In the ultimate gift of grace, Jesus gives you not just his help but his heart. “I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you.” (Ezekiel 36:26, NKJV)

When you give Jesus your heart, he (Oh, the wonder of it all!) gives you his. He removes your heart, poisoned as it is with pride and pain, and replaces it with his own. As Christians we are “in Christ” and Christ is “in us” (1 John 14:20; Romans 8:10; Galatians 2:20).


Yet, we Christians embrace this inscrutable promise. “The mystery in a nutshell is this: Christ is in you” (Colossians 1:27, MSG). You might call it a spiritual heart transplant.

Tara Storch understands this miracle as much as anyone. She and Todd were blessed with three children. In the spring of 2010, they went on a family ski trip to Colorado. Their beautiful thirteen-year-old daughter Taylor died in a tragic ski accident. What followed for Tara and her husband Todd was every parent’s worst nightmare: a funeral, a burial, a flood of questions and tears. They decided to donate their daughter’s organs to needy patients. Few people needed a heart more than Patricia Winters. Her heart had begun to fail five years earlier, leaving her too weak to do much more than sleep. Taylor’s heart gave Patricia a fresh start on life.

Tara had only one request: she wanted to hear the heart of her daughter. She and her husband flew from Dallas to Phoenix, to the home of Patricia. The two embraced for a long time, soon to be joined by Todd. After a few moments, Tara took a stethoscope and placed it against Patricia’s chest. “It’s so strong,” she whispered.

“She is very strong,” Patricia assured.

“I want him to hear it,” Tara offered to Todd.

And so he did. As Mom and dad took turns listening to Taylor’s heart, whose heart did they hear? Even though it indwells a different body, they heard the still-beating heart of their daughter.
When God hears your heart, he hears the still-beating heart of his Son. As the apostle Paul said: “It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me” (Galatians 2:20, NKJV).

Paul sensed within himself, not just the philosophy, ideals or influence of Christ, but the person of Jesus. Christ moved in. He still does. When grace happens, Christ enters. “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27, NKJV).

We are Jesus Christ’s; we belong to Him. But even more, we are Jesus Christ’s, increasingly Him.

God’s dream isn’t just to get you into heaven, but to get heaven into you.

A radical new nature resides within you, waiting to be tapped. What a difference this makes! Can’t forgive your enemy? Christ can, and he lives in you. Can’t face tomorrow? Christ can, and he lives in you. He is on the move, aggressively budging you from graceless to grace-shaped living. Can’t forgive your past? Christ can, and he lives in you. Exhausting your supply of patience?

Jesus has an unlimited power, and he is as near as your next prayer. Grace lives because he does, works because he works, and matters because he matters. To be saved by grace is to be saved by Jesus himself, who will sweep into heaven anyone who so much as gives him the nod.