

*"I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God..."*

**Galatians 2:20**

*"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."*

**Galatians 5:6b**

*"So I say live by the spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature."*

**Galatians 5:16**

*"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the spirit, let us keep in step with the spirit!"*

**Galatians 5:24-25**

Do I rise each morning and tell myself that today I will live by and keep in step with the spirit? Not consciously. I rise each morning and face the day with prayer, eagerness, anticipation and optimism, most of the time! I am fully aware that I never know what the day has in store.

Experience has taught me that each day is a mixed bag. The verses above are my foundation, and my foundation has faced its share of storms, as well as balmy calm days. When I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior, I was crucified with Christ, which means I have the Holy Spirit living in me who enables me to die to my sinful nature. As I face each day with all its decisions and interactions with different personalities, I find I need to depend on Christ living in me. I need Jesus to fill me with His spirit and help me make decisions that will not want my way more than His way. This is the battle that goes on every day and in every decision and circumstance I encounter.

Hebrews 11:1 tells me that faith is being sure of what I hope for...and certain of what I do not see. So as I rely on my faith in an Almighty powerful God whom I am certain of, but do not see, I can testify to the power of a resurrected Lord who permeates my being with His love and spirit. So as I live and walk in the spirit, my faith in Jesus Christ and in the power of His resurrection over my sinful nature helps me face every circumstance even unto death with an eternal perspective. When I live by the spirit and keep in step with the spirit, I can truly walk through the troubled waters on higher ground. If the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love, as Galatians 5:6 says, I must live by faith in the Son of God and realize I no longer live but Christ lives in me.

Praise God, He's set me free!

*Father God, I rejoice in Your great love for me and the sacrifice of Your son Jesus Christ. Lord I confess I need You every hour and ask that You take my empty vessel and fill it with Your spirit so that I may demonstrate Your great love to those around me. Instill in me faith to know what I hope for and to be certain of what I do not see. May others know without a doubt that what they see, through my faith and love, is Jesus. Amen.*

**Cynthia Hannan** (Submitted in 2007)

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