

Christ in you, the hope of Glory ~ Midweek Reflection # 37, May 5, 2009

Since the very beginning of these reflections my desire has been simply to share some of what I have been learning through my devotional reading with you. I recently went back to the book that I re-read last May on coming home from my surgery and found the content as meaningful as it was each time before. The book is Real Presence The Holy Spirit in the Works of C. S. Lewis by Leanne Payne

from Payne's Preface let me share these powerful words:

"The reality of God, present in and through His creation, is what I shall call incarnational reality. Lewis puts us in touch with incarnational reality. His effectiveness lies in the fact that he touched this reality. Like the Galilean woman, he walked through the throng and touched Jesus. Like her, he found himself in the midst of the Real Presence. Like her, he was made whole as the divine energy issued forth and revitalized him in the deepest recesses of his being. This energy, this reality, fills his writings; it is, after all, the Presence of God ~ that Presence we all are either running from or searching for.

Most of us hunger for this reality. We do not know who we are until we find our own truest selves in God. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to call us up out of the hell of our false selves and into the glorious Presence of our Lord. And it is as we touch Him that His life, His Holy Spirit enters our being and we are indwelt by the living God. 'The Christ that is formed in [the Christian],' Lewis wrote, 'transforms every part of him: in it his spirit, soul and body will all be reborn' (C.S. Lewis Miracles) he body is not to be understood as merely a container of the Holy Spirit, but as wed to the Spirit; it too is in the state of being 'drawn up into the Spirit.' Man is indwelt by God, in every atom and molecule. It is Lewis' experience and understanding of incarnational reality that informs his vision of man's relationship to God, in which God redeems man from his fragmented and alienated condition. It is the aim of this book to help show how far-reaching and urgently needed that vision is."

Leanne Payne, Real Presence The Holy Spirit in the Works of C.S. Lewis Cornerstone Books Westchester, Illinois, 1979 pages 10-11

"The mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints, to whom God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

(Colossians 1:26,27 NIV )

Like Lewis and the Galilean woman we too can touch this reality and know the Real Presence of our Incarnational God!

May your week be full of the knowledge of the indwelling Holy Spirit as you seek to touch the power of the Risen Christ!

Under God's Mercy.

Howie