

Living As A REAL Man In Christ



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Biographical Sketch

Bill Loveless

Bill was born and raised in College Station, Texas and moved to Dallas, Texas in 1986. He was a commercial general contractor there for 25 years. Bill and his wife, Paige, have been married since 1988.

Although he was saved at age 18, Bill wandered in a wilderness of spiritual performance for the next thirty years trying to earn God's love and acceptance. He also wanted to experience victory over his severe internal struggles with fear, anxiety, and inadequacy that overcame him for most of those thirty years. He would ask, "Where is this abundant life that the Lord promised in John 10:10? Why, after living the Christian life so long, am I still being defeated by the same sin patterns? Why am I not experiencing God's promises of change?"

Bill's defeat in the Christian life got to a point that in 1998, while an elder at a former church, he told Paige that he wanted out of the Christian life. He was spiritually exhausted. In late 1998 Ian Thomas, founder of Torchbearers, was invited to Bill's church to speak. The first words that he shared were, "**God never intended for you to live the life that only Christ can live in and through you.**"

The Lord showed Bill through Ian Thomas's words that he had been living much of his Christian life out of self-effort and self-sufficiency. The Lord also revealed to Bill that God has designed us to be His vessels through which His life and His power would flow. He realized for the first time that God didn't want to help Christians live the Christian life. He discovered that God wants to be our **Source** for living the Christian life. This was such a transforming time for Bill that five months later God called Bill out of his business and eventually led him into full-time ministry with Exchanged Life Ministries Texas (ELMT) in Dallas. During his 2 ½ years with ELMT, Bill shared the Christ-life message in conferences and in follow-up discipleship curriculum. He was the conference coordinator for all the ELMT church conferences. While ministering in the churches, he recognized a growing need to partner with them on a continuing basis. He and Paige prayed for God's will concerning his growing passion to be more involved with churches.

Then in September 2003 the Lord called him and Paige to form a ministry with the primary focus being to teach, develop curriculum, and disciple "multipliers" in the local church. In November 2003 he and Paige formed Christ Is Life Ministries. They moved to San Antonio in April 2004, and they are now working with several churches in the area and throughout Texas.

Retreat Schedule

SESSION ONE

What Do You Believe Is A REAL Man?

SESSION TWO

What Is The Truth About Living The Christian Life?

SESSION THREE

What Is The Truth Versus The Lie?

SESSION FOUR

How Do We Attain Freedom From Our Lying Beliefs?

SESSION ONE

What Do You Believe Is A Real Man?

Where We Are Going

1. We are first going to figure out what we believe as men.
2. We will determine if what we believe is a lie or the truth.
3. If it is a lie, then how are we set free from our lying beliefs.

As Christian Men We Learn About Manhood From Primarily Three Sources

Messages The World Tells Us About Manhood

What does the world tell us about being men? Here are some examples:

1. Be smarter, stronger, and wiser.
2. Never show fear, weakness or neediness.
3. Be self-sufficient and independent.
4. You must succeed at all costs. Failure is not an option.
5. Sex equals love and intimacy.
6. Your identity as a successful man is based on the job you have, the salary you are making, the car you drive, where you live, etc.

What is the world telling you about what it means to be a man?

How do you believe the world is influencing what you think and how you live?

Messages You Heard From Your Dad About Manhood

We have heard messages from our dad about manhood. Here are some examples:

1. Failure is not an option.
2. Suck it up and be a man.
3. Don't be a wimp.
4. Never let them see you cry.
5. Be strong, independent, and self-sufficient.
6. Be all that you can be.
7. You can do anything you set your mind to do.

What messages did you hear from your dad about being a man?

Do you believe you are or are not measuring up to your dad's standards for manhood? If so, how does it make you feel as a man?

What Christianity Has Taught You About Being A Godly Man, Husband, Father, or Friend

Our Christian experience teaches us about godly manhood. Here are some examples:

1. Learn God's word and go out and accomplish what it says with God's help.
2. Obey God's commands.
3. Be strong for God.
4. To be a godly man, husband and father, you need to do certain things such as have a quiet time every day, go to church and be involved in ministry.
5. Imitate Christ to be Christ-like.
6. Change your sinful behavior to godly behavior.

What have you learned about becoming a godly man, husband, father or friend?

Do you feel you are measuring up to the standards you have set for yourself as a man?

Do you feel you that are measuring up to God's standards for being a godly man?

What Do You Believe About Yourself As A Man Based on What You Believe The World, Your Dad, or Christianity Has Told You?

I believe or I feel that I am:

Unworthy
Unacceptable
Rejected
A failure
Anxious
Inadequate
Weak
Defeated
Insecure
Fearful

Secure
Self-confident
Self-sufficient
Successful
Self-reliant
In control
Resourceful
Competent
Fearless
Strong

Pick five of these characteristics that you feel or believe about yourself

What Are Your Needs As A Man

As a man, do you have a need for:

- _____ Value/Worth
- _____ Acceptance
- _____ Success
- _____ Identity
- _____ Meaning and Purpose
- _____ Love
- _____ Security
- _____ Happiness
- _____ Significance/Adequacy
- _____ Power/Strength

Where Are You Getting Your Needs Met?

- _____ Job
- _____ Performance on job, as a husband, as a father, as a friend.
- _____ Possessions
- _____ Accomplishments
- _____ IQ or intellect
- _____ Wife
- _____ Kids
- _____ Friends
- _____ Hobbies/Interests
- _____ Salary, money in bank, investments, 401K plan

Is There Anything You Want Changed About Your Life?

Look on pages 7 and 8 and pick five fleshly behaviors you would like to change about yourself.

How are these five behaviors negatively impacting yourself, your job, your wife, your kids, your friends, or your walk with God?

If anything, what are you doing to change your sinful behavior? Is it working?

Is there something more you want out of your life that you are not experiencing?

We Are Going To Answer These Four Questions:

Is what you have been told about being a man from the world, dad, and Christianity the truth or is it a lie?

Is it possible you are looking in the wrong places to get your needs met?

Do you believe it is up to you to change your fleshly behavior?

What is your true identity as a man?

Fleshly Behavior

Be self-absorbed (self-consumed)

become overly introspective
feel sorry for myself (self-pity)
get depressed
beat up on myself
play the role of victim/martyr
focus on my suffering to get
attention and sympathy
be jealous of another's success
and happiness

Withdraw (isolate myself)

be aloof (pull away)
distance myself from others
avoid others (be a loner)
go into a shell
become unapproachable
give them the silent treatment
refuse to communicate

Escape (pain/pressure) by using:

promiscuity
drugs and alcohol
computers
hobbies/games
sex
fantasy
computers
television
pornography
overeating
work/career

Be anxious (worry and fret)

be fearful (apprehensive)
lack peace and rest
become paralyzed (numb)
be paranoid (overly suspicious)
refuse to see the positive
(gloom and doom thinking)
assume the worst

Seek guidance from:

astrology/horoscopes,
fortune telling and/or
the occult

Be self-disciplined (self-reliant)

base acceptance of self and
others on performance
become a perfectionist
try hard so as not to fail
fear making mistakes
be legalistic:
live "by the book"
feel obligated (have to's,
should's, ought to's)
be too hard on myself/others
set unrealistic standards for
myself/others

Become obsessed with:

accomplishments
recognition/status
acquiring material things
what others think of me
how I look physically
my physical health
the past (especially past hurts
and failures)
a devotion to a cause
structure, order and regulations

Become dominant

be dictatorial (bossy)
be demanding (pushy)
be overbearing (controlling)
intimidate others
refuse to give in

Stay in control through:

blackmail (making threats)
manipulation (use of guilt, pity,
silence, flattery, etc.)
coercion (physical threats)
profanity (swearing)
passivity (playing helpless)
not eating (anorexia/bulimia)

Lack compassion, gentleness

understanding, kindness, love
become defensive

Be self-righteous (self-justifying)

make excuses (rationalize)
cover up and hide mistakes
have to prove my point
assume I am never the problem
blame someone or something
else as the problem
avoid taking responsibility for
failure or problems
have difficulty: apologizing,
admitting I was wrong,
asking for forgiveness,
asking for help, and/or
expressing gratitude
have a superior attitude
(saying in effect):
"I know what is best"
"My way is the right way"

Be critical (judgmental)

find fault with others, myself
and everything around me
nitpick things to death
be prejudiced (intolerant)
complain a lot (nothing is
ever good enough)

Be self-assured (self-confident)

depend on myself instead of
God or others
become proud (haughty)
be egocentric (act pompous)
brag (be boastful)
become arrogant (cocky)
become conceited (smug)

Come across as insensitive,

uncaring, unsympathetic,
indifferent or unconcerned

Be complacent (nonchalant)

say things like, "it's okay" or
"it doesn't matter"

Fleshly Behavior (Cont.)

Be pessimistic (negative)

lack confidence and optimism
be skeptical (suspicious)
distrust others, myself, God,
church and/or government
expect the worst
never be pleased with self
or others
never be satisfied or content

Become hostile

be unfriendly
be sarcastic (caustic)
be cynical (contemptuous)
be hateful (mean-spirited)
be cruel (malicious)
have a quick temper
rant and rave to vent my anger
be physically abusive
be verbally abusive
break things

Hold a grudge (be resentful)

become moody (sulk)
harbor bitterness
be unforgiving
keep a scorecard of offenses
try to get even (seek revenge)
want others to fail or get hurt
punish myself or others

Fight unfair (take cheap shots)

be slanderous
misrepresent the situation
gossip (talk behind their back)
engage in passive-aggressive
behavior: use humor to hide
real feelings, forget things,
refuse to communicate, be
late, procrastinate, etc.)

Be self-deprecating

assume I am always the problem
become overly apologetic
be too hard on myself
be uncomfortable with success
or happiness
have difficulty receiving: love,
compliments, forgiveness

Challenge others

resist authority
be uncooperative (inflexible)
be unteachable (close-minded)
cause dissention (strife)
be irritating (aggravate others)
be argumentative
be stubborn (unyielding)
be unreasonable

Deny reality

ignore problems and hope they
will go away
deny anything is bad or wrong
be subjective instead of objective
deceive others and myself
lie to self and others
exaggerate (overstate matters)
play games to hide real intent

Put up a front

hide what I really think and feel
pretend to be something I'm not
put on a show to impress others
and/or get attention
fake it (act like I know something
even when I don't)
be pretentious (phony, unreal)
be superficial (never let anyone
get to close)

Be passive (lack initiative)

quit too easily (give up)
don't take chances (play it safe)
wait for someone to tell me how
to think and what to do
vacillate (be too changeable)
be indecisive (let others make
decisions for me)
avoid failure at all costs
procrastinate (put things off)
be irresponsible (unreliable)
be lazy (apathetic, lethargic)

Be tense ("on guard")

be easily agitated
be restless (feel like I have to be
doing something)
become impatient

Become emotionally insulated

avoid intimacy
have difficulty expressing
feelings and opinions
suppress (stuff) emotions
be inhibited (restrained)

Live by my feelings

believe that truth is what I feel
be too sensitive to criticism
take things too personally
(be hypersensitive)
be touchy (irritable)
be controlled by fear, anger,
doubts and insecurities
automatically read in rejection
(think "it's about me")

Be a pleaser (be nice)

try to keep everyone happy
avoid conflict/keep the peace
say what I think others want
be overly compliant
submissive
have difficulty saying "no" and
setting boundaries
can't stand up for myself
afraid to disappoint others
give in to others too easily

Be a caretaker (rescuer)

be overprotective
be overly responsible
become too involved with
other's affairs/concerns
be possessive (too invested)
talk too much and listen poorly
make decisions for others
give unsolicited advice

Be too serious (intense)

be overly analytical
become stoical (unemotional)
not be able to have fun
be formal and businesslike
lack joy or life

SESSION TWO

What Is The Truth About Living The Christian Life?

The TRUTH:

The WORD OF GOD is truth.

“Your word is truth.” John 17:17

JESUS Himself is truth.

“I am the way, the TRUTH, and the life.” John 14:6

“You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:32

One of the key things that the Lord wants to set you free from is your LYING BELIEFS.

A lying belief is any belief that CONTRADICTS God’s truth.

What Do You Believe About Living The Christian Life?

Below are some of the things some men believe they are to do to live the Christian life.

1. Learn God’s word and go out and accomplish what it says with God’s help.
2. Obey God’s commands.
3. Be strong for God.
4. To be a godly man, husband and father, you need to do certain things such as have a quiet time every day, go to church and be involved in ministry.
5. Imitate Christ to be Christ-like.
6. Change your sinful behavior to godly behavior.

List five things you believe you need to do to live the Christian life:

Do you believe it is up to you with God’s help to live the Christian life? _____

What are some things you want to experience from your Christian life?

What Is The Truth About Living The Christian Life?

What does Jesus tell us in John 14:6 and 11:25:

“...I am the way, the truth, and The LIFE...” John 14:6

“I am the resurrection and The LIFE.” John 11:25

The apostle Paul makes this truth more personal in Colossians 3:4 by telling us that Christ is not only the life, but He is YOUR life:

“Christ who is YOUR life.”

***Both Christ and Paul are saying that the Christian LIFE is a PERSON.
It is Christ Himself.***

If Christ is the Christian life, then what do you have to do to live the Christian life?

What Was Paul’s Answer To This Question?

*“I am crucified with Christ, and I NO longer live, but Christ lives IN me...”
Galatians 2:20a*

What Paul is saying in Galatians 2:20 is that to live the Christian life is not about him doing certain things or accomplishing something for God. He is saying that the Christian life is about Christ living in him. That is why he says in Philippians 1:21:

“For to me, to live is Christ...”

There is ONLY One Person Who has lived a perfect Christian life: Jesus Christ.

He wants to live His life IN you!

Living the Christian life means Christ living HIS life in us.

Why Is The Christian Life Christ Living His Life In Us?

Paul answers this question in these three verses:

*“He is the **SOURCE** of **YOUR** life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.” 1 Corinthians 1:30*

*“**In Him** we **live** and **move** and **have our being**.” Acts 17:28*

*“For **from Him** and **to Him** and **through Him** are all things...” Romans 11:36*

The Christian life is about Christ living in us because God is the SOURCE from which you are to live the Christian life.

What Does It Mean That God Is Your Source?

*“For I am confident of this very thing, that **He who began** (INITIATOR) a good work (CAUSE) in you **will perfect** (EFFECT) it until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6 (Parentheses mine)*

God is the Source to INITIATE, to CAUSE, and to COMPLETE His work in your life.

What Is The Work That God Wants To Accomplish In You?

RENEWING OF YOUR MIND – God will renew your mind by replacing your lying beliefs with His truth and transform your life to live from His truth and transform your sinful behavior to godly behavior.

*“Be not conformed to this world but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**...” Romans 12:2*

VICTORY - God will be your victory over the power of sin, the flesh, the world, and the power of Satan.

*“but thanks be to God, who gives us the **victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:57*

FREEDOM - He will be your freedom from defeating sin patterns and ongoing inner struggles.

*“So Christ has really set us **free**. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.” Galatians 5:1*

HEALING - He will be your healing of your past and present woundedness.

*“He **heals** the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” Psalm 147:3*

SUPPLY - God will supply all your needs.

“My God shall supply all your needs.....in Christ Jesus” Philippians 4:19

TRANSFORMATION - He will transform you into Christ-likeness (how Christ thinks, believes, chooses, and behaves).

*“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”
2 Corinthians 3:18*

How Do We Know That God Was Intended To Be Man’s Source?

How God Was Adam and Eve’s SOURCE Before The Fall

“I am the way, the truth, and the life..” John 14:6

Before the Fall of man, Adam and Eve lived in total dependence on God. In addition, God was living in them. As a result, God was their SOURCE to meet all of their physical, spiritual, and emotional needs.

Adam and Eve lived in total DEPENDENCE on God to meet their physical, spiritual, and emotional needs.

How Man Lost God As His Source

However, in one moment, Adam and Eve made a sinful, independent decision that resulted in **spiritual death** according to the first part of Romans 5:12:

*“Therefore, just as sin entered the world **through one man** (Adam), and death through sin...”
Parenthesis mine*

What is the meaning of spiritual death? The key word in defining spiritual death is the word “**separation**.” In the original Greek text the word “separation” means to “sever” or “cut off.”

SPIRITUAL DEATH is defined as being severed or cut off from God.

This separation was twofold:

- **SEPARATION from the LIFE of God**

“Being darkened in their understanding, separated from the life of God...” Ephesians 4:18

- **SEPARATION from God as the SOURCE**

“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear.” Isaiah 59:2

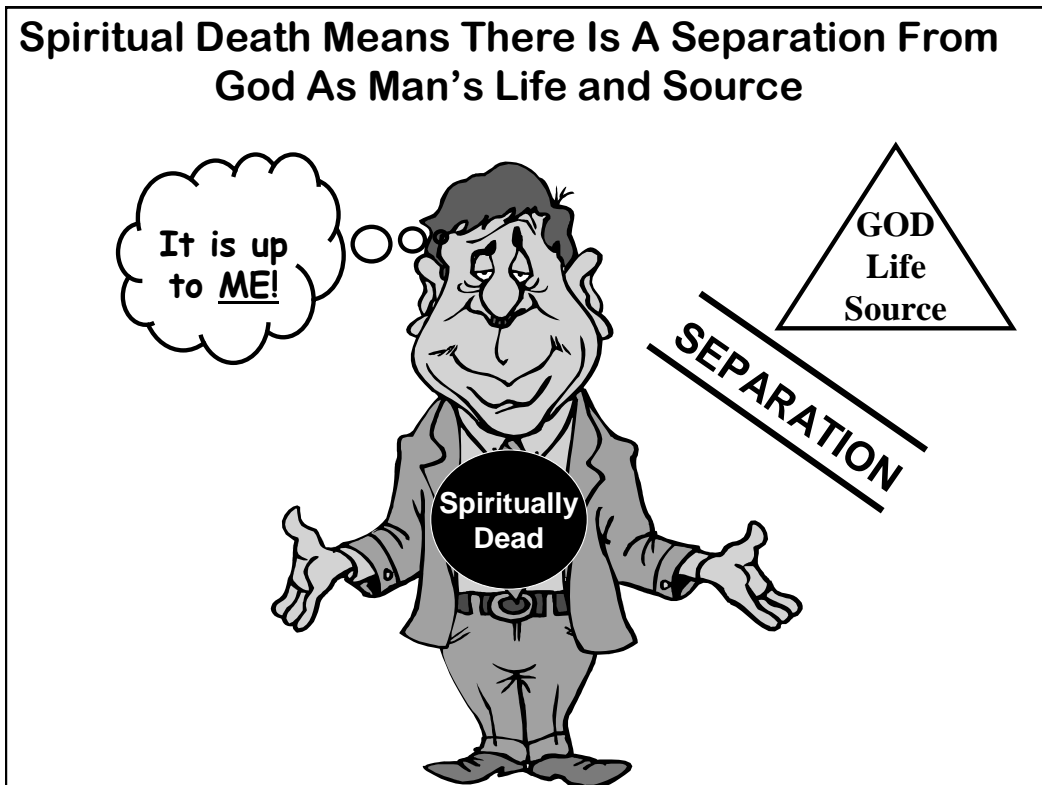
We Inherited Adam and Eve’s Spiritual Condition.

Look at the second half of Romans 5:12:

“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man (Adam), and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.” Romans 5:12 Parenthesis mine

We were born separated from God’s LIFE and from Him as our SOURCE.

Look at the following diagram to better understand spiritual death:



You inherited Adam’s spiritual death which resulted in a SEPARATION from God’s Life and a SEPARATION from God as the Source.

Because of this separation, it was up to YOU to become the source to TRY to live life.

What Did God Do To Restore What Was Lost In The Garden Before The Fall?

God knew that man could not have eternal life apart from God providing a solution. In addition, God knew that man needed Him as the Source for living life. Therefore, there were two things that God needed to do to give man salvation and life. The first thing God accomplished was to deal with our sin.

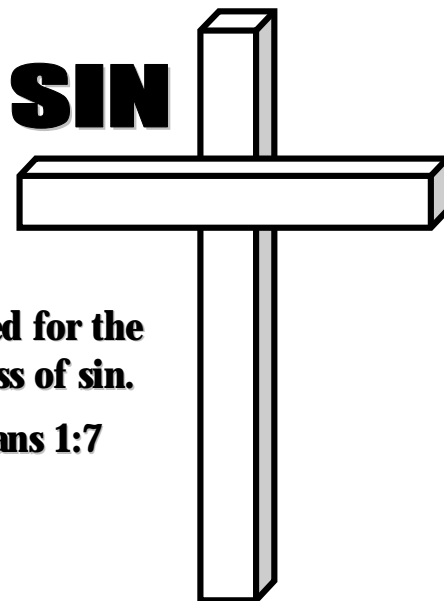
The SIN Side of the Cross - Christ Died For Our SINS To Give Us Eternal Life.

“He is so rich in kindness that he purchased our freedom through the blood of his Son, and our sins are forgiven.” Ephesians 1:7 (NLT)

“He who believes in the Son has eternal life...” John 3:36a

Christ dying for our sins represents the SIN side of the cross

The SIN Side of the Cross



Christ died for the forgiveness of sin.

Ephesians 1:7

The LIFE Side Of The Cross - God Put Himself In Man To Be Man's SOURCE For Living Life.

In addition to saving us from our sins and an eternal destiny in hell, God accomplished three more things:

1. He put the FULLNESS of Himself back into man.

"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority." Colossians 2:9, 10

Putting the fullness of God in you means that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are now indwelling you.

2. You Now Have The Fullness God's Life and Power IN You.

Christ's LIFE

In order for God to once again be man's Source, He had to put His life back inside man. We know that the life He put within us is eternal life and that life was in Christ according to the first part of 1 John 5:12:

*"God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life...."
1 John 5:12a*

God's POWER

"you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...." Acts 1:8

In addition to Christ's life, all of God's power flows in you when you take a step of faith. What kind of power are we talking about? Paul gives us a better understanding of the power that is released in Ephesians 1:19, 20:

"I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of His power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms."

What did God's power accomplish?

1. It raised Jesus from the dead
2. Created the heavens and earth.
3. It opened the Red Sea.
4. It is holding the universe together.

It is this same SUPERNATURAL power that lives within YOU!

Is it possible that this same power could CHANGE the way that you think, believe, choose, and behave?

This is why Paul is testifying in 1 Corinthians 2:5 that our faith should not be in ourselves but in the awesome power of God:

*“that your **faith** should not be in the wisdom of men but in the **power of God.**” 1 Corinthians 2:5*

Why do you think Paul is writing this verse? Could it be in part that Paul has experienced radical changes in His life through the power of God within him?

You are the container of ALL of God’s LIFE and POWER.

3. God Put Himself in UNION With You.

Not only did God put Himself in you, but He also went even further. God put Himself in UNION with you. We see this truth in the following three verses:

*“... (God) **made us alive together with Christ.**” Ephesians 2:5 (Parenthesis mine)*

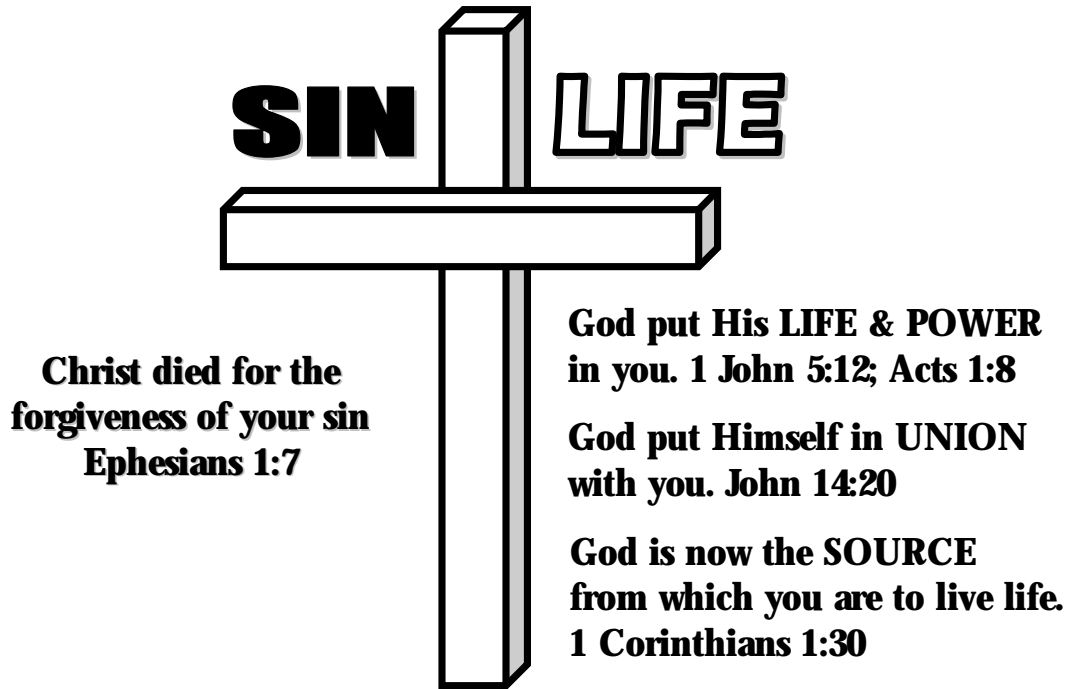
*“But the **one** (the believer) **who joins himself to the Lord** is **one spirit** (in union with) **with Him.**” 1 Corinthians 6:17 (Parentheses mine)*

*“In that day you shall know that **I am in My Father**, and **you** (are in union) **in Me**, and **I** (am in union) **in you.**” John 14:20 (Parentheses mine)*

THE RESULT:

By God putting His LIFE and POWER in you and putting Himself in UNION with you at salvation, it means that YOU no longer have to be the Source for living life.

The LIFE Side of The Cross

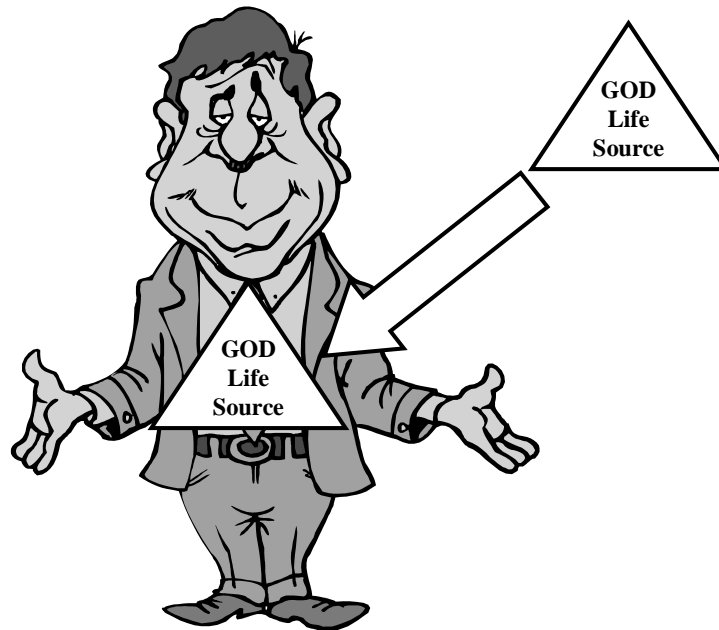


The LIFE side of the cross is all that God accomplished

to once again become MAN'S Source.

For you this means that God, through destroying the sin barrier, has placed His life and power in you to be the Source to do what you cannot do for yourself. Look at the following diagram to illustrate this:

God Put His Life In You To Be Your Source



The GREAT news of the gospel is that in addition to being saved, you have God within you to be your LIFE and SOURCE.

You NO LONGER have to be the Source to try to make life work!

What Is Your Part In Living The Christian Life?

“I AM the VINE, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit...” John 15:5a

Jesus is saying that as the physical branch is designed to be totally dependent on the physical vine for life, you, as a spiritual branch, are designed to live totally dependent upon God, the spiritual Vine, for life. The word “abide” is another word for **dependence**. It is important to understand at this point a very key truth:

KEY TRUTH:

God created man to be DEPENDENT upon Him.

His design from the beginning was for you, as a man, to depend on Him.

Why do you think Jesus uses the example of the branch and vine? What happens to the branch when it is separated from the vine? It begins to die because it is no longer abiding in or living dependent on the vine for life. If you, as a spiritual branch, decide to try to live independently of Christ, the spiritual Vine, then what can you expect?

Your Part In Living The Christian Life:

Live with an ATTITUDE of DEPENDENCE upon God as the Source for living life.

To Better Understand Dependence, Let's See How Jesus Lived.

Jesus set aside His equality with the Father.

*“He (Jesus) had equal status with God but didn't think so much of Himself that He had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, **He set aside the privileges of deity** and took on the status of a slave and became human!” NLT (Parenthesis mine) Philippians 2:6, 7:*

What was the relationship between Jesus and Father?

*“Jesus therefore answered and was saying to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do **nothing of Himself**, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.’” John 5:19*

*“I can do **nothing on My own initiative**. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” John 5:30*

*“Jesus therefore said, ‘When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do **nothing on My own initiative**, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.’” John 8:28*

This means that Jesus was not functioning out of His OWN life and power but out of life and power of his FATHER.

Who did the work of Jesus?

*“Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words I say are not my own, but my Father who lives in Me **does His work THROUGH Me**.” John 14:10*

The Father accomplished His work THROUGH Jesus.

In other words, it was the Father's power through Christ that performed all of Jesus's miracles.

***If Jesus, as a man, lived in total DEPENDENCE upon His Father as the Source
with the result that the FATHER lived His life in and through Jesus,
HOW SHOULD YOU LIVE?***

What Can You Accomplish Independent of God?

“.....apart from Me you can do NOTHING.” John 15:5b

What does Jesus mean when He says that “apart from Me you can do nothing?” This part of John 15:5 creates problems for many Christians. Why? It is because man is capable of doing many things apart from God. As we discussed in the first lesson, man learns how to do a job, to master a hobby or a sport, or to manage his finances. So what does Jesus mean?

***Jesus means that apart from Him you CANNOT PRODUCE
a life of freedom, victory, healing, transformation, or intimacy with God.***

Apart from dependence on God and His power there will be:

- **NO power** over sin.
- **NO victory** over your flesh.
- **NO freedom** from your defeating sin patterns.
- **NO fruit** of the Spirit produced in your life.
- **NO transformation** of your life.
- **NO intimacy** with God.

KEY POINT

***As you walk with an ATTITUDE of DEPENDENCE upon God, He, as your Source,
PRODUCES in you freedom, victory, healing, and transformation.***

How Did Paul Live and Minister?

***“Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, ...”
Romans 15:18***

***That’s why I work, depending on Christ’s mighty power that works within me.”
Colossians 1:29***

*“My message and my preaching were **not with wise and persuasive words**, but with a **demonstration of the Spirit’s power**, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on **God’s power.**” 1 Corinthians 2:4-6*

*“But he said to me, ‘“My grace is sufficient for you, for **My power is made perfect in weakness.**’ Therefore **I will boast** all the more gladly **about my weaknesses**, so that **Christ’s power** may rest on me.” 2 Corinthians 12:9*

**Paul did NOT depend on his own intellect, ability, or power to minister.
Rather, it was the capability and the power of GOD ministering THROUGH him.**

The Lie Versus The Truth

1. It is up to you to learn God’s truth about living the Christian life and go out and live it with God’s help?

Truth: You can’t live the life that only Christ can live in you. Your part is to depend on Him to live His life in you. Galatians 2:20; John 15:5

2. Is it up to you to obey God’s commands.

Truth: You, apart from God’s power, cannot consistently keep every command. John 15:5b

3. Are you to be strong for God?

Truth: You need God’s strength because of your inability to do what only God can do. That is why we depend on Christ to be our strength. Colossians 1:29

4. Is the Christian life about what we do for God or for ourselves?

Truth: The Christian life is about what God accomplishes in us and through us. Galatians 2:20; John 14:10

5. It is up to you to produce Christ-likeness.

Truth: Only God can produce Christ-likeness. 2 Corinthians 3:19; Romans 8:29

6. It is up to you to transform your fleshly behavior.

*“Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my **flesh** (physical body) I do my share on behalf of His body....” (Parenthesis mine)*

THE FLESH

Living independent from God as the Source.

Living from the flesh results in choosing to live life out of your own resources (such as education, IQ, personality, looks, talents, abilities, capabilities, self-discipline and self-strength) apart from God as your Source.

The “flesh” is an independent ATTITUDE or PATTERN OF BEHAVIOR that says:

- I can be in control.
- I can meet my needs.
- I can handle or overcome the problem.
- I can deal with every circumstance concerning marriage, family, job, finances, etc.
- I can be a success.

There is an ongoing struggle with the flesh.

*“For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my **flesh** (independent living); for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.” Romans 7:18 (Parenthesis mine)*

“For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.” Romans 7:15

Truths About The Flesh

- The flesh is **not going away**. It will be with us the rest of our lives.
- The flesh **cannot be changed or improved**.
- The focus of the Christian life is **NOT** to **manage, subdue** or **defeat** the flesh.
- Your willpower is not great enough to have **consistent victory** over your flesh.
- The flesh is an attitude and/or a behavior. It is **NOT** your true identity.

***Have you have tried to change your fleshly behavior using your own strength, intellect and ability, I have a question:
How is it working for you?***

Truth: Flesh cannot transform flesh. In other words, you cannot transform your fleshly behavior into Godly behavior. Only God can accomplish that. Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18

SESSION THREE

What Is The Truth Versus The Lie?

What Is The Truth About Your Needs?

Remember your needs from Session One:

Worth
Success
Acceptance
Identity
Meaning and Purpose
Love
Security
Happiness
Adequacy
Power/Strength

Question: Have you tried to get these needs met outside of Christ? If so, are you truly getting them met?

How Is God Going To Meet Your Needs?

“My God shall supply all your needs.....IN Christ Jesus” Philippians 4:19

“I am ... the life” John 14:6

Christ as YOUR life will meet your needs.

Christ as your life means that Christ IS your:

Unconditional Love	Victory	Worth	Acceptance	Faith
Freedom	Patience	Strength	Peace	Power
Forgiveness	Understanding	Security	Fearlessness	Wisdom
Discernment	Adequacy	Humility	Christ-confidence	Boldness
Righteousness	Selflessness	Rest	Compassion	Courage
Kindness	Gentleness	Christ-control	Faithfulness	Joy

What does it mean that Christ is your life? He is the I AM to everything you need.

If you need strength, He is your strength.

If you need patience, He is your patience.

If you need power, He is your power.

As needs arise in your life as a result of adverse circumstances or relationships, God is the "I AM" to meet your needs. Insert your personal needs and find from the list how Christ will be your Supply.

Your need _____? Jesus says, "I AM your _____."

**I AM your love – 1 John 4:8
I AM your joy – John 15:11
I AM your adequacy – 2 Corinthians 3:5
I AM your wisdom – 1 Corinthians 1:30
I AM your way – John 14:6
I AM your truth – John 14:6
I AM your rest – Matthew 11:28
I AM your mind – 1 Corinthians 2:16
I AM your desire – Psalm 73:25
I AM your completion – Colossians 2:10
I AM your sanctification – 1 Cor. 1:30
I AM your purpose – Ephesians 1:10
I AM your identity – 2 Corinthians 5:17
I AM your security – Proverbs 1:33
I AM your goodness – Galatians 5:22
I AM your confidence – 2 Corinthians 3:4
I AM your compassion – Psalm 25:6
I AM your forgiveness – Daniel 9:9
I AM your success – Romans 8:37
I AM your endurance – Hebrews 10:36
I AM your peace – Ephesians 2:14
I AM your faith - Hebrews 12:2
I AM your trust – Jeremiah 17:7
I AM your strength – Romans 6:10**

**I AM your sovereignty – 1 Timothy 6:15
I AM your intimacy – Psalm 139:3
I AM your kindness – Galatians 5:22
I AM your humility – Matthew 11:29
I AM your acceptance – Romans 15:7
I AM your faithfulness – Galatians 5:22
I AM your need-meeter – Galatians 4:19
I AM your deliverer – Psalm 18:2
I AM your freedom – John 8:32
I AM your victory – 1 Corinthians 15:57
I AM your gentleness – Galatians 5:23
I AM your patience – Galatians 5:22
I AM your courage – John 16:33
I AM your conqueror – Romans 8:37
I AM your holiness – Colossians 3:12
I AM your self-control - 2 Timothy 1:7
I AM your salvation – Psalm 27:1
I AM your trust – Jeremiah 17:7
I AM your guide – Psalm 48:14
I AM your shepherd – Psalm 23:1
I AM your comforter – John 14:16
I AM your Abba – Galatians 4:5-6
I AM your hope – Colossians 1:27
I AM your life – John 14:6**

Write down five things that you need from Christ as your life:

If Christ is my love, worth, acceptance, strength, power, security, adequacy and joy then do I have to try and get those needs met outside of Christ?

God has it RIGGED!

The only place you can truly get your needs met is from Christ.

What About Your Need For Identity?

Before you were saved you developed lying beliefs about yourself as a man. Remember these examples from Session One.

I believe or I feel that I am:

Unworthy	Secure
Unacceptable	Self-confident
Rejected	Self-sufficient
A failure	Successful
Anxious	Self-reliant
Inadequate	In control
Weak	Resourceful
Defeated	Competent
Insecure	Fearless
Fearful	Strong

Why are the beliefs in the right hand column lying beliefs?

***Before you were saved, what you believed about yourself
WAS your true identity.***

Therefore, God Had To Deal With Your Old Identity(Before Salvation)

God CRUCIFIED Your Old Identity With Christ On The Cross.

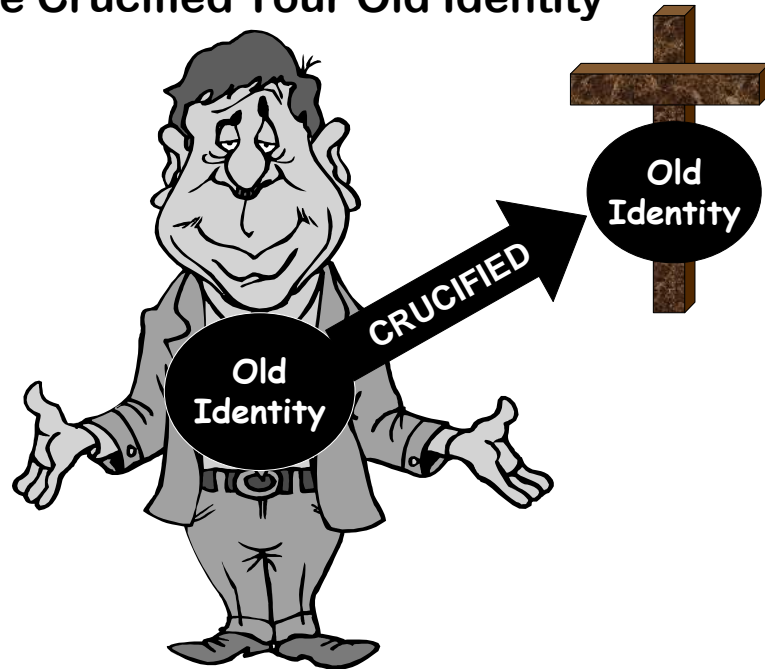
Remember that being IN Adam means that before salvation you were **identified** with Adam in his spiritual death, in his separation from God, and in his condemnation. In addition, our lying beliefs about ourselves were a part of our identity in Adam. Your identification with Adam made up what God calls your “**old self.**”

This old self is your human spirit that was dead to God but was alive to sin. Another name for your old self is your “**old identity.**” As part of God’s restoration process, God wants you to have a **new identity** (2 Corinthians 5:17). However, God knew that for you to have a new identity, He had to deal with your old identity. Therefore, God, in His grace and love for you, did not leave this old Adamic self (identity) within you. Instead, He **crucified** your old self (old identity) **with Christ** on the cross. We see this truth in Romans 6:6:

*“knowing this, that our **old self (old identity) was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.**” Romans 6:6 (Parenthesis mine)*

The diagram on the next page illustrates your old self (identity) being crucified on the cross.

He Crucified Your Old Identity



God EXCHANGED Your Old Identity For A New Identity.

“Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things (old identity) passed away; behold, new things (new identity) have come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (Parentheses mine)

This verse says that when you trusted Christ for salvation, you became a new creation. Becoming a new creation means that you now have a **new identity** in Christ. The “old things” (referring to your old identity) were crucified (passed away), and the “new things” (your new identity) were given to you by God at salvation. In other words, at salvation God **exchanged** your old identity for a new identity. Ezekiel 36:26-27 describes the exchange of our old identity for a new one:

*“.....I will.... **put a new spirit (new identity)** within you, and I will **remove** the heart of stone (old identity) from your flesh...” (Parentheses mine)*

He EXCHANGED Your Old Identity For
A New Identity



Another Way To Understand What God Did Concerning Your Identity

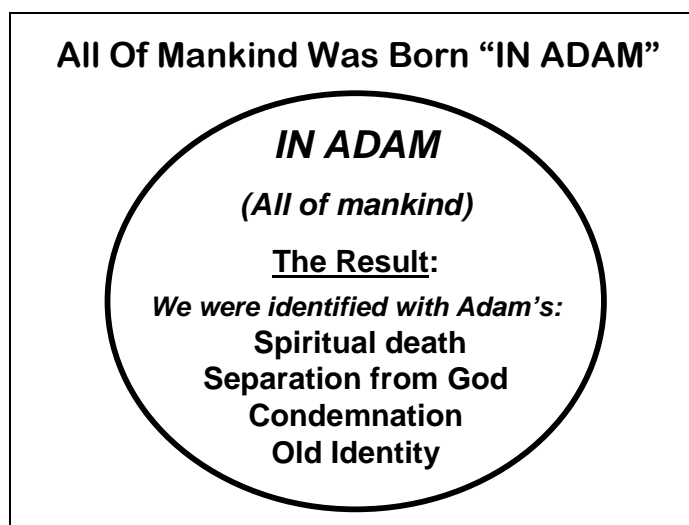
You Were Physically Born "IN" ADAM

Being born IN Adam means that you were IDENTIFIED with Adam.

Being born IN Adam means that before salvation we **IDENTIFIED** with Adam in his:

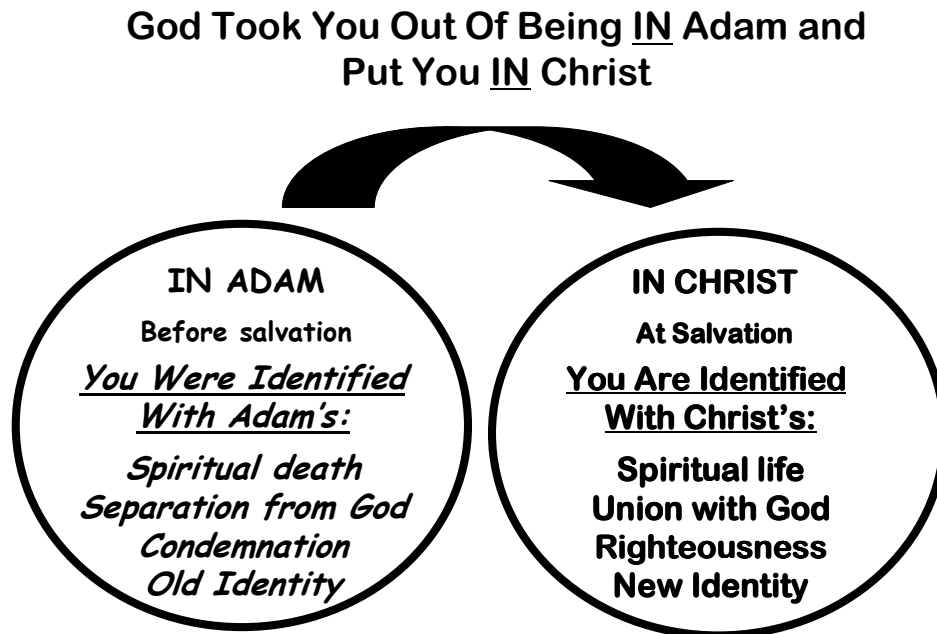
- **Spiritual death** – 1 Corinthians 15:22
- **Separation from God** as your **Life** and **Source** – Ephesians 4:18; Isaiah 59:2
- **Condemnation** – Romans 5:18
- **Old Identity** – Proverbs 23:7

We see in the next diagram an illustration of what it looks like to be born **IN** Adam:



God Took You Out Of Being “IN ADAM” and Put You “IN” CHRIST

However, as a result of trusting Christ for salvation, you are NO longer identified with Adam in his spiritual death, separation, and condemnation. At salvation God took you out of being “IN Adam”, and placed you **IN CHRIST** with the result that you are now **identified with Christ**. The following diagram illustrates what God did at salvation to take you out of being IN Adam and placing you IN Christ:



God Took You Out of Condemnation and Made You **RIGHTEOUS!**

When God crucified your old unrighteous identity within you, He exchanged it for a **righteous** new identity. **You are no longer under condemnation.** God made you **RIGHTEOUS** in your new identity! Romans 5:18-19, 2 Corinthians 5:21, and Philippians 3:9 reveal this to us:

“Consequently, just as the result of one trespass (sin) was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man (Adam) the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the One man (Jesus) the many will be made righteous.” Romans 5:18-19 (Parentheses mine)

*“God made Him (Jesus) who had no sin to be sin for us, so that **in Him** we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5:21 (Parenthesis mine)*

*“and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes **from God** on the **basis of faith.**” Philippians 3:9*

Your **RIGHTEOUSNESS in Christ has nothing to do with what you do or don't do. It is the result of what God did IN you at salvation.**

Because you are *RIGHTEOUS* in Christ:

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are *IN* Christ Jesus.”

Romans 8:1

You Are A Partaker of The Divine Nature

“For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature.....” 2 Peter 1:4

“IN CHRIST”

Means that as a new creation you are a PARTAKER of the divine nature.

Who Are You As A REAL Man “In” Christ?

Colossians 2:10	In Christ, I am complete in Him.
1 Corinthians 15:57	In Christ, I am victorious.
Romans 8:37	In Christ, I am a success.
Philippians 1:6	In Christ, I am confident.
2 Corinthians 12:9	In Christ, I am strong.
Psalms 91:14	In Christ, I am secure.
2 Corinthians 9:8	In Christ, I am sufficient.
Matthew 14:27	In Christ, I am fearless.
Romans 15:7	In Christ, I am accepted and acceptable.
Ephesians 1:1	In Christ, I am a saint.
2 Corinthians 3:5	In Christ, I am totally adequate.
Psalms 139:14	In Christ, I am worthy.
Ephesians 5:25	In Christ, I am a godly husband.
Ephesians 6:4	In Christ, I am a godly father.
1 John 4:12	In Christ, I am an unconditional lover. (Of wife/children)
Galatians 5:1	In Christ, I am free.
Ephesians 4:24	In Christ, I am righteous and holy.
Romans 8:17	In Christ, I am a joint-heir with Christ.
Galatians 3:26,28	In Christ, I am a son of God and one in Christ.
Colossians 3:4	In Christ, I am an expression of the life of Christ
Colossians 3:12	In Christ, I am chosen of God, holy, and dearly loved.
John 15:15	In Christ, I am Christ's friend.
1 Peter 2:9,10	In Christ, I am a chosen race, a royal priesthood.
2 Peter 1:4	In Christ, I am a partaker of the divine nature.

What Is The Lie Versus The Truth Concerning Dad's Understanding of Manhood

1. Your dad either made you feel or believe that you are inadequate, unworthy, a failure and that you don't measure up as a man.

Truth: In Christ you are totally adequate, worthy, more than a conqueror and there is no need to measure up to dad's or the world's standards for being a man. 2 Corinthians 3:5; Psalm 139:14, Romans 8:37

2. Or your dad made you believe that are strong, self-sufficient, capable, and self-confident man.

Truth: As you live from your true identity in Christ, and not from self, you will truly be strong, sufficient, capable and Christ-confident. 2 Corinthians 12:9; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Philippians 1:6

3. Real manhood is determined by what your dad told you.

Truth: Real manhood is determined by your true identity in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17

What Is The Truth Concerning What The World Says About Manhood?

The god of this world, Satan, is the father of lies. Therefore, all the world can tell us about manhood are lies.

*“For all that is in the world, the **lust of the flesh** and the **lust of the eyes** and the **boastful pride of life**, is not from the Father, but is from the world.” 1 John 2:16*

*“Then we will no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or because someone has cleverly lied to us and **made the lie sound like the truth.**” Ephesians 4: 14*

The Lie Versus The Truth

1. Be self-sufficient and independent.

Truth: God created you for dependence. Your life will only truly work as you live dependent on Him and live from His sufficiency. John 15:5; 2 Corinthians 3:5

2. Your identity as a successful man is based on the job you have, the salary you are making, the car you drive, where you live, etc.

Truth: Your identity is based on who God says you are not what the world says. 2 Corinthians 5:17

3. Success is determined by what you can accomplish, accumulate or possess.

Truth: Success is determined by what God can accomplish in and through you to transform your life and live life as God intended. Ephesians 3:20

4. You can get your needs met from the world.

Truth: Only Christ can truly meet your needs. Philippians 4:19

SESSION FOUR

How Do Attain Our Freedom From Our Lying Beliefs?

QUESTION: Do you really want to be set free?

The Truth Is That We “CAN’T”

*“I am crucified with Christ and **I NO longer live**, but Christ lives in me...” Galatians 2:20a*

*“apart from me you can do **NOTHING**.” John 15:5b*

“I CAN’T”

is the place where you come to believe that you CANNOT produce the life that you DESIRE and God PROMISES.

What Is It You Can’t Do?

1. **I can’t** get my needs meet that only God can meet.
2. **I can’t** set myself free from my sinful behavior and lying beliefs about manhood.
3. **I can’t** obtain victory over the sin patterns that continually defeat me.
4. **I can’t** truly be successful apart from Christ’s work in me and through me.
5. **I can’t** live a fulfilled Christian life by being self-sufficient, strong, and self-confident.
6. **I can’t** solve the impossible problems in my circumstances, marriage, job, with my kids, or in my other relationships.

“I CAN’T” make myself a GODLY man.

What Can God DO?

*“Now to **Him** who is able to do **far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think**, according to the (God’s) power that works within us...” Ephesians 3:20 (Parenthesis mine)*

*“being confident of this, that **He** who began a good work in you **WILL** carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6*

What Is It That God Can Do

- **Renew your mind to His truth about being a real man in Christ.**
- **Set you free from your lying beliefs about being a man.**
- **Set you free from the world’s standards, dad’s standards and legalistic standards for manhood.**
- **Transform you so that you will believe and live from your true identity as a man.**
- **Transform your fleshly behavior into godly behavior.**

- Transform your life so that you will think, feel, believe, and choose like Christ.

Write down some of the other things you believe God can do?

If I CAN'T and God CAN Then What Should I Do?

UNLEASH God's power in me to do what only He can do.

How Do We Unleash God's Power In Us?

"I have been crucified with Christ; and 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 up for me." Galatians 2:20

We unleash God's power in us by FAITH.

What Is Faith?

1. Faith Is An ASSURANCE And A CONVICTION.

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

FAITH
is an assurance, confidence, and certainty that God is Who He says He is and that He will accomplish what He promises to accomplish.

2. Faith Is Allowing God to PERSUADE You of His Truth.

"being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised." Romans 4:21

FAITH
"is a firm PERSUASION and EXPECTATION that God will perform all that He has promised to us in Christ."

3. Faith Is The REALIZATION That "I CAN'T" BUT "GOD CAN."

"He who began a good work in your life will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus."
Philippians 1:6

"Apart from Me you can do NOTHING." John 15:5b

FAITH

Trusting God to do what only He CAN do, and I CANNOT.

4. Faith Is COOPERATION With God

*"For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but **the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.**"* Hebrews 4:2

FAITH

Is your willing COOPERATION with God to transform your life.

The KEY To Transformation Is To WALK By Faith

"for we walk by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7

What happens when you take a step of faith:

*"I pray that you will begin to understand the **incredible greatness of His power** for us who believe him. This is the **same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead** and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 1:19, 20*

*"that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the **power of God.**"* 1 Corinthians 2:5

A Step of Faith Unleashes God's Power IN You To:

- **RENEW** your mind to believe His truth. - Romans 12:2
- **Set you FREE** from your lying beliefs. - John 8:32
- **Give you VICTORY** over the flesh, sin, Satan, and the world. - 1 Corinthians 15:57
- **TRANSFORM** your fleshly behavior to godly behavior and to live from the truth of your true identity in Christ versus your lying beliefs. - 2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 12:2

At the MOMENT when you take a STEP of FAITH

God releases His life and power IN you and THROUGH you to

RADICALLY change your life and the lives around you.

This Work God Does In You Is A SUPERNATURAL Work.

***SUPERNATURAL means that we don't know
HOW God is going to transform our lives.***

A KEY Truth To Remember When You Take A Step of Faith

***The key truth to remember is that when you take a step of
faith you may not FEEL or EXPERIENCE God's life and power working in you.***

If you will participate with me for a moment, I think I can show you what I mean. Take a step of faith with me right now. Simply say: "Lord, I am trusting you this moment to be my Source." If you did that by faith, are you feeling anything? Are you experiencing a waterfall of living water pouring in you, or are you feeling His great power moving in you?

Look at 2 Corinthians 5:7:

"For we walk by faith, not by sight."

Paul is telling us in this verse that it is a walk of faith not one of feeling or experiencing. More often than not you will **not** be feeling or experiencing either God's life or power. Why can this be frustrating? As human beings we feel and experience life through one or more of our five senses every moment. Since feeling and experiencing are such an integral part of our life, it is easy to conclude that when we take a step of faith that we will feel or experience God's work.

***The truth is that for the MOST part you will NOT feel or experience God's life and
power flowing in you when you take a step of faith.***

Truths We Need To Understand About The Walk of Faith

- 1. Transformation is a journey not a sprint.**
- 2. God's timetable and yours for transformation will not be the same.**
- 3. You will fail many times during your walk of faith but that does not make you a failure.**
- 4. You will be tempted to:**
 - Doubt God's ability and willingness to transform your life.**
 - Get frustrated and angry with God because He is not moving fast enough.**
 - Condemn yourself because of your failures in your walk of faith.**

If You Choose To Quit Walking By Faith

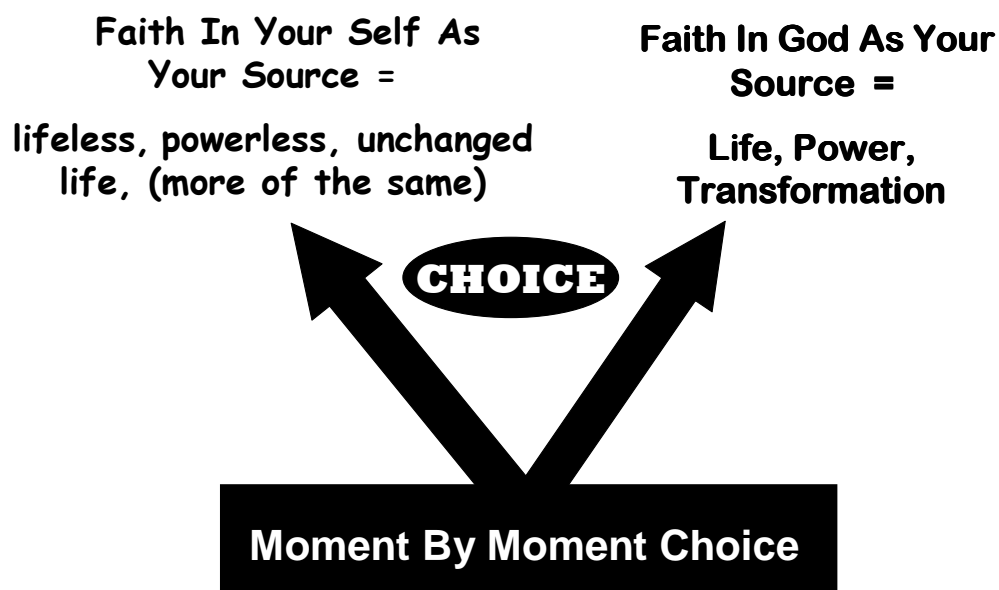
**Your ONLY other option is to go back to YOURSELF (the FLESH) as
the source for living life.**

“Of them the proverbs are true: ‘A dog returns to its vomit’ and, ‘A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.’” 2 Peter 2:22

*“.. the mind set on the flesh is DEATH, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.”
Romans 8:6*

The results of going back to self as the source and live independent of God:

- No freedom.
- No victory.
- No transformation.
- More of the same.



What Choice Will You Make?

FINAL NOTE:

“I can do all things through Christ...” Philippians 4:13

***Apart from Christ I can do nothing. However, as I, by faith, trust Christ
to live in me then I will come to know, believe, and
walk in the truth of my manhood
IN CHRIST.***

“If you SEEK Me, you will FIND me.”

Matthew 7:7

Examples of Steps Of Faith:

Step of faith and God meeting your God-given needs

“Lord, **persuade** me that I will never truly get my needs met by the world and that I can only truly get my needs met in You.”

“Lord, I know the truth that **I can’t** meet my spouse’s need and that he/she can’t meet my need for love and acceptance. Therefore, I am **trusting** You to meet that need in me and in him/her.”

Step of faith and lying beliefs:

“Lord, I have been believing the lie that I can live the Christian life. Believing that lie has created great internal conflict. The truth is I can’t live it. Therefore, I am **entrusting** my lying belief to You and asking You to renew my mind to the truth according to Romans 12:2.”

“I am believing the lie that I am unworthy, inadequate, and insecure. I am **entrusting** my lie to You and asking You to **replace** this lie with the truth that in my true identity I am worthy, adequate, and secure.”

“I am **presenting** my lying beliefs to You. I am trusting You to renew my mind to the truth and to set me free.”

Steps of faith in dealing with your flesh:

“Lord, I am **trusting** You in this situation, conflict, etc. to move me away from trying to solve, fix, or handle this situation in my own intellect and strength and I am drawing on You to solve this problem through me.”

“**Reveal** to me situations where I tend to live from my flesh and show me the ‘death’ of it.”

Steps of faith for transformation

“I am trusting you to transform my life so that I will live as a real man in Christ.”

“I am trusting you to transform my fleshly behavior into godly behavior.”

Step of faith and the renewing of your mind

“I don’t believe Your truth that in You I am not self-sufficient, self-confident and strong in self. I am **trusting** You to renew my mind to the truth that my sufficiency, confidence, and strength is from You.”