

New Life – Part 1 – May 17, 2023

Life is different after Covid.

Life should be different after becoming a Christian. This is our struggle.

Belonging to a church doesn't make u a C. It's belief + actions.

“Follower of Jesus” – believe in Jesus & follows His teaching.

We're “**born again.**” We begin a new journey, as a new creation.

Jesus to Nicodemus. **John 3:3** – “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” We start life **NEW.**

Ezekiel 36:26 – “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

Q -- are we living with a new heart? New spirit? New life?

Ephesians 4:17 –24 – NLT: “With the Lord’s authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. 18 Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. 19 They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.”

20 But that isn't what you learned about Christ. 21 Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, 22 throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. 23 Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. 24 Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous & holy.”

To live a new life, u have to recognize what was wrong w/ the old life:

- Our way of living before Jesus was “**corrupted by lust & deception.**”
 - **Lust** – an intense desire or urge. Desire to please self. Selfish.
 - “For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, & the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.” – **1 John 2:16**
 - **Deceitful** – b/c fulfilling the desire takes to emptiness.
 - Drugs – obvious. Work – ruin relationships.
 - \$ - build a 401k but never built a life. Marilyn Monroe.
 - “Be the best” – build ego, don't build up others.

Living a new life doesn't happen unless we have a new attitude; new mind.

- Spirit gives us this new mindset. Spirit must have control.
 - Too often, we keep control. Jesus is Savior, not Lord.
 - Want heaven, but not habits of holiness.
 - **Vs. 23** – “**let** the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes.”
- Have trouble hearing this voice?
 - Finding quiet time . . . reading the Bible . . . tuning in?
 - **James 4:8** – “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”
 - After so long of rejecting the Spirit, we must seek it out.
 - Invite someone over & over, never accept ... quit asking...
 - **1 Thess. 5:19** - “Do not **quench** the Spirit.” Extinguish.
 - H.S. is voice of truth ... convicts us of sin ... the **more** you **reject it**, the **harder** it is **to hear** the voice.
 - Not living a life that pleases God – yet feeling no conviction or desire – the fire of H.S. is dampened.
 - We have zero **witness**
 - **Eph. 4:30** – “do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage & anger, brawling & slander, along w/ every form of malice. 32 Be kind & compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”
 - We grieve God when we refuse correction, ignore conviction

God knows we're human... imperfect. We're on a maturity journey.

- Changing is a process, not a guilt trip. Starts w/ desire to live better life.
 - We LET the Spirit guide us b/c we WANT to please God.
 - Jesus paid our price, we honor that sacrifice by living for Him.
- We please God when we put on New Self: today I'll be righteous & holy.
 - Be a witness for God... strong Christian role model... new person!

Song of the week – “I've Been Changed ” - Allen Family