

## The Newness of Life Lesson 2

### Victory in the New Life

*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.*

- I. Conclusion of: What Just Happened?
  - A. Key #2 Samaria **[slide]** - Persecution of the Jerusalem Church
    1. A disciple named Philip (later called “the evangelist” Acts 21:8), fled from Jerusalem because of persecution that scattered the church, and traveled north to Samaria. There he began to preach Christ.
    2. As he preached to the crowds, the people responded joyously to the Word.  
*Acts 8:5-8*  
*5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.*  
*6 And the people with one accord gave heed*

*unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.*

*7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.*

*8 And there was great joy in that city.*

3. Just as it happened in Jerusalem, preaching Christ led to a demonstration of God's power. This is a message not just in word but in power!
4. Fulfilling the great commission that Jesus gave to the disciples, Philip baptized the Samaritans.
5. Acts 8:16 reveals that Philip baptized them in the name of the Lord Jesus.

*Acts 8:16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**)*

6. Philip preached the same message in Samaria that Peter had preached in

Jerusalem and many Samaritans believed the gospel message and were also baptized.

7. But was concerning, although the Samaritans were now baptized believers, they had still not yet received the Holy Ghost. Like me in 1976.
8. But that was because the man with keys needed to show up to fully open the door to the Samaritans:

*Acts 8:14-17*

*14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:*

*15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:*

*16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) [it was important to duplicate Acts 2]*

*17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.*

9. The message of salvation included both baptism in Jesus' name and receiving the Holy Ghost—it was the same message for Jews and Samaritans because Peter used the same keys of the kingdom!
  
- B. Key #3, Gentiles [**slide**]

  1. And now finally, it was time for the Gentiles to benefit from the keys of the kingdom. In the biblical picture, you and I are included in this group.
  2. Although the first outpouring was exclusively on Jews, and the second was on the Samaritans, God's ultimate plan was for the gospel to be preached unto the world of the Gentiles as well.
  3. We now arrive 65 miles north of Jerusalem to Caesarea Maritima, the Roman capital of Judea where there was a major military base.

4. Once again, God specifically called Peter, the man with the keys, to this Roman city to open the door of salvation to the Gentiles.
5. There was a problem, though. Jews didn't have social dealings with Gentiles. But God prepared the way.
6. A Gentile man, a Roman centurion named Cornelius, had a vision in which an angel told him to call for Peter. He sent servants to bring Peter.
7. Peter also had a vision of an angel who convinced him to go with the Gentiles, and Peter did. He went to the home of this military man and preached the same gospel message about Jesus to Cornelius' whole household.
8. Then it happened:  
*Acts 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.*
9. The entire household of Cornelius received the precious gift of the Holy Ghost just like

the Jews and the Samaritans!

*Acts 10:45-46*

*45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

*46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. ...*

10. Speaking in tongues was the common sign that demonstrated to all that the new believers had received the Holy Ghost.

11. But now it was time for a baptism just like with the Jews and Samaritans:

*47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?*

*48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.*

12. So what just happened? God filled Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles with the Holy Ghost, and they were all baptized in the name of Jesus.

13. And God used Peter, the man with the keys, to open up the gospel message to these three different people groups. And from there, the gospel continued to spread until you and I heard it.
14. And by the way, it is still the same message that Peter preached in the original church.
  - ii. A new beginning
    - A. Jesus regenerated you
      1. *2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature [creation, person]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*
      2. *Old things passed away* refers to your old worldly and sinful paths you followed much of the time before the Spirit came into your heart. Your old sinful life died and got buried with Jesus when you repented and were baptized.
      3. That baptism put your sins (old things) under the blood of Jesus that He gave when

He died as a sacrifice for sin on the cross.  
Then when you came out of the water, your  
sins were washed away under the blood.

*Rom 6:3-4*

*3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were  
baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into  
his death?*

*4 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.***

4. That is your new life—clean, forgiven, and free from past sins. I have a new identity in Jesus:

*Rom 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves  
to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto  
God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

5. My heart was once hard to God and His word had little to no influence on me. But then God started drawing me and I started



- to listen from my heart, and that made my heart soft to God so His word stuck.
6. Some things were more difficult to change, but over time, His light reveals what was in the dark corners so with His help, I can clean that up.
  7. While the devil and some people may try to drag up your past, you must remember that Jesus Christ forgave you by dying for you and washing you.
  8. So when the devil tries to remind you of what a terrible sinner you were, remind him that he has to go through the blood of Jesus to touch your sins.
  9. Something the devil knows that you also need to know, is that he must bow down to Jesus Christ and respect His blood because it conquered him.
  10. So stand on that same authority and make the devil flee from you:  
*James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to*

*God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

- B. Jesus is the new authority
- 1. It is important to know that as we break away from our old life, that we are no longer controlled by our old sinful habits or the devil.
- 2. Jesus made it clear:  
*Matthew 28:18 ... All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*
- 3. Be aware that there is a real thing called spiritual warfare. God gave power to His children to use over the devil and that changes the dynamics of the battle:  
*Luke 10:18-19*  
*18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.*  
*19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

4. You no longer are under the command and authority of the devil, but get this...the devil is now under your authority.
  5. Jesus is your new boss so you can say it like Jesus did: “Get behind me satan.” Or better yet, “Get out of here satan!”
- c. The Holy Ghost gives a new nature
1. One of the added benefits of having the Holy Ghost is also having power to be different.
  2. The power that God put inside of you is literally making you into something different than you were—you are becoming God’s child.  
*John 1:12 But as many as **received him**, to them **gave he power** to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*
  3. So rather than driven by the pursuit of one empty thrill after another, the Spirit in you is working to lead you:

*Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

III. Three Basic Nutrients

1. Now that you are in a new family as a child of God, you will see miraculous change in you over time as you give room for the Spirit's to work in you.
2. But that miracle also requires your participation.
3. You don't want to slip back into your old routines and lose what you have gained. You need the strength of the Spirit to learn how to live in victory.
4. To get and keep that strength, there are three basic nutrients [**slide-three basic nutrients**] that you must have in your spiritual diet. Those things are: **daily prayer; daily Bible reading, and consistent church attendance.**

A. Daily Prayer

1. Prayer is simply communication with God.

2. The success of your new relationship with God also depends on regular communication.
3. If you don't know how to pray, we have a prayer guide available that can help you get started that is based on a pattern for prayer that Jesus provided in Matthew 6:9-13.
4. People call it the Lord's prayer but it is really a guide for how we are to pray.

*Matthew 6:9-13*

*9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*

*10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

*11 Give us this day our daily bread.*

*12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*

*13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

5. If you are just starting out, don't get bogged down by a pattern. Prayer is talking to God. A guide helps, but you may just speak out loud to Jesus about whatever concerns you. Jesus is listening.
  6. Pray often and be faithful to do it at least daily.
  7. Start with 5 minutes, then move to 10. Move it on up as you learn how to open your heart to God. You can talk with your best friend for an hour and you wonder where the time went. And that is what Jesus wants with you.
- B. Daily Bible reading
1. The Bible is the Word of God and is the food that our soul requires to survive.
  2. When you open up the Bible to read, God will make this ancient Book come alive as if it were a text message from God written to you this morning.

3. We can find a clear path and find godly direction through the Word of God.
4. When we read, meditate on, and memorize the Word, we are putting it in our heart so that contributes to our success as a new Christian:  
*Psalms 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*
5. Bible reading charts are available to help you get on a schedule and to track your Bible reading progress. If you have a smartphone, you can download the **YouVersion Bible app [slide]** that puts the Word on the phone and you can start a reading plan and can have it read out loud to you.
6. Read at least a chapter every day. Four or five chapters a day will get you through the entire Bible in a year.
7. And if you have about 53 hours, you can read the Bible cover to cover in that time. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://thebibleanswer.org/long-take-read-bible-one-sitting/>

8. Set aside time in each day for prayer and Bible reading. You will find yourself receiving much spiritual strength through that time and will feel as though you heard from God.
- c. Consistent Church Attendance
    1. You won't be successful as a Christian if you are only a 9-1-1 Christian, meaning you only call on God when in crisis.
    2. In the Old Testament, God told Moses that when they came to the land of promise, there would be a place of gathering for worship. God commanded the people to gather there for worship:  
*Deut 12:5 But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and **thither thou shalt come:***



3. When the early church had was in its infancy, they were gathering daily (Acts 2:42-47).
4. As we begin approaching the coming of the Lord, we need to make certain that we are faithful to God's house:  
*Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*
5. In the church we have opportunities to pray together, to worship together, to hear each other's testimonies, to hear preaching, and to fellowship with one another. And in that, we find comfort and edification:  
*1 Thess 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*

#### IV. Warning and Help

##### A. Warning

1. We mentioned earlier that we are engaged in spiritual warfare. What does that mean? The scripture warns us to on the lookout for this:

*1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

2. He will likely entice people, like family, friends, or co-workers, to try to discourage you and even condemn you for becoming “holier than thou”, or a “holy roller,” or a “religious fanatic.”
3. He may attempt to turn up the power on temptations that he sends your way to try to make you stumble into sin and discourage you to the point of wanting to give up on the idea of turning your life to God.
4. The Bible calls new saints, “babes in Christ”. When babies are learning to walk, they do a lot of stumbling, but eventually they learn

to walk because they just keep getting up.  
Just keep getting up!

B. Help

1. You need to know that you are not alone. If you have questions or need prayer, there is a group of people who are praying for your success.
2. We care for you and you can call any time. You can call on a church member or your pastor.
3. We are a family. And as such, we care for one another and want to see you succeed. Welcome to the family!