

From Death to New Life

When we come to God, it's not about religion or learning to be a better person. It's about dying to our old self. The reality is that all have sinned, making us completely contrary to God. We need a Savior to deliver us from ourselves - from the old sinful person who, even at their best, is still a "filthy rag" in God's sight.

What Does It Mean to Die with Christ?

The prophet Isaiah had a vision where he saw God's throne and the holy angels crying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty." Despite being considered a holy man, Isaiah's reaction was, "Woe is me, for I am undone. I'm a man of unclean lips." When confronted with God's perfect holiness, Isaiah recognized how far he fell short.

This is what happens when we truly encounter God. We realize we're not just people who need improvement - we're sinners who need complete transformation. The Bible says:

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things have passed away and all things have become new."

When you come to Jesus, you don't receive life before you first die. You experience death to your old self. You've been crucified with Christ. Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

How Does Water Baptism Symbolize This Death?

Water baptism is an outward sign of this inward work. When a person goes down under the water, it symbolizes dying with Christ. The Bible says we've died with Him, been buried with Him, and been raised to a new life.

Just as Jesus didn't stay in the grave but rose victorious, when we identify with Him through faith, we too are raised to new life. We're not the same person anymore. We might look the same on the outside, but on the inside, we're a new creation.

What Does It Mean to Be a New Creation?

Being a new creation means you're not just forgiven - you're transformed. The old you is gone. Many Christians can relate to looking at old photographs and feeling disconnected

from the person they used to be. That old person is gone, and a new person has taken their place.

This transformation is so dramatic that it can seem like "body snatchers" to those who haven't experienced it. But it's not aliens - it's heaven. A heavenly being has come to take over our bodies. God wants to take over the world, wanting the whole earth to be full of His glory.

Understanding Our Spiritual Nature

We are spirits that have a soul (emotions and will) and live in a body. We're not just bodies - we're eternal beings. The body will die, but if you've spiritually died with Christ, then the real you dies no more.

Our bodies are like gloves - when the hand (our spirit) slips out, the glove still has the shape but no life. Those who don't give their life to Jesus are already spiritually dead, separated from God. When they leave their body, they'll experience what the Bible calls "the second death" - eternal separation from everything good.

How Do We Live as New Creations?

Once we've been made new, we start learning God's ways. He's given us His written Word to teach us and help us understand right and wrong. We also receive the Holy Spirit, who is our Helper.

Many people feel they can't understand the Bible, but when we come to Jesus, veils begin to be removed from our eyes. As 2 Corinthians 3:16-18 says:

"When one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

What Is the Glory of God?

Romans 3:23 tells us that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Jesus didn't just come to forgive our sins - He came to reconnect us to the glory of God.

The glory of God is the manifested awesomeness of the Almighty. Sin causes us to fall short of an awesome life. But as we behold God's glory in His Word, we're transformed into that same image from glory to glory by the Holy Spirit.

God doesn't want us to wait until heaven to experience His glory. He wants us to start being transformed now. Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." God wants us to experience days of heaven right here on earth.

Life Application

The transformation from death to new life in Christ isn't just a theological concept - it's meant to be lived out daily. Here are some questions to reflect on this week:

- Have I truly died to my old self, or am I still trying to improve my old nature rather than embracing my new identity in Christ?
- What "veils" might still be hindering me from seeing God's truth clearly? Am I open to having these removed?
- Am I focusing more on my past sins or on the glory God wants to manifest in my life?
- How can I practically live as a new creation this week? What old patterns need to be left behind?
- Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to transform me "from glory to glory" by spending time beholding God in His Word?

This week, commit to spending time daily in God's Word, asking the Holy Spirit to remove any veils and transform you more into Christ's image. Remember that you're not just forgiven - you're a new creation designed to manifest God's glory on earth. Live in the freedom and power that comes with your new identity in Christ.

Quotes

1. "Coming to God is about dying to the old you. It's not about Jesus enhancing your goodness."
2. "You may look the same on the outside, but if Jesus is your Lord you're a new creation, a brand-new person."

3. "We are spirits. We have a soul—our mind, will, and emotions. And we live in a body. We are not just bodies. Yet most people live as if the physical is all there is, and they miss what real life is all about."
4. "You don't have to be a slave, a victim of the devil, or oppressed in life. You can live free—not in your own strength, but by knowing and never forgetting what God has done in you."
5. "Demons blind people's eyes so they can't see clearly. When you come to Jesus, the veils begin to lift."
6. "The Word of God is like a mirror. As we behold the glory of the Lord, we are transformed into the same image."
7. "As we hear God's truth and refuse to harden our hearts, humbling ourselves before Him, the veils are taken away. And we begin to truly see."
8. ""Jesus didn't just come to forgive sin—He came to reconnect us to the glory. The glory of God is the manifested awesomeness of the Almighty."
9. "We're not just saved and waiting to go to heaven. Praise God, we can experience days of heaven right here on earth. If you only believe Jesus died for your sins, you'll stay sin-conscious."
10. "God doesn't give you an awesome life by surrounding you with awesome things. No—He puts His awesomeness inside you making you awesome!"

Verses

1. Isaiah 6
2. Romans 3:23
3. 2 Corinthians 3:14-18
4. John 3:3
5. Romans 3:10-12

6. Romans 3:9-23

Summary

When we come to God, it's not about becoming better people but dying to our old selves and being transformed. All have sinned and need a Savior to deliver us from our sinful nature. Water baptism symbolizes this death and resurrection with Christ - going under represents dying with Him, coming up represents new life. As new creations in Christ, we're not just forgiven but completely transformed. Through the Holy Spirit and God's Word, we continue to be changed from glory to glory, experiencing heaven on earth as we embrace our new identity.