

☞ WWJD Series

Christlikeness... It's our goal. Listen to these descriptions of what it means to be Christlike... selfless, humble, kind, compassionate, forgiving, obedient and loving servants who trust God and live for righteousness. And, last week we talked about the capability of Christlikeness that includes healings and miracles. And, we have a testimony...

☞ **(Hope's video)**

☞ The Completeness of Christlikeness

Ephesians 4:11-13

*"To be like Jesus; to be like Jesus; all I ask, to be like him.
All through life's journey; from earth to glory; all I ask, to be like him."*

Romans 8:29

...be conformed to the likeness of his Son...

1 John 2:6

Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

This Completeness of Christlikeness is what we call the Fullness of Christ. It's built right into our vision and mission.

☞ It's our **F.O.C.U.S. – Fullness of Christ; Unity; Spiritual Maturity.**

Excerpt from "Building the Church," which is part of our My Church class... "This is to be filled with the presence, power, agency, and riches of God and of Christ. Here is the ultimate goal for all believers: that we may be completely filled with and overflowing with God himself."

The John the Baptist really said it best in John 3:30: *"He must become greater; I must become less."*

To be full of Christ and have him living fully in you requires that you get out of the way. This is the Scriptural concept of "dying to self." (God is consuming...)

Romans 6:11 says, *"count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus."*

The Apostle Paul said, *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."* (Galatians 2:20).

☞ Jesus also taught this principle in **Luke 9:23-24**:

*“Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must **deny himself** and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.”*

In order to fully follow Christ, you must **die to yourself**. Those selfish desires must be outright crucified. Then Christ can fully live in you. Then you can reach the “whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

If we could say with Paul that *“I no longer live, but Christ lives in me,”* what would that look like? Let’s take a look at the characteristics of Christ to find out:

- ☞ The **mind** and **attitude** of Christ is one of **humility and service**.

Philippians 2:5 says, *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...* (NKJV) then goes on to describe his humility and willingness to be a servant. His fullness in us will include humility and servanthood.

Romans 8:6

the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace

☞ Contrast this with the worldly mind which is **hostile** to God. (Romans 8:6-7)

- ☞ The **will of Christ is to always please the Father**.

John 5:19

the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing

John 5:30

By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

His will is to be obedient and only do what is pleasing to God. This should be our desire ☞ as well. The worldly will is full of **sinful cravings**. (1 John 2:16)

- ☞ His **heart is compassionate and merciful**.

James 5:11

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

There are a number of other scriptures to indicate this heart of Christ.

As we die to ourselves and he fills us completely we also will be compassionate and merciful. Jeremiah 17:9 says a worldly heart is **deceitful** above all things.

☞ The **work** of Christ is found in Luke 4:18-19:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to **preach good news** to the poor. He has sent me to **proclaim freedom** for the prisoners and **recovery of sight** for the blind, to **release the oppressed**, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

As his body, this is also our work and as we are filled completely with him, this work will become more and more natural to us.

☞ Similar to his work, we find the **purpose** of Christ in 1 John 3:8 which says, *"The reason the Son of God appeared was to **destroy the devil's work**."*

As followers of Christ being filled with him, this is now our purpose as well. This is realized as the devil's work is reversed with souls being saved and people being transformed into the likeness of Christ. Worldly work and purpose are **self-serving**.

☞ In the book of Revelation we find Christ's **eyes** to be like a blazing fire. Rev. 1:14

Many commentaries say this is a descriptive way to say that he is all-knowing. Now, this is a quality that can only be attributed to God. However, his fullness in us could be described as one of **discernment and wisdom**. Also, his eyes are constantly watching the Father to see what He is doing...

John 5:19

the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing

☞ Worldly eyes are full of **lust**. (1 John 2:16)

☞ The **mouth of Christ is filled with the Word of God**.

John 12:49

I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it.

John 14:10

The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

Our mouths also should be speaking his Word and standing on his promises. A worldly mouth is full of **lies and accusations**. (Psalms 109:2)

☞ Christ's **hands** were hands of **healing and miracles**.

Matthew 8:3-4

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cured of his leprosy.

It seems that almost anything he touched was restored and made well. As his fullness consumes us we also will have healing, miracle-working hands. Contrast this with Isaiah ☞ 58:4 which says that worldly hands are used for hitting; they are **abusive** and deadly.

--Jack Hayford... To be like Jesus is generally presumed by most Christians to be a worthy quest of seeking refinement and growth in our personal attitudes, behavior, and ethics – that we would become more unselfish, more loving and more servant-like. These are indeed evidences of Christ-likeness... But I have been increasingly moved to urge leaders and believers alike to biblically and passionately develop a fully Spirit-formed life; one not only Christlike in character but also Christlike in ministry – in power... To pursue Jesus' power in my life as well as his purity is to seek the "other half" of Christ-likeness... Christ-likeness is a call to "Christ's fullness." To pursue less is to succumb to "a form of godliness" that denies responsibility for functioning in "the power thereof"... He's still calling his disciples to expect to "do the works that I do."

All but his hands? Having his mind, will, heart. Doing his work, purpose with his eyes and mouth. But not using his hands to heal?

Only his mouth? Saying what the Bible says, but without his heart, mind, will, etc.

Only his work? Doing Biblical stuff, but without his eyes, mouth, purpose, etc.

These are each less than his fullness! We want everything! God desires nothing but Christ in us!

What is the fullness of Christ?

- ☞ **His Passion; His Purity; His Power**

☞ **WWJD**