

Sophisticated Spiritual Life: Spiritual Maturity & Invincibility, Phil 1:20, Indwelling of Holy Spirit & Christ, 1 Cor 6:19; 2 Cor 3:18; 5:8, Ps 23:4; John 14:23

26. This is the rarified atmosphere of the adult spiritual life where the believer enjoys *cognitive invincibility*: the capacity to withstand almost every effort by the world, the flesh, and the devil to overcome his FLOT Line, subdue his volition, and conquer the command post of his soul.
27. Relying on complete clarity of thought, the mature believer is a person of probity who remains loyal to his doctrinal inventory and, through application of its principles, he becomes a person of honor.
28. It is such an individual that is qualified to become a witness for the Prosecution in the appeal trial of Satan. Evidence testing calls before the court only that believer who can remain focused by occupation with Christ, and by recall and application of a maximum doctrinal inventory.
29. His cross-examination is usually administered by Lucifer himself and his testimony may require him to be tested with relation to the plan of God, as was the case with our Lord in Matthew 4:1-10, or with relation to the circumstances of life, as was the case with Job.
30. The personal honor of the believer who attains spiritual maturity, and especially the one who passes evidence testing, is described by Paul as “Christ being magnified in his body”:

Philippians 1:20b - ... I will not be disgraced in anything but with integrity of soul from the cognitive invincibility of spiritual maturity, even now as always, Christ shall be magnified in my body [μεγαλύνω, megalunō: to magnify: to cause to be held in greater esteem or respect; to increase in significance], whether by life [spiritual maturity including evidence testing] or by death [dying grace].

31. It is by means of the filling of the Holy Spirit and His mentorship that we learn about the indwelling of Christ and from which we achieve momentum in the spiritual life.
32. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit creates of our bodies a temple for the residence of Jesus Christ as the Shekinah Glory:

1 Corinthians 6:19 - Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God?

33. In your body is where both the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the indwelling of Jesus Christ as the Shekinah Glory occur:

2 Corinthians 3:18 - But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror [the Bible reflects who we really are] the glory of the Lord [indwelling of Christ recognized through spiritual growth], and we are totally changed into that same image from glory [the indwelling Shekinah Glory revealed through doctrine] to glory [probity from loyalty to one's integrity of soul producing honor that reflects the indwelling Christ], just as from the Holy Spirit.

34. This is the way that the invisible indwelling of Christ is made manifest to the world. No one is able to see the indwelling of Christ in a believer's body. But the believer can see Christ when he dies.
35. At physical death the believer's soul and spirit exit the physical body and he is immediately “absent from the body and at home with the Lord.”

2 Corinthians 5:8 - We are of good courage [aoristic present active indicative of the verb θαρρέω, *tharreō*: an event now occurring and continuing] I prefer to be absent from the body [ἐκδημέω, *ekdēmeō*: the separation of the soul and the spirit from the home of the body at physical death] and to be at home [ἐνδημέω, *endēmeō*] with the Lord [πρὸς τὸν κύριον, *pros ton kurion*].

36. The phrase “at home” is the verb ἐνδημέω, *endēmeō*: “to be at home in one’s own land among one’s own people.” This is followed by the prepositional phrase πρὸς τὸν κύριον, *pros ton kurion*, translated, “with the Lord.”
37. The root meaning of *pros* is “near” or “facing.” The best translation is “face to face with the Lord.” Jesus Christ leaves the believer’s body and escorts him to heaven, a principle recognized by David when he wrote:

Psalm 23:4 - When I walk through my own death-shadowed [מְלֶצֶת *salmaweth*: the approaching darkness of physical death] valley [the period of dying] I do not fear the distress of dying [רָעָה *ra’ah*: “evil”: the physical & mental pain or suffering involved with the dying process (*Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*, 3:1251; *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, 2192)] because You are with me [dying grace: the believer is accompanied in his death by the Lord]. The guidance of your doctrinal rod and staff keep me grace oriented.

38. From John 14:23 we are able to draw together two major concepts, one indicating our responsibility toward Christ and His Word, and the other revealing the actions of God and Christ toward the reciprocal love of the believer.
39. We need to take another look at the verse’s emphasis on our responsibility toward Christ and His Word. The verse in expanded translation reads like this:

John 14:23 - If anyone develops reciprocal love for Me, he will learn, protect, and execute My word; and My Father will love him in response to his loyalty, and We, both the Father and I, will establish fellowship with him, furthermore, we, both the Father and I, will take up residence in him by means of indwelling.