

# **THE GIFT OF JESUS CHRIST: WE NO LONGER ARE ALONE!**

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God gave us when we were baptized, the breathtaking, extraordinary gift of faith to accept that Christ is God, that His Word is true, and that you and I are able to dedicate ourselves to Him and live out our lives on His Word. This is God's gift to us.

Each one of you (us) has your own individual history behind you and your own unique destiny awaiting you, which you cannot share with any human being. One day, you will die - alone, You were born - alone. And in the last analysis, however close you may be to your family and to your friends, you are essentially alone. To be a creature means to be in time and to be of time. The moment the umbilical cord was cut, you and I were flung into the river of time and that river is floating onward relentlessly, moment-by-moment, and there is nothing you and I can do about it. We can't organize a protest, swim against the tide, or raise our puny fists in defiance.

We are restless creatures...To be a creature means to be afraid. We are afraid of the dark; we are afraid of the unknown; we are afraid of sickness; we are afraid of old age; we are afraid of death and we are scared of the thought that comes after death. [A friend of mine says this prayer over and over - Jesus I surrender to you. Take care of things!]

It is not easy to be a creature and to inhabit my own world, alone. Now, the mystery of Christ Who is God is that He has come into this world that is you and I. He has come to live there, to share our loneliness, our challenge, and our fears, to give us strength to meet the challenge of every hour.

He's in you at this moment, to share your loneliness, your sorrow, your sense of failure, your inability to cope. Whatever it is you are not alone. You are someone loved by God passionately; loved so much that he is there in the depths of your being, I need not fret, nor fear, nor plan. He wants me where I am. And if I be relaxed and free, He'll carry out His plan through me. WHERE GOD IS, HEAVEN IS.

The supernatural virtue of Hope that was given to you and me at our Baptism with Faith and Love, has to do with God, and the things of God, and the eternal life that is destined for us. We are on a journey. We are pilgrims, we strangers.

We cannot go to Heaven because Heaven has come to us. Where God is, Heaven is. And where God comes to you and me in Holy Communion.

Eternal life was planted in us the day you and I were baptized. And when we die, we shall simply open our eyes to the reality that we have become.

Do you ever think about Heaven? That is your home. Jesus told us... "I have gone to prepare a place for you so that where I am, you also may be." And remember, from all eternity, not just in time, God loved you and created a place for you with Him in Heaven.

*And a thousand times today your guardian angel has passed by that place and seen your name there, and prayed God that nothing would so distract you or so absorb you or so turn your head down here as to make you forget the end for which you were created.*

In your own way and in my own way, we have to detach ourselves and disentangle ourselves and disengage ourselves from people who mean so much to us, from the things that God has given us for which we are so grateful, and fix our gaze on Him, on Him alone with Whom we going to spend eternity. Our problem, God help us, poor creatures that we are, is that like St. Augustine, we fall in love with the gifts of God.

Final thought.....Do you realize, whoever you are, however weak or wayward or wicked, that the God with Whom you are going to spend eternity has come down and is living in you, in the depths of your being, nearer to you than you are to yourself? This is breathtaking!