

In With The New: Choose Life

When we choose to love, obey, and commit ourselves to God, we receive the blessings of abundant life.

New Love, New Obedience, New Rewards

The required sacrifice is love, the proof of love is obedience, the results of obedience are rewards, and the greatest reward is a new life now, and an eternal life.

The Key to Your New Life

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 New Living Translation

19 “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! 20 You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This[a] is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the Lord, you will live long in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

- “Oh that you would choose life, so that you can live!”
- Does that sound like a God that wants you to fail? He gave you the answer!

John 14:6 New Living Translation

6 Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

What are the keys to new life?

Key 1: Choosing to Love the Lord your God

Matthew 10:37-39 New Living Translation

37 “If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. 38 If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. 39 If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

- Until you love him more than you love life itself, you will never choose him over anything else.

Matthew 19:28-30

New Living Translation

28 Jesus replied, “I assure you that when the world is made new[a] and the Son of Man[b] sits upon his glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then.[c]

Key 2; Choosing to Obey Him

Luke 6:46-49 New Living Translation

46 “So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say? 47 I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. 48 It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. 49 But anyone who hears and doesn’t obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.”

- Blessings are a result of obedience to His word!

Our Hope in The New Life

Philippians 3:8-14 New Living Translation

8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ⁹ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ.^[a] For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, 11 so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

Our Challenge

- Yesterday I opened my mouth when God told me not to, I sinned.

12 I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. 13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it,^[b] but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

His Reprimand, Our Response

Revelation 2:4-5

New Living Translation

4 "But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first!^[a] 5 Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches.

Key 3: Choosing to Committ Yourself Firmly to Him

A shameless commitment

Luke 9:23-26 New Living Translation

23 Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. 24 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. 25 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed? 26 If anyone is ashamed of me and my message, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in his glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels.

- Until we know He is worthy of it all we will continue to give ourselves in pieces.
- To choose anything other than Jesus, our life, is to choose death.

A commitment to believe Him at His word

Matthew 8:5-13 New Living Translation

5 When Jesus returned to Capernaum, a Roman officer[a] came and pleaded with him, 6 “Lord, my young servant[b] lies in bed, paralyzed and in terrible pain.” 7 Jesus said, “I will come and heal him.” 8 But the officer said, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. 9 I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, ‘Go,’ and they go, or ‘Come,’ and they come. And if I say to my slaves, ‘Do this,’ they do it.” 10 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who were following him, he said, “I tell you the truth, I haven’t seen faith like this in all Israel! 11 And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world—from east and west—and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven. 12 But many Israelites—those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be thrown into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” 13 Then Jesus said to the Roman officer, “Go back home. Because you believed, it has happened.” And the young servant was healed that same hour.

Now Choose to Live Life Through the Power of the Spirit

Romans 8:12-13 New Living Translation

12 Therefore, dear brothers and sisters,[a] you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. 13 For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature,[b] you will live.

How to put to death the deeds of the sinful nature:

Romans 12:1 New Living Translation

12 And so, dear brothers and sisters,[a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.[b]

- We must surrender our bodies to the control and power of God to make them alive and holy sacrifices.
- Had I surrender my tongue to His word, it would have put to death the sinful deed, and displayed His power.

If we are a living sacrifice where is our altar?

The cross we pick up daily. Where we sacrifice our will over, and over, and over again.

Pleasing God Starts with Pleasing Thoughts:

Romans 12:2

New Living Translation

2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think (renewing your mind). Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

- Before we can choose the new deeds/actions that please God our thoughts must please God. Our heart desire must be His heart desire.
- In order to have thought that please God my mind must be renewed

How do we know we're in the spirit?

Romans 8:5

New Living Translation

5 Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit.

- In the Spirit we are seeing earth but experiencing the Kingdom of God. Righteousness, joy, and peace. We see through God's eyes and live by His strength.
- In self/flesh we're unhappy, irritable, lacking His peace and joy because we're never pleased. Our old minds are always set on pleasing one person!
- The spiritual mind is set on the things that pleases God
- Only faith filled thoughts please God
- When we choose life we want what God wants, we live by faith to obtain it, and we realize we have the same spirit that Christ has which desires only to please the Father.