

The New Nature You Received When You Believed in Jesus Christ – Part 3

Union: One Spirit with the Lord and the Indwelling Holy Spirit

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

- We focused on our new nature in Christ. The new nature that we received when we believed in Christ. We talked about the spiritual circumcision, the cutting away of our sinful nature that happened when we believed in Christ and that the old sinful nature was replaced with a new nature. That new nature is Christ in us and us in Christ!
- We also started to touch on our union with Christ being united and joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. (**1 Cor. 6:17 AMP**). In this study we are going to dive deeper into this oneness and what it means for us who believe in Christ. We also talked about being baptized into Christ.

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

- a) **1 Cor. 6:14-20 (AMP)**. In the middle of this passage talking about fleeing from sexual immorality we are given a picture of being united and joined to the Lord and being one spirit with Him - vs 17. This passage also refers to the church and to believers individually being a temple of the Holy Spirit and that we are not our own. Strong's for "He which is joined": κολλάω - 2853 kollaó (kol-lah'-o):
 - **kollaó = Glue** - to glue, unite. To bond (cleave), adhere to (literally, "glued together"); to cleave, join to; (figuratively) intimately connected in a soul-knit friendship. Wow! This passage is focusing on the body (the church and the individual) so the next couple of scriptures are in this same direction.
- b) **1 Cor. 3:16 (NKJV/AMPC)** – You, the believing church, and individual believers, are now the temple of God. God's Spirit has His permanent dwelling in you [to be at home in you, collectively as a church and also individually].
- c) **1 Cor. 6:19-20 (NLT/AMPC)** – *"your body is the temple (the very sanctuary) of the Holy Spirit Who lives within you Whom you have received [as a Gift] from God. You are not your own ... God bought you with a high price. So, you must honor God with your body."* Note: "you are not your own" – you (believer) now belong to the Lord and are His!
- d) **Rom. 12:1-2 (KJV/AMPC)** – *"present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, (make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God,)...do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."* We are familiar with "do not be conformed to the world and be transformed by the renewing of your mind", but sometimes we glance over v. 1 *"present your bodies a living sacrifice"* and how it ties in with us being a temple of God. Also note and discuss:
KJV/NKJV – "a living sacrifice" – NIV/ESV/NASB/AMP/AMPC "as a living sacrifice"

Note: "As a Living Sacrifice" (NIV/ESV/NASB/AMP/AMPC)

This is a functional equivalence (thought-for-thought) translation. Translators add the word "as" to clarify the capacity in which you are presenting yourself.

- **The Concept:** This phrasing emphasizes Function or Comparison. It helps the modern reader understand the metaphor. In the Old Testament, a worshiper would present a lamb as a sacrifice. Paul is saying: "In the same way a Jew once brought a literal animal, you should now bring your whole life."

e) In previous studies we focused on being born again and what that meant. One of the main benefits of being born again is the Holy Spirit coming into your spirit. There is a union that takes place at salvation. Let's talk more about this union.

f) **Rom. 8:16-17**

(NKJV) "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ"

(NASB) "the Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ"

(NLT) "For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs."

(AMPC) "The Spirit Himself [thus] testifies together with our own spirit, [assuring us] that we are children of God. And if we are [His] children, then we are [His] heirs also: heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ [sharing His inheritance with Him]"

- His Spirit joins with our spirit. Let's talk about that for a minute.

g) Let's keep the thought of "His Spirit joining with our spirit" in mind while reading this scripture:

1 Cor. 2:11-12 (NKJV/AMPC) – "For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? ...no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. ...We have not received the spirit of the world but the Holy Spirit who is from God."

- Now when you think of having received the Holy Spirit through faith add to that His Spirit being joined with our spirit. Then think about understanding spiritual things because you have received the Holy Spirit, are joined with Him, have a new nature, and now have the mind of Christ. Now think about God unveiling and revealing deep mysteries to us through the Holy Spirit.

Now let's read this in full context: **1 Cor. 2:6-16 (NASB)** (Spiritual Wisdom).

(* see **1 Cor. 2:14-16 Believers Bible Commentary below**).

- **1 Jn. 2:27** ties into this same theme. **1 Jn 2:27 (ESV)** "But the anointing [The Holy Spirit] that you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. ..." i.e. spiritually discerned as we just read in **1 Cor. 2:6-16**.

h) A quick review of scriptures previously discussed on union for homework.

- **Col. 1:27** – "Christ in you, the hope of glory."
- **Rom. 8:10** – "And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness."

- **Gal. 2:20** – “no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.”
- **Gal. 3:26-27** – “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
- **Eph. 3:17** – “that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”
- **2 Cor. 13:5** – “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?”
- **Jn. 14:20** – “At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.” (At that day = coming of The Holy Spirit) - Full context (Indwelling of the Father and the Son) **Jn. 14:19-31**.
- **Gal. 4:19** – “My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,” – I like to think of this as His Spirit in us spilling over into our body and soul.
- **2 Cor. 4:10-11** - (NKJ) "the life of Christ made manifest in our mortal flesh."

i) We are a spirit who has a soul that lives in a body.

- **Spirit** (the inner-most part of your being, the center of who you are).
- **Soul** (mind, will and emotions) and **Body** (5 senses).
- We want His Spirit which is one with our spirit to flood our body and soul. I believe this is the “Christ being formed in you” part.

j) **Rom. 8:6 (NKJV/AMPC)** “*For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the spirit is life & peace.*” Spiritually minded... remember we have the mind of Christ as noted above.

k) How do we walk in this new spiritual nature as it says in Gal. 5:16-25 (AMPC)? Your spirit communicates between you and God. You want your spirit to lead and guide your soul and body to act and operate within the will of God. We believers want our will, emotions and intellect to be guided by our spirit and how it lives in the world. This is walking in the spirit.

l) **Eph. 1:13 (NLT)** “he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit”, (NASB) “you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit”, (AMP) “were stamped with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit [the One promised by Christ] as owned and protected [by God].”

m) We believers were dead but now have been made alive in Christ. **Eph. 2:1-10 (AMP)** (pay close attention to vs 3 in **Eph. 2:1-10**)

n) **2 Cor. 5:17 (AMP)**. We believers have been joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior, a new creature [**reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit**]. Note again here: If anyone is “In Christ” (ESV/AMP/NASB) or “belongs to Christ” (NLT).

o) We talked a lot about being “born again” in our last study but I want to touch on this one more time from a different angle. This is in the context of not loving the world, a warning about the antichrist and having received the Holy Spirit can now know the difference between truth and lies, all of which is a result of being born again. Let’s read

through **1 Jn. 2:15-27 (NLT/AMP)** and then back up to **1 Jn. 2:20**.

(*See **1 Jn. 2:20 Believers Bible Commentary below**).

p) I find this scripture very encouraging; it ties in with His spirit in our spirit spilling over into our body and soul. Christ being formed in us!

Rom. 8:10-11 (AMPC) – “...He Who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also restore to life your mortal (short-lived, perishable) bodies through His Spirit Who dwells in you.”

1 Cor. 2:14-16 Believers Bible Commentary

2:14 – Not only is the gospel divine in its revelation and divine in its inspiration, but now we learn it can only be received by the power of **the Spirit of God**. Unaided, **the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit. They are foolishness to him**. He cannot possibly understand them **because they can only be spiritually** understood.

2:15 – On the other hand, the man who is illuminated by the Spirit of God can discern these wonderful truths even though **he himself** cannot be **rightly judged** by the unconverted. Perhaps he is a carpenter, or plumber, or fisherman; yet he is an able student of the Holy Scriptures. “The Spirit-controlled Christian investigates, inquires into, and scrutinizes and comes to an appreciation and understanding of its contents. To the world he is an enigma. He may never have been to college or seminary, yet he can understand the deep mysteries of the word of God and perhaps even teach them to others.

2:16 – The apostle now asks with Isiah the rhetorical question: **Who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?** To ask the question is to answer it. God cannot be known through the wisdom or power of men. He is known only as He chooses to make Himself known. However, **those who have the mind of Christ**, are able to understand the deep truths of God.

To review then, first there is revelation. (vv. 9-12). This means that God revealed previous unknown truths to men by the Holy Spirit. These truths were made known supernaturally by the Spirit of God.

Secondly, there is inspiration. (v. 13). In transmitting these truths to others, the apostles (and all other writers of the Bible) use the very words which the Holy Spirit taught them to use. Finally, there is illumination (vv. 14-16). Not only must these truths be miraculously revealed and miraculously inspired, but they can only be understood by the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Jn. 2:20 Believers Bible Commentary

But this raises the question: “How can a young believer (or a longtime believer for that matter) know what is true and what is falsehood?” The answer is that we **have an anointing from the Holy One, and ... know all things**, and this **anointing** refers to the Holy Spirit and **is from the Holy One**, the Lord Jesus Christ. When a person is saved, he received the indwelling Holy Spirit, and He enables the believer to discern between truth and error. When John tells his young readers “you know **all things**” he does not mean this in an absolute sense. It is not that they have perfect

knowledge, but rather that they have the capacity to recognize what is true and what is not. Thus the youngest, simplest believer has the capacity of discernment in divine things that an unsaved philosopher would not have.

Where we are heading: (Homework to dig into)

...and just what does the believer do with this new nature?

- We are to “live as children of light” and “Love One Another”: Eph. 4:17-32: 1 Jn. 3:1-23, 3:7-21.
- We should “Not Love This World”: 1 Jn. 2:15-27.
- We “believers” are to “live in the light”: Eph. 5:1-14.
- We “believers” are to be “living by the power of the Holy Spirit”: Eph. 5:15-20.
- We “believers” are to “walk in the light”: Jn. 8:12.
- “Believe and trust in the Light [have faith in it, hold on to it, rely on it], so that you may become sons of Light [being filled with Light as followers of God].” Jn. 12:35-36.
- Even though we received a new nature when we believed in Christ, scripture tells us to “put on our new nature”: Eph. 4:20-24 (AMP); Col. 3:10-12.
- We “believers” are to “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ”: Rom. 13:14; Gal. 3:27.
- We “believers” are to “put on the full armor of God”: Eph. 6:10-18.
- A Call to holy living: 1 Pet. 1:13-25.
- We “believers” are to “Clothe ourselves” with humility, humble yourselves before God, be alert and of sober mind. Resist the enemy and stand firm in the faith: 1 Pet. 5:5-11.
- We “believers” are to “be a living sacrifice”: Rom. 12:1.
- We “believers” are to “walk in love”: Eph. 5:1-21
- We “believers” are to Shine brightly for Christ: Phil. 2:12-16 and don’t hide the light: Mat. 5:15-16.
- Make every effort to enter that rest [of God, to know and experience it for ourselves]: Heb. 4:11.
- We are to continue in the faith: Col. 1:21-23.
- stripping off every unnecessary weight and the sin which so easily and cleverly entangles us - run with endurance and active persistence the race that is set before us - looking away from all that will distract us and focusing our eyes on Jesus: Heb: 12:1-2.
- Be sober-minded, watchful, alert, vigilant and self-disciplined because that enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion [fiercely hungry], seeking someone to devour. Resist him, be firm in your faith [against his attack—rooted, established, immovable]: 1 Peter 5:8-9.

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Two more commentary for deeper study:

Rom. 12:1 Believers Bible Commentary

12:1 Serious and devout consideration of **the mercies of God**, as they have been set forth in chapters 1–11, leads to only one conclusion—we should **present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God**. Our **bodies** stand for all our members and, by extension, our entire lives.

Total commitment is our **reasonable service**. It is our **reasonable service** in this sense: if the Son of God has died for me, then the least I can do is live for Him. "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me," said the great British athlete C. T. Studd, "then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for him."⁴⁶ Isaac Watts' great hymn says the same thing: "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my heart, my life, my all."

Reasonable service may also be translated "spiritual worship." As believer-priests, we do not come to God with the bodies of slain animals but with the spiritual sacrifice of yielded lives. We also offer to Him our service (Rom. 15:16), our praise (Heb. 13:15), and our possessions (Heb. 13:16).

Rom. 12:1 Expositor's Bible Commentary (Abridged Edition): New Testament

1 "Therefore" establishes a connection with the entire foregoing presentation in this letter. It particularly relates to 6:13, 19, as a comparison of the terminology will show. The apostle begins by urging his readers instead of simply instructing them ("urge" lies between commanding and beseeching). "Mercy" denotes that quality in God that moved him to deliver sinners from their state of sin and misery and therefore underlies his saving activity in Christ. It serves here as the leverage for the appeal that follows. Whereas the heathen are prone to sacrifice in order to obtain mercy, biblical faith teaches that the divine mercy provides the basis for a life of sacrifice as the fitting response.

Since the milieu of thought is so similar to ch. 6, it is natural to conclude that "bodies" here include both the person (the volition of the one making the dedication) and the bodily powers that are thus set apart for God's use. In Greek thought the body was considered the receptacle containing the soul, but this was not the Hebraic concept, which viewed the human being as a unit. Thus Paul is not urging the dedication of the body as an entity distinct from the inner self; rather, he views the body as the vehicle that implements the desires and choices of the redeemed spirit. Through the body we serve God.

The words "offer" and "sacrifices" are cultic terms (cf. 15:16). Before a priest in Israel could minister on behalf of others, he had to present himself in a consecrated state and the sacrifices he offered were to be without blemish (Mal 1:8-13). "Holy" is a reminder of that necessity for the Christian, not in terms of rite or ritual but as renouncing the sins of the old life and being committed to a life of obedience to the divine will (cf. 6:19). The body is not evil in itself; if it were, God would not ask that it be offered to him. As an instrument, it is capable of expressing either sin or righteousness. If we do the latter, then we give an offering "pleasing to God." The word "living" may glance by way of contrast to the animal sacrifices of the OT, which, when offered, no longer possessed life. But it is also a reminder that spiritual life, received from God in the new birth, is the presupposition of a sacrifice acceptable to him. Christian sacrifice has in view a total life of service to God. In Israel the whole burnt offering ascended to God and could never be reclaimed. It belonged to God.

Next, the living sacrifice is equated with "spiritual worship." While the exact sense is difficult to determine, the main idea is that the sacrifice we render to God is intelligent and deliberate, in contrast to the sacrifices of the Jewish worship in which the animals had no part in determining what was to be done with them. "Worship" is perhaps too narrow a translation, for in the strict sense worship is adoration of God, which does not fit well with the concept of "bodies." The term "service" (KJV) has an advantage, since it covers the entire range of a Christian's life and activity (cf. Dt 10:12). Serving God is the proper sequel to worship.