

I AM A NEW CREATION

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People always love **NEW** things.

- I remember the first time we stepped into our NEW apartment during settlement.
- Wow everything was new and shiny, no dust, no scratch, no stain on carpet.
- Who remembers your first NEW Car, Bike, Designer Bag??!
- I think it's SAFE to say the overwhelming majority of people like things that are NEW!
- If you like NEW things, then you are going to love the verse and what we'll talk about today.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is A NEW CREATION; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. — 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

THE OLD LIFE IS OVER, GOD MAKES ALL THINGS NEW.

- There's a clear **CONTRAST: BEFORE vs AFTER**
- There is a contrast that happens when a person is A NEW CREATION in Christ.
- You can actually call it "a dividing line."
- There is a "YOU" that existed BEFORE CHRIST and a "YOU" that exists AFTER CHRIST.

And when we say **NEW**.....

- It's NOT a remake of the old model; it's NEW.
- It's NOT getting a 'facelift', yet everything inside / the engine stays the same.
- It's NOT just an Improvement or Upgrade of the previous model; it's a NEW LIFE.

God told prophet Ezekiel:

"I will give you a NEW heart and put a NEW spirit in you."
Ezekiel 36:36

When we have got the powerful revelation of **WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST**....what it means to be **A NEW CREATION**....

- It will bring **FREEDOM** from the feelings of **GUILT, CONDEMNATION, INADEQUACY AND INFERIORITY**
- We as believers will begin to walk in an exciting NEW dimension of **FREEDOM, AUTHORITY, BOLDNESS, POWER, and VICTORY** in our lives and ministries.

We will find ourselves boldly declaring:

- *I know who I am in Jesus Christ!*
- *I am what He says I am!*
- *I can do what He says I can do!*
- *I can have what He says I can have!*

MANKIND – CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE

To understand what we are as new creations, we must understand **how men and women were first created to be.**

God had a **PURPOSE** and a **PLAN** when He created men and women in His own image and gave them complete authority over this earth.

Genesis 1:26-28 Then God said, **"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

We were created in the image of God.

As new creations, we are being conformed to the image of His Son.

An image is an exact likeness.

According to *Webster's Unabridged Dictionary*, the word "image" means:

- *An imitation or representation of a person.*
- *The visual impression of something produced by reflection from a mirror*

GOD CREATED ADAM IN HIS EXACT LIKENESS.

He created him to be just like God — a mirror reflection of God in his physical body, in his God-like soul, and in his spirit, which was alive with the life and breath of God.

Mankind was created to be the image and glory of God on this earth.

1 Corinthians 11:7a

For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God.

GIVEN DOMINION

The first thing God said about Adam and Eve after He created them was, **"LET THEM HAVE DOMINION!"**

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, **"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

God gave Adam and Eve **ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY AND DOMINION TO RULE ON THIS EARTH.**

GIVEN POWER TO CREATE

Just as God's power created the universe, Adam and Eve were given the **POWER TO IMAGINE, BELIEVE, AND CREATE.**

- Since their wills were one with God, there was no danger of the creative life of God within them being misused for wrongful purposes.
- All of God's creation on this earth was complete and perfect and they were instructed to multiply that which had already been created perfect.

Genesis 1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, **"Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

HAVING PERFECT FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

When God created Adam and Eve, they had **PERFECT FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM.**

- He talked to them **face to face**. They could **boldly approach God**.
- They had **no feelings of guilt, condemnation, or inferiority**. They had a perfect relationship with God.
- God demonstrated His confident trust in Adam as He brought the animals to him so he could name them.

Genesis 2:19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and **brought them to Adam** to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.

GIVEN FREE WILL

God also gave Adam and Eve **A CHOICE – A FREE WILL** – a free volition.

- They weren't created as robots without the **ability to choose FOR or AGAINST GOD**.
- They had the **ability to choose TO OBEY or DISOBEY**.
- This choice centered on **God's instructions** regarding one particular tree in the Garden of Eden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- God said if they ate of this tree, they would surely die.

Genesis 2:16,17

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, **"Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."**

ENTRANCE OF SIN – MANKIND'S FALL

The Scripture reveals how **Adam and Eve chose to DISOBEY God.**

This was **SIN**.

Genesis 3:6

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.

She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

THROUGH SIN, ALL HUMANITY SUFFERED TREMENDOUS LOSS.

LOSS OF FELLOWSHIP

God in His perfect holiness and righteousness could **no longer fellowship with Adam and Eve.**

- THEIR **SIN BECAME A BARRIER BETWEEN THEM AND GOD**.
- THEIR **GUILT AND CONDEMNATION CAUSED THEM TO HIDE FROM GOD**.

Genesis 3:8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

- They had lost their most precious possessions, their **relationship and perfect fellowship with God**.

LOSS OF THE LIFE OF GOD

When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they **died spiritually**.

- They no longer had the life of God within them.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus **death spread to all men, because all sinned**.

- Their spirits became spiritually dead. The breath of God's spirit, which God had breathed into Adam, was no longer there.

LOSS OF GOD'S GLORY

- The **GLORY OF GOD** which was Adam and Eve's covering was **SUDDENLY GONE**.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

LOSS OF AUTHORITY

Adam and Eve **LOST THEIR AUTHORITY AND DOMINION OVER THIS EARTH.**

- They **surrendered it to Satan**.
- They were now living hopelessly subject to the one who had come to **"steal, kill, and destroy."**

CORRUPTED MIND

THEIR THOUGHTS WERE NO LONGER GOD'S THOUGHTS.

- A **CORRUPTED MIND** (ungodly, deprived, evil, unrighteous, wicked),
- Hence when we receive Jesus the Bible told us to go through the **RENEWAL OF OUR MIND by the WORD OF GOD**
- It takes systematic process to **RENEW OUR IMAGE, and OUR MIND to be aligned with Christ**.

JESUS CAME TO RESTORE ALL THAT WAS LOST, BY TAKING OUR PLACE.

While **SIN AND DEATH** were the results of the rebellion of Adam and Eve....

It was only **through the coming of the JESUS as OUR SUBSTITUTE**.....we could be set free of these penalties.

Isaiah 53 gives us a wonderful picture of the coming Redeemer.

Isaiah 53:4-5 (NIV)

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Through the redemptive work of JESUS, all Adam and Eve had lost in the fall would be restored.

All of sudden.....**LIFE** becomes our Portion, no longer **DEATH**.

- **HEALTH** becomes our Portion
- **BLESSINGS** becomes our Portion
- **FREEDOM** becomes our Portion
- **VICTORY** becomes our Portion

Because Jesus had come to restore everything that the enemy has stolen from our life!!

Once again mankind could become all they were created to be. The new creation would be restored!

Here's how Jesus saved us from our Sins and Restore us --- by **TAKING OUR PLACE!**

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

When Jesus died on the cross, God took the list of sins that you and I have committed and He transferred them over to Christ's account.

God made Him who knew no sin, to be sin for us.

God held Jesus accountable for our sins.

That is the gift God offers to us....

- **COMPLETE FORGIVENESS OF ALL OF OUR SINS.**
- **A BRAND NEW LIFE**
- **AND RESTORED RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.**

And with the NEW LIFE.....**GOD HAS ALSO GIVEN YOU A POWER TO OVERCOME --- THE POWER TO OVERCOME SIN, AND THE POWER TO DO GOD'S WILL.**

Ezekiel 36:27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

God said that He would put His Holy Spirit inside of us in order to give us the ability to do His will.

The new creation comes by the new birth.

Jesus said, **"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."** (see John 3:3)

- Jesus wasn't talking about a physical new birth, but a **spiritual new birth**.
- Jesus said that we have to be **'born again'** by the Holy Spirit.
- It is the Holy Spirit that brings the life of Jesus Christ into the dead soul of a believer.

I AM A NEW CREATION BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN BY GOD'S SPIRIT WHICH NOW ABIDES IN ME.

CONDITION: IS IN CHRIST

This is the key condition of this verse. This is the one condition that must be met to make everything after it true. You must be in Christ. This word can mean a few things which are all tied together.

- You belong to Christ.
- You have been saved by the power of Christ.
- You are united with Christ.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST?

1. A NEW BEGINNING

Romans 3:23-24

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

- The words **justified** means you get a fresh start and are acquitted.
- This means that in **Christ you have been vindicated and clean slate.**
- You get a **brand-new beginning**.
- As some would say, it is just as if you have never sinned.

2. A NEW RELATIONSHIP / FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

The benefit of the new beginning is **a new relationship or new fellowship with God.**

"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ." – **Ephesians 2:13**

- We were all at one point far from God because of our sin.
- However in Christ that all changes.
- Being a new creation means you can now draw near.
- It gives you **access to His presence**.

3. A NEW IDENTITY

- When you are in Christ **you are given a new identity**.
- You are no longer your own, you belong to Christ. Here is what God declares about you.

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." ¹⁹**Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."** – **1 Peter 2:9-10**

4. A NEW DESTINY

- It is clear that we were once enemies of God brought down a path of destruction.
- However, when you were found in Christ **you became a citizen of heaven**.
- That is now your new eternal home.

"For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ" – **Philippians 3:18-20**

5. A NEW POSITION

- The beauty of being found in Christ is that your seat has changed.
- You are now seated in heavenly places.

"And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus" – **Ephesians 2:6**

The most simple way I can put this is because you are in Christ you have heavenly allies, heavenly access and heavenly influence. You're put in position of authority.

6. A NEW POWER

- Being a new creation in Christ also means **you have access to new power**.
- The Holy Spirit now works in you and through you helping you to live and be the person God desires you to be.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." **– Acts 1:8**

7. A NEW PURPOSE

When you are in Christ **you are now positioned to accomplish what God has created you to do.**

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." – **Ephesians 2:10**

Notice the **PROGRESSION** of how this happens.

- **God** changes you or makes you **NEW** in Christ and when He does that **you are now able to do the good works God has prepared for you.**
- **This only happens when you are that new creation.**

I don't know what your background is or what you were before you came to Christ.....

- All I know is that **JESUS** said **IT IS DONE** on the Cross!!
- When you receive **God** and be born again – **YOU ARE BRAND NEW EDITION that God wants to use to bring much glory to His name.**
- I pray that you would live today like that brand-NEW edition that you are.

If you are NOT sure whether you are already IN CHRIST or not....

- It's time to make that decision today.....receive Jesus into Your heart....invite Him to come change your life.
- Don't get hung up in your old life — God wants to give you **A BRAND NEW LIFE, A NEW IDENTITY, A NEW PURPOSE AND NEW DESTINY!!**
- Don't wait until you're perfect. If you haven't been BAPTISED, I want to challenge you to take the declaration of faith!! Declare my old life is gone....I am now made now!! A NEW CREATION.

If you say, I want to tap into **the POWER & AUTHORITY** like God has promised....

- I have received Jesus, I've been a Christian, but my life hasn't changed much.
- I need access to that Power, invite Holy Spirit to come into your heart and give you the Power to overcome sin, Power to overcome --- help me to live and be like the person God wants me to be!!

Ezekiel 36:27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

God said that He would put His Holy Spirit inside of us in order to give us the ability to do His will and live as a NEW CREATION in Him!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

WHEN WE ARE MADE NEW / BORN AGAIN IN CHRIST, GOD HAS PROMISED A NEW LIFE WITH:

- **A NEW BEGINNING**
- **A NEW RELATIONSHIP / FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD**
- **A NEW IDENTITY**
- **A NEW DESTINY**
- **A NEW POWER**
- **A NEW PURPOSE**

OUT OF THE ABOVE, WHICH PROMISE OF NEW CREATION THAT YOU NEED TO DISCOVER / WORK ON IN YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH JOURNEY?

IN WHICH ASPECT OF YOUR LIFE THAT YOU ARE GOING TO DECLARE AND EXERCISE GOD'S POWER AND AUTHORITY THAT HE HAS GIVEN YOU?