

# **Held Together**

**11-21-21**

Colossians 1:17 (ESV)

And Jesus is before all things, and in Jesus all things hold together.

**Jesus was before all things and now holds all things together. This means that Jesus is both the unifying principle and the personal sustainer of all creation. **Jesus who holds the creation together also will “hold us together” through whatever we are experiencing.****

Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)

Jesus is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and Jesus upholds the universe by THE WORD OF HIS POWER.

**Jesus by HIS Word upholds the universe. This is like God’s command at creation ‘Let there be light’ and there was light. God speaks and it becomes exactly what God says! John 1:1-3 states that all things were made by the Word. In the same way as the Word created, the Word continues to sustain.**

Job 34:14–15 (ESV)

- <sup>14</sup> If God should set his heart to it  
and gather to himself HIS spirit and HIS breath,  
<sup>15</sup> all flesh would perish together,  
and man would return to dust.

**God sustains the universe and keeps it all going. Scripture is inspired which literally means that it is God breathed. **God’s breath holds us together.** It is as if God would hold HIS breath and all creation and mankind would disappear.**

**Jesus who holds everything together redeems us and sustains us so that experientially we may take part in HIS kingdom. Then Jesus continues to hold everything together in our life.**

Colossians 1:13–14 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**Through Christ God forgives us and redeems us. God HIMSELF “rescues” us from the dominion of darkness and “transfers” us to the Kingdom of HIS beloved SON, Jesus. As believers, we are in the Kingdom of Christ. However, the NEW heaven and earth is in the future. Today, we are still standing on this old earthly dirt. How do we function as children of the kingdom in this earthly dirt still inhabited by those living in the domain of darkness?**

Matthew 12:28 (ESV)

But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

**We bring the kingdom of light to the darkness. **The Holy Spirit working through us brings the Kingdom of God to the situation we are experiencing.** When we show up Christ shows up; the kingdom of God shows up. This all goes back to our previous studies about how Christ is transforming us by renewing our minds so that we will have the mind of Christ. We learn how to hear God and do what HE says which is faith.**

Our transformation is necessary to exercise God's Kingdom now in this dark world. **We are Saved by grace, but we have an assignment which requires a decision on our part.** When we make the decision to fulfill our assignment, we will experience struggle.

Colossians 1:29 (ESV)

For this I toil, struggling with all God's energy that God powerfully works within me.

The literal word used for "Struggling" is where we get our English word "agonize". **In our assignment, we will agonize with all God's energy.** There is a struggle to receive God's energy. That agonizing struggle is to believe God and do what HE says. The struggle is to open our hands and give our situations to God. Most often our struggle is to persevere. This means not facing our situations through our own natural powers, but by the supernatural power at work in us. It is an energy that "powerfully works" literally "energizes" us. **The entire statement shows that through faith in Christ we can link our life with a source of strength that enables us to rise above our natural limitations.** "Jesus Holds everything together." Jesus Holds all situations in our life together. This is the supernatural energy that works in us through the Holy Spirit. **Our struggle is often dying to self-effort not focusing on self and moving in the power from the Holy Spirit.**

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.