

# *TEDDY TALK WITH MARTIN UMC FRIENDS AND FAMILY*

## **Just some random thoughts**

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### **Intention and Perception in Christ Presence**

*No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is made complete in us. We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his son to be the Savior of the World.*

Words of John – 1 John 4 (NIV)

“Shouldn’t your title line read ‘in Christ’s Presence’. Where’s the apostrophe?” The first week I used the words “Christ Presence” I was stopped by a reader who asked this question about my choice of words and why I didn’t use an apostrophe. I explained my thoughts to one, but since then, there have been other inquiries. First, let me say I’m honored that people read the Talk and questioned with love. Thank you all.

Today I chose the words *Intention* and *Perception* to be the emphasis and clarifier of “Christ Presence.” You who have attended a class and studied with me have heard me refer to the “Divine presence within.” I get a bit animated saying these three words. My hands raise together to the crown of my head and theatrically lower down my body, pause near my heart, and continue downward until I am pointing to the ground beneath my feet.

“Intention” from my perspective demonstrates my belief that the spirit of the trinity, (God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit) are residing within my heart, soul, mind, and spirit forever. When I say my intentions at night and offer The Three my gratitude for the day, I give thanks for “Christ Presence” residing in me and in all sisters and brothers within God’s creation.

John’s writings in chapter 4 are written from a Hebrew who knew the words of Moses, the Prophets, and Israel’s historians. The scripture is a summary of words recorded in what we know as the Old Testament. The following are words about God’s presence in us from the OT.

*“Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?”*

*Psalm 139:7*

*“I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.”*

*Jeremiah 31:33*

*“Be strong and be courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*

*Joshua 1:9*

*“Be strong and be courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”*

*Deuteronomy 31:6”*

*“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”*

*Psalm 23*

The Apostle Paul writes to churches in Galatia, Ephesus, Rome, Thessalonica and more that the Christ Presence is evident through words from Jesus. It is from these New Testament words that I find my confidence in living with Christ presence within.

*“...but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me.”*

Galatians 2:20

*“Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”*

1 Corinthians 3:16

*“That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love.”*

Ephesians 3:17

Believe with me that by examining Paul’s thoughts on Christ living within, we can gain a rock-solid understanding of the precious truth that Christ indeed abides in us and in all creation. We’ll be able to answer Paul’s question, “Do you not realize about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you?” with a definite “Yes!”

Peace always

*Ted*