

“Living Like Who You Are!”

The momentous change that occurs when you were born from above is a work of God that is difficult to comprehend (John 3:3-8). You were dead in your sins and now you are alive in Christ (1Cor. 15:22; Eph. 2:5). Your identity and nature has been changed from a child of disobedience to a child of the living God (Eph. 2:1-3, 19; 1Pet. 2:9-10). You are now a new creature in Christ (2Cor. 5:17) and are blessed with every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3). Christ will never leave you nor forsake you (Rom. 8:35-39; Heb. 13:5). You have been given eternal life, His life, and no one can snatch you out of Christ’s hand (John 10:28; Col. 3:4)!

Salvation is found in the Savior, Jesus Christ. Our position in Christ is secure and based on His redemptive work. Yet in practice, we are commanded to “work out our own salvation” (Phil. 2:12). Salvation is not *static* but *dynamic*. It entails the work of God in the past, being saved from the *penalty* of sin, justification (Rom. 5:1). You are presently being saved from the *power* of sin, sanctification (1Thess. 4:3). You will be entirely saved from the very *presence* of sin, glorification (Rom. 8:30). Salvation is a process, and you are in the middle tense called sanctification. You are being made into the saint (holy one) that you already are in Christ!

God’s desire is that you be conformed into the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29). However, because you are not yet in a glorified body, you wrestle with the flesh (Gal. 5:17-21; James 4:1-4). The flesh (Greek *sarx*), is the sinful habits and propensities to sin that so easily beset us (Heb. 12:1). There is a spiritual war going on in a Christian between the flesh and the Holy Spirit when temptation appears (Gal. 5:17). You can only win in this spiritual warfare by looking unto Jesus (Heb. 12:2; Eph. 6:11-18).

You can only live the Christian life by allowing Christ to live His life in you (Gal. 2:20). The sanctification process involves *doing* and *denying*. You are to renew your mind and not be conformed to this world (Rom. 12:1-2). You are to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh (Gal. 5:16). You are to take up your cross and follow Christ while you deny yourself (Matt. 16:24). Walk in the light and not in darkness (Eph. 5:8-13). Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh (Rom. 13:14). Put off the old man and put on the new man (Col. 3:8-14). Submit to God, and then resist the devil (James 4:7). Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly (Col. 3:16-24).