

**Foundations**  
*The New Has Come! Pt III*  
 2 Corinthians 5:17

**REVIEW:** *When we place our personal trust in Jesus Christ and receive him as our Savior, God's Word says that we become new creations—the old has passed away; behold, the new has come! As gifts of God's amazing grace, we are given...*

*...New Life! God regenerates us. Inside us, God creates new spiritual life (we are born again). He imparts righteousness to us by permanently indwelling our bodies with the Holy Spirit and creating in us a new heart (new self) fashioned after his holy heart—a heart that is responsive to his Word and longs to obey his will.*

*...New Standing! God justifies us. Outside us, God credits us with the very righteousness of Christ, giving us a right standing before him in heaven based entirely on the merit of Jesus' sinless life, sacrificial death, and triumphant resurrection from the dead.*

*...New Family! God adopts us. God brings us into his forever family and gives us the right to be called his own children. He rescues us from our former father/master, the devil, who lied to us and enslaved us in sin all our lives. He unites us with other believers—brothers and sisters from every tribe, tongue, nation, and language—reversing the curse of Babel with all its divisions and prejudice.*

*...New Identity! God places us in Christ. Foundational to all that God gives us in salvation is a single reality born in his mind prior to creation, fleshed out in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and then actualized forever for believers at the point of their salvation—God sees us "in Christ". Jesus is our representative. His history has become our history. Whatever Jesus did as our representative, God counted it as being something we did, too! Jesus Christ is the head (Last Adam) of a new humanity made up of people from all the families of the earth that God is preparing to inhabit a new heavens and new earth.*

IF THAT WASN'T ENOUGH, in addition to these gifts, through Christ, God established with us a...

**...New \_\_\_\_\_!** *A covenant is an unchangeable, divinely imposed legal agreement between God and man that stipulates the conditions of their relationship.* Throughout the Bible, God makes several eternal covenants with people, such as the covenants of redemption, grace, as well as the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants. In what is called the "Old Covenant" (a temporary—*fading glory—covenant given to the nation of Israel through Moses*), God related to his people as small children needing extensive rules and regulations to govern their lives and restrain their sin from the outside-in (Galatians 4:1-3). In stark contrast to this, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (3:24), God has inaugurated a "New Covenant" with his people, making us competent in a *new and living way (Hebrews 10:20)* to relate to him as full-grown sons and daughters, having provided in this covenant all the necessary resources for us to obey and please him from the inside-out (Galatians 4:4-7). With this New Covenant, we receive:

**1. A New C \_\_\_\_\_ : Holy W \_\_\_\_\_**

Being a comforter exactly like Jesus, the Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are God's beloved children and teaches us what this breathtaking privilege entails. (Galatians 4:4-6; Romans 8:15; John 14:16-27)

- We Are Spirit-Baptized: Immersed into Christ's Body, the Church (1 Corinthians 12:13)
  - God's Down Payment Guaranteeing Our Eternal Inheritance (Ephesians 1:13, 14)
  - God's Seal Keeping Us Until Jesus Returns (Ephesians 4:30)
- We Are Spirit-Indwelt: Our Bodies Are God's Temple on Earth (Ephesians 2:11-22)
  - A Call to Unity (Ephesians 4:1-3)
  - A Call to Holiness (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)
- We Can Be Spirit-Filled: God's Empowering Presence at Work in Our Lives (Ephesians 5:18)

**BUT HOW?** Sometimes God feels so far away. David – Psalm 13; Asaph – Psalm 77; Job – Job 23:3, 8-10

Live by this all-important order: 1) Fact (God and his Word), 2) Faith (your trust in God and his Word—stay Gospel-centered), 3) Feelings; cf. Hebrews 11:1, 6; 1 Peter 1:3-10; James 4:8.

- Confidently \_\_\_\_\_ as one who lives by the Spirit. (Ephesians 6:18 – "pray at all times in the Spirit")

The Context:

You are blessed with every "spiritual" (of the Spirit) blessing in the heavenly realms. (1:3)

You are sealed by the Spirit. (1:13)

You can be enlightened by the Spirit. (1:17)

You are given access to the Father by the Spirit. (2:18)

You are made a dwelling place of God by the Spirit. (2:22)

You can be strengthened with the Spirit's power in our inner being. (3:16)

You are united together in Christ by the Spirit. (4:3-4)

You can be filled with the Spirit. (5:18)

You can take up the sword of the Spirit (the word of God) to stand against the devil. (6:17)

*Remember; the Holy Spirit and Jesus are praying for you!*  
**Romans 8:26-27**  
**Hebrews 7:25**

- *Consciously \_\_\_\_\_ to the Spirit's leading as you walk by (keep in step with) the Spirit. (Galatians 5:16, 25)*

The Spirit WANTS to fill and lead you; he is NOT a reluctant Comforter. He is not passive aggressive. He does not play hard-to-get. We're the ones who play hard-to-get. The Spirit will not force himself on us. We stifle his work in us if we *grieve* (Ephesians 4:30) or *quench*, i.e., smother (1 Thessalonians 5:19) him with sinful attitudes and actions.

**Ephesians 4:20-24** As we put off the old self (active verb), our mind is renewed (passive verb) by the Spirit, so we can put on the new self (active verb) which is created after the righteousness and holiness of Christ. In other words, as God's children in Christ, our *deepest longings* (not necessarily our *strongest longings*) come from our new self. As we grow in Christ, we learn to listen to and follow the longings of our new self. That takes time and training.

- *Consistently \_\_\_\_\_ in spiritual disciplines that cooperate with the Spirit.*

Fill your heart with the Word of Christ—the Gospel. (Colossians 3:16-24; cp. Ephesians 5:18-6:9 To be filled with the Spirit is directly related to our being richly filled with the Word of Christ.)

Participate in the mutual encouragement and admonishment of biblical community with thankful hearts in corporate worship and humble hearts in mutual submission to one another. (Ephesians 5:18-21)

Live in a manner worthy of the gospel. (Ephesians 4:1-3; cf. Philippians 1:27-2:5; 2 Peter 1:5)

Diligently work to maintain fellowship with other believers in the unity of the Spirit. (1-4)

Diligently love and serve one another through the gifts of the Spirit. (11-16)

Diligently "*put off*" old patterns of sin and "*put on*" new patterns of obedience. (22-24)

Bear witness of Christ to the world. (Acts 1:8)

**Bottom Line:** The Holy Spirit WANTS to transform you to be more like Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18). Jesus sent him to empower you to live **your** life like Jesus would live **your** life. God desires that you partner with him in that process by "*keeping in step with the Spirit*" as you faithfully follow Christ's example. **To be Spirit-empowered, do what Jesus would do, if he were you...**

...when making moral and ethical decisions. (1 John 3:2)

...in your marriage and family relationships. (Ephesians 5:21-6:4)

...in your relationships at work. (Ephesians 6:5-9)

...in your service to other believers. (John 13:15; 1 Corinthians 11:1)

...when responding to those who hurt you. (Colossians 3:12-14; 1 Peter 2:21)

...in your handling of money. (2 Corinthians 8:7-9)

Because of the Spirit's empowering presence in our lives, Jesus said that we (as the Church) will do greater works than he did as an individual! (John 14:12; 16:7)

## 2. A New C \_\_\_\_\_ : Holy W \_\_\_\_\_

- Spirit vs Law (Galatians 3:1-3; 7-14; 5:1, 13-16; Philippians 2:12, 13)

## 3. A New C \_\_\_\_\_ : Holy W \_\_\_\_\_

- Gifts of the Spirit (Romans 12:1-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-14; Ephesians 4:1-16)

1 Cor 12:4-6 indicates that the vast array of God's grace-gifts given to his children reflect the unique qualities of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This underscores the vital importance of every believer contributing their part to the life and ministry of a church.

- Fruit of the Spirit (John 15:1-12; Galatians 5:22, 23)

## 4. A New C \_\_\_\_\_ : Holy W \_\_\_\_\_

- Spirit vs Flesh (Galatians 5:16-23; Ephesians 6:10ff)

*God's gifts outside us in Christ guarantee our full \_\_\_\_\_ before him. God's gifts inside us in Christ compel us to cooperate with him in our spiritual maturation to gain his full \_\_\_\_\_ as his beloved children. (2 Peter 1:5-11)*

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## 2. A New **Colleague**: Holy **Walk**

- Spirit vs Law (**Galatians 3:1-3**; **7-14**; **5:1, 13-16**; **Philippians 2:12, 13**)

## 3. A New **Capacity**: Holy **Work**

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