on the size of one's Jesus.

C. They were joyful in the worst of circumstances. They were able to glory in tribulation all because of the living Christ.

IV. In order to have a joyful and peaceful experience as Christians we must... (Romans 5:8-10)6)

A. Know that our sins are forgiven and our home is in heaven because of Jesus' death.

B. Know that Christ lives for us now that we might be saved.

C. We are reconciled by the death of Christ so that we can be saved by his life. His divine nature now lives in us through the indwelling of Christ. (Romans 8:9, Colossians 2:6)

1. We are not saved by good works—we are saved for good works.

2. We do not bear our own sins—Jesus means to bear them for us by his indwelling Holy Spirit.

3. God did not save us to be failures—he saved us to succeed through the power of the Spirit.

Application questions:

1. Why is it dangerous to look for a missing experience in the Christian life?

2. Which characteristic of the early Christians' lives do you find most desirable in your own? Explain.

3. How can we find the joy and peace that the early Christians had?
