

## TOPIC: NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

TEXT: 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:4; 7:6; Gal. 6:15; Eph. 2:15; 4:23-24; Col. 3:10

As was stated in the last topic of this series, titled "SALVATION", we are dealing with these topics so that the hearts of saved people that may be experiencing some confusion/doubts could be stabilized. The studies are also intended to facilitate the salvation of the unsaved, who may have thought that they are saved, just because they are in the midst of the people of God. Already we have seen "SALVATION" as the first and foremost experience. In our treatment of the subject, we both defined it and showed how it is experienced.

Let us now survey the next step, "NEW LIFE IN CHRIST", going through the following two sub-points—(1) **New Life In Christ Defined**; (2) **Aspects Of The New Life**

### 1. NEW LIFE IN CHRIST DEFINED

"NEW LIFE IN CHRIST" or "NEW LIFE THROUGH CHRIST" means "*an entirely different and new type of life, made possible by the Spirit of Christ (or of God) which one receives when one is saved*" (cons. Rom. 8:3-4; Eph. 1:12-14). (The term new life in Christ is compared to the life one was living before salvation or coming to Christ).

What happens is that as soon as the Spirit of Christ comes into the man, the spirit and heart (or mind) of the man become recreated, or regenerated (Ezek. 36:26; Col. 3:9-10; Tit. 3:5). This is why that inner man, that is the spirit of the man is called *a new man*' (2Cor. 5:17). The Spirit of God in the man now continually influences the man to live a spiritual life rather than a carnal life.

### 2. ASPECTS OF THE NEW LIFE

The following aspects of the '*new life*' will usually be found in those who have been genuinely saved:

(a) **Transformed Character:** Let us get the meaning of transformation from the following cases:

(i) The demoniac was a restless man who continued to do things that inflicted injuries upon him, being under the influence of some evil spirits (Mk. 5:5). But on meeting Jesus Christ and being healed, all the violence to himself stopped and he came back to his right mind (Mk. 5:15). This is the experience of many who now have transformed characters. They were doing things that satisfied their flesh and mind, but were detrimental to their souls (Eph. 2:2-3; 1Pet. 4:3). But on coming to Christ, they were saved and made to come to the right type of mind in the sight of God (cos. 1Cor. 6:11).

(ii) The Samaritan woman went from man to man and also had nothing to do with the Jews following the tradition of her elders (Jn. 4:16-18 & 9). But on encountering Christ, not only did her immoral manners change, but she also testified of Christ, a Jew.

This also is another aspect of the transformation of character. The so-transformed of today have dropped immorality, racial / class / ethnic prejudice, or distinction and have become witnesses to Christ (Gal. 6:15).

(iii) Another form of transformation of character can be seen in Saul of Tarsus, a religious, but injurious and blasphemous man (Acts 9:1; Tit. 1:13). But when Christ met him, he became a loving and lovable brother among the redeemed (Acts 9:17; 21; 22:13).

(iv) The Philippian jailer's experience is yet another form of transformation of character. He was a merciless man, who kept the orders he received without mercy (Acts 16:24). But when his spirit and heart were touched by Christ, he turned into a merciful and caring brother (Acts 16:33).

**(b) New Thoughts:** This is yet another aspect of the new life in Christ. Because of the newness of the heart/spirit, man's thoughts are now changed from the things that are ungodly to the godly things (comp. Phil. 4:8).

**(c) New Ambition / Interest;** Another aspect of the new life in Christ is the new interest in the things of God such as, Bible reading, praying, Christian fellowship, witnessing to the Lord, and ambition of making heaven at last (comp. Phil. 3:7-12).

**(d) New Friendship And Fellowship:** New friendship and fellowship is yet another aspect of the new life in Christ. When one's spirit and heart have been made new, it is natural to find one befriending those that have like mind with the one (cos. Acts 2:42; 4:23; 9:1-2 and 26-28).

***N/B. Generally speaking, "new life in Christ" makes one's conscience alive to God, to godliness, and to being in heaven at last. This consciousness is what keeps those who have it from "willful sinning", as found in those who do not have new life in Christ.***