

As Christians, we revel in the knowledge that we will one day be with Christ in heaven. Sometimes I think we come across to others as smug in this assessment. But the truth of being a Christian is that we already are living with the spirit of Christ inside us. Our weak, frail, and too many times carnal bodies, are being made over into the likeness of Christ, through the power of his Holy Spirit.

It's a mystery, and hard to understand, how we could be one with Christ while on this earth. How amazing that God does not wait for us to be swept up into the heavenly realms before we experience the power of his transforming spirit.

Every Christian is sealed with his spirit, as a deposit which guarantees that we are his children. And, upon receiving his spirit in the waters of holy baptism (Romans 6), we start to understand the ramifications of this glorious spirit which resides inside of us. We start to understand God himself, because his spirit is continually revealing to us the mind of Christ.

The Spirit gives us the ability to comprehend the words of God. It gives us the desire to communicate with God, and indeed, the desire to please him. There is an expectation on God's part, that we will become like him. Just like a little boy striving to be all grown up like his daddy, we too, strive to become like God in character, and in our daily interactions with others.

John wrote, "Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure." (1 Jn 3:2,3) It is now natural do think and do differently than we did before we became a Christian: to walk like Christ. John even went so far as to say that "If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But, if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." (1 Jn 1: 6-7)

So, how do we do it? How do we take on the character of Christ? According to the Bible we have *an obligation* to change in character after we become Christians. Every day we chose life or death. Romans says, "For if you live according to the sinful nature *you will die*, but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, *you will live*, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God." (Romans 8:13-14) We allow ourselves to be "led by the Spirit". To walk in the ways of Christ. To think, act, and react the way Jesus would. It's a tall order. And one that keeps us humble. But it is what shows the world that we belong to him.