New Birth = New Creation

A New Life through Spiritual Birth

Being "born of the Spirit" means that you are a brand-new creation, but don't apply for sainthood yet. There is a new you, but the old you is still around, looking for ways of overthrowing what the Lord has done—and heading out on his/her own all over again. The old you has to stay knocked down, for the new you to enjoy the sweet air of freedom. Nevertheless, the glorious, unchangeable truth is that now that faith in Christ has come to us, we are New Creations. This is the miracle of new birth which raises us from our sin and separation from God into eternal life in union with our God.

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 WEB

What Does It Mean to Be A New Creation?

We still see a lot of the old nature and the former ways of living, thinking and feeling, but new

things have been added that radically change all things. However, before we look at the things that have become new, let's review what has not changed or passed away.

Paul is not telling us that we no longer have a sin nature to contend with or sins to resist. Above all the apostles, he lays out the ongoing struggle between the New Creation (spirit) and the old nature (flesh) in texts too numerous to fully mention. So what does pass away?



1) The Person Who Did Not Know Jesus No Longer Exists

That person (your former self) has indeed passed away now that the revelation of Jesus Christ has come. If a blind person regains sight and sees the sun, even if the blindness returns, they will never be the same.

2) Before Conversion, We Were One with Our Sins

With our repentance and faith in Christ, the Father separated us from our sins by forgiving them and justifying us. There is still an ongoing battle with sin, but continuing in sin is a spoiled thing for New Creations for two main reasons: one, the conviction of the Spirit; two, the sense of separation from Christ. Both overshadow the former pleasures of unrighteousness, enabling us to learn to hate sin. Many of our old ways, therefore, change with conversion, but not all. We are engaged in an all new process of ongoing conversion, which includes cleansing and growth in Christ.





3) Now, We Are No Longer "on the Outside"

We were formerly not a people, but now we are a part of God's family. We were strangers to the covenant, but now have been brought near, being made one with His Body on earth.

Look Ahead, Not Behind

This way of seeing the new birth (by what passed away) is like looking in the rear view mirror while driving. The really stunning, forward-looking view is how we now appear as New Creations!

We have been spiritually reborn through the revelation of Jesus Christ (See <u>Beholding</u> the True Image).

We can no longer measure anything without reference to Christ. We have been given a new heart and new spirit—a new nature! We live under a new covenant of immense mercy. We are given the Holy Spirit, the righteousness of Christ and the Name of Jesus. We are not our past, not our sin, not our "bad side"—we are New Creations!

We are also a mystery even to ourselves. God is bestowing a new identity upon us only He knows. Who we now are is only revealed whenever we trust and obey Jesus—we are "hidden" in Him. He is the key! As we die to Self (the false god), we live through trusting and obeying Jesus.

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:3 ESV

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24 ESV

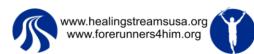
Accepted and Reconciled!

Our acceptance by God as New Creations is absolute, complete and unwavering. Try to fathom the massive liberation that God has accomplished by the Blood of atonement, our new covering.

It was God...in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them]. 2 Corinthians 5:19 AMP

This incredible Reconciliation covers all that we have been in Adam and will be in Christ. Faith is what God gives us so that we can receive this grace and be translated from the kingdom of darkness (in Adam) to the Kingdom of His Son (in Christ), but faith did not in any way change God's Heart towards us, which is love, or His reconciliation to our sins, which Jesus accomplished fully at the cross.

In conversion the former self (that had no life in Christ) passed away and the true self (that lives through trusting Christ) has been reborn/regenerated. The New Creation is a redeeming of the



old, not an elimination of all that was former. We have a fresh start and a new center from which to live at any moment.

We Are New, But the Old Is in Us

The New Creation "comes to life" in us whenever we trust in the One who is our new life. As we "walk in the light" trusting God through Jesus Christ, our old nature is laid to rest like a shadow lying down behind us. However, the one Paul calls "the old man" wants back in. Our old nature "comes back to life" in us whenever we cease to rely upon our God. Are we going to live by a resuscitation of the old self, or by a resurrection of the new life? The choice is ever before us.

I have been crucified with Christ... it is no longer I who live, but Christ... lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in (by adherence to and reliance on and complete trust in) the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me. Galatians 2:20 AMP

Unquestionably, you are a new creation! However, you are going to need some deep convincing and some thorough cleansing in order to cease relying on the pre-programmed ways of your old nature. Much progress will be made as you learn to understand and believe the reality of your <u>New Identity</u> and the personality that comes along with it.

Keep Growing!

<u>New Creation = New Identity</u> Unquestionably, you are a new creation! However, you are going to need some deep convincing and some thorough cleansing in order to cease relying on the pre-programmed ways of your old nature. Much progress will be made as you learn to understand and believe the reality of your New Identity and the personality that comes along with it.

Free Download

pdf New Life through Spiritual Birth (x-page eBook) (271 KB)

About the Author: <u>Steve Evans</u>

For over a decade Steve Evans and <u>Healing Streams</u> have been helping people recover inner



peace and freedom through the free eCourse for healing, <u>Matters of the Heart</u>. Through Forerunners4Him he has been showing how we can be saved for heaven and teaching the way to live a Spirit-filled life on earth. Go now to receive a completely free primer, <u>Getting to Heaven</u> and/or an introduction to <u>Living in the</u> <u>Spirit</u> at our website.

