

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

1. The term “born again” has been used secularly to describe “turning over a new leaf” or “making a new start”, particularly after some failure or catastrophe in life. However, when Jesus coined the term, He was referring to a spiritual experience that would bring a person into a brand new **relationship** with God the Father. According to Jesus, in John 3:5, What is impossible to a person unless they are “born again”? _____

2. In John 3:3-8, Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born again. Nicodemus understands being born of a woman, (natural birth), but he does not understand **spiritual birth**. So he asks Jesus what question? John 3:4

3. In John 3:6, when Jesus says “that which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”, He is implying that man is more than a flesh and blood body and that there is a spiritual part to man. Read I Thessalonians 5:23 and state the three parts of man's makeup. _____, _____, _____

4. The New Birth involves the spirit man, not the outward man. In I Peter 3:4, Peter calls the spirit of man the “_____of the heart”.

5. In 2 Corinthians 4:16, Paul says “though our outward (physical) man perish, yet the _____ man (spirit) is renewed day by day”.

6. Referring to the spiritual or inward man in Ephesians 2:1-3, Paul says, “And you hath He quickened (refers to inner man, spirit) who were

MAN'S SINFUL CONDITION

7. Man's condition before being born again is referred to as being dead, or without the life of God. Man was separated from God because of **what he was**, not because of what he did (the individual sins he committed). Ephesians 2:3b says, "...who were by _____ the children of wrath, even as others".

8. In John 8:44, Jesus was referring to the "sin nature" in man when He said to the religious Jews, "Ye are of your _____, and the lusts of your father ye will do".

9. In the disobedience and fall of Adam, sin (satanic nature) and spiritual death entered the human race and mankind became sinners by nature. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered the world, and _____ by sin; and so _____

for all have sinned". Romans 5:12

10. So then, if man is a sinner by nature, it is natural for him to sin and break God's law. In fact, he cannot keep the holy commands of God because his sinful nature inside won't allow it. "The carnal mind is enmity (at war) against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, _____". Romans 8:7

11. As long as man is a sinner by nature, he will continue to live in disobedience and rebellion against God, breaking God's moral laws and incurring the death penalty. "For the _____ of sin is _____: but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord". Romans 6:23

12. In order for man to stop living in disobedience toward God and enter a life of fellowship with God, his nature must be changed. "...for what fellowship hath _____ with _____? and what _____ hath _____ with _____". 2 Corinthians 6:14

MAN IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

13. In the new birth, man's spirit is made alive by God's power. He is made into a brand new person on the inside. His very nature is changed and he becomes a "_____ of the divine nature" 2 Peter 1:4b.

14. When we are born again, we are actually born of God and become the sons/daughters of God. “Behold what manner of love The Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the _____”. I John 3:1

15. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 Paul says, “Therefore if any man be IN CHRIST (born again), he is a _____; old things are _____; behold, all things are become NEW”.

16. When our spirit man is born again or made alive in Christ, we now have fellowship with The Heavenly Father and Jesus, through the Holy Spirit. “That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our _____ is with the _____, and with His Son _____”. I John 1:3

17. When we are born again we are actually recreated into the image of God our Father and Jesus Christ our Savior. “And that ye put on the _____, which after God is created in _____ and _____”. Ephesians 4:24

18. As born again, new creatures in Christ, we are made in His image and likeness again, as God intended from eternity. “For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be _____ of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren”. Romans 8:29

19. The new birth, then, is the rebirth of the human spirit into the image and likeness of God. After the new birth, which only affects the spirit of man, we begin the process of “restoring our soul”; the soul is comprised of our mind, our will and our emotions. “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness (teachableness) the engrafted Word, which is able to _____ your _____”. James 1:21

RENEWING THE MIND

20. How does this process of saving our soul take place? One of the most important aspects of the process involves the “renewing of the mind”. Romans 12:2 says “And be not conformed to this world, but be ye _____ by the _____ of your _____”. We need to understand **who we are in Christ**, since we were born again and begin to **be what we are**. God has made us in His image in Christ; we need not struggle to try and be what we **already are**. What we need is to renew our minds by looking into the Word of God, which

becomes our mirror to reflect the image of who we are “In Christ” already. This process brings the transformation of our actions so that we begin to act like Jesus would act in all situations.

James 1:22-25 says, “But be ye _____ of the Word, and not _____ only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding himself in a _____; For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what _____ of _____ he was. But whoso _____ into the perfect _____ of _____, and _____ therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the _____, this man shall be blessed in his deed”.

We must continue to look into the mirror of God’s Word until we see clearly who we are “in Christ” and then not forget, but instead “renew our minds” to that new image and begin to walk and talk like the sons and daughters of God we have already become.

21. When we see ourselves in the mirror of God’s Word and renew our “minds”, we then begin to exercise our “will” by “choosing” to act upon the Word that we now see and understand. The result is that our “emotions” fall in line with our thinking and deciding upon the will of God for our lives. In this way, our souls are restored. We are no longer aimless people who don’t know what to do or how to act or, worse yet, slaves to our feelings and emotions. This is total restoration of the human person conscious of **who we are in Christ** and **who Christ is in us**. In this way our lives are totally transformed to live the abundant life that Jesus came to give us. “I am come that they might have _____, and that they might have it _____”. John 10:10

BRINGING UNDER OUR BODIES

22. When we are born again and have our minds renewed, our bodies then are brought into subjection. Our flesh no longer controls our spirit, but our recreated spirit man rules over soul and body and God’s creative order is established. **We no longer live from the outside in, but from the inside out.** In I Corinthians 9:27, Paul said it this way... “But I (spirit) keep _____ my body, and bring it into _____: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be castaway”.

23. Having the understanding that man is a three part being, is vital in our growth as new creations in Christ. It can only be understood through God's Word, the owners manual. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the Word of God is quick (alive!) and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, _____ even to the _____ asunder of _____ and _____, and of the _____ and _____, and is a _____ of the thoughts and intents of the _____".

24. When we understand who we are in Christ, through meditating in the Word, renewing our minds and bringing our bodies under subjection, we will begin to walk as more than "mere men". We will walk as sons of God who are "conformed to the image" of the first begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

The word "conformed" actually means "according to a pattern". This tells us that our earthly life in Christ can parallel His earthly life as recorded in the four Gospels. This is what the first century Christians understood and why they were able to "do the works He did". "He that _____ on me, the _____ that I do, shall he do _____". John 14:12

NO LONGER MERE MEN

25. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 3:3 that until we grow up in Christ, understanding who we are as new creations in Him, we will walk as mere earthly men, even though we have been "born from above" (literal Greek for born again) and can walk as "men from Heaven". "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as mere men".

As new creations in Christ, we are to be imitators of God: "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath _____ us, and hath _____ himself for us an _____ and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor". Ephesians 5:1-2

26. Because Jesus Christ is both God and man, through the "mystery of incarnation", He reveals both to us: "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was _____ in the _____, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory". I Timothy 3:16

27. Therefore, in the four gospels we see two revelations: we see God manifested in human form, “And the Word was made _____ and dwelt among us”. John 1:14a; and we see man in the image of God, “And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the _____ Adam (Jesus) was made a quickening spirit”. I Corinthians 15:45.

We cannot relate to Jesus as God in flesh because we are His creation. We can identify with Jesus as Son of man...man in the image of God. Man as he was meant to be from the beginning. We only have history of the first man in the image of God in the first three chapters of Genesis. We see man in his fallen condition, until Jesus came to show us (as the last Adam), what man in God's image is like.

28. In order for us to appreciate the revelation of the New Testament as revealing God to man, and man to man in Jesus Christ, we must first see the starting point. In the book of Acts we find the birth of the Church, or the new creation in Christ. These men and women were born again and filled with the Holy Ghost, they preached Christ's death, burial, resurrection and second coming. There is very little teaching in Acts. It is mainly a historical account of the beginnings of the Church Age and a pattern for ministry throughout the age, until Jesus comes again. God then raised up Paul to teach the truths of redemption to the Church and show us what actually happened to us when we were born again. He explains not only the experience that took place in Acts, but also our position in Christ. So when we are born again and Spirit filled, like the believers in Acts, we can go to the letters written to the churches, which act like a mirror to reflect to us what we became as new creatures. After we have a clear picture of what God has done for us and in us, in Christ, we can go back to the Gospels and say: I can step into the mold of the man of Galilee now, that is a pattern for me “because as He is, even so are _____, in this world”. I John 4:17b. When we understand the New Testament redemption correctly, we realize that we have the same relationship with God the Father now that Jesus had in His earth walk.

“These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you _____ of the _____”. John 16:25.

Jesus is saying here that we would know the Father as He did during His earth walk, when He had all His prayers answered, and would therefore be able to pray for ourselves as He did and have the same results. This would be possible for us because of the new birth and our position in Christ.

29. God's plan for us all is that we "may grow up _____ in _____ which is the head even Christ". Ephesians 4:15b