A man asks God to forgive him of his sins. He asks many times for “God to come into his heart”. He prays the sinner’s prayer. He attends church meetings. But he seems to be the same kind of man. There is no change in his life.

- there is no contrition of heart

- there is no brokenness

- there is no fruit of the Spirit

- there is no true hunger for scripture, for holiness, for worship, affection for the saints, or a longing to be with God’s people.

-God seems distant

How can a person believe God exists, believe that Jesus died for his sins – yet still remain unchanged?

How can a true born again believer live at times as though they were an unbeliever?

**Many people are God fearing or devout. But they have not made the exchange of life.**

**Many Christians have made the exchange of life, but do not walk in it.**

“And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the **God-fearing Greeks** and a number of the leading women.” Acts 17:4

“Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and **with the devout persons**, and in the market daily with them that met with him.” Acts 17:16,17

-Just being devout or God-fearing only is not being a Christian. Paul preached the gospel to these devout and God fearing people because they needed it. (although being God fearing is a prerequisite to true Christianity).

- Sometimes a person who is only God fearing or devout looks very similar to a Christian, but something is still missing.

Even as Christians who have been born again and who have made the “exchange of life” previously, we often relate to God as having our own life that is a separate life from God Himself. He has His life, and we have ours:

-We ask God to do things for us or bless **our lives** (from a place of separation).

-We want God to add to **our life**, even spiritual things.

-We maintain a separation between our life and His life – wanting Him to change **our life**.

-We can want to know the Lord and want to belong to Him, yet still have not ever made the exchange of life.

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.” Gal 5:16,17

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” Gal. 5:25

*How do we live or walk in the Spirit? What is the “exchanged life”?*

*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. - Gal 2:20*

*For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. - Col 3:3*

-God could not change our sin nature. He had to kill us.

- Man’s way is to suppress sin to overcome it. God’s way is to remove the sinner.

- Self control only strengthens the sin nature. Death removes it.

**If we can see and understand that our present condition is that Christ is living in us, and we ourselves are dead, our work will shift. Our work will shift from trying to do or accomplish something. It will shift from trying to “be or feel” something. It will shift from all self effort (whether inward or outward) into “a knowing” and believing the reality.**

**It is no longer I that live, but Christ who lives in me. I am dead and my life is hidden in Him.**

**As I “know” this reality and walk in it, I will continually acknowledge another living inside of me. I will present or yield my body, thoughts, emotions to Him who is living in me for Him to use as He pleases. I am only a vessel for Christ to live in and through.**

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. Romans 8:10

**Humility**

**Dependence**

**What do you think about asking the Lord to give you more peace, joy, love, patience, etc?**

**What do you think about having a focus on doing good or doing what is right?**