

A Daily Prayer for Gospel-Centered Living

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name.”
Psalm 103:1

Lord, here’s my BODY...I present it to You as “a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to You” in Christ, “which is my spiritual service of worship.” Fill me with Your indwelling presence and power so that the life and love of Jesus may be manifest in and through me today, to the honor, praise, and glory of Christ.

Lord, here’s my VOICE...You told me not to worry about what I am to say, but that it would be given me what to say and how to say it. Speak through me words that will encourage and bless others. Help me to always speak the truth in love. Free me to speak with silence or with words, whichever is needed. Give me Your timing and tenderness. “May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, You are my Strength and my Redeemer.”

Lord, here’s my MIND...Take every thought, attitude and intention of my heart captive to the obedience of Christ. Thank You that You have given me the mind of Christ for the living of this day. Thank You that You “have not given me a spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind.”

Lord, here’s my WILL...I surrender it completely to You. If there is something I am to do by Your indwelling presence and power today, however small or difficult, control my will to do it. “Not my will, but Yours be done.”

Thank You, Lord, that “Your grace is sufficient for me, and that Your power is made perfect in my weakness...For I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me...I am confident that the good work You have begun in me, You will carry on to completion until Christ comes again.” “Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.” I am ready now to live this day in the reality of Christ in me, who is the hope of glory! “For I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me, and the life which I now live in this body, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” In His strong and saving name I pray, Amen.

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.”
Ephesians 3:20-21

To Enable Us to Live By Faith in Him

(From Pastor John Piper's "Fifty Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die")

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
Galatians 2:20

There is an explicit paradox in this verse, "I have been crucified," but "I now live." But you might say, "That's not paradoxical, it's just sequential. First I died with Christ; then I was raised with Him and now live." True. But what about these even more paradoxical words: "It is no longer I who live," yet "I now live"? Do I live or don't I?

Paradoxes are not contradictions. They just sound that way. What Paul means is that there was an "I" who died, and there is a different "I" who now lives. That's what it means to become a Christian. An old self dies. A new self is "created" or "raised." "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new *creation*" (2 Corinthians 5:17). "When we were dead in our trespasses, [God] made us alive together with Christ...and *raised* us up with Him" (Ephesians 2:5-6).

The aim of the death of Christ was to take our "old self" with Him into the grave and put an end to it. "We know that our *old self* was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing" (Romans 6:6). If we trust Christ, we are united to Him, and God counts our old self as dying with Christ. The purpose was the raising of a new self.

So who is the new self? Am I still me? The verse at the beginning of this chapter describes the new self in two ways: One way is almost unimaginable; the other is plain. First, it says that the new self is Christ living in me: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." This means that the new self is defined by Christ's indwelling presence and help at all times. He is always imparting life to me. He is always strengthening me for what He calls me to do. That's why the Bible says, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). "I toil...with all His energy that He powerfully works within me" (Colossians 1:29). So when all is said and done, the new self says, "I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me" (Romans 15:18).

That's the first way Galatians 2:20 speaks of the new self: a Christ-inhabited, Christ-sustained, Christ-strengthened me. That's what Christ died to bring about. That's what a Christian is. The other way it speaks of the new self is this: It lives by trusting Christ moment by moment. "The life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Without this second description of the new self, we might wonder what our part is in experiencing Christ's daily help. Now we have the answer: Faith. From the divine side, Christ is living in us and enabling us to live the way He teaches us to live. It's His work. But from our side, it's experienced by trusting Him moment by moment to be with us and to help us. The proof that He will be with us and will help us do this is the fact that He suffered and died to make it happen.