

The New Nature You Received When You Believed in Jesus Christ – Part 1

1. Extended recap from last meeting; we discussed...

- We talked about those who are “in Christ” and those who “Belong to Christ.” Believers are “in Christ” and now “belong to Christ.” Unbelievers are not yet “in Christ,” are “not His” and are not yet forgiven of their sins. **Jn. 8:24** – “unless you believe that I Am who I claim to be, you will die in your sins.” One must believe in Christ to “receive” the finished work of the cross.
- We discussed what was accomplished at the cross and what was “made available” for all who would believe in Christ. We receive Christ’s righteousness only through faith in Him. **Rom. 3:21-31 (NLT/ESV)** – “*God has shown us a new way to be made right with Him*” and that new way is faith in His Son.” *He makes sinners right in His sight when they believe in Jesus Christ. This righteousness is not based on keeping the law, but is based on faith in Christ alone.*”
- We also read through **Rom. 5**. Let’s read **Rom. 5:1-11 (NLT)** and keep in mind what **Rom. 5:1-2 (NLT/AMPC)** says: “*We have been made right in God’s sight by faith. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand...*” To understand **Rom. 5:8-11**, this must be read in full context by bringing in what is mentioned in **Rom. 5:1-2** regarding “*our faith in Christ*”. We “receive the power of Christ’s blood” His finished work, through faith.

We also read through **Rom. 6:1-18** which talks about sin’s power being broken for those who believe.

2. What you received when you believed: Let’s talk about our new nature.

- a) **What is the “new nature” of the believer?** Scripture says those who believe in Christ through faith have been renewed, regenerated, born again [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed and sanctified], **Gal. 3:26 (NKJV/AMP)**, Note: The believer has been sanctified and is also being sanctified throughout their entire life, an ongoing process. We will dig into this in a future study. **Heb. 12:14 (NKJV/AMP)**. Those who believe in Christ through faith have also become a new creation **2 Cor. 5:17**, have become a child of God through faith **Gal. 3:26-29**, and are now in union with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit **Rom. 8:16-17 (NLT)**; **1 Cor. 2:11-12, 6:17 (NKJV/AMPC)**; **Gal. 2:20 (NKJV/AMPC)**; **Eph. 3:17**; **Col. 1:27**.
- b) The believer “receives” a washing away their sins **Acts. 22:16 (AMP)**, giving them a new birth and a new life through the Holy Spirit **Rom. 6; 1 Pet. 1:3-5, 23; Jn. 3:1-5**. This is a new nature that replaces the old nature and this happened the moment you believed in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

Important phrases to remember regarding your new nature is “In Christ” and “Belong to Christ,” those are both part of your new nature.

Note in **Rom. 8:9 (NLT/AMP)** it says “*But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him [and is not a child of God]*” and in **(NKJV)** is says “*Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.*”

- c) **When you believed, you were reborn:** When you believed in Christ, you become a child of God and are born again, you were given the right to become a child of God and you were reborn, born of God, a birth that comes from God, a divine and supernatural birth. Notice these three important words; All who believe, accept, and receive Him. With this new birth comes a new nature: **Jn. 1:12-13 (NLT/ESV/AMPC)**.
- d) Let’s dive a little deeper into this **new birth that comes from God**. – One must be born again to see the Kingdom of God. Born again into a Living Hope, those who are born again will not “practice” unrighteousness. Those who believe in Christ have been reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose **Jn. 3:1-6; 1 Jn. 3:9-10, 1 Pet. 1:3-9 (ESV); 1 Jn. 5:1-21 (AMP)**.
- e) **Comparing our old nature with the new:**
“Old nature: “works of the flesh, will not inherit the Kingdom of God”.
“New Nature: “Reborn, washed, sanctified, justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit and have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires, now live and walk by the Holy Spirit..”
1 Cor. 6:9-11 (AMP) (vs. 9-10 is our old sinful nature / vs. 11 is our new nature).
Gal. 5:19–25 (AMP) (vs. 19-23 is our old sinful nature / vs. 24-25 is our new nature).
The believer has been delivered/rescued from the control of darkness and transferred into the Kingdom of His Son. Was once full of darkness, but now has light from the Lord. Has received forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith. **Col. 1:13-14; Eph. 5:8 (NLT); Acts 26:16-18 (NKJV)**.
Old Nature/Old Man = Dead in your sin <> New Nature/New Man = Alive in Christ!

Homework:

For more context read all of **Rom. 8:9-11 (NKJV/NLT/NASB/AMPC)**

For deeper study:

Rom. 8:9 Believer's Bible Commentary

8:9 When a person is born again, he is no longer in the flesh but in the Spirit. He lives in a different sphere. Just as a fish lives in water and a man lives in the air, so a believer lives in the Spirit. He not only lives in the Spirit, but the Spirit lives in him. In fact, if he is not indwelt by the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. Though there is a question whether the Spirit of Christ here is the same as the Holy Spirit, the assumption that they are the same seems to fit best in the context.

In fuller context:

Rom. 8:9-11 Expositor's Bible Commentary (Abridged Edition): New Testament

9-11 Turning now to his readers, Paul reminds them of the basic difference between themselves and those he has been describing. As believers, they have, in the Spirit, an antidote for the sinful human nature ("the flesh"; see comment on 7:4-6). Furthermore, the Spirit of God "lives" in them (the word "if" here presupposes the truth of the statement). Previously (v.2) the Spirit has been called "the Spirit of life" because of his regenerating and renewing power; here he is "the Spirit of God" and "the Spirit of Christ," indicating that he carries out the purposes of God and applies the fruits of Christ's redemptive mission to the lives of believers (cf. Gal 4:6).

No one who lacks the Spirit belongs to Christ. Everyone who trusts Christ has the Spirit (Eph 1:13). The title "Spirit of Christ" is made meaningful by the deliberate way in which Paul says essentially the same thing about both the Spirit and Christ in relation to believers: the Spirit lives in you (v.9) and Christ is in you (v.10). The presence and fullness of Christ are realized in a Christian's life by means of the indwelling Spirit (Eph 3:16-17).

Paul's observation (v.10) about those in whom Christ lives—"your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness"—has proved difficult for interpreters. The NIV and most leading modern translations make "spirit" refer to the spirit of the Christian rather than to the Spirit of Christ. But it seems preferable to see *pneuma* ("spirit"; see comment on vv.5-8) here as referring to "the Spirit of God," for three reasons. (1) It is unlikely that Paul, having consistently referred to *pneuma* as the Spirit of God, would give this word a different frame of reference in this one instance. His use of the word "body" here, not the word "spirit," refers to the entire human person. He maintains that sin necessitated our dying with Christ. (2) The phrase about the *pneuma* being alive because of righteousness relates back to "the Spirit of life" at the beginning of the chapter (v.2). (3) The first part of v.11 refers to the living presence of the Spirit in believers; Paul seems there to be repeating what he said at the end of v.10 in order to present a further observation—namely, that the same Spirit will provide resurrection life in due season. The close of v.10 teaches, therefore, that the Spirit who is life in himself brings life to those in whom he lives only because they have already been granted God's righteousness (through their justification).

In v.11 the Spirit is given yet another title: "the Spirit of him [i.e., God; cf. 4:24] who raised Jesus from the dead." The Spirit's future work on behalf of the saints will be to "give life" to their mortal bodies. This accords with Paul's description of the glorified bodies of believers as "spiritual" (1Co 15:44). The life bestowed by the Spirit in that coming day is beyond the power of death or any other agency to vitiate or destroy. It is the very life of God, blessedly spiritual and indestructibly eternal.