



Lesson 2

New Life

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson, we're going to talk about what it is to be "saved." Salvation is a continual, life-long growing process. It is not just a one-time experience. (1 Pet. 1:5, 9) Salvation requires that we make a life-long commitment to live out our lives for Jesus. It is the big picture story of God's love.

Two key concepts that we need to understand when discussing salvation are: new birth and sanctification.

New Birth is an initial, one-time experience.

Sanctification is a growing process. It is the work of Holy Spirit in and through us. It is the direct result of yielding to and obeying His leading within us.

NEW BIRTH

To be born again (new birth) means that we have been born of Holy Spirit of God.

JESUS ANSWERED, "TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, UNLESS ONE IS BORN OF WATER AND THE SPIRIT, HE CANNOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD. THAT WHICH IS BORN OF THE FLESH IS FLESH, AND THAT WHICH IS BORN OF THE SPIRIT IS SPIRIT. DO NOT MARVEL THAT I SAID TO YOU, 'YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN'..." JOHN 3:5-7 (ESV)

CHOICE: God wants ALL of us to choose to be born again! He will never force us to love Him or to choose Him. Rather, it's an invitation.

It is not God's will that "any should perish" (2 Pet. 3:9) for Jesus died to save ALL men. (Eph. 1:4-5)

God's foreknowledge that many will not choose Him (and will therefore perish) is something that man has trouble comprehending.

CONVERSION: Conversion means a turning or a changing of course. Conversion requires two things: repentance and faith. Both of these are actions that we must do on our own. No one can repent or have faith for us!

Repentance requires an awareness/conviction of sin and a desire to turn away from sin. (2 Cor. 7:10; Rom. 2:4) This desire is Holy Spirit driven.

...THE GOODNESS OF GOD LEADS YOU TO REPENTANCE. ROMANS 2:4 (NKJV)

Faith is a steadfast decision to trust Christ. (John 20:31) Faith understands, as a fact, that which cannot be experienced by physical senses. Our faith in Christ not only takes away our sin, but also takes away the guilt associated with our sin. We're forgiven because of Jesus!

THERE IS THEREFORE NOW NO CONDEMNATION TO THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO DO NOT WALK ACCORDING TO THE FLESH, BUT ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT. ROMANS 8:1 (NKJV)

JUSTIFICATION: God has forgiven our sins and restored us to divine favor. (Rom. 3:24) To justify means to declare one innocent and free. The result of this forgiveness is that we are daughters and heirs!

AND BECAUSE YOU ARE SONS, GOD HAS SENT FORTH THE SPIRIT OF HIS SON INTO YOUR HEARTS, CRYING OUT, "ABBA, FATHER!" THEREFORE YOU ARE NO LONGER A SLAVE BUT A SON, AND IF A SON, THEN AN HEIR OF GOD THROUGH CHRIST." GALATIANS 4:6-7 (NKJV)

STORY EXAMPLE: You have been called into the principal's office at your school. An accuser classmate is pointing at you and telling the principal all that you have done, said, and even thought. You have been bad- you've cussed out classmates, spread rumors, gossiped, cheated, etc. It's a long laundry list of truth. You're forced to admit that you're guilty. Just before the principal decides that your punishment is expulsion from the school, an advocate steps in. This friend says that He has taken your punishment. You get to return to class because someone else has accounted for your guilt. Though you're guilty, someone else was expelled in your place. You do not get what you deserve. Mercy.

PUBLIC CONFESSION OF FAITH: This is the outward expression of a believer's inner conviction. There is SO MUCH POWER in the spoken word!

...IF YOU DECLARE WITH YOUR MOUTH, "JESUS IS LORD," AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU WILL BE SAVED. FOR IT IS WITH YOUR HEART THAT YOU BELIEVE AND ARE JUSTIFIED, AND IT IS WITH YOUR MOUTH THAT YOU PROFESS YOUR FAITH AND ARE SAVED. ROMANS 10:9-10 (NIV)

ADOPTION: If we meet the conditions of new birth, God is faithful to make us His own children. (Rom. 8:15)

We are not the children of God by nature. (Eph. 2:3)

You can never be un-adopted.

The Romans had a lot of respect for adoption. In the Roman culture, they could not disinherit an adopted child (but could disinherit a blood-related child).

SANCTIFICATION: WORK OF HOLY SPIRIT

Sanctification is a growing process through the work of Holy Spirit. Our growth is absolutely mandatory. If we do not grow in Holy Spirit:

We can be used by the enemy.

We miss great blessings.

We suffer for lack of knowledge.

CONCLUSION

Salvation is a free gift from God. It is the most expensive gift ever purchased, but it is given freely.

“FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.” JOHN 3:16 (NKJV)

PLAN OF SALVATION

God loves you. John 3:16

You are a sinner. Romans 3:23

You are now dead in sin. Romans 6:23

Christ died for you. Romans 5:6-8

You can be saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 16:30-31

You can have confidence in your salvation and eternal life. 1 John 5:10-13

You are now a child of God. Romans 8:15-16

As a child of God, you desire to obey Him. Acts 5:29

PRAYER OF SALVATION

Dear God, I know that I have not always lived for You, and I have sinned in ways I probably do not even know yet are sins. I believe that Jesus is Your Son and that He paid for all of my sins with His blood on the cross. I believe that He died and rose again on the third day. I call on His name to save me.

Jesus, please come into my heart and be my Lord and Savior. I now receive Your life. I believe that You are living in me, and that I am forgiven. Now I am a believer. Because of this free gift of salvation and eternal life, I will go to be with You when I die. Thank you, Lord, for saving me. Amen.

...THAT IF YOU CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH THE LORD JESUS AND BELIEVE IN
YOUR HEART THAT GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU WILL BE SAVED.
ROMANS 10:9 (NKJV)

Student: If you just prayed this prayer for the first time (and meant it in your heart), please tell one of the teachers or your small group leader!