**Invasion of the body snatchers**

[clip from “Invasion of the body snatchers](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52vK2-Dv1TA)

Invasion of the Body Snatchers was a 1956 black-and-white science fiction Movie. This movie was re-made several times and spawned many other movies.

The storyline is a typical extraterrestrial invasion where alien invaders from some other planet come to earth and start to take over human bodies. They appear identical on the surface but they would be changed on the inside which resulted in a bad ending for everyone.

* **Would you believe that the Bible tells us of a similar story but with a much different ending?**

# 2 Corinthians 5:17: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

In Galatians 2:20 it says I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; (now listen to this) **yet not I, but Christ lives in me**: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me

The first question to ask is, if Christ was crucified over 2000 years ago how could I be crucified with him? The Answer: God knew every sin you would ever commit and when Christ died on the cross, He died for that sin.

The Second question, and the focus of this lesson, is how can Christ live in me?

In Romans Paul shows us how we have died to our sin but have become alive in Christ.

Romans 6:6-11 -  For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, andthat we should no longer be slaves to sin—  because **anyone who has died has been set free from sin**.  **Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him**.  For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin **once for all;** but the life he lives, he lives to God. **In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

When we except Christ into our lives he comes inside and takes over. We accept his death as our death and his new life as out new life. We appear the same on the outside but we experience a change on the inside. This is the effect of the Holy Spirit coming into our lives as we see in Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 3:16 - You are God’s temple and the **spirit of God Lives in You**…

We can even find reference to this in the Old Testament in Ezekiel

Ezekiel 36: 26 – 27 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

What does it mean to have a heart of stone? A Heart of Flesh?

When God comes into your life you still have human desires but God will provide the strength we need to turn away if we ask Him.

If you consider yourself a Christian ask yourself “What do I desire the most? do I desire heavenly things over earthly things.” We need to desire heavenly things first above all else. If you are not there yet then ask God to change you on the inside.

(What would you consider “earthly things” vs “heavenly things)

It is usually because we do not believe and trust God that we take things in to our own hands and go our own way. As our thoughts and faith grow in Christ we should start to accept his will in our lives and start desiring to know him more. Our old self will start to fade away and our new self will start to shine.

2 Corinthians 3:18 tells us that as the spirit of the lord works within us we become more like Christ and reflect His glory

The world tells us we should take care of number 1. It is all about ME. I should strive to be the center of attention. Everything should be about ME. In reality our lives should reflect the glory of the Lord and not the glory we seek for ourselves.

We should always be asking ourselves: “Who’s glory am I reflecting now?”

Many years back I was talking with some friends at work and I mentioned some church activity I was doing. They looked at me in a strange way and said “We never took you for a Church person.” This statement floored me. It made me question whether I was truly following God and whether I had Christ in my heart. I had considered myself a Christian for some time but I didn't spend much time trying to know God or show God through my actions. Obviously at this point I was not “Reflecting his glory” I was trying to reflect my own.

Think of it this way: If I had a lantern, I could polish the outside all I wanted but it would not glow until I put a flame in it. In the same way, No matter how much we try to polish ourselves on the outside we will never reflect Christ until God puts his spirit in us and only then will our light shine.

Many Christians walk around polishing the outside but saying look at me, I go to church, I sing in the choir, I attend youth camp, but there is no flame inside them and the inside is what counts. When we truly invite Christ into our lives He will take over and change us from the inside out.

This is something we have to ask Christ to do for us. He will not change us against our will but he will put things in our lives that encourage us to see how much we need him so that we seek Him to make these changes.

There will come a moment where you will realize that you no longer want to be the person that you are and that you need help to change into the person Christ wants you to be. This process is not immediate and many times our old self will fight the change causing us to stumble and even question why we are even trying to change in the first place. The Enemy will yell you there is nothing wrong with the way you are but God will not leave you to fight alone he is there with you.

Philippians 2:13 - For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him!

I am living proof of the grace of God changing someone, someone who did not and does not deserve His grace. God has changed me in many ways over the years and I am sorry to say it has taken many years as my pride and love of the things of this world resisted the changes God was trying to make in me. Things like Pride, Lust, Alcohol (I thought I needed these to be happy, cool, popular or just to cope), Generally I put everything before God which kept me from following him and doing his will.

Now I look back and know that I missed out on many opportunities and blessings because I thought I knew what was best for me. As I am getting older I look back at all the years I wasted by not trusting God in the first place. The great news is God had a plan for me and never gave up.

He tried over and over and over to reach me. Many times, He protected me from serious harm but he let me experience all the ways the world lets you down so I would choose to move closer to him. The bad news is I still have a long way to go. There are still many things I stumble over.

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

When you accept Christ, you have to submit to God as his servant. Your life is no longer your own. You belong to God to do his will.

John 12:26 - If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

Even Jesus submitted himself to the will of the Lord even unto death and we must be willing to do the same for him. This does not mean you will have to die you just need to trust God with your life. This means giving up your will and accepting God’s will. It is at this point the body snatching takes place. God comes into your life and changes you into a new person.

Remember: 2 Corinthians 5:17 - therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new person: old things are passed away and all things become new.

This is not an easy thing to do. We as humans like to be in control. We want to be leaders not followers. Very few people start out in life wanting to be a servant It usually takes some tragedy or deep sorrow from the world to get us to accept Gods authority in our live. Many people accept Christ in their deepest darkest moments because that is where God needs to take them to accept him and he does this out of love

A few Points we should make here:

1. Many will desire to keep their old ways, not willing to give up their bad habits and love of earthly things, but think they can still follow Christ but Christ said:
	* Luke 16:13 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money"
	* (Where it says money, you can substitute any worldly thing that comes between you and following Christ)
2. Once we truly accept Christ, we do not need to fear losing him for Christ said
	* John 10:28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

So let’s look at Colossians to see how we can make this transformation

Colossians 3

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.** **3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.** 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

12 Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and **forgive one another** if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 **Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts**, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And **be thankful**. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you **teach and admonish one another** with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, **singing to God with gratitude** in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

How can you tell if Christ is living in you? Christ will start changing you from the inside. You will stop desiring the wrong things this world offers and feel bad when you do them. You will start doing good things like helping and serving others not because you are told to but because you want to. But most of all you will have a desire to know Christ more and more.

Don’t put off inviting Christ into your life and don’t wait to give your life fully to him. Follow Him now so he can be with you through the hard times and the good times. And if you have accepted Christ, be willing to change anything and everything for him and plant the seed in others. You may just be saving their lives – or should we say taking it for Christ.

So, if we look back to where we began, unlike the unwelcomed body snatchers taking over human host, God is waiting for you to welcome him into your life and then watch the wonderful changes he will make in and through you.