

Summary

- a) This session is the fourth of five sessions that looks at what is right about you because Christ is in you and He has transformed your spirit.
- b) As you will learn in this session, you are a new creation in Jesus Christ. This means, when you were born again, your spirit was transformed. More specifically, the indwelling Spirit regenerated your spirit, making your spirit new. He also raised your once dark, cold, and hard spirit up from death, making you alive to God. Furthermore, He made your spirit a partaker of the divine nature, infusing into your spirit the spiritual DNA of Jesus Christ.

Gaining Spiritual Traction

- a) Spiritually speaking, many believers are on the “stuck road.” They are spinning their wheels constantly but going nowhere.
- b) The lust problem they had ten years ago is the lust problem they have today.
- c) The anger issue they battled in their twenties lingers with them in their fifties.
- d) Their selfish tendencies to control and manipulate have cost them precious relationships.
- e) If you want to get off the treadmill to nowhere and make spiritual progress, you need traction. And the good news is you already have what you need. Better stated, you already have who you need within you.
- f) Paul said, “If Christ is in you . . . [your] spirit is alive because of righteousness” (Rom. 8:10).
- g) Before I knew how Christ had transformed my spirit, my life was like a roller coaster. One day I was peaceful, joyful, and confident. The next day I was anxious, mokey, and insecure.
- h) One week I lived like an overcomer. The next week I was overcome.
- i) But when my eyes were opened to how He transformed my spirit, I began making spiritual progress.
- j) And I learned an invaluable lesson. Seeing your transformed spirit gives you traction to go forward rather than spinning your wheels to nowhere.
- k) When you receive a revelation, not only of who dwells in you, but of how He has transformed your spirit, it alters how you live.
- l) Knowing what He has done in you and meditating on it often gives you spiritual traction so you can make spiritual progress. If Christ is in you, as Paul told the Corinthians, He has transformed you into a new creation (see 2 Cor. 5:17).
- m) But what, exactly, does it mean to be a new creation? This is what we will look at in this session and the next.

A New Creation

- a) Paul said, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Cor. 5:17 NKJV).
- b) If you have been saved for a few years, you are most likely familiar with 2 Corinthians 5:17, where Paul said you are a new creation. Whether you have seen this verse on a greeting card, picture, social media meme, or coffee mug, this verse is perhaps the second most popular Bible verse, after John 3:16.

- c) Though this renowned verse is often quoted and used on Christian paraphernalia, I'm convinced most believers don't really get the full implications of what this means. The phrase new creation doesn't fully register within them.
- d) Many who are born again know something happened when they accepted Christ. But they struggle to identify and articulate exactly what transpired. Some describe a feeling of peace while others testify their inward desires were transformed. Many who are born again have a new hunger to read the Bible, pray, and worship for hours, or give to missions.
- e) Whether they know it or not, here's what happened. Their once dead spirit was resurrected and infused with Christ's indestructible life. Just as Jesus called for Lazarus to come forth from the grave, the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead, called forth their spirit from the grave, so they can now walk in newness of life.
- f) Not only that, but their once deceived, desperately sick heart was cleansed by the Holy Spirit (see Acts 15:9).

A New Spirit and a New Heart

- a) The prophet Ezekiel, who lived more than five-hundred years before Christ, prophesied:

Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. (Ezek. 36:26-27)
- b) Pay close attention to the I wills in these verses. Specifically, God said I will
 - give you a new heart,
 - put a new spirit within you,
 - remove the heart of stone from your flesh,
 - give you a heart of flesh,
 - put My Spirit within you, and
 - cause you to walk in My statutes.
- c) In these verses, the Lord laid out six specific things He would do in us before giving the requirement to obey His ordinances.
- d) What a stark contrast with the old covenant, where all the burden was upon God's people to keep His commandments.
- e) Under the law, though God's requirements were holy and righteous, His people were required to keep these commandments in their own strength and power. God demanded obedience from a people whose hearts were hard, stubborn, and evil; whose spirits were dark, depraved, and dead.

Spiritual Progress

- a) In the new covenant, the Lord transforms our spirits before giving us the responsibility to keep His commandments.
- b) Seeing your transformed spirit gives you traction to go forward rather than spinning your wheels to nowhere.

- c) Before I knew my spirit was regenerated, resurrected, a partaker of the divine nature, righteous, holy, Christlike, and complete, my wheels were constantly spinning. I was trying my best to be good and do good. But I was going nowhere. Without this knowledge, I lacked spiritual traction to make spiritual progress. When I was enlightened to the truth, my life was transformed.
- d) If you are tired of running but going nowhere, I believe this session and the next—as I unpack how the indwelling Spirit transformed your spirit at new birth—will really help you.
- e) So, let's look now at your transformed spirit, which has been regenerated, resurrected, and is now a partaker of the divine nature.

Your Spirit Is Regenerated

- a) Jesus told Nicodemus, "You must be born again" (John 3:7). In today's secular, humanistic, post-modern world, the term born again has been mocked, belittled, and ridiculed.
- b) Even Nicodemus thought the term "born again" seemed odd as indicated by his question to Jesus: "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" (John 3:4).
- c) What, exactly, did Jesus mean when He said you must be born again? To answer this question, look at how Jesus answered Nicodemus: "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6).
- d) Born of the flesh is the first birth, when you were born into this world with a sin nature inherited from Adam. Born of the Spirit is the second birth, when the Holy Spirit gave you a new spirit, for "that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."
- e) Make sure you understand this vital point. Your spirit is the part of your being affected by the second birth.
- f) When God the Holy Spirit came to dwell within you, it affected your spirit. It did not initially affect your soul or body. Knowing this pinpoints the part of you the indwelling Spirit has transformed.
- g) Before you were born again, your spirit was dead in sin, cold toward Christ, and hostile to God (see Eph. 2:1-5). Your spirit was dark and alienated from God's uncreated, indestructible life (see Eph. 4:18). Self-life in your soul was the only life source from which you could live. This meant you were controlled by the lusts in your body and the desires of your soul.
- h) But now, because Christ came to dwell within you, your spirit has been born again. This doesn't mean you became a moral person. Rather, you became a fundamentally different person with a new, recreated spirit.
- i) You became an intrinsically new creation in Christ. And because you are a new creation, you now have a choice whether to live by the lusts of your flesh or to live by the indwelling life of Christ. You now have a choice whether to be led by human reasoning, fickle emotions, or stubborn self-will or by the power of the indwelling Spirit.
- j) Paul said, "He saved us . . . by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit" (Tit. 3:5). When you put your faith in Christ and His finished work on the cross, your spirit was regenerated. Your spirit was completely renewed.

Your Spirit Is Resurrected

- a) Paul said to “consider yourselves to be . . . *alive* to God in Christ Jesus” and to “present yourselves to God as those *alive from the dead*” (Rom. 6:11, 13, emphasis mine).
- b) Elaborating further, Paul said, “when we were dead in our transgressions,” God “made us *alive* together with Christ” (Eph. 2:5, emphasis mine).
- c) In what way are you now *alive to God* and *alive from the dead*? Paul answered this question in Romans 8:10 (emphasis mine), when he said, “If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet *the spirit is alive* because of righteousness.”
- d) The moment you were born again, in some unexplainable, invisible, and mysterious way, the Holy Spirit raised your once dark, depraved, and dead spirit up from the grave by His resurrection power. Your old spirit was resurrected by the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead.
- e) When you were born again, your spirit was reborn in union with the Spirit of Christ. As a result, your spirit has been united to His resurrection and has literally been raised from the dead (see Rom. 6:5).
- f) This is why Paul said emphatically, “Consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 6:11).
- g) The word *consider* means “to reckon, count, compute, calculate, or count over.” Simply put, this word means to think deeply about the spiritual reality of Christ infusing your spirit with His uncreated, indestructible, resurrection life.
- h) Meditate on this life-changing reality often.
 - Your spirit was dead but is now alive.
 - Your spirit was sinful, depraved, dark, and hardened, but now, because of the impartation of Christ’s resurrection life, your spirit is alive from the dead.
 - The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead has raised your spirit from the grave.
 - Your spirit now radiates resurrection life to the rest of your being.
 - You are alive to God and alive from the dead.
- i) As Leonard Ravenhill said, “Jesus did not come into the world to make bad men good. He came into the world to make dead men live.”

Your Spirit Is a Partaker of the Divine Nature

- a) “We have become united with Him,” Paul explained to the Roman church (Rom. 6:5, emphasis mine).
- b) As you saw in an earlier chapter, the word *united* means “implanted by birth or nature, of joint origin, innate, congenital.”
- c) If you take each of these definitions and substitute them into this verse, here is what it means:
 - You have Christ’s nature implanted into you by new birth.
 - You are of joint origin with Christ by new birth.
 - You have Christ’s nature as part of your innate spiritual nature by new birth.

- And you have Christ's spiritual heredity and spiritual genetics congenitally by new birth.
- d) When you were born of the Spirit, your spirit essentially received a genetic transmission, making you a partaker of Christ's spiritual DNA. As Romans 6:5 stresses, your spirit inherited Christ's nature, traits, and characteristics.

Everything for Life and Godliness

- a) Peter said, "His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness" (2 Pet. 1:3).
- b) Once again, notice carefully the phrase *has granted*. This describes a once-and-for-all, never-to-be-repeated completed work.
- c) The moment Christ came to dwell within you, He gave you everything you need for life and godliness. Just as Ira Yates, referenced in a previous chapter, had riches unseen, you already are a spiritual multimillionaire, whether or not you know it.
- d) What, exactly, do you already have? In Peter's own words, everything pertaining to life and godliness.
- e) This means you already have Christ's love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control within you (see Gal. 5:22-23).
- f) You already have access to Christ's infinite mind and transcendent wisdom (see 1 Cor. 2:16).
- g) You already have His mountain-moving, miracle-working faith (see 2 Pet. 1:1).
- h) The problem is most of us are either ignorant of this or we quickly forget who we are in Christ. Take a good look at yourself in the spiritual mirror of God's Word. Your spirit already has everything you need for life and godliness because Christ dwells there.

Christ's Spiritual DNA

- a) Think about this for a minute. In your spirit, you are exactly like Jesus. Christ's indestructible life; His resurrection power; and His righteousness, holiness, and divine nature—all that Christ is in His divinity—has been grafted to your spirit, making you a partaker of His divine nature.
- b) This doesn't make you a god, but it does make you godly.
- c) For this amazing reality to sink in a little deeper, consider a few examples. Imagine if the DNA of Elon Musk—co-founder and CEO of Tesla and the world's richest man—were implanted within you. All of a sudden, your ability to innovate, create, envision, market, and act as a technology entrepreneur would increase exponentially. As you can imagine, it probably would be only a few years before you became a millionaire from the revolutionary ideas that organically came into your mind.
- d) Or what would happen if the DNA of Tom Brady—the best quarterback in NFL history, the owner of seven Super Bowl rings, and labeled by many as the GOAT (the greatest of all time)—were implanted within you. Your ability to play quarterback would be completely transformed. You would be able to throw a football with precision, understand complex offensive and defensive schemes, outwork all your competition, and win at the highest level in the NFL.
- e) As a born-again Christian, you have something far superior than the DNA of Elon Musk or Tom Brady within your spirit. You have Christ's divine nature grafted to your spirit. All of His traits, characteristics, life, love, holiness, and righteousness has been fastened to your spirit.
- f) Meditate upon this glorious reality for a minute. Your born-again spirit is a partaker of the divine nature of Jesus Christ.

- g) I realize this is almost incomprehensible and almost defies belief. But it's true. Scripture makes it clear, as I have demonstrated.
- h) Peter said, "For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God" (1 Pet. 1:23).
- i) As you know, a seed has all the innate qualities of its parent plant. In fact, a seed is actually a plant within a shell, created in the image of what formed it. This in mind, Peter said the seed planted within you is the Word of God.
- j) Who is the Word of God? Jesus Himself is the Word of God (see John 1:1). So, the incorruptible seed planted within you at new birth is Christ Himself.
- k) This means Christ is in you, you are in Christ, and all that makes Christ who He is was implanted within your spirit when you were born again.

Your Transformed Spirit

- a) Unfortunately, many believers view themselves as struggling sinners rather than saints who occasionally sin.
- b) Yes, they know Christ died for them and God forgives them because of the finished work of the cross. But they are blinded to the finished work of the Spirit in their spirit.
- c) They don't realize their spirit has already been refashioned into Christ's image and likeness.
- d) As a result, they limp through life, taking one step forward and two steps back. Yes, they believe someday, in the sweet by-and-by, they will be like Christ. They just don't realize their spirit is already Christlike right now.
- e) If this describes you, take some time to ponder how the Spirit has radically changed your spirit.
- f) Speaking from experience, when you see your transformed spirit, you will experience transformation in your heart, soul, and body.
- g) As you gaze into the spiritual mirror of God's Word, you discover Christ has already refashioned your spirit into His image and likeness, enabling you to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil.