

## New Life in Jesus

Wherever there is new life there is excitement and joy! In the natural, a new-born baby is always a source of joy, not only to the parents and the extended family, but to everyone around. You have now begun to experience the joy and excitement of knowing that Jesus has come to live within your heart and life by His Spirit, and that you have been born into God's family; a spiritual new birth has taken place. (**John 3:3, 5**)

**2 Corinthians 5:17** tells us that “. . . *if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become (and are continuing to become ) new.*”

It is important to note that the original Greek word for 'have become' is a word denoting **ongoing** consequences of our salvation. We are all aware that there are many 'old' ways of thinking and acting that will need to come in line with God's Word, and as we walk in obedience to Him, we will be gradually changed into His likeness. However, through new birth, our **spirit** is instantly regenerated (comes to life).

### Signs of new life

At the birth of a baby the first thing that concerns those in attendance is whether the baby is breathing and whether it is perfectly formed; its first cry is a welcome sign of a good pair of lungs!

When we are spiritually re-born there will be some signs of new life in Christ which become clearly evident; I trust that you will recognise these emerging in your own life:

1. The witness of our spirit – **Romans 8:16** says “***The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God***”. The previous verse tells us that the 'Spirit of adoption' causes us to cry out 'Abba, Father' (a familiar term used in the family rather like our 'daddy') In a wonderful way we just **know** that we are part of God's family. What an incredible blessing!  
Once God seemed far away because our sin was separating us from Him; now we can talk to Him and feel He is near. The Holy Spirit within us reveals Jesus to us as we begin to walk in obedience to Him.
2. We love our new brothers and sisters! We read in **1 John 3:14** - “***We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers (fellow Christians).***” Before receiving our new life it was impossible to love – with God's love – a person who didn't belong to our immediate circle of family and friends. Now we find that we can meet a Christian brother or sister and experience a real sense of oneness with them. This doesn't mean to say that our feelings towards everyone will always be 'rosy'! We will have to work on walking this out in practical terms, denying ourselves and our own interests many times so that we can, as Jesus commanded us in **John 15:12**, “***...love one another, as I have loved you.***”
3. We have a new desire to worship God. Previously we felt that God was a distant figure, because our sin separated us from Him. Now we have a new sense of God's nearness to us, and we want to worship Him!  
**Ephesians 2:13** – “***But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.***”

In **John 4** Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at the well and begins to converse with her about the living water He longs to give. She tries to avoid the issue of her adulterous way of life by talking to Jesus about how her forefathers worshipped – a form of worship which was not based on a living relationship with God.

Jesus goes on to say :“***... the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.***” (v.24)

**Read John 4:1-26. Why does God desire us to worship Him in spirit and truth?**

4. We have a new awareness of sin. Until we come to realise what sin really is, and the price that Jesus paid to save us from its power, we don't really give it much thought. We tend to feel bad if we are 'found out', a selfish response which is more to do with caring about what people think rather than a concern at displeasing the God who created us.

As a new believer in the Lord Jesus we find that sin in our life really bothers us! We are now very aware if we have fallen short of the standard God has set for our lives, and we desire to get things right with Him.

**1 John 1:7 says: "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."**

This is such an important verse! Let's take a moment to think carefully about these words;

- What do you think it means to 'walk in the light'?
- Do you know what Jesus said about light? (Read John 3:1-21, John 8:12)
- What will be a good outcome of walking in God's light?
- What has God provided for our cleansing when we sin?

**Try to memorise this verse and meditate (think carefully) on it this week!**

5. We have a new sense of purpose. Before we received Jesus into our life we may have had plans but most of us didn't really know where we were going. You have probably asked your self the question, 'What is my life really all about?'

Now you are beginning to know the answer to that big question; God who is your Creator and Father, has a wonderful plan for your life. Jesus tells us in **John 14:6** – **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."**

As you walk closely with Jesus He will guide you in the way that He has chosen specially for you, and it will be good, because He is good!

**Think about how this makes you feel. Are you willing to lay aside your own plans to follow God's plan for your life?**

6. God's Word has come alive Many people read the Bible (maybe you included) and find it hard to understand. It seems like a 'closed' book to them. When the Holy Spirit comes to live inside you He brings God's Word alive; as you read prayerfully you will find that God is speaking to you about your concerns and questions. He will teach you about Himself and how to relate to others in love; in fact everything you need to help you grow as His child is in His Word, the Bible.

**Psalms 119:105 says: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."**

7. You are filled with a new joy! Knowing that Jesus has washed away your sins and that God loves you so much as His child brings immense joy to our hearts. In **John 4:14** Jesus said that if anyone drinks of His living water, it will become in him or her a **"fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."** You will feel as if there is a bubbling spring deep within you, in your spirit; this is not a joy which depends on 'happy' circumstances, but a fruit of God's Spirit within your life. (**Galatians 5:22**)

This new found joy will make you want to share the good news that Jesus is alive with others – guard it . . . and keep on rejoicing! (**Philippians 4:4**)