

The New Birth - Unlimited Possibilities in God

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A Christian is not defined by what kind of life they live. The moral values of Buddhism seem to line up with the moral teaching of Jesus, and Buddhism is definitely not Christianity. The issue for a human is, "Are you sealed with Holy Spirit?" For God defines a Christian as one who has Holy Spirit inside them. And if Holy Spirit is inside you, then you are never alone, and never without ability in God.

Old age or poverty can be defined as a physical body with limited possibilities and great boundaries. And God has a lot to say about any stage of life where boundaries seem to govern and not opportunities. Of course the great ones recorded for us in the Bible include Israel captive in Egypt, or the initial spread of Christianity against such great opposition.

The ancient desert scriptures reveal many aspects of aging and limitations. Even the word "salvation" means to be without limits, and the lack of salvation is to be "under pressure/limitations." The Bible is full of stark reality and fabulous images of eternal bliss. Moses started his "ministry" at 80 years old and lived to 120 years "firm of hand and eye."

God's heroes or heroines are not perfect people. They are full of the worst attributes of man, yet God says this is no news to Him. In fact God makes numerous statements that nothing that we can experience in this life is new to Him. Nor is any sin so great He cannot get His love to you. Instead He has provided a way, that no matter what your current condition or limitations: He can improve both you and your situation for Holy Spirit is the "Unlimited One." And all of this is part of His "Salvation."

Aging is a biological process. For some it may also be a mental process. At any age your attitude does determine your altitude and how you enjoy the journey. Many say it is simplistic to say that Jesus is the answer to every problem, but He is God's answer to every situation. So if the answer does not seem relevant, then the issue is not God, but what you understand about God and His Son, Jesus. 1 Cor 1:27 "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are (*dethroned the current world rulers and their systems*): 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence. 30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." The answer to every problem is the wisdom of God and Jesus is our wisdom of God.

Note all scripture references are from the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible.

Let's look at the spiritual biological facts as revealed in the Bible. We put much emphasis on Christianity as the answer to the ancient Jewish promise of the coming Messiah. What change did Jesus come to make? What was His mission?

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The cross was a means to an end, not the end in itself. Jesus died on the cross, was buried, but He did not stay there. Right now Jesus lives and reigns beside the Father at the Throne of the Universe until He returns. If the cross was the primary mission, then dying would have been enough. No, Jesus rose from the dead showing authority over death and Hades-hell. Rev 1:17 "...he (*Jesus*) laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

New Creation Process: Jesus died and was resurrected and glorified to sit at the right hand of the Father so that a new biology could be put into men. This new biology is made by God in people who believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus. So how do you get this change, this great gift of God?

The answer is amazingly simple. Rom 10:8 "But what saith it (*the scriptures*)? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Your believing God raised Jesus from the dead will lead to your speaking out loud, "Jesus is Lord."

For with your heart you believe God raised Jesus from the dead unto the righteousness of life given only by God. This is an internal heart and spirit matter. Then salvation comes as you confess, or agree out loud that it is true, that Jesus is the rightful Lord. This second part is done with your mouth (or with an inward expression of desire and truth) by saying "Jesus is Lord." With the mouth we speak the right words and Holy Spirit can bring heaven to earth. Christians have used more complicated formulas, but this is what God says on the matter as the least required for entering into the great gift of God, eternal life in Jesus.

This same process describes how we are "born-again" of God. 1 Peter 1:23 "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. 24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: 25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." This enduring forever word that Jesus was raised from the dead by Father God is what you are born of when you believe. Thus death is no longer a limit to the man or woman in Jesus.

The New Testament calls this new creation as something that God does to us. We may open the door but He does it, and He does it to His perfect standard, and not man's. 2 Cor 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things (*original things that are to be replaced*) are passed away (*removed, gone*); behold, all things (*that are replaced*) are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;" Gal 6:15 "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision,

but a new creature [*a new kind of being not seen before*]. Eph 2:10 “For we are his (*Father God’s*) workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

God is spirit and He deals with spirit in His new birth process. John 3:6 “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” These “all things” of 2 Cor 5:18 (in the paragraph above) that are replaced or made new are of the spirit. Your mind is not replaced because you still have your unique memories and your basic personality; you still like the same foods, etc. Your body may have gotten healed, but you still have the same body, it did not get replaced. Your attitude and view on life may have been improved, and that is an effect of the spirit.

Re-defining Yourself: If you define yourself or others by your/their outward actions, then you and God are viewing things differently: 2 Cor 5:16 “Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh (*by their outward words and actions*): yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. 17 Therefore if any man (*person, male or female*) be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” The only distinction is that if you are a new creation or not. If God does not count your actions to define you in the new creation, neither should you. Rest assured, on the Day of Redemption, His definition stands.

This born-again process is also described in the scriptures as an adoption. It is like a poor child was adopted by a king, so the child is now a prince, but still lives in the village with its mother. If you define the child by its environment or even its actions, you are judging by the flesh and not the word of God-the adoption papers. Rom 8:15 “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, *Abba (Daddy), Father.*”

Notice that God recreates you in the born again, new creation work; yet we have a life to walk out. Many get caught focusing on the walk (*after the flesh*) and not the new creation. Without proper upraising, this is like getting a new car and not even learning that it takes gas to keep it running, or where to put the gas to keep the tank filled. You have it, but you can go nowhere.

And just like a car, if it gets dirty, it is a dirty car. It did not suddenly become a cat or a dog. It is what it is, a car. So it is with a Christian, your walk may be dirty, but you are still born again. Nowhere does the Bible say it is possible to become un-born again or your adoption papers canceled. The Bible does say that any “dirt” you accumulate, will be removed prior to entrance into heaven.

And if you get “dirty” then go back to your new creation roots, and start from there. Go back and read the scriptures and start cleaning up yourself into His truth (I suggest you start with the Gospel of John and then in the following order: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Romans and Hebrews).

When you hear the Gospel and believe it for the first time, God does a work in you. Once done, He does not need to repeat it, that work is done. Your age does not matter, so this process by-passes any age issues. It does not matter if you are 5 years or 500 years old, the essence is, “Did you hear and believe the Gospel?” Eph 1:12 “That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.” Here we see that when you believe the gospel that you are saved in Jesus where God puts and seals Holy Spirit within you. Earnest in verse 14 means: advance payment or deposit as proof that the full collection, possession, or occupancy will occur later.

So “born-again” or “being made a new creation” is a work God does, and not you. And in the process He puts His Spirit inside of you. So if you are born again, whether you feel like it or not, this work has been done in you. Remember strictly spiritual things have no feelings in your body. It takes your soul involvement to have feelings in your body. So depending on your personal conditions, when you first believed in the resurrection of Jesus, you may or may not have had any attendant bodily feelings.

Holy Spirit Residence: So the definition of a Christian is not how well you live your life, or how good you have been, or how many feelings you have. These are all aspects of life as it is lived. A Christian is a different kind of being from other people who have not been born again. And the key element is that Holy Spirit now lives inside that newly-recreated person. So a Christian is one where God has done a spiritual work on the inside and Holy Spirit takes up residence inside a human. That is a Christian.

How long does Holy Spirit stay inside this new creation? Here is God’s answer: Eph 4:30 “... the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” Holy Spirit is sealed in the Christian until the Day of Redemption. This is the Day when God gets what He paid for, you, if you are a Christian.

So what did Jesus do to get us so we could be re-created? Here is God’s answer: Gal 3:13 “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree (*the cross*): 14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” So we get Holy Spirit, a person, not a force, but a spiritual person, by faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirit is the great “Gift of God” for mankind and one of the primary fruits of the work of Jesus by the cross. Gal 4:4 “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law (*the rule of the Old Testament under Moses*), 5 To redeem them that were under the law [*thorough the agency of the cross to the end*], that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.” The title of “son” is not male or female, but more like “General” or “Officer.”

This is all about Father God getting us back into His family where He can exercise His loving care. This whole thing is His idea and His plan. 2 Cor 1:21 “Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; 22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.” Here it is again, sealed with Holy Spirit by God as a deposit or guarantee of a future redemption.

You do not make the seal and you cannot break the seal, no more than a cow can get a brand off its body, or a beloved cat take the electronic identification “chip” out from under its skin. That seal does

not depend on your brilliance or your stupidity. It is God's mark of ownership for the Day of Redemption when He gets what He paid for. He paid the ultimate price possible, Jesus, His Son; and He knows what it cost Him. Even if we don't value or understand the magnitude of that price, He does. And He says you are worth that marvelous price.

You may have believed the Gospel, but then God did His redemptive work in Jesus in you. Upon your faith in the resurrection of Jesus, He did a work in your spirit man. He recreated your spirit man, placed Holy Spirit inside you and sealed Him until the Day of Redemption. At the simple level, think you were a cow and now you are an eagle with a new brand of ownership. Not just outside, but deep in your inner core with the ultimate "chip" inside you. You now belong to God, paid for with the awesome price of the blood of Jesus. 1 Cor 6:19 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

The Walk: How you walk out this new life is called "Christianity." But make no mistake about you. If you are born again, you have Holy Spirit sealed within you to help you walk out this new life inside you. You can make His journey with you easy or hard, but He is not going anywhere. Eph 4:30 "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

So whether we cooperate or not, Holy Spirit has His job and He is ever at work in you to walk in more of God's goodness on this earth, including, you and your loved ones. Phil 2:13 "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." And His good pleasure is you bringing heaven to earth through Holy Spirit.

Launching and Re-kindling the Journey: If you have read this article and never before believed that Jesus was raised from the dead by God, then if you now have believed, God has already done a work in you. Here is a simple prayer for you to confirm as a point of decision, and to enter into this spiritual biology which God paid the mind-numbing price of Jesus to get for us:

A salvation prayer: "Lord Jesus, I believe You died for my sins, were buried and were raised by Father God on the third day for my justification according to the scriptures. I make you Lord of my life, come rule and reign in and through me my King. Baptize me with Your Holy Spirit and fire. Heal every part of my life. Teach me Your truth in love that I may walk to Your glory. Amen and thank You."

And a simpler one: "Jesus, God raised you from the dead, You are Lord. Fill me with Your Spirit to walk in agape-love. Thank You!"

You may have been born again as a small child, where you may have been totally unaware of the new creation. Or later in life you may have had a dynamic "salvation" experience full of inner peace and external joy and exciting miracles. Or you may have quietly believed God raised Jesus from the dead

with no outward signs. It does not matter; God did His work in you when you believed. Salvation through Jesus is His idea and desire, His plan and His love. This is not about just you; it is about Him and His love for mankind, including just you.

If you do not think you have Holy Spirit or want more of Him, you may want to repeat the above prayer(s) as a way to rekindle your heart into how much God loves you. The new creation is His idea for your good and for Him to get what He loves, you.

All of us face hard and difficult times; it is how we face them that make the difference. The first step is to know who and what you are. If you are a Christian, you are a new creation, a dwelling place for Holy Spirit. And no matter what you do, Holy Spirit is God's mark on you and His deposit in you that says you are His.

When you believed the gospel, somehow by Jesus God purified you of all sin so Holy Spirit could dwell in you without destroying you. God handled sin in Jesus once for all so Holy Spirit could dwell in you until the Day of Redemption-the forever future age. So if you sin again in this life (and who is yet perfect?), He still cannot go, He is yours forever. That Holy Spirit seal is made so you cannot mess it up. The more you know the New Testament the more you will come to know the awesome love God has for you. The more you know of His love the more you will love others and the more fulfilled you will be.

You have Holy Spirit inside of you so God knows everything you are going through now, and He is there to help you. He awaits your righteous prayer and vibrant faith. The more you learn to work with Him the only limit is the unbounded love of God which knows no limits in time, space or resources. The Unlimited One dwells within the Christian. 1 John 4:4 "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

And with Him inside you now have the potential to fulfill a destiny given by God Himself that the purpose of man is the glory of God, and happiness is when God is glorified in all the earth. Then there will be no tears. And on the way many of the things that bring you joy you will also have. And your satisfaction will be in fulfilling, even if you start late and near the end of your course, that for which you were made. Titus 2:11 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. 15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee."

Summary: What makes a Christian is not your thoughts, words or actions. What makes a Christian is Holy Spirit inside a human. To receive this great gift of God you must believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. Then upon that simple heart belief, God does the work He has longed to do, get the source of all good inside you, the indwelling Holy Spirit, the power of God. 2 Tim 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

And no matter what your current condition, His great desire is to make it better and bring heaven to earth through you. So while your body and resources may be limited, learning to work with the Unlimited One inside you creates possibilities few have imagined.

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