

# THE NEW LIFE!

A **MANNAHOUSE** RESOURCE



## INTRODUCTION

When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we receive the gift of eternal life. This gift involves far more than a future reward. It means beginning a new life right now as a new person in the eyes of God.

We have been born again by the incorruptible seed of the Word of God (I Pet. 1 :23). His Word is “*living and active*” (Heb. 4: 12, NIV), and will produce a change in our beliefs, attitudes, motivation, goals, and desires.

**Our new birth will affect every area of our life.**

On the following pages of this booklet, we will answer some important questions concerning our new life in Christ.

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## THE PROMISE OF A NEW LIFE

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; **OLD THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY; Behold, ALL THINGS HAVE BECOME NEW.**” (II Cor. 5: 17).*

Most of us at one time in our life have thought, “I sure wish I could start over again!” God has made this a reality through your commitment to Jesus Christ. We still have the same name, address, and family, but we have begun a new life. The things concerning our old life have passed away. **Our present life in Christ has made all things new.**

## THE PROMISE OF A NEW LIFE

*“Knowing this, that OUR OLD MAN WAS CRUCIFIED WITH HIM, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin” (Rom. 6:6)*

1. **It was condemned** - The penalty for sin is death (Rom. 6:23). God’s justice requires that our life of sin and selfishness be condemned.
2. **It was crucified** - Jesus died for the sin of all humanity. Our “old man” was crucified with Him at Calvary.
3. **The power of sin was broken** - At the cross, Jesus Christ triumphed over sin and broke its power over all those who receive Him.

## HOW DO WE BECOME NEW?

***“I have been crucified with Christ; IT IS NO LONGER I WHO LIVE, BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Gal. 2:20).***

- 1. By being forgiven** - When we repent before God for our old sinful life, He forgives us. *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1 :9).*
- 2. By being born again** - God sends His Holy Spirit to live within us and to give us a new nature. *“Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (John 3:5).*
- 3. By living a life of faith** - The life we now live is one of faith in the promises and provision of God. *“And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith” (1 John 5:4).*

## WHAT BECOMES NEW?

In II Corinthians 5:17 we saw that **“ALL THINGS HAVE BECOME NEW”**. It would require a thorough study of the New Testament to describe the complete renewal that is available to every believer. **God’s plan is that each of us would be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ** (Rom. 8:28).

The Lord has sent His Spirit into our lives to accomplish this renewal. The Holy Spirit will convict us in those areas that need a change. As we yield ourselves to Him, He will begin the work of recreating us according to God’s design.

In the following sections of this booklet, we will examine some of the more important areas that have been made new in our lives.

## I. A NEW IDENTITY

“For **YE ARE ALL THE CHILDREN OF GOD** by faith in Christ Jesus”  
(Gal. 3 :26, KJV).

Each of us have things related to our lives that give us our identity. Our job, family, and friends, along with our interests and hobbies, are some of these areas. They each contribute to our image of who we are.

Above everything else, **you are now a child of God!** You have been adopted into His eternal family. **This is a great privilege and responsibility.** It should affect every aspect of how we see ourselves and conduct our lives.



## II. A NEW NATURE

*“And because you are sons, **God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’**” (Gal. 4:6).*

Along with our adoption into His family, **God has also given us a new nature. II Peter 1:4 states that we are “partakers of the divine nature.”** His Spirit has been sent into our hearts, depositing within us the likeness and character of God. **He gives us new motives, new desires, and new attitudes.** We can no longer enjoy thinking, feeling, and behaving in a way that is displeasing to Him.

Instead, we have a deep sense of love and commitment to Him as our heavenly Father.

### III. A NEW POWER

*“And what is the **exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe**, according to the working of His mighty power” (Eph. 1:19).*

The sinful tendencies of the old man kept us in bondage all of our lives. Our best attempts to live righteously were frustrated.

**Now there is a new power inside of us through the Holy Spirit.** It is the same power that raised Christ from the dead. It is the power to live uprightly as a child of God, and to express His likeness. **It is the power to do whatever He has called us to do.**

Christians are not to consider what is possible by merely evaluating their own abilities. Instead, our faith should be like that of the Apostle Paul who said, **“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”** (Phil. 4:13).

## IV. A NEW LORDSHIP

*“For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord” (II Cor. 4:5).*

The root of all sin is an independent nature. It is doing what is right in our own eyes apart from God. The old sin nature lives according to this rule. If we allow it to prevail in our lives, it will cause us to take this same course.

**In Christ, we are no longer the lord of our lives.** We have submitted ourselves to the authority of God. The Bible is a revelation of the mind and will of God. **We are to submit our thoughts and ways to Him, and seek to live by His Word.**

## V. A NEW UNDERSTANDING

*“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the **Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation** in the knowledge of Him” (Eph 1:17).*

With our acceptance of Jesus Christ comes an entirely new understanding of life and its purpose. We realize that other philosophies and religions are merely man-made attempts to explain what only God can.

**He does so in the Bible, and He gives us the spirit of wisdom and revelation to understand it.** Our entire perspective changes. We now understand life through God’s plan, purpose, and present involvement.

## VI. A NEW PEACE

**“YOU WILL KEEP HIM IN PERFECT PEACE,** *whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You”* (Isaiah 26:3).

Life apart from Christ was filled with fears and concerns. The world seemed chaotic and unpredictable. Our own life lacked meaning and purpose. We seemed so alone.

Now we know there is an authority behind it all. Our trust is no longer in this life, but in God. We belong to Him. He is in control. **As we center our trust in Him, a new peace fills our life.**

## VII. A NEW PURPOSE

*“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and **for thy pleasure they are and were created**”* (Rev. 4:11, KJV).

Part of our new understanding is that the universe does not revolve around us. Rather, it was created by and for a perfect, holy God whose nature is love.

**As part of His creation, we are to live for His pleasure, and to bring Him glory.** God receives pleasure and glory when we act in the way of truth, righteousness and love. These qualities are consistent with both the nature of God and His Kingdom.

## VIII. A NEW DESTINY

*“Beloved, now we are children of God; and **it has not yet been revealed what we shall be**, but we know that when He is revealed, **WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM**, for we shall see Him as He is” (I John 3:2).*

We have a glorious destiny ahead of us. This life is only preparation for our place in God’s eternal kingdom. Not everything about our future is revealed. What the Bible does show is exciting. We will judge the world (I Cor. 6:2). Our works will be rewarded (Rom. 2:6). We will receive a new body (I Cor. 15:54).

The most exciting thing of all is that **we shall see Jesus, and be made like Him**. We will enjoy eternity with a full experience of His life within us.

## THERE IS STILL A STRUGGLE!

***“For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other so that you do not do what you want”*** (Gal. 5: 17, NIV).

Though the old man has been crucified with Christ and the power of sin has been broken, **we still experience an inner struggle between the old nature and the Spirit of God.** This is common to every believer. We will have this struggle, to some degree, as long as we are in these mortal bodies.

In Christ, though, our victory is guaranteed. On the next two pages we will look at how we can achieve this victory.



## DENY SINFUL DESIRES

“Therefore **DO NOT LET SIN REIGN IN YOUR MORTAL BODY**, that you should obey it in its lusts” (Romans 6: 12).

In Galatians 5:19-21, we are given a list of the acts of our sinful nature. They include immorality, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, envy, drunkenness, and others.

**The first step in our victory over these areas is a commitment to resist them.** We must see this behavior as alien to the new life God has given us. We must line up our will with God’s will. “*And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires*” (Gal 5 :24).

## LIVE BY THE SPIRIT

“So I say, **LIVE BY THE SPIRIT**, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature” (Gal. 5: 16, NIV).

By building strong spiritual lives, we will lessen the intensity of sinful desires within us. We will also build our strength to resist the temptations we do encounter. Here are five ways to build strong spiritual lives:

1. **Read the Bible** - This enlightens our mind to God’s will.
2. **Pray** - This builds our communion with God.
3. **Worship** - This increases our sense of His presence.
4. **Fellowship** - Christian friends help fortify our commitments.
5. **Witness** - Telling others about Christ will release His love within us.

## CONCLUSION

You have a new life in Christ. It is a life filled with great potential. As you continue to follow the Lord, this potential will steadily unfold.

Remember that nothing grows without nourishment. We must develop a discipline of prayer, Bible reading, and church fellowship. Through these, our spiritual life will be nurtured and strengthened. A strong spiritual life will bring glory to God, and allow us to truly express the image of Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:29).

**For a brief overview of the main points in this booklet, please re-read the boldly printed words on each page.**



# CAMPUS LOCATIONS

## PORTLAND CAMPUS

9200 NE Fremont St  
Portland, Oregon 97220

## TIGARD CAMPUS

12244 SW Garden Pl  
Tigard, Oregon 97223

## MILL PLAIN CAMPUS

14311 SE Mill Plain Boulevard  
Vancouver, Washington 98684

## EUGENE CAMPUS

89780 N Game Farm Road  
Eugene, Oregon 97408

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