

Find Your Place in the Body (2)



How To Find God's Plan For Your Life (Day 11)
by Derek Prince

In the previous study, we've seen that, through our renewed mind, God can lead us to our place in the Body of Christ. Compare what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:

> "For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired."

There are three things we need to see in that statement of Paul there. First of all, the choice of where we are to be in the body and what we are to be is not ours but God's. God has placed the members. It's not something we decide, it's something that God has decided and reveals to us.

Secondly, as this comes to pass in our lives, we merge our life in a larger entity, the Body. And yet, we still retain our individuality. It's like a little finger that finds its place on a hand, side-by-side with four other fingers and is thus connected to the total life of an energy and purpose of a complete body. On the other hand, it is not like a drop of water that falls into the sea and loses its individual identity. As Christians, we never lose our individual identity but we become part of a larger corporate group still retaining our own individual identity. We still are the particular member that God ordained for us to be.

This is really a contrast between the message of the Christian faith and the Oriental cults and philosophies which are so prevalent today. I studied those for a while before I became a committed Christian and those Oriental cults, basically, treat man like a little drop that falls into the sea and loses its

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identity. But that's not an attractive proposition. For me, I don't want to do that. I want to retain my identity still and become part of a larger body and that's what God has provided for us in Christ.

Then the third truth that follows from Paul's words about the body is this: that corporately we are able to represent Christ in His fullness to the world. No one of us can adequately and fully represent Christ individually but, when we're united to a body, then that body can totally and corporately and fully represent Jesus Christ to our world.

Devotional

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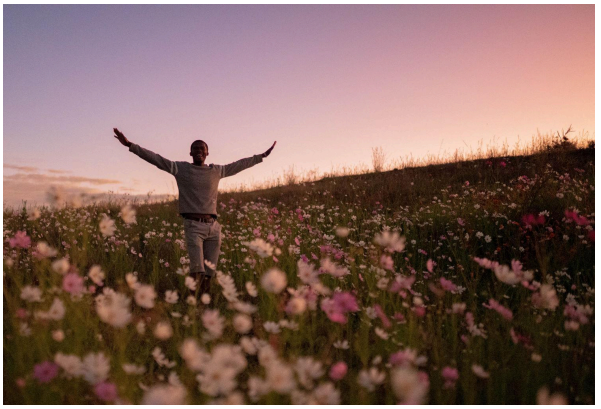

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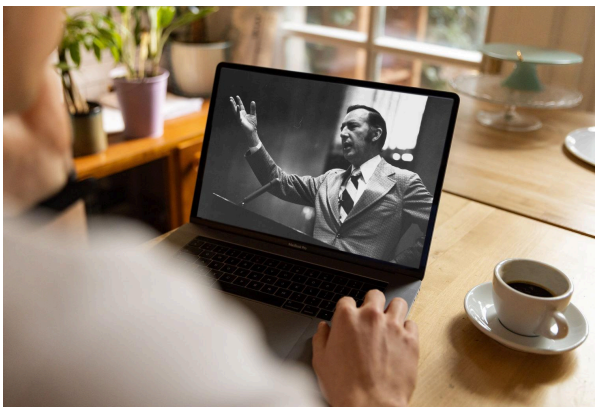

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