

From the November 4, 2008, Issue

## **An Advent Meditation**

I feel like a victim, so I say “I’m depressed because nothing is going right and that’s just how it is.” The truth is that I am in Jesus and Jesus is in me. As I live and breathe and have my being in Jesus my true identity is not “depressed loser” my true identity is “beloved child of the Father.”

That true identity is both known to me and “hidden” from me. It is known to me because Jesus shares with me the knowledge of what “right” is and that is why I know that life at this moment isn’t right. Jesus is living in me and sharing with me the rightness of his human relationship with his Father, the Spirit, humanity and creation. My true identity is “hidden” from me because, in my distinction, I can continue to believe a lie about who I am.

But because Jesus is my real identity I can count on the fact that he is sharing with me his ability to respond to life. I can even count on the fact that over time (and maybe through much painful wrestling because Jesus is not going away), Jesus will help me to share in his life even more.

Because he is sharing himself with me, I am now freed from victimhood in his freedom from victimhood.

Because of Christ in me, the hope of glory, it is now possible for me to say “Life is not going well right now, but I choose not be depressed because my Dad in heaven loves me and will never leave me.”

*~ Jonathan Stepp and Tim Brassell*