

Term 2 – Equipped by God for the Journey

Lesson 1

Our New Identity in Christ Jesus

When our Heavenly Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to the earth, it was for the fulfilment of His plan. We were created to have fellowship with GOD as Adam and Eve did. God's plan was that we would once again be reunited with Him, now and for all eternity. **John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"*.

Our reunion with God begins at the death of Jesus on the cross. God forgives our sin through the blood of Jesus. We are His cherished creation but sin separates us from God. Restoring us into a relationship with Him into the family of God begins at the cross. After our heavenly birth, he has much more for us. He gives us a complete, new identity as sons or daughters of the Most High God through Christ Jesus. **2 Corinthians 5:17** *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."*

We are made new in Christ Jesus

The Holy Spirit Birth

The Holy Spirit birth is described in **John 3:3** *"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* God recreates us as new spiritual creatures. **John 3:6** *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."*

Water Baptism

Water baptism is a key part of our transformation into a new creature in Christ. **John 3:5** *"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."* **Romans 6:4-6** *"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."*

Holy Ghost Baptism

Baptism in the Holy Ghost is vital. This baptism is for us so that we might have power to accomplish God's plan for our lives. It is separate from the born-again experience. In some cases, believers receive the Holy Ghost before they are water baptized. **John 14:16-17** *"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you".* **John 14:26** *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you"*.

Acts 1:4-5 “And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence”. **Acts 1:8** “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Transformation Begins

Through the Holy Spirit birth of Jesus Christ, our heavenly Father begins a miraculous transformation in our lives. We are changed into the image of God with spiritual understanding and purpose. We receive His characteristics, power and authority. We are adopted into a new family – the family of God. Such transformation: from death unto life!; from sin to righteousness!; from wounded to healed!; from separation to belonging!; from mortality to immortality! **John 10:10** “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

Who is this New Man in Christ Jesus?

All believers need to understand who they are in Christ Jesus and what has been done in their lives through Him. We are admonished in the Word of God to **put on** this “new man” and **walk** in “newness of life”. Faith activates this process. Jesus’ death and victory over sin on the cross at Calvary was not for us to find comfort in this life of weakness. Instead, it was to begin a walk of faith with victory over sin. It was for us to be new creatures in Christ, full of purpose and walking in his characteristics for a witness to the world. Here are some of God’s words and promises about the new man:

The new man is created by the Spirit of God onto righteousness and holiness. **Ephesians 4:22-24** “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

The new man is nigh unto God. **Ephesians 2:13** “But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”

The new man may enter the Holy of Holies. **Hebrews 10:19-20** “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;”

The new man is adopted into the family of God and joint heirs with Christ. **Romans 8:14-17** “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”

The new man has power of God. **2 Corinthians 4:6-7** *“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”*

The new man is quickened by the Spirit of Resurrection. **Romans 8:11-12** *“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.”*

The new man has the mind of Christ. **1 Corinthians 2:14-16** *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”*

The new man is humble, has a heart to serve and is obedient. **Philippians 2:5-8** *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”*

The new man is content and is never alone. **Hebrews 13:5-6** *“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”* **Matthew 28:20** *“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

The new man has the peace of God. **John 14:27** *“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”* **Philippians 4:7** *“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

The new man is free from condemnation. **Romans 8:1-4** *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who **walk** not after the flesh, but **after the Spirit**. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be **fulfilled in us**, who **walk** not after the flesh, but **after the Spirit**.”*

The new man walks in the light. **John 8:12** *“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that **followeth** me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”* **Ephesians 5:8** *“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: **walk** as children of light:”*

Matthew 5:14-16 *“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*

Next Steps

We have just begun to understand who we are as a new man in Christ Jesus. The Word declares who Jesus is, but it also declares who we are in Him. The Word tells us that the things of the Spirit are now ours because we are new creatures in Christ Jesus. These include:

- The fruit of His Spirit,
- Gifts of the Holy Ghost,
- Ministries given to perfect us, and
- Weapons of Warfare.

We will look at all these in our upcoming lessons. They are all part of who we are in Christ Jesus. They are all part of His glorious plan for building His Church and for the salvation of mankind.

Peter had a revelation of Jesus and declared: **Matthew 16:16-17** *“And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”* Likewise Jesus declared of Peter: **Matthew 16:17-19** *“And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*

These declarations are the same today. Jesus testified of His Father. In heaven, He continues to testify and declare the name of every new believer to the Father. Now we testify of Jesus by the power of the Holy Ghost. There is power in the name of Jesus for all mankind today and forever.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

Read **Ephesians 2:1-22**. Identify all the qualities of the “old man” and the changes into the “new man” in these verses.

SCRIPTURE	Old Man (without Jesus)	New Man in Christ Jesus
<p>Ephesians 2:1-22 <i>(1) And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;</i></p> <p><i>(2) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:</i></p> <p><i>(3) Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.</i></p>		
<p><i>(4) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,</i></p> <p><i>(5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)</i></p> <p><i>(6). And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:</i></p> <p><i>(7) That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.</i></p>		

SCRIPTURE	Old Man (without Jesus)	New Man in Christ Jesus
<p><i>(8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:</i></p> <p><i>(9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.</i></p> <p><i>(10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.</i></p>		
<p><i>(11) Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;</i></p> <p><i>(12) That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:</i></p>		
<p><i>(13) But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.</i></p> <p><i>(14) For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;</i></p>		

SCRIPTURE	Old Man (without Jesus)	New Man in Christ Jesus
<p><i>(15) Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;</i></p> <p><i>(16) And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:</i></p> <p><i>(17) And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.</i></p> <p><i>(18) For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.</i></p>		
<p><i>(19) Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;</i></p> <p><i>(20) And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;</i></p> <p><i>(21) In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:</i></p> <p><i>(22) In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.</i></p>		

ANSWER KEY

Old Man (without Jesus)	New Man in Christ Jesus
Dead in trespasses and sins	We received His love
Walked according to the things of the world	Quickened us together with Christ
Led by the prince of the power of the air	Saved by grace (gift of God, v8)
Children of disobedience	Made us to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus
Joined in with the world in lusts of the flesh	Will show us the exceeding riches of his grace and kindness through Jesus
Fulfilled the desires of our flesh and mind	His workmanship
Children of wrath	Created unto good works and walks in them
Dead in sin	Made nigh by the blood of Christ
Boasts of achievements	Jesus became our peace
Gentiles in the flesh, called uncircumcision	Broke down the wall of partition between Jew and Gentile
Without Christ, no hope	Gentiles and Jews become one nation in God through Christ
Aliens from the commonwealth	Reconciled all unto God through Christ
Strangers from the covenants of promise	Have access by the Holy Spirit unto the Father
No hope	No more strangers or foreigners
Without God	Fellow citizens with the saints
Far off	Members of the household of God
	Built upon the foundation of apostles and prophets with Jesus Christ, the chief cornerstone
	Fitly framed together
	An holy temple in the Lord
	An habitation of God