



# CHRIST, GOD'S MYSTERY

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The apostle Paul described Christ as “God's mystery” (**Col. 2:2**). ***The good news we share is about "the mystery of Christ" (Col. 4:3), which was hidden for many generations but has now been revealed (Colossians 1:26).***

When Paul talks about "mystery," he's using a different meaning than we might think today. Back then, a mystery in biblical terms was a truth that couldn't be grasped just by human understanding. It was a deeper reality that God chose to show us, something kept secret until He decided to share it. And the mystery wasn't just for a select few—it was kept from both angels and humans until God revealed it at the right time. God's Divine Time.

The only way to truly know this "mystery" is through God sharing Himself with us, through us, as us...

Paul was given a significant insight into this mystery, making it known to everyone. Unlike the secretive mysteries of other traditions that require initiation, True Christianity openly shares its truth with the whole world as God's revelation is free and available to everyone, regardless of background. His blessings are no longer just for a specific group; instead, God offers them to all people through His grace.

There are no hidden agendas or selective secrets; the richest blessings of life—such as love, opportunity, personal growth, and salvation—are available to all individuals, regardless of their diverse backgrounds, cultural histories, or past experiences.

The foundation of this mystery is the church, which Paul describes as the body of Christ (Colossians 1:24). It might seem surprising when Paul says he can *"rejoice in my sufferings for your sake."* In other words, He found joy in Christ even in tough times (Philippians 4:4). In fact, he expresses gratitude for the chance to suffer *"on behalf of His body,"* showing a sense of purpose in his hardships. He felt that he was sharing in Christ's suffering, which might seem odd to many. Who wants to suffer, right?

In many ways, throughout our journey, we, too, share in this experience.

Are you not filled with joy when you are aware of Christ – living it, being it, demonstrating it?

Are you filled with gratitude to have the awareness of all things working together for the good, for healing, for help during your difficulties, hardships, or challenges?

When we identify with the Christ Spirit that is always within us, we know the Truth, and that Truth sets us free from the burdens we are experience in life.

I find that real-life mysteries are captivating, especially when they're well-crafted. In a way, authentic Christianity itself can feel like a mystery to people. That's largely because Christ is a mystery and having a close, personal relationship with "the Christ" can make us seem a bit mysterious too others who do not understand. Those who haven't yet encountered a personal experience of the "Christ nature within" often struggle to understand what being a true Christian and practicing Truth really means—it's something that becomes clearer through a personal experience that is developed, the raising up of the Christ Consciousness within oneself.

A.W. Tozer eloquently captured this concept in his book "Roots of Righteousness," stating that true Christians often appear unusual in many ways: "A true Christian is an oddity in many ways. They feel a tremendous love for someone they have never seen, engage in daily conversations with this unseen presence, and expect to reach heaven through the virtue of another. They willingly empty themselves to become full, acknowledge their wrongs to be declared right, descend in order to rise, find strength in their weakness, appear richest when they are poorest, and feel happiest even in their lowest moments. They embrace death to attain true life, relinquish worldly possessions to gain true wealth,

and give generously so they can genuinely keep. They see the invisible, hear the inaudible, and understand what transcends human knowledge."

As followers of Christ, we are called to be different and live the great mystery of the power of God, but we are not on this path alone. We are called to demonstrate the Christ—together with all His amazing gifts—living within us through His Spirit. God's desire is to transform us to be more like Christ in every way.

The Holy Spirit is at work in our lives, and while God's methods can often seem mysterious, we can trust that the Spirit is actively changing us for the better when we live by Faith, placing our trust in Him.

**Here is a story I would like to share with you to demonstrate the profound unfolding of the Mystery of Christ.**

### **The Unveiling of the Mystery**

In a small town nestled between rolling hills and quiet streams, there lived a young woman named Elara. Though the sun often graced the town with warmth, a lingering sense of loneliness cast a shadow over her heart. She spent her days working at the local bookstore, surrounded by stories that transported her to far-off places, yet she felt anchored in her own life, searching for something beyond the ordinary.

One rainy afternoon, as she organized the shelves, a weathered book caught her eye. Its cover was a faded blue, adorned with golden letters that read, "The Mystery of Christ." Curious and intrigued, she pulled it from the shelf and flipped through its pages. The words leapt to life, speaking of the apostle Paul and his profound declarations about the mystery of Christ—hidden for ages yet now revealed to all.

As Elara read, she discovered that this mystery wasn't just an abstract theological concept; it was a personal invitation to a transformative relationship with the divine. The more she immersed herself in the text, the more she began to understand that the essence of Christianity was not in secret rituals but in an open revelation of God's grace. It was a mystery available to anyone willing to partake, regardless of their past.

One evening, after closing the shop, Elara took the book to a nearby park, where she often sought solace beneath an ancient oak. Sitting on the damp grass, she felt a stirring within her—a call to delve deeper into this God's mystery. With the book in her lap, she closed her eyes and whispered a plea for understanding.

To her surprise, as she opened her eyes, she saw a gentle figure seated beside her, radiating warmth and compassion. The figure smiled, recognizing her curiosity about the Divine. "I am Christ," He said, "the embodiment of God's mystery. I have come to unveil the truth that lies within."

Elara's heart raced as she absorbed the significance of this moment. "How can I know you more?" she asked, her voice trembling with both excitement and fear.

"By embracing the mystery of who I am," Christ replied. "The world often views Christians as peculiar, for they find love in what they cannot see and strength in what appears weakness. Like the Apostle Paul, they rejoice in sufferings, for through trials, they encounter the depths of my grace."

As Elara listened, she recalled the times she felt overwhelmed by loneliness, the moments of despair that threatened to engulf her. "But these struggles feel so isolating," she confessed.

"It is in those very moments that you are closest to me," Christ reassured her. "Trust in my presence; I am with you in every trial. Know that my mystery is not meant to conceal but to reveal the richness of life available to you—joy even in sorrow, hope amidst despair."

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"Precisely," he affirmed. "You see, my love is boundless. It extends to every heart, irrespective of their story. I have paved the way for you to access divine blessings. Embrace this truth and share it with others. Show them that life in Christ is one of abundance, grace, and transformation."

In that moment, the rain stopped, and a gentle breeze rustled the leaves overhead. Elara felt a rush of warmth envelop her, radiating peace throughout her being. She understood that the real mystery was not just in grasping profound truths but in allowing that mystery to change her life.

Months passed, and Elara became a beacon of hope in her community. What started as a journey to understand Christ's mystery transformed into an exploration of faith. She shared her insights with those around her, inviting others into a dialogue about love, suffering, and grace. As she poured into the lives of others, she discovered that each person's journey was intertwined with the divine mystery, filled with stories of redemption and grace.

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On a serene evening, sitting under the same oak tree where her journey began, Elara reflected on her life. The mystery of Christ was no longer an abstract concept but an intimate reality. In her heart, she held a profound understanding: the essence of God's mystery was an invitation, a promise that in seeking Him, we awaken to the richness of life itself.

With a smile, she whispered a prayer of gratitude, knowing that the true unveiling of God's mystery lies in lives transformed by love, connected through hope, and shared within community—an open invitation for all who dare to seek.

As followers of Christ, we are called to embrace our uniqueness, and we are never alone in this divine journey. Imagine Christ, with all His glory, dwelling within our lives through His Spirit. God's ultimate goal is to transform us to reflect Christ in every aspect of our lives.

Even though the process of transformation is often shrouded in mystery, we can take comfort in knowing that God is sovereign and actively working to change and enrich our lives, inviting us to participate the grand plan for humanity unfolds.

**Here are some practical ways to incorporate these principles into everyday living:**

1. **Daily Reflection and Prayer:** Set aside time each day for reflection and prayer. Use this time to build your relationship with Christ by sharing your thoughts, struggles, and gratitude. Consider journaling your prayers and reflections to track your spiritual growth and gain insights over time.
2. **Embrace Community:** Join a church group or community where you can connect with others who share your faith. This can provide support, encouragement, and accountability in your Christian journey. Engage in discussions, share experiences, and learn together how to live out the mystery of faith.
3. **Acts of Kindness:** Actively look for opportunities to show kindness to others. This can be as simple as helping a neighbor, volunteering your time, or offering a listening ear to someone in need. These small acts reflect Christ's love and can be transformative for both you and those you help.

4. Practice Gratitude: Begin or end each day by listing things you're grateful for. Acknowledging God's blessings helps you focus on His presence and works in your life, even amid challenges. This practice can shift your mindset and deepen your understanding of God's grace.

5. Seek Understanding in Suffering: When facing difficulties, try to view them through the lens of purpose. Ask God to help you find meaning in your struggles and to use them for growth and to be a light for others. This mindset can transform painful experiences into opportunities for deeper faith.

6. Share Your Journey: Don't hesitate to share your faith story with friends, family, or even strangers. Discussing your experiences can demystify Christianity for others and show how Christ works in your life. This openness fosters connections and may encourage others to explore their own faith.

7. Engage in Bible Study: Dedicate time to studying the Scriptures, either alone or in a group. Understanding biblical mysteries like those Paul mentions can provide wisdom for daily living and deepen your relationship with God. You could also read books that explore Christian themes in everyday contexts.

9. Live Generously: Consider ways you can be generous with your time, resources, or talents. Instead of holding onto things tightly, find joy in giving. This could be through donating to charity, helping someone in financial need, or simply being a source of encouragement.

10. Mindfulness and Presence: Practice being present in the moment. This could mean turning off distractions and fully engaging with people around you. Recognizing and valuing the presence of Christ in your interactions can turn mundane routines into meaningful connections.

11. Embrace Forgiveness: Make a conscious effort to forgive yourself and others. Holding onto grudges can weigh you down, while forgiveness frees you and reflects Christ's love. Recognize areas where you need to extend grace, both to yourself and to those who have wronged you.

12. Explore Spiritual Disciplines: Consider incorporating other spiritual practices like fasting, solitude, or meditation into your routine. These can deepen your awareness of God's presence and help you connect more fully with Him.

By putting these ideas into practice, you can cultivate a daily life that reflects the mystery of Christ. Each action not only deepens your personal faith journey but also illuminates the love of Christ to those around you, transforming everyday moments into opportunities for grace and connection.

Lovingly,

Rev. Tina