

## Your New Life in the Spirit

God loves us and provides salvation (the **New Birth**) by His grace, apart from anything we can do to earn it.

•**Ephesians 2:8-9** "For by **GRACE** you have been saved **through FAITH**, and that not of yourselves, it is **the GIFT of God; NOT of WORKS**, lest anyone should boast."

**Definition: "GRACE"** -- Unmerited or UNEARNED favor. **Being accepted and loved by God** when we have done NOTHING and CAN DO NOTHING to EARN or DESERVE it.

•**Titus 3:5-7** "**NOT by works of righteousness** which we have DONE, but according to His mercy **He saved us**; by the washing of regeneration (being born again), and the renewing of the **Holy Spirit**, whom He poured out on us abundantly through **Jesus Christ our Savior**. That having been JUSTIFIED by **His GRACE** we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life"

Why do we need the **NEW BIRTH**? Because "God is Spirit" (He is a spirit being), and we can only communicate with Him through OUR spirits. Before we experience the new birth in Christ Jesus, the Bible says **WE are spiritually DEAD**, and **our spirits must be MADE ALIVE**, so that we can worship, communicate with, and experience God! God gives you eternal LIFE - **your spirit is REBORN and MADE ALIVE** in Christ Jesus when you receive Him as your Lord and Savior, and then you can worship God "in spirit."

•**John 4:23-24** "But the hour is coming, and now is, when **the true worshipers will WORSHIP the Father in SPIRIT and truth**; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. **God is Spirit**, and those who worship Him must **worship in SPIRIT and truth.**"

•**Colossians 2:13-14** "And you, **being DEAD** in your trespasses (sins) and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has **MADE ALIVE** together with Him (Jesus), having forgiven you all trespasses (sins); having wiped out the handwriting of requirements which was contrary to (against) us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."

•**Ephesians 2:1& 4-5** "And you *He made ALIVE*, who were **DEAD** in your trespasses and SINS." "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great

love with which He loved us, even when **we were DEAD** in trespasses (sins), **made us ALIVE** together with Christ (by grace you have been **saved**)";

**Definition: "TRESPASSES"** -- Transgressions of God's law; all the times we have violated God's laws and commandments.

• **Romans 6:23** "For the wages (results) of SIN is DEATH, but **the gift of God is eternal LIFE** in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Is there a difference between the SOUL and the SPIRIT? Yes, the word of God mentions them as two separate things. The real YOU is your HUMAN SPIRIT within you. You ARE a spirit, you HAVE a soul, and you LIVE in a body. When Adam and Eve sinned, they IMMEDIATELY DIED spiritually, and PHYSICAL DEATH came many years later. They were no longer able to have that close communion with God that they once had.

• **Romans 5:12** "Therefore, just as through one man (Adam) SIN entered the world, and DEATH through sin, and thus **DEATH spread to all men**, because ALL SINNED."

• **1 Thessalonians 5:23** "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may **your whole SPIRIT, SOUL, and BODY** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

• **Luke 1:46-47** "And Mary said, '**My SOUL** magnifies the Lord, and **my SPIRIT** has rejoiced in God my Savior.'"

• **Isaiah 26:9** "At night **my SOUL** longs for You, indeed **my SPIRIT** within me seeks You diligently...."

• **Psalms 77:2-3, 6** "In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord; my hand was stretched out in the night without ceasing; **my SOUL** refused to be comforted. I remembered God, and was troubled; I complained, and **my SPIRIT** was overwhelmed."

The Bible calls the person who has never been born again a "natural man" - he is NATURAL, made of flesh and blood, and he has a SOUL (mind, will and emotions - his "personality"). Because the "natural man" is SPIRITUALLY DEAD, he (or she) cannot really understand spiritual things - the things of God. The most that a "natural" man can do is to TRY to relate to God by means of man-made religion in the SOUL

realm. I Corinthians 2:14-16 describes the natural man as being unable to "RECEIVE the things of the Spirit of God". Just as a radio cannot RECEIVE or pick up a message that is sent **if its batteries are DEAD**, so the unregenerate (un-born-again) person cannot RECEIVE the things of God's Spirit because **their SPIRIT is dead**. We must have a **SPIRIT that is BORN AGAIN** and given **LIFE from God** in order to DISCERN spiritual things. If it were possible to have another PHYSICAL birth, that would still not be enough (it's not another flesh and blood birth that is needed - see John 3:3-7), because it must be a **BIRTH from a totally new DIMENSION**, that of the Holy Spirit of God.

• **I Corinthians 2:14-16** "But the **NATURAL MAN** does not **RECEIVE** (understand) the things of the SPIRIT of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he **KNOW** them, because **they are SPIRITUALLY discerned**. But he who is SPIRITUAL judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For 'Who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?' But we have **the Mind of Christ**."

• **John 3:3-7** "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is BORN AGAIN**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.' Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born? Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born of water and **the SPIRIT**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is **born of the SPIRIT** is SPIRIT. Do not marvel that I said to you, '**You MUST be BORN AGAIN**.'"

• **I Corinthians 15:50** "Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood** cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption."

• **I Peter 1:23** "Having been **BORN AGAIN**, not of corruptible SEED but incorruptible, through the WORD of GOD which lives and abides forever."

• **John 1:13** "Who were **BORN** not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

• **II Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore, if anyone is IN CHRIST, he is a **new CREATION**; old things are passed away, behold, all things have become new."

What is your responsibility once you are born again? What do YOU need to do **AFTER you have been MADE a new creation in Christ?** YOU are responsible for your GROWTH - God does not want you to STAY a spiritual BABY forever! He wants you to **GROW and MATURE in Christ**, but it doesn't happen automatically. YOU must **FEED your re-born SPIRIT** with spiritual food, the **WORD of GOD**, in order to GROW. The SOUL and SPIRIT are closely linked together, so you must also **RENEW your MIND**, which is part of your SOUL (remember, the SOUL is made up of **MIND, WILL and EMOTIONS**). You will truly see **spiritual GROWTH** and you will be TRANSFORMED into the likeness of Jesus Christ, as you renew your mind with the word of God.

• **I Peter 2:2** "As NEWBORN BABES, desire the **pure MILK of the WORD**, that you may **GROW** thereby (by the word)."

• **II Peter 3:18** "But **GROW in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen."

• **Ephesians 4:23-24** "And be **RENEWED in the SPIRIT** of your MIND; and that you put on the NEW MAN, which was **CREATED according to God**, in righteousness and true holiness."

• **Romans 12:1-2** "And do not be conformed to this world, but **be TRANSFORMED by the RENEWING of your MIND** that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

• **Ephesians 4:13-15** "Until we all come to the unity of the faith and the **knowledge of the Son of God**, to a PERFECT (MATURE) man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of CHRIST; that we should **no longer be CHILDREN**, .....but, speaking the truth in love, may **GROW UP** in all things into Him who is the head -- **CHRIST**."

**RENEWING our MINDS with the WORD of God** is like re-programming a computer - we must **REPLACE all the old THOUGHT PATTERNS** with God's thoughts (from His word). This is also called "having the MIND of CHRIST." When we constantly read and take into our minds **the WORD OF GOD**, our **MINDS become RENEWED**, until we begin to THINK more and more LIKE GOD and ACT like Jesus!

• **Philippians 2:5** "Let this **MIND be in YOU** which was also in Christ Jesus."

•**Romans 8:28-31** "For whom He foreknew, him He also predestinated (planned ahead) to **be CONFORMED to the image of HIS SON**, that He (Jesus) might be the firstborn among many brethren."

•**Hebrews 4:12** "For the **WORD of God** is LIVING and POWERFUL, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the DIVISION of **SOUL and SPIRIT**, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the **THOUGHTS and intents of the HEART.**"

•**Hebrews 5:12-14** "For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the **WORD** of righteousness, for **he is a BABE**. But **SOLID FOOD** belongs to those who are of full age (mature, grown up), that is those who by reason of use have their **SENSES (soul) exercised (trained)** to **DISCERN both good and evil.**"

•**Colossians 3:16** "Let the **WORD of Christ DWELL (live) in you richly** in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and **SPIRITUAL** songs, singing with **grace in your HEARTS** to the Lord."

**Proverbs 4:4, 20-21 & 23** "...let **your HEART** retain **MY WORDS**; keep my **commandments** and live." "My son, give attention to **My WORDS**;...do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them **IN THE MIDST OF YOUR HEART.**" "Keep (guard, watch over) **your HEART** with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

•**John 8:31** "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed in Him, "If you **ABIDE in My WORD**, you are **My disciples** indeed."

•**Romans 7:22** "For I delight in the law (word) of God according to the **INWARD MAN.**"

**Definition: "INWARD MAN"** -- Also called **the INNER MAN** - your **human spirit** within you, and also called your "**HEART**" in scripture. The **Holy Spirit of God** comes to **LIVE WITHIN your spirit**, and **YOUR SPIRIT** is "born again" when you receive Jesus as your Savior. Sometimes we call this "asking **Jesus to come into your HEART.**" He comes in and **DWELLS** in you by His Holy Spirit.

•**I Corinthians 6:17** "But he who is joined to the Lord is **ONE SPIRIT with Him.**"

• **I John 4:13 & 15** "By this we know that we ABIDE in Him, and **He in us**, because **He has given us of His SPIRIT**. (Verse 15) "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, **God ABIDES (DWELLS) in him**, and he in God."

• **I John 3:24** "Now he who keeps His commandments **abides (dwells) in Him, and He in him**. And by this we know that **He ABIDES (LIVES) IN US, by the SPIRIT** whom He has given us."

• **Ephesians 3:17-19** "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**."

• **Romans 8:9, 11 & 16** "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the **SPIRIT of GOD dwells in you**. Now if anyone does **NOT** have **the SPIRIT of CHRIST**, he is **not His** (does not belong to Him)." "But if **the Spirit of Him** who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through **His Spirit who dwells in you**." "**The SPIRIT HIMSELF** bears witness with **our SPIRIT** that we are CHILDREN of God."

• **Ephesians 3:16** "That He would grant (give) you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might (power) **through His SPIRIT in the INNER MAN** (your human spirit)."

• **II Corinthians 4:16** "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our OUTER man is perishing, yet **the INNER man** is being renewed (strengthened) day by day."

• **I Peter 3:4** "But let it be **the hidden PERSON of the HEART**, with the incorruptible ornament, of a gentle and quiet **SPIRIT**, which is very precious in the sight of God."

• **I Corinthians 2:11** "For what man knows the things (thoughts) of a man except the **SPIRIT of the man**, which is IN him?"

• **Psalms 51:10** "**CREATE in me a clean HEART**, O God, and **renew a steadfast SPIRIT within me**."

**When our MINDS become RENEWED by the WORD OF GOD, we become CONFORMED to the image of HIS SON, Jesus.** Galatians 2:20 says, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but **CHRIST LIVES IN ME**; and the life which I now live in the flesh (this human body) **I live by FAITH in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself for me." When people **begin to SEE JESUS in us**, that is when we become EFFECTIVE in bringing others to faith in Him. God's plan for our lives is NEVER for us to continue in our old sinful, selfish ways. His plan is to bring us ALL to full maturity in Christ, and He accomplishes this by His WORD.

• **II Peter 1:4** "By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious **PROMISES (in His WORD)**, that **through these** [*the promises*] you may be PARTAKERS of the DIVINE nature, having ESCAPED the CORRUPTION that is in the world through lust (evil and selfish desires)."

**PARTAKE** means **to share or participate in**; to take part in something. Rather than being PARTAKERS in the SIN and CORRUPTION of this world, God wants us to be PARTAKERS of His DIVINE NATURE. John 7:38-39, Jesus said, "He who believes in Me, as the scripture has said, **out of his HEART** will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning **the SPIRIT**, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."