



# GOSPEL *for* LIFE

## **Home with God Season 6, Episode 3 Transcript**

[00:00:00.000] - Announcer

Welcome to the Gospel for Life podcast. We provide resources to help you become more like Jesus. Here's your host, Darryl Dash.

[00:00:19.520] - Darryl Dash

Hey, welcome back to the Gospel for Life podcast. And today I want to talk about what is salvation about?

There are so many ways to talk about salvation. Some people talk salvation from sin. And that is right. The gospel is the amazing news that Christ has dealt decisively and finally with our sin. And yet that's not the whole gospel. Some talk about being delivered also from the power of sin. And again, that is great truth. Christ does not just forgive us, but he actually sets us free from the power of sin. And that is an amazing truth. Still, others talk about spending eternity with God. These are all amazing truths that we need to believe and celebrate.

And yet one of the things that we don't talk about enough is the amazing part of salvation, the amazing truth called union with Christ. That's what we want to talk about today. The great news is that you and I were created to live at home with God and to find our home in God through Jesus Christ. And the way that we enjoy this is this doctrine called the union with Christ. It is unbelievable, and yet it is overlooked as one of the key Christian truths.

[00:01:29.640] - Darryl Dash

And so Today, I have the privilege of talking to Kyle Worley. He is a pastor and author. He's the host of the Knowing Faith podcast, and he's writing a book. It's coming out. It's on its way out. It will be hitting the book shelves, and it is called Home with God. It's going to help you discover how the Christian's union with Christ creates a new me, new we, and a new way of living out God's story.

Kyle, it is so good to talk to you today.

[00:01:57.080] - Kyle Worley

Oh, I'm really grateful to be here, Darryl. It's been It's fun to get to interact with you a little bit online, and I was honored to be asked to be on here. So thanks.

[00:02:04.160] - Darryl Dash

Man, Canada and Toronto, Canada, and just outside of Texas, seems like a world away. So it's cool that we could do this.

[00:02:11.700] - Kyle Worley

I know. It really is. I was just telling you before we jumped on. I just have not spent much time in Canada at all. But anytime I meet a Canadian pastor or a Christian leader, it just feels like, Man, I got to find a way to get up to Canada and hang out with these guys. So you and I were just talking about another Canadian pastor and teacher and preacher that we won't puff them up on air. But I'm just grateful to God for what he's doing there. So thanks for having me on.

[00:02:37.650] - Darryl Dash

Well, good. It's good to talk to you. One thing I know that you've talked about is how you discovered the truth of union with Christ and it changed your life. Tell us that story. How did you encounter this truth the first time, and how did it begin to change you?

[00:02:51.270] - Kyle Worley

Yeah, I came to faith at a young age. My father's a pastor, and my mother and father were just very faithful in discipling me in our home. And so I professed faith in Christ whenever I was a young child. And then really was, I mean, thank God, it was just well-disciplined by my parents. But I was sitting in a seminary classroom well after I had

become a Christian and had answered a call to ministry. I had been serving in the life of the church for I guess, four years at that point. I was maybe like 24, 25. I was sitting in a seminary classroom and the professor got up and he began to read through Ephesians 1:3-21. As he read it, he just would read it and really emphasize, We are in Christ. We are with Christ. We are through Christ. And as he did so, it really did feel to me, I mean, this might be a little hyperbolic, but it felt a little bit like a second conversion. And it was a moment for me of realizing that God, that I had really heard a faithful, simple presentation of the gospel, which I'm glad that the gospel is accessible enough for young children.

[00:03:52.500] - Kyle Worley

It doesn't need to be more complicated than that. But I had heard that God wanted me to invite Christ into my life. And the point of that gospel presentation was that I was a sinner in need of grace and that Christ Jesus had secured salvation for me and that if I were to place my trust in him, I would receive his life in me in this resurrection life and I would be free from sin, shame, Satan and death. And I believe that gospel, and I'm grateful that I heard that gospel. But as I sat in that seminary classroom many years later, I realized that there was a deeper invitation, a deeper invitation that I really had received many years before, but just maybe wasn't as fully aware of, which is that in the gospel, God wasn't just inviting me to invite him into my life. He was inviting me into his life in Christ. And that as I began to search the scriptures, I just saw that all over the place. That feels like the story of the Bible from beginning to end, that the dwelling place of God is with man. He will be their God, and they will be his people.

[00:04:51.030] - Darryl Dash

How is that different? I mean, it's a massive difference, I think. We talk about inviting Jesus into your life, and it's almost like that became the way that we talked about the reality of how Christ lives within us. And yet I don't remember growing up that we were taught a lot about us being in Christ. So what's the difference between those two realities? Because I think the more biblical language is us being in Christ rather than accepting Christ into our heart and so on.

[00:05:20.480] - Kyle Worley

Sure. Well, yes. And that's a really good question. I mean, there is in the New Testament, you think of a Christ in me, the hope of glory. There are passages that talk

about the spirit of Christ being within us. And this is one of the principle works of the Holy spirit. As he indwells God's people, he seals their salvation. He's the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it to the praise of his glory. That's what Paul says at the end of Ephesians 1. So yes, the power and presence of the Holy spirit brings to the life of the Christian the presence of Christ in their life, this resurrection life. Yes, that is true. But the overwhelming emphasis in the New Testament is not Christ in me. It's It's me in Christ. I think that is the more foundational reality. You and I have fickle hearts. Our faith and our faithfulness is fickle. Our loves are feeble and frail, and they're often hooked by all manner of things. I think it is much better news that God pulls his people into the unbreakable, unchangeable vault of salvation, so to speak, that is in Christ Jesus, because his faithfulness is not imperfect.

[00:06:28.820] - Kyle Worley

His faithfulness is not limited. His faithfulness in love is not fickle, it's not feeble, it's not frail, it's not flimsy. And so I think it is much better news that I am in Christ than that Christ is in me, because I can look back on a record of things that at one moment I valued as the most crucially important thing that the next day I tossed aside as if it was nothing. If the hope of the gospel was conditional on my ability to keep, so to speak, the faith in me, to hold on to Christ, then I think that would not be good news, at least for me. I think it would be flimsy at best. I think the emphasis in the New Testament is where it is because of God's kind, gracious love to pull his people into something that is un and unchangeable, which is not our faith or faithfulness, but it is Christ's faith in his faithfulness. And his ind dwelling of us by the power and presence of the Holy spirit is really a fruit of our ind dwelling of him in Christ. You and I are Well, by the power of the Holy spirit, because we have been brought into home with God in Jesus, a new habitat, so to speak, in Christ.

[00:07:38.020] - Kyle Worley

We're growing in those fruits because we're in him.

[00:07:41.350] - Darryl Dash

This is a weird way of talking. We don't normally talk about you in somebody else, right? That's a foreign concept. So explain, and I remember trying to, as I was preaching one day, trying to explain this doctrine. To somebody who's never heard this before, how would you explain what it means to have union with Christ, to be in priced?

[00:08:01.110] - Kyle Worley

Yeah, that's a great question. That's the principle reason that I named the book Home with God, is that we understand what it means to dwell in. We understand what it means to inhabit. We live in an apartment or we live in a home. And when we think about where we live, and we think about the homes that we're in, a healthy and a stable home is marked by life. It's not static. It has a stable foundation, but there's a level of dynamics that are at play. There's a life in it. Most of us, whether in an apartment or house, have a room that we literally call the living room, the place where life and living and conversation and feasting or crying or weeping or watching or praying or reading or dialog happens, a place where there's energy. The old theologians would talk about our union with Christ as intimate, vital, spiritual, dynamic. They would talk about our union as a mystical union. To talk about me being in Christ, it doesn't mean that if you were to pierce Christ's side with a spear, that you would find Kyle Worley and Darryl Dash physically in the physical body of Christ.

[00:09:11.430] - Kyle Worley

We know that the Son of God, having assumed a human nature in the incarnation, now resides at the right-hand of God, the Father, ruling and reigning over all things, interceding on behalf of God's people, that he is now in a human body, the Son of God, never to surrender that human nature, human body, again in a resurrected body that does not have our mortality, our sin, our shame, the frailties of the flesh. But we are not in him physically. To be in Christ doesn't mean that we are in his physical, resurrected body. What it means is that his identity has been given over to us. What it means is that he is our representative before God. What it means is that he is keeping us for the day of salvation and that we are not holding on to him, so to speak, but he's holding on to us. In the book, I talk about how arguing with Christ creates a new identity, a new me. You said this in the intro. Creates a new incorporation, meaning it's not just me and Jesus, but a new incorporation. There's a new people that's been incorporated into Christ. So that's the new we of being in Christ.

[00:10:19.450] - Kyle Worley

And then it creates a new way, a new path of living, a new way of living in God's world. So what does it mean to be in Christ? It means that God has invited us to live with him by living in him. And this is spiritual and mystical. It's not purely or even predominantly

physical. It's something that we receive by grace through faith. And in so doing, we are not going to be able to snuff out all of the true magic about it. There is a wonder to it that probably is going to outrun our words. We don't have something that is identical to what our union with Christ is, other than the real bad news of our union with Adam, which is what proceeds the real good news of our union with Christ.

[00:11:02.560] - Darryl Dash

I love the image of home because I think that does give a handle to this truth. It's really hard to get our heads around. How did you come up with that? Because I don't think I've ever heard anybody use the image of home to help us understand union with Christ. And it works. I love it. So how did you come up with that?

[00:11:20.270] - Kyle Worley

Trying to talk about union with Christ with my daughter. I have a seven-year-old and trying to talk through union with Christ in the life of churches with people and trying to talk with children in particular. I often tell people, if you want to really try to test how effectively you can articulate Christian belief in the Christian story, just go teach in kids' ministry. Go try to talk through these things with your children. That's really where that's the crucible, I feel like, of comprehension and communication when it comes to anything but the Christian story in particular. So, yeah, it was really just that. I talk about this a little bit in the book. There's a redemptive edge to that as well. For a lot of people, Home is not a place. When they hear the word, their immediate sense is a place of blessing. They don't think of blessing, they think of wounds, they don't think of fellowship, they think of forsakenness when they think of home, or they don't think about presence, they think about abandonment. I talk about this a little bit in the introduction of the book that I know for some people, the idea of home with God won't immediately bring to mind rhythms of blessing, of delighting presence of feast fellowship.

[00:12:32.790] - Kyle Worley

And I hope that for those for whom home is a really helpful analogy, that it will be a tremendous blessing for them. And for those for whom home might feel as if the symbols and the imagination that shapes the way they think about it just feels broken and marked by loss and failure or hurt and wounds. I hope that as they really see that God is inviting them into Christ, they'll They'll get to recover maybe something that they were never given.

[00:13:03.300] - Darryl Dash

I think, yeah, the longing for home is universal. Even those who haven't had a great home experience, I think we'd say, yeah, but there's still this longing of a place to belong, a place to feel safe, right? And have my longings met.

[00:13:17.900] - Kyle Worley

Yeah, absolutely. I mean, I even love... C. S. Lewis talks about longing extensively, and he uses this really obscure German word, *sehnsucht*, is the word. And he talks about how we're born in this world, not just longing for home, but the more that we allow ourselves to live in that longing, the more we actually become fully human in God's world. That there is, even as we find ourselves, and I certainly find myself on the back end of this book, having spent a long time meditating on the doctrine of union with Christ, I leave having a deeper and more profound sense, not just of what God has gifted us now in Christ, but what is coming for us as God's people in the days ahead in Christ Jesus as well. There is a sense in which everything we receive in Christ now, we receive because of our brokenness and our limitations and thimbles. Paul says every spiritual blessing in the heavenly place is in Christ Jesus. All the promises of God find their yes and amen in him. It's in Christ that all good things are. And there are much of life in this side of heaven is receiving those blessings in thimbles, in dixie cups, so to week.

[00:14:30.280] - Kyle Worley

I don't know if Dixie Cups, maybe that might be a Texas. Okay, I was thinking, is that a Texas thing? No, we got them. Okay. But Dixie Cups, we were receiving them, these little small Dixie Cups, this enjoyment of these blessings, but it's coming for us in oceans. And what we're receiving now in Dixie cups in Christ, we will receive in oceans one day. That longing, I think, invites us into that. There is home to be had now, but there is a home that is coming in fullness in the future.

[00:15:01.340] - Darryl Dash

Oh, that's so good. I mean, this makes it so inviting, right? I think when I grew up, I understood salvation as like, you don't want to go to hell, do you? And like, of course not. And that is part of the gospel, but it is so much richer. This is like, man, this is so good. Help me understand, how does union with Christ differ from a John Owen

communion with Christ, that concept? Is it related? Are you talking about two different things?

[00:15:24.970] - Kyle Worley

Yes. So when we think in the book, I distinguish between union and communion. And I'm not saying that John Owen, who's a wonderful book, it's a fantastic book. I'm certainly not saying he doesn't make this distinction or he does make this distinction. Whatever your listeners hear, I don't want them to think that I have invented something brand new that John Owen could never have conceived of. I just want to be abundantly clear about that. But as far as what I write about in the book, I distinguish union and communion this way. Union with Christ is our unbreakable, unshakable, unchangeable identity in Christ Jesus now. It can't be gained or it can't be lost because it could never be gained. We don't have to keep it. God is keeping it on our behalf. It's like what Paul says in Romans 8, What shall separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus? Where is this love at? It's in Christ Jesus. To be united to Christ is to be in Christ. So what shall separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus? Well, just a shorthand summary of what Paul says, nothing. Nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

[00:16:25.450] - Kyle Worley

This is our union. It is unbreakable, unchangeable, unshakable. It is locked into the covenant love of God for his people. When we place our faith, which is a gift that God gives us so that we can give ourselves back to God, when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, that's it for good, forever. It is forever fixed and it will never be lost. That's our union with Christ. Our communion with God is the enjoyment and experience of all that God has for us in Christ, and it can be deepened. It can be disrupted. Our communion with God can be disrupted by disobedience. It will be disrupted by disobedience. Our communion with God can be deepened through obedience. It can be deepened through prayer. Our communion with God is not God making up his mind about us. No, no, no. When we're in Christ Jesus, there's not a future version of us that God is going to love more. We are as fully loved as we will ever be for good forever. But our communion with God, it is the enjoyment of all that God has already said is true about us and for us in Christ Jesus.



[00:17:32.560] - Kyle Worley

I love, Hebrews 10:14 captures this in one sentence, For by a single offering, he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. In Christ Jesus, we are perfect. And with God in Christ Jesus, we are being made perfect. Our communion with God, it's the experience of that. It's the enjoyment of that. And I think this is critical, Darryl. I really do, because many believers struggle as they enter into seasons of trial, affliction, seasons where they just feel like the darkness will not lift, seasons of despair, discouragement, seasons where they question their salvation. And I often find that in that dark night of the soul, many believers begin to call into question, is what God has said true about me actually true about me? They mistake their experience of God's presence in a given season or the lack thereof for some break in their relationship with God. But when we begin to see that our union in Christ with God is something that cannot be broken, but our communion with God can be broken, it now it gives us a framework that I think is firmly biblical and very practical Practically beneficial for the life of the believer, to be honest.

[00:18:48.380] - Kyle Worley

You know what? I feel far from God right now. And to be honest about that with other believers. I feel far from God right now. And I could tell that to you as a believer. And Darryl, you could say, listen, I know that you feel far from God right now. But having received God's grace in Christ Jesus, you are as near to God in Christ as you have ever been. Now, maybe there might be some things going on in your life right now or in the life of the world that are cultivating things that you might be aware of, things that might be unaware of, a lack of felt experience of what is actually already true. Let's look at that together without having to be bargaining our identity the whole time. Does that make sense?

[00:19:28.310] - Darryl Dash

Yeah, totally. I'm curious how this is a change you're preaching because I think what you're doing is you're inviting people to live in the reality that is already theirs. So rather than like, Oh, man, you got to try harder. There is a sense we got to do things. We got to work out our salvation. But in a sense, we're calling people to enjoy what God has already given them. Absolutely. So how has that shaped your preaching?

[00:19:49.580] - Kyle Worley

Yeah, substantively. Because now you can call people to meaningful obedience with the bedrock assurance that, guess what? God He isn't going to love you more if you obey him. But if you obey God, you might end up enjoying God more. And that's a good thing. Yes, man, I think the fundamental way that it's changed is before union with Christ, I preached a gospel of forgiveness. And I don't want anybody to be confused about this. It is startlingly, surprisingly good news that we are forgiven of the sins that against us for which we are born by nature under the judgment of God as children of Wrath. That is a really crucial part of the good news of the gospel. But forgiveness is not the goal of salvation. Fellowship is the goal of salvation. Forgiveness is the foundation of that fellowship. And we receive both forgiveness and fellowship in Christ. How many times have we heard the courtroom analogy about salvation? That we have been acquitted of our sins because a substitute has taken our place. That's wonderfully good news. But the doctrine of union with Christ is not as if the judge acquitted us because there was a substitute.

[00:21:04.440] - Kyle Worley

It's as if the judge acquitted us and then invited us to a feast at his own home. It's not just you are forgiven. It's that God is welcoming you into fellowship. He's not just saying, you'll be okay. He's saying, come live with me. That, to me, is a very different... It's a bigger presentation of the good news of the gospel. And it invites us into a world of welcome.

[00:21:33.740] - Darryl Dash

How does this change? I mean, the believer, this is an evangelistic appeal. You've talked about how it's also an invitation to enjoy God more. What difference is this? How does this change our everyday lives, our marriages, our work, everything? How does this change the way that we live as believers?

[00:21:50.700] - Kyle Worley

Well, I think as believers, we're tempted, just like everyone else is, to settle for good advice when we really need good news. I mean, I don't know how often you, I'm sure you among other brothers and sisters in Christ? And I certainly find myself this with my wife, with my daughter, with my friends, with other Christian disciples in the life of our church, other people I worship with. How easy it is when somebody is going through

something deeply difficult or really trying or confusing to lead with really well intentioned good advice. Let me tell you what you must do or what you should do or how you should consider it. And listen, the Bible is full of rich wisdom, and it's great to mind the treasure chest of that wisdom. But I think that more often than not, what people need in those moments, at least what they need first. It's not all that they need, but it's certainly the first thing they need, is not wisdom, but it's welcome. It's welcome. And then having extended that welcome, we then can begin to consider God's wisdom together. So I do think that one of the principle ways it changes our everyday life is that we can both receive God's welcome in Christ afresh every day and extend God's welcome in Christ afresh every day.

[00:22:56.340] - Kyle Worley

So that's one simple way that affects our ordinary life. The second I think union with Christ really empowers us. I talk about this a little bit in the book, in this new way of living, to be different in the way that we think about what we broadcast, how we battle, and what we're becoming. What we broadcast, we're invited to now tell the world the good news that God is inviting them into new life in Christ Jesus. I think it changes the way we share the gospel with other people. It also allows us to model this good news in our pursuit of justice. Over the last few years, rightfully so, a lot of renewed attention has been given to the role of justice in showcasing the Kingdom of God, the good news that God has brought a Kingdom that is not of this world. But oftentimes, our attempts to be people of justice in a broken world, sometimes they don't as you're up to anything more than just trying to signal our value, our worth, and our own righteousness. But when we really believe that we have been declared righteous in Christ Jesus, and nothing can ever change about that, nothing can ever change that, well, now we into the dark, desperate, dead, broken places of the world, and we can improvise on justice knowing that the review on our lives is already in.

[00:24:10.050] - Kyle Worley

I think this really empowers a commitment to biblical, redemptive, restorative, righteousness and justice without it having to be tainted, but us having to prove ourselves that we're really just people. And in that sense, I think that's a really welcome message to thinking about how we broadcast the good news of the gospel to the world around us, that we're free from having to prove we're just people. God has already declared us just. And so now we can pursue justice knowing, hey, God's already made

up his mind. He's already told us what we're worth. That's not going to change. I think it also changes how we think about becoming. All of us are being formed and shaped by what's around us. But the real journey of sanctification for the life of the Christian is just becoming who God has already declared you to be in Christ. He's already said, this is who you are, and now he's inviting you to live this way. It's like when God brings the people of Israel out of Egypt. I talk about this in the book because more than just exploring the doctrine of the union with Christ, the book begins with telling the story of how this doctrine of the union with Christ isn't just something we find in Paul's letters later on.

[00:25:09.500] - Kyle Worley

It's not just a New Testament reality, but in some ways, it's the whole story of the Bible is that God is inviting us to live at home with him. But when God brings the people of Israel out of Egypt, he doesn't yell the Ten Commandments of them while they're still enslaved. He doesn't yell down, Hey, if you guys will follow this for a few hundred years, I'll come down and get you. He doesn't say, Live like my people and you'll be my people. He rescues his people, bound to him in covenant love, in an unbreakable, unchangeable, unshakable reality secured apart from them through another representative, Father Abraham. He rescues his people of Israel. And after he rescues them, after he delivers them, He begins to direct them. He tells them, become what you already are. You are my children. That's why I brought you out of Egypt. I've rescued you. So now live like my people. So it invites us to become what God has already declared us to be. I think that radically transforms the way we pursue Christian obedience and sanctification. I'm not proving to God I belong to his people. I'm just practicing what God has already said is true of me.

[00:26:05.260] - Kyle Worley

He's already called me a son. Now I'm going to live like a son. And then I think it changes how we battle. I think that oftentimes, and I think this is very pressing for our cultural moment, and Darryl, I'm sure it is in your context as well. I don't know that there's a place in the world that feels untainted by the larger battle that seems to be raging. And we seem to be deeply confused about who the real enemy is and deeply confused about what the strategy is to engage the enemy. But once we've been brought into our union with Christ, we're brought into the true story of the world. And now we can confidently say, I know that my battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the

spiritual forces that work in heavenly places. And how do I engage in this battle? What is the armor of God? But Paul, laying out almost piece by piece what it looks like to live in Christ Jesus, every piece of the armor of God tied to some facet or dimension or angle on the person and work of Christ. So how do we battle in this broken and beautiful world against evil spiritual forces?

[00:27:01.500] - Kyle Worley

Well, we battle in Christ Jesus. We battle in the victorious one. Like the people of Israel after David kills Goliath, they won't go and attack the Philistines. But what do they do after David has crushed Goliath? They route the enemy. Why? Because they can see their victor. Their victor has accomplished victory on their behalf. And I think once we realize that we are more than overcomers, not just because we have a good message, but because we are in the victorious one, that really changes the way that we pursue to spiritual battle in this world.

[00:27:32.250] - Darryl Dash

I wasn't planning to ask you this question, but I think I'm going to... A lot of pastors, I think one of the key issues we have is who are we? And we measure ourselves by the size of our church. And many times the size of other people's ministries, we get discouraged. How does union with Christ help a pastor to realize, yeah, just we're measuring by the wrong things. And when we understand our union with Christ, it just changes ministry, too.

[00:28:00.650] - Kyle Worley

Yeah, that's a great question. I wish I could give you this answer that feels like I'm nailing it perfectly. But it's almost like it's a quote from that Luther movie. I don't think Luther said it, but it's quoted in the movie, the biopic about his life. Men preach best what they need to learn most. Yeah, I wrote this book because I forget this truth. It's probably the best way to say it. I had to write this book as if I was making an argument for me because while I've authored this book on this topic, while over the last 10 years, I've taught it to hundreds and thousands of people at at this point, I forget it just about every single day, even though I spend my life in a world vocationally where I get to talk about it quite a bit. Sometimes in ministry, you're like a chef who is always preparing meals for people and never sitting down to the table to eat. I'm as susceptible to that

temptation as anybody. I think that more often than not, what I have to do is sit down and pray, Lord Jesus, I am a beloved child of God before I am anything else.

[00:29:06.140] - Kyle Worley

I know that seems so simple. That might even seem trite. I have not been able to write union with Christ into my imagination. The closest I've come is being able to pray, simple, sometimes messy prayers in the heat of battle, in the heat of insecurity, in the depths of shame, to ask the Lord, by the power of the Holy spirit, to remind me, you know what? Before I'm a pastor of this church, big or small, before I'm an author, before I'm running a podcast, before I'm teaching or preaching or on a page or a stage, I am in Christ Jesus. I've often been provoked by Gerard Manley Hopkins. He was a priest and a poet. He has a poem called *As King Fishers Catch Fire*. And he talks about in that there's a line in the poem that Christ plays in 10,000 places. And this sense of the presence of Christ in the life of the believer, in the life of the church. I think about the breastplate of St. Patrick, a prayer that's been used in the Keltic tradition for a long time. Christ before me, Christ below me, Christ in front of me, Christ above me, Christ around me, Christ be in everything that I say, Christ be in everything that I think.

[00:30:16.090] - Kyle Worley

This, I think, is often where I find myself is just trying to eke out often feeble prayers, asking the Lord to remind me of who I am in Christ. I take great comfort in seeing that it feels like the apostle Paul needed pretty badly, too.

[00:30:32.190] - Darryl Dash

I'm wondering if part of our enjoyment in eternity is going to be just enjoying this reality in a deeper and deeper way throughout eternity. So I can't wait for that. Me too, brother. Me too. I understand you've also written a book for kids on this subject, something about *The Dragon Slayer*. Talk about that in a minute.

[00:30:52.400] - Kyle Worley

Yeah. So *Home with God* is coming out soon. I don't know when this podcast will release, but you can pre-order *Home God* right now. *The Dragon Slayer* won't be out till 2026. But I was trying to find a way to... This is something that I feel like is really missing in our articulation of the gospel to children. I think there's a lot of reasons why that's the case. We don't have to get into all that. But in my attempt to try to articulate in a way

that was child-specific, I found myself really coming back to the armor of God over and over and over again. It's such very concrete imagery. Kids do well with very concrete things. You think about a sword and a shield. It doesn't take much for a kid to build a sword and a shield in their room. Oftentimes it feels like they're born into the world already thinking in terms of dragons and swords and shields. I think there's something there underneath all of the other undercurrents in their life. But I wanted to write a book that would tell this story, and I went to the armor of God to do it.

[00:31:51.350] - Kyle Worley

And so sometime in 2026, there's a children's picture book that's coming out called *The Dragon Slayer* which just tells the story about Christ's victory over the great serpent king. And how in light of that victory, he actually gives us what we then put on. We live in Christ, so to speak, by undertaking, receiving what he has secured for us, both in his person and in his work. And so it's just my attempt to try to tell that story in a way that's imaginative for kids. I've actually just got off a call with the illustrator for that book before this, and it was really fun to talk about just how we're going to tell that story visually.

[00:32:27.750] - Darryl Dash

That's pretty cool. I can't wait to read that one, too. So Kyle, let me ask you, if you're willing, a couple of personal questions. Sure. We wrap up here. So what has God been teaching you lately?

[00:32:38.400] - Kyle Worley

Yeah, I think the principle thing for me is that I've been meditating a lot on the Exodus story, partly because we're about to be preaching on it at the church where I'm at. And Israel gets to plunder the Egyptians on their way out of Egypt. They believe wearing Egyptian gold. And that was supposed to be for them a sign and a symbol of what God had done. A symbol, you're no longer slaves, but you're royal children. And yet what do they do with that gold? They melt it down to create a false God in an idol. And the Lord has really been using that to challenge me, that how often I take good gifts that God gives and I begin to exalt them, and I lose sight of the fact that God has provided them for me to remember who he is and who I am and his ways for the world and how often I just take his good gifts. That could be my home. It could be a little bit of extra money I

have in the bank account at the end of the month. It could be a meal that I'm able to buy or provide.

[00:33:31.390] - Kyle Worley

It could be clothes that I have. We're surrounded and ensconced by so much blessing so often and so much abundance, particularly in the global West. And I know there may be some listening who right now are in a season of scarcity or a lack. But I think about our place in history and our place, particularly in the global West, culturally in the global world. And I just think how often we're so surrounded by blessing that we presume upon it. And it doesn't lead us to gratitude. It doesn't lead us to generosity. It doesn't lead us to righteousness. It leads us to wickedness, and it leads us to lust, and it leads us to idolatry. And the Lord's really been using that to confront me.

[00:34:06.110] - Darryl Dash

That's so good. These are crazy times. I think you could say that at any time, but right now it really feels like these are crazy days. What's encouraging you these days?

[00:34:15.840] - Kyle Worley

I think almost on the other side of what I was just talking about, about life in the global West, the global church. I don't know how familiar your audience is with what God is doing in the global south and the global east. But I'll just tell you, if that's not something that you've dug into, look for some resources on what God is doing in the global church, particularly in the global south and the global east. I'm grateful to God for what he's doing in Richardson, Texas, where I pastor, and he is doing good things here, and I'm grateful for it. But man, I am really stunned and amazed when I think about what God is doing in the global south and the global east right now. We live, you and I, Darryl, here in the global west, and all pastors are ministering in places that will be the mission field for Christian missionaries from Africa and Asia in the decades ahead. It already is, and it will increasingly be that. I'm just stunned by God's kindness that he continues to grow his people throughout the world and throughout history, and that the power of God's word continues to go forth conquering.

[00:35:16.090] - Darryl Dash

Amen. Kyle, where can people find out more about you and your work? And plug your sub stack, too. I think you got a new sub stack coming up.



[00:35:23.590] - Kyle Worley

Yeah, I'm launching one. You can find anything that you want to know about me at [kyleworley.net](http://kyleworley.net). You can find links to the books there. You can find the link to Home with God. I have another book that's coming out right after Home with God called Formed for Fellowship: Becoming What You Behold. It'll be a companion volume to You are a Theologian, which is a book that my friends JT and Jen wrote. A wonderful introduction to systematic theology. If you want to find me, you can go to [kyleworley.net](http://kyleworley.net). You can subscribe to Knowing Faith podcast. I'm on social media [@kyleworley](https://twitter.com/kyleworley) on X, which still seems so weird to say. I don't know why that happened, but there we are. You can find me [@kyleworley](https://twitter.com/kyleworley). Early on X or on Instagram. And I am launching a newsletter. It's a monthly newsletter where I'll just be exploring some of the things that don't make it into the books. I have a lot of fun doing that.

[00:36:08.740] - Darryl Dash

Well, I really appreciate. I'm looking forward to reading this book, and I'm very excited. I thank you for the clarity that you've given us thinking about this amazing doctrine and giving it handles so that we can actually take it home and live in its reality. So I really appreciate it.

[00:36:22.920] - Kyle Worley

Absolutely, brother. Thank you.