

5. You will be able to unconditionally love your children regardless of their fleshly attitudes and behaviors.
6. You can discipline their sinful behavior without attacking their identity. For example: When your child is acting with sinful behavior, you can say, “Your behavior is bad” instead of attacking their identity by saying “You are bad.”

Do You Know Your True Identity?

OTHER RELATIONSHIPS

Living from your true identity with others means that:

1. Since you are a forgiving person in Christ, you can forgive anyone regardless whether you feel like it or not.
2. Since you are complete in Christ, you don't have to depend on other people to make you feel complete.
3. Walking in your new identity will allow you to unconditionally love those whom you thought were unlovable.
4. Since you are totally adequate, you don't have to take ownership of other's rejection of you.

(12-1-10)

Bill Loveless

Christ Is Life Ministries

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Question: How might it transform your life if you no longer derived your adequacy from meeting your own standards or from standards set by others for you?

Weak

No one wants to think of themselves as being weak (especially men.). We want to have inner human strength that can withstand any adversity. However, God loves us enough to allow circumstances to come in which will expose our human weaknesses.

Living from our true identity: Our true strength can only come from Christ (Ephesians 6:10). As we live from Christ's strength, there is nothing that can rob us of that strength. That is why Paul said that "when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10).

PARENTING

Living from your true identity as a parent means that:

1. If you live from your true identity, you have all of Christ's patience available to you. (And with your children, you will need all that you can get.)
2. Knowing your new identity will allow you to teach your children about their new identity in Christ. Wouldn't it be great if they learned early in life who they are in Christ?
3. As you walk in your new identity, your children will learn through your example.
4. You no longer have to try to earn your children's acceptance knowing that you are accepted in Christ.

we no longer have to walk in our fleshly self-confidence. Nothing can rob us of our confidence in Christ.

Question: Have you thought about the fact that God allows adversity in our lives to destroy our self-confidence so that we have no other choice but to walk in Christ-confidence?

Defeated

An addiction or an ongoing sin problem can leave us feeling defeated.

Living from our true identity: The truth is that we are victorious in Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57). The truth is that we no longer have to feel defeated because we have the victory in Christ. Concerning a defeating sin problem, we can choose to walk by faith in the victory that we have in Christ, or we can choose to give up. Giving up means that ongoing feelings of defeat will continue.

Question: Are you willing to take enough steps of faith until you experience the victory that you have in Christ? If not, what can you expect?

Inadequate

Our feelings of inadequacy can be exposed in many ways, such as being unable to find work, feeling like we don't measure up to standards that we have set for ourselves or others, or not measuring up to the standards that others have set for us.

Living from our true identity: The good news is that your adequacy can only be met in Christ. Every other thing in your life has the possibility of robbing you of your human adequacy. No circumstance or individual can ever rob you of your adequacy in Christ.

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Appendix 117

Lesson One

Is What You Believe About Yourself The Truth?

Introduction

I trust that through the Living Life From A New Source study, God has given you a deeper understanding and application of what it means to live from God as our Source. After understanding the truth about living the Christian life, I believe that the second most foundational truth for the Christian to understand is their TRUE identity in Christ. I hope you took time to read my testimony and see how crucial the truths in this study radically changed my life. Through several years of discipling individuals and married couples, I have discovered how few Christians truly understand their true identity. That is why I trust that you will engage the Holy Spirit throughout this study to give you personal revelation of these truths.

I would like to start by asking you two questions.

- What is it you believe about yourself?
- Is what you believe the truth?

In this lesson we will explore how lying beliefs were formed and the impact that those lying beliefs have in every area of our lives. The focus of this lesson To determine what you believe about yourself, to explore whether or not what you believe is the truth, to understand how your beliefs may be adversely impacting you, your circumstances, and your relationships.

security. When that happens, we need to remember that our only true and consistent security comes from our true identity in Christ. When human security fails, we must rely on our security in Christ.

CIRCUMSTANCES

Adverse circumstances can cause us to feel:

- Fearful
- A loss of confidence
- Defeated
- Inadequate
- Weak

Fearful

Adversity such as a serious health condition can create an attitude of fear.

Living from your true identity: The truth is that in your true identity you are fearless (Psalm 56:4) because you have nothing to fear. God has known about your situation for an eternity and has the answer. If you have a terminal illness, there is no need for fear because of your destination after death. You have nothing to fear because God is your protector.

A Loss of Confidence

We all have a degree of self-confidence. Christians with positive flesh tend to have more self-confidence than others. However, circumstances in life such as the loss of a job can rob us of our self-confidence.

Living from your true identity: As new creations our total confidence is in Christ (Psalm 71:5). Through His confidence

Value/Worth

We all want to be valued and be found worthy, especially in the marriage relationship. However, we tend to put expectations on how that value or worth is to be conveyed to us by our spouse. When those expectations are not met, we tend to feel undervalued or unworthy.

Living from your true identity: The truth is that your true value or worth can only be found in Christ (Psalm 139:14). Your value in Christ is immeasurable.

Question: How might it change your marriage if you were finding your value or worth from Christ rather than from your spouse?

Selflessness

A key component to the success of a marriage is a selfless and sacrificial attitude. The problem is that in the flesh we are very selfish and non-sacrificial.

Living from your true identity: The truth is that if you live out of your true identity, you will naturally be selfless (Philippians 2:4) and sacrificial (John 15:13).

Question: In what areas of your marriage are you selfish and non-sacrificial? How would it change your marriage if you functioned with a selfless and sacrificial attitude?

Security

As husband and wife we want to feel secure in our marriage, secure in our trust for one another, and secure in our mutual love, etc. What happens when that security is compromised?

Living from your true identity: Security in Christ is essential in marriage because as humans we can compromise that

How Your Beliefs About Yourself Were Formed

“As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”

Proverbs 23:7

From birth you started receiving messages about yourself, God, others, and living life. For the sake of this study we will focus on the messages that you may have heard about yourself. The messages usually came in two categories, **positive** and **negative** messages. For example:

Negative messages might have been: “**You are a failure.**” “**You will never measure up.**” “**Is this the best that you can do?**” “**Why can’t you be like your brother/sister?**”

Positive messages might have been: “**I am proud of you.**” “**You can do it.**” “**There is nothing you can’t accomplish.**” “**You are special.**”



Exercise: Refer to the diagram on page 19 of this lesson and ask God to bring to mind some of the positive or

negative messages that you have heard about yourself from your parents, siblings, relatives, friends, or teachers. Write those messages down in the blocks at the top of the page.

As messages were received and repeated enough times, you started forming **beliefs** concerning yourself around those messages. The question is:

Does what you believe about yourself line up with the truth of the word of God?

Let's look at two different beliefs and see if they line up with God's word:

Belief: "I am a failure."

God's truth: In Christ, you are more than a conqueror.
Romans 8:37

Belief: "I can do anything that I set my mind to."

God's truth: Jesus says in John 15:5, "Apart from Me you can do nothing."

As you can see, these two beliefs do not line up with God's Word. I call these "**false**" beliefs.

FALSE BELIEF

Any belief about yourself that does not line up with or contradicts God's truth.

What Was The Result Of Your False Beliefs?

In addition to forming false beliefs, a further problem developed. You continued to believe and to reinforce these false beliefs long enough that some of them have become strongholds in your life with the result that they have become the truth to you. Look at Ephesians 4:14:

Acceptance

When I do marriage discipleship, I find that a major struggle in marriage is rejection. We come into marriage with needs and expectations. When those needs and expectations are not met, the tendency is to reject our spouse. If you are the recipient of that rejection, your tendency will be to reject back. This is how the rejection cycle plays itself out. If it is not corrected, then it will create a downward spiral in the marriage relationship.

Living from your true identity: You no longer have to take ownership of your spouse's rejection if you are living from your acceptance in Christ. In other words you become "unrejectable."

Question: How do you think it might change your marriage if you no longer took ownership of your spouse's rejection?

Forgiveness

In marriage we as spouses will often offend our spouses. If you are the offended party, you have a choice. You can either forgive your spouse, or you can have the attitude that your spouse owes you (which is unforgiveness). If that is your attitude, it can eventually lead to anger, bitterness, and more unforgiveness.

Living from your true identity: The truth is that you have NO excuse for not forgiving your spouse because you are a forgiving person in Christ (Colossians 3:13). Remember that Christ forgave you of all of your sins (offenses).

Question: How might it transform your marriage if you were the first one to repent or forgive when an offense is committed against you?

3. **Acceptance**
4. **Forgiveness**
5. **Value/Worth**
6. **Selflessness**
7. **Security**

Identity

The tendency in marriage is to negatively evaluate our spouses based upon their fleshly behaviors. However, if your spouse is a Christian, they are a new creation just like you are.

Living from your true identity: Means that you can look past your spouse’s fleshly behaviors (I did not say “condone.”) and see who they are as a new creation in Christ. Remember that just like you, his or her behavior does not determine their identity.

Question: How might it change how you see your spouse if you see him or her as a new creation in Christ rather than you focusing on their fleshly behaviors?

Unconditional Love

As humans we all want to be loved unconditionally. However, as humans we are incapable of unconditionally loving someone else. There will always be conditions attached to loving another person.

Living from your true identity: The truth is that in your true identity you are unconditionally loved in Christ and are an unconditional lover. Therefore, you as a spouse no longer have to try to get you need of unconditional love met by your spouse. Since that need is met in Christ, you can ask Christ to unconditionally love your spouse through you.

Question: How do you think it might affect your marriage if you were loving your spouse with Christ’s unconditional love?

*“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 diagram below illustrates this point.



The Problem:

Some of your false beliefs have become so true to you that even when God’s truth comes against your lying beliefs, you believe your LIES even though you KNOW God’s truths.

This is why it is important to distinguish again the difference between knowing versus believing God’s truth. Knowledge is simply understanding scripture intellectually. Belief is the supernatural transformation by the Holy Spirit that takes you from knowing to believing God’s word.

Exercise: Before you go any further in the study, look at the following list and choose which characteristics that you feel or believe are true of you.

I believe or I feel that I am:

Unworthy
Unacceptable
Rejected
A failure
Anxious

Secure in self
Self-confident
Self-sufficient
Successful in self
Self-reliant

Inadequate
Weak
Defeated
Insecure
Fearful

Self in control
Resourceful in self
Competent in self
Fearless in self
Strong in self

I need to let you know at this point that every one of the beliefs above are **false** beliefs. The column on the left I call NEGATIVE false beliefs, and the column on the right I call POSITIVE false beliefs. If you picked one or more of the beliefs above as being true of you, then you are still believing false beliefs about yourself. Let's explore some of the adverse effects of believing these lies.

Exercise: One way of helping you understand that the two lists above are false beliefs is to add the word "Christian" after each one. For example, a "rejected Christian" or a "self-reliant Christian." I hope that sounds like a false belief when you add the word "Christian" to your belief. We will compare your beliefs to what the word of God says in Lesson Three.

ADVERSE Effects Of Living From Your False Beliefs

I said earlier in this study that you will not live beyond what you believe. If what you believe is false, then that is how you will live. This means that there are adverse effects of continuing to live from your false beliefs which are negatively impacting you, your relationship with God, and your relationship with others. Another name for the adverse effects of our false beliefs is called living from the "**flesh**."

*"For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of **flesh**, sold into bondage to sin." Romans 7:14*

Question: How might it change how you look at your job if Christ and not your job determined your value, worth, or reputation?

Acceptance

Every human being wants to be accepted. It is part of our "divine wiring." On the job we want acceptance from our co-workers and our boss. However, what happens when you feel that they are rejecting you?

Living from your true identity: If you truly believe that you are accepted in your true identity (Romans 15:7), you no longer have to take ownership of the rejection from your co-workers or your boss.

Question: How might it affect your attitude towards your co-workers and your boss if you no longer took ownership of their rejection?

Security

We like the words, "job security." However, we know that security can go away overnight. How secure would you feel if you found out tomorrow morning that you had lost your job?

Living from your true identity: The truth is that our only real security is found in Christ (Psalm 139:5). If you are living from Christ's security in your true identity, the loss of your job won't steal your security.

MARRIAGE

What are some of your needs in the marriage relationship?

1. Identity
2. Unconditional love

Living from your true identity: If you are living from your true identity, nothing or no one can rob you of your peace and rest in Christ.

Question: How might it change your attitude about your job if you lived from Christ's peace and rest?

What are some needs that you might be trying to find in the workplace?

Your Identity

As we mentioned before, one of the main places (especially for men) that we try to find our identity is in the workplace. The reason is that what we do determines for the most part who we think that we are. What is the truth?

Living from your true identity: As God transforms your life to live from your true identity, you will find yourself no longer seeking your identity in the workplace. You will then conclude that it is who you are in Christ that is a greater reality than what you do on your job.

Value, Worth, or Reputation

Living from earthly standards, what you accomplish at your job is part of what determines your value, worth, or reputation. What happens to those things when you lose your job or get demoted?

Living from your true identity: As you live from your worth in Christ (Psalm 139:14), then you will see no need to find your value, worth, or reputation in your job. Therefore, no matter what happens on the job, it will not adversely impact you because of your worth in Christ. Even if you lose your job, that does not make you a failure. Remember that according to Romans 8:37 that you are "more than a conqueror."

The biblical meaning of the word "flesh" is man's DESIRE to live life with HIMSELF as the source, INDEPENDENT or APART from God as the Source.

We talked about the flesh in *Living Life From A New Source* study but I want to revisit it again as it applies to our identity.

Living From Your False Beliefs Produces FLESHLY Behavior.

***The Flesh
in the context of our study is the sinful ATTITUDES and BEHAVIORS that result from having FALSE beliefs about ourselves.***

"Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these....." Galatians 5:19-21a

Living from your false beliefs about yourself will result in **fleshly attitudes** or **fleshly behaviors** like those listed in Galatians 5:19-21 above. Fleshly behaviors and attitudes come in two forms, **positive** flesh and **negative** flesh. Below are some examples of **negative** and **positive** flesh.

Negative Flesh:

Negative flesh is pretty easy to spot because it produces negative fleshly behaviors or attitudes. Look at the following examples to better understand what I mean.



Examples of negative flesh: anger, inadequacy, unforgiveness, envy, controlling, fear, worry.

The following is an example of a false belief and the negative fleshly behavior that results.

Example: – Let’s assume that one of your false beliefs is that you are inadequate. What inadequate people want is to not feel inadequate. So, they manifest fleshly behavior such as being critical and judgmental of others to make themselves feel good about themselves. They can become people-pleasers to a point where they will do whatever it takes to be well thought of. Finally, if they can’t shake the feelings of inadequacy, they might try to escape those feelings through such fleshly coping mechanisms as their job, hobbies, alcohol, pornography, etc.

Positive Flesh:

Positive flesh is more difficult to recognize because it looks very appealing. The problem is that positive flesh is flesh that looks good but is either done with the focus on yourself or is done independent of God. Let me show you examples of both.



1. Examples of positive flesh that focuses on SELF self-confidence, self-reliance, self-sufficiency, success, self-righteousness.

The following is an example of a false belief and the positive fleshly behavior that results.

Example: – Let’s assume that one of your lying beliefs is that you are self-confident. The thrust of self-confidence is to do whatever it takes to bolster that self-confidence. Some of the fleshly behaviors that flow from self-confidence are boasting

Stress of the job

Stress will always be a part of our job, in or out of the workplace. The key question is, “Do you have to take ownership of that stress?” The answer is NO!

Living from your true identity: In Christ, you have all of His power. Therefore, you have the power to say NO to the stress. You no longer have to take ownership of the stress from your workplace.

Question: What do you think would change about your attitude toward your workplace if you were no longer taking ownership of the stress?

Level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction that you have with your job

We all have levels of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with our jobs depending on what area of our job that we are talking about. The question is, “What determines your satisfaction?”

Living from your true identity: In Christ, your satisfaction is not dependent upon your job but upon the joy that flows from your identity in Christ (Galatians 5:22, 23),

Question: How would it change how you look at your job if your Christ-like joy determined your satisfaction of the job rather than the circumstances of your job?

Attitude toward your co-workers, boss, employees, and vice versa

What are the determining factors for you to have a positive attitude about your job? What are some things that can happen between you and your co-workers or your boss to rob you of your peace?

Appendix

Application Of Living From Your True Identity In Your Daily Life

Introduction

Now that we have looked at the truth of our identity in Christ and God's process to transform our lives to live from our true identity, I want to spend time in this lesson looking at how your true identity might impact every area of your life. We saw in Lesson Two the adverse effects of living from our lying beliefs. Let's look at the flip side by looking at the spiritually positive effects of living from your true identity.

WORKPLACE

**What are some issues that you face in the workplace?
Could they be:**

- The stress of the job?
- The level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction that you have with your job?
- Your attitude towards your boss, co-workers or employees?

What are some needs that you might be trying to find in the workplace concerning:

- Your identity?
- Value, worth, or reputation?
- Your acceptance?
- Your security?

Let's see how living from your true identity will positively impact you in your workplace.

and feeling like you have all the answers (know-it-all). Self-confident people tend to be prideful in their accomplishments and look down upon or take advantage of those that don't measure up to their standards.

2. Examples of positive flesh that is done INDEPENDENT OF GOD:

1. Trying to do your job independent of God.
2. Trying to be a godly husband, father, wife or mother independent of God.
3. Evangelizing independent of God.
4. Discipling someone independent of God.
5. Going to church, giving to the church, being involved in ministry to earn something from God.

Positive flesh is a result of TRYING to do certain things independent of God. They may APPEAR very spiritual or good but if they are done independent of God it is still the FLESH!

Personal example of positive flesh independent of God:

When I got into ministry 12 years ago I developed a flesh pattern I did not have before. I call it "ministry" flesh. It is a very good looking form of flesh but it was still flesh. For example, there were times when I got up to speak that I felt totally prepared because I had my notes and my power point slides.

Instead of depending on God to speak through me, I taught independent in my own strength and ability independent of God's life and power. Even though truth was taught, I was teaching with a fleshly attitude because I taught the truth independent of God.

Let's look at more of the fleshly attitudes and behaviors associated with your negative or positive false beliefs. From the two lists that follow, see if you can identify with any of the fleshly behaviors.

Examples of Fleshly Attitudes and Behaviors Associated With NEGATIVE False Beliefs

Below is a list of negative false beliefs that you may remember from the exercise that you completed concerning your beliefs. The false belief is underlined. Following the false belief are some possible fleshly attitudes/behaviors that may flow from that belief:

1. **Unworthy** - overly introspective, self-condemning, being critical of others to build yourself up.
2. **Unacceptable** - jealousy, envy, being a people pleaser.
3. **Rejected** - angry, become defensive, reject others.
4. **A failure** - fear of making mistakes, become introspective, being envious of others' successes, become a loner.
5. **Inadequate** - critical and judgmental of others, denial, people-pleaser, escape through job, hobbies, alcohol, etc.
6. **Fear** - isolate yourself, self-protection, avoid failure at all costs.
7. **Insecure** - depression, stay in control, obsessed with accomplishments.
8. **Defeated** - self-pity, pessimistic, depressed.

Question: Do any of these fleshly behaviors apply to you?

The key is to continue taking one step of faith at a time until you experience God's transforming work in your life. God is the promise keeper. He will keep His promise to change your life. Your part is to take the next step.

The key is to KEEP walking (fighting) by faith until you do begin to experience His changes.

Final Note

*“His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family **by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ.** And this gave Him great pleasure.” Ephesians 1:5*

Right this very moment God is drawing you to Himself. It is His unchanging plan. Ultimately God gave you a new identity so that you would understand how much He loves you. We cannot earn it, and we don't deserve it. But, God, in His grace and love for you, made you a new creation. You are His masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10)!

Therefore, I encourage you to walk by faith in your newness in Christ. As you do, the veil of lies will be torn in two, and behind that veil you will see a God who loves you eternally and unconditionally and who wants you for Himself. As you cooperate with God by faith, Romans 6:4 will become an experiential reality in your life:

*“Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in **NEWNESS** of life.”*

Romans 6:4

The Truth Is That You Only Have One Choice!

The only real choice that you have is to come to God by faith and to trust in His ability to change your lying beliefs. God has this whole process **rigged!** He is the only One who can renew your mind to the truth. He knows full well how real your lying beliefs are to you, but He also has it rigged because He is the only One Who can take you from believing the lie to believing His truth. However, God does give you free will to make the choice.

The key thing to remember is that to NOT choose God is to choose what I call "MORE of the same."

When You Want To Give Up, Take One MORE Step Of Faith.

*"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but **I press on** to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me." Philippians 3:12 (NIV)*

The ongoing struggle that you will face in God's process is how long will you engage God by faith. Early on in this "faith" walk you may not feel or experience any changes. However, that does not change the fact that God is working. God promises us in Philippians 1:6 that



Since you may not feel or experience change, you may be tempted to believe that God is not working and give up. This is when I trust that the Holy Spirit will whisper in your ear the words of Paul to "press on He is working whether we experience it or not.." Pressing on is simply taking another step of faith. Paul calls it a fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12.) The fight is whether to press on and keep trusting God or to turn back to the flesh.

Examples of Fleshly Attitudes and Behaviors Associated With POSITIVE False Beliefs

Below is a list of positive false beliefs and some of the fleshly attitudes and behaviors that may flow from those beliefs:

1. **Secure in self** – focus on material things, take pride in your intellect or looks, being critical of others.
2. **Self-confident** – narcissistic, boasting, self-serving.
3. **Self-sufficient** – driven by performance, controlling, boastful.
4. **Successful in self** – dictatorial, demanding, manipulation of others.
5. **Self-reliant** – loner, demanding of others, selfish.
6. **Self in control** – perfectionist, not tolerant of others, do whatever it takes to stay in control.
7. **Competent in self** – argumentative, stubborn, intimidating.
8. **Strong in self** – controlling, domineering, little or no toleration for weakness.

Question: Do any of these fleshly behaviors apply to you?

Key Note:

Continuing to live from your false beliefs about yourself will keep you in BONDAGE to your fleshly attitudes and behaviors.

What Is The Outcome of Your Fleshly Attitudes and Behaviors?

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



This verse says that continuing to live from your flesh leads to **death!** What kind of death is referred to in Romans 8:6? It is not spiritual death because we know that as a result of trusting Christ for salvation, we have eternal life in Christ and can never die again spiritually.

The “Death”
referred to is defined in Strong’s Lexicon as
“the **MISERY** of the soul as a result of **SIN.**”

In other words, if we continue to live from the fleshly behaviors that result from our lying beliefs about ourselves, the inevitable result will be **misery in our soul.**

The following are some examples of what misery of the soul looks like.

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Condemnation | Stress | Anxiety |
| Shame | Anger | Guilt |
| Abuse | Self-pity | Inadequacy |
| Fear | Worry | Frustration |
| Bitterness | Blame | Rejection |
| Insecurity | Dissatisfaction | Unforgiveness |

As you engage God by faith, ask God to CONFIRM His changes in your life and to give you an awareness of those changes.

When it comes to your walk of faith in being transformed to walk in your true identity you have two choices. The following are your two choices.

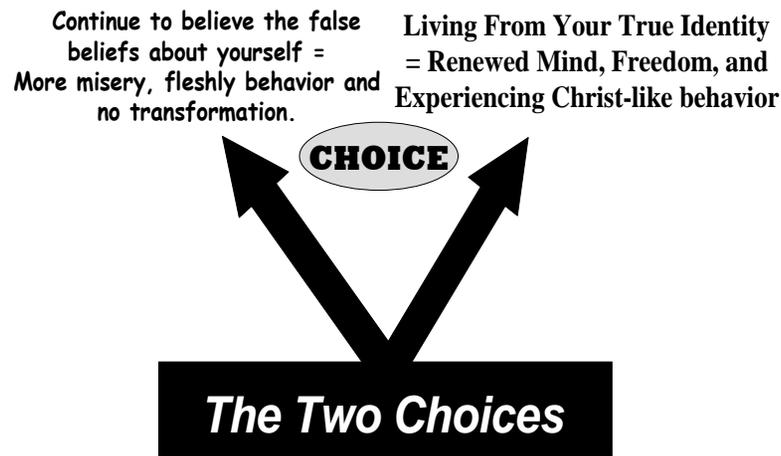
CHOICE #1: To continue living from your false beliefs.

The Result: More misery, more fleshly behavior, and no transformation

CHOICE #2: To continue walking by faith

The Result: Renewing of your mind, freedom from your false beliefs, and transformation of your fleshly behaviors into Christ-like behaviors

The next diagram illustrates your two choices:



What Choice Will You Make?

*“For I tell you that Christ became a servant of the circumcised on behalf of God’s truth in order to **confirm** the promises given to our forefathers.”*

We know by faith that God is working in our lives. However, God wants to confirm it in your mind, will, emotions, and behavior as well. Therefore, I have listed some ways that God might use to confirm His work in your life.

1. **Your mind begins to think truthful thoughts instead of lying thoughts about yourself.**
2. **You will find yourself believing God’s truth about you rather than believing the lies.**
3. **Your feelings will begin to fall in line with God’s truth about your identity.**
4. **Your will begins to make choices based on the truth that you are now thinking and feeling. This will produce in you a greater willingness to come to God for Him to further renew your mind to the truth.**
5. **You begin to experience a change in your behavior as you believe the truth of your true identity.**
6. **You will begin to choose to live from a Christ-like attitude rather than a fleshly attitude.**

These are just a few examples of how God will confirm to you that He is replacing your lying beliefs with His truth. The key to recognizing His work is to have a spiritual awareness or vigilance. Be on the constant lookout for how God will confirm His work in your life. Remember that He will change each of us in a unique way. Therefore, there is no formula for how God will work in each of our lives.

Remember: That if you keep living from your false beliefs about yourself, then you are like the person in 2 Peter 2:22:

*“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.’”*



misery of our flesh.

The dog returning to its vomit or a pig returning to wallowing in the mud are great pictures of what it is like to continue living from your fleshly behaviors that flows from your false beliefs. If this is the case, why do we keep going back to the flesh? Here again, it is what we are used to. As sick as it sounds, we have learned to be at home and to be comfortable with the

Does the fleshly behavior stemming from your lying beliefs make you feel like Paul when he says:

*“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

Paul’s struggle with his fleshly behavior was so great that he cried out in the second half of Romans 7:24:

“Who will set me free from the body of this death?”

Paul is in misery! He is in such misery that it seems like he is pleading when he asks to be set free. The “body of this death” is referring to the flesh and the associated misery that is within him. Isn’t it interesting that Paul **didn’t** ask, “**Which** self-help program or **what** ten steps **will set me free?**” He asked,

“WHO will set me free?”

Final Note:

CONTINUING to live from your fleshly behavior will keep you in BONDAGE to your false beliefs about yourself.

However, God’s promise in John 8:32 is that

“You will know the truth, and the truth will set you FREE.”

God will set you free when you know and live from the truth of your true identity.

Final Thoughts About The Flesh

“For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.” Galatians 5:17

Here are some final truths that we need to understand 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. (It can get worse!)**
- The focus of the Christian life is **NOT** for you to **manage, subdue, or defeat** the flesh independent of God.
- Your willpower is not great enough to have **consistent victory** over your fleshly behavior.

keep in mind that God is all-knowing and that He has a perfect timetable.

Another reason for God’s timing is that He is teaching you patience as you wait on His transformation. The most important thing that God is teaching you in waiting is FAITH. How else will we learn faith unless we have opportunities to wait on God? Someone described faith as: “How long can you believe without experiencing change in your life?”

#4 - Why Transformation In Some Areas May Come Faster Than Others

Some of your false beliefs are more entrenched than others. For example, you may have a false belief of insecurity that is not as entrenched as a long held lying belief of inadequacy. Therefore, you will most likely experience freedom from your insecurity long before you may experience adequacy. Therefore, know by faith that the longer it takes for you to experience freedom from one false belief versus another is a sign that some of your false beliefs are much stronger and will take longer to break down.

Because of the strength of your false beliefs in some areas of your life, you will experience failure along the path to being set free from your false beliefs. This is to be expected. Therefore, don’t let the enemy or your own thoughts condemn you when you fail. Just confess your failure to God and continue taking another step of faith.

How Will I Know When Change Has Taken Place?

Since the process of transformation is primarily incremental, how will I know that change is taking place? In Romans 15:8, Paul tells us that God will confirm to us His promises:

“My thoughts are completely different from yours,” says the LORD. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.” Isaiah 55:8

As a result of God giving you revelation of His truth as presented in this study, you may be just beginning a journey of more intentional cooperation with God to renew your mind to the truth of your true identity in Christ. I believe that one of the key things that you need to understand as you start your journey of transformation is to understand that it is a **supernatural** process.

God is going to supernaturally change the way you think, feel, choose, and behave. It is supernatural in that we, in and of ourselves, did not (and cannot) make those changes. We struggle with this because we all want to know how God is going to transform us. This is why our walk is a walk of faith. God is asking us to trust Him and His process of supernatural transformation of our lives.

Engaging God: Ask God to continually remind you that His process is supernatural and that you do not need to know how God is setting you free from your false beliefs.

#3 - God’s Timing For Change May Not Meet Your Timetable.

“There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1



As you walk down this path of transformation, your desire will be for God to renew your mind and to change your false beliefs quickly. However, you will soon discover that God’s timetable and your timetable are not the same. For me, God always works slower than I want. However, we must

We will struggle the rest of our life with the flesh. The bad news is that going back to our fleshly, independent living is the “default” position for all of us. In other words, it is easy to go back to the flesh because that is what we are used to doing. However, now that we are Christians, we have another option. Since we have the fullness of God’s power in us, we can now choose to walk dependently on God’s power (which ALWAYS overpowers the flesh).

Because of the strength of fleshly behaviors, they can only be overcome by walking by faith in God’s POWER.

It is key to remember that your own strength and willpower cannot overcome your fleshly desires. You must draw on God’s power through faith to say “No” to your flesh.

Key Truth For Our Study:

The flesh is an attitude and/or a behavior. It is NOT your TRUE identity.

How Living From Your False Beliefs Negatively Impacts Every Area of Your Life

I want to give you some examples of how living from your false beliefs adversely impacts your relationships, your marriage, your children, and your workplace.

Relationships

If a friend has rejected you, you can harbor anger, bitterness, or unforgiveness. If your mind is not renewed to the truth of your true identity, these fleshly behaviors will cause misery in your soul for the rest of your life.

If you have suffered abuse (verbal, emotional, sexual, or physical) from a parent, you may be left believing that you are unworthy or “less than.” If you are not transformed to walk in

the truth, those false beliefs may lead you to marry an abuser, or to be abusive yourself. Or, they may keep you from experiencing the freedom that comes from living from your true identity.

Engaging God: Ask God to reveal to you how your lying beliefs and/or fleshly behaviors are adversely impacting your life and the lives of others.

The World

Satan, the god of this world, wants to keep you focused on trying to find your security, identity, and happiness in the things of the world. If you fall into his trap, you may try to find your security, identity, or happiness in your bank account, in the car you drive, or where you live. The problem is that God has it rigged in that you will never find security, your true identity, or happiness in the externals of life. In addition, events can occur that may take away these things thus making you feel insecure, unhappy, and sensing a loss of identity.

Engaging God: Ask God to expose the areas in your life where you are trying to find security, identity, and happiness in the things of the world.

Marriage

In marriage we tend to reject our spouses at different times. The tendency is that when one spouse is rejected, their flesh rears its ugly head and says, “I have the right to reject back.” This will create what I call the “rejection cycle” that will eventually lead to a downward spiral in your marriage.

You, as a spouse, may need a lot of affirmation. When your spouse does not give it to you, it may feed your lying belief that you are inadequate. You may react by getting angry or withdrawing. If this continues, it will create ongoing conflict in your marriage.

***When you take a step of faith, you may not
FEEL or EXPERIENCE God’s power working in you.***

Let’s look at Hebrews 11:1 to find out more about feeling, experience and faith.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

The two key words in this passage are assurance and conviction. Nowhere do we see in this description of faith the words “feeling” or “experience.” Why is this a problem for so many Christians? As humans, 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 lives, it is easy to conclude that when we take a step of faith, we will feel or experience God’s work.

Please don’t hear me say that feelings and experiences cannot accompany our walk of faith. However, more often than not, you may **not** be feeling or experiencing God’s power flowing in you as He transforms your life. The following is a key truth that is crucial to understand:

Key Truth:

***For the most part, faith is “BELIEVING” apart from
our feelings or our experiences.***

Engaging God: Ask God to give you an assurance that He is working in your life even though you are not experiencing that work. Ask God to make the realm of faith as real as the seen, experiential realm.

**#2 - God’s Transformation In Your Life Is
SUPERNATURAL!**

*“Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the **Devil, your great enemy**. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to **devour**.” 1 Peter 5:8*

The greatest fear of Satan/demons is that your mind will be renewed to the truth and that you will start living from your true identity. Therefore, Satan along with his demonic forces will constantly be plotting to keep you in bondage to your false beliefs.

Satan/demons will try and accomplish this by:

1. Continuing to serve up lying thoughts to reinforce your false beliefs.
2. When you fail in your walk of faith towards transformation, Satan/demons will be there inserting condemning thoughts such as “Turn back because God is not really working.”
3. Constantly trying to persuade you that you will never change and that freedom from your false beliefs is impossible.

The strategy of Satan/demons is to keep you in BONDAGE to your false beliefs about yourself.

Engaging God: When lying and condemning thoughts come into your mind, ask God to take those thoughts captive. Seek God to be your discernment about your thought life as to the origin of your thoughts. (i.e. from Satan or from God)

Final Truths About God’s Transformation Process

#1 - You May Not Feel Or Experience God’s Power Transforming You

After several years of teaching and counseling, there is a key truth that I believe every Christian must understand about our walk of faith:

Engaging God: Ask God to expose the areas of your marriage where your false beliefs and/or fleshly behavior is creating conflict in your marriage.

Children

If you parent from your false beliefs, the fleshly behavior that flows from those false beliefs will have a negative impact on your children. For example, your anger may damage their sense of value or worth or promote angry behavior in response.

If you struggle with inadequacy, you may indulge or cater to your children so that they will affirm you or so that you can feel good about yourself as a parent.

Engaging God: Ask God to reveal how your false beliefs and fleshly behaviors are negatively impacting your children.

Workplace

If you are trying to find your identity in your job, there will be a loss of identity if you lose your job. If you don’t know the truth of your identity in Christ, you may be trying to find your value or worth in your job. This may lead to working long hours, which can result in becoming a workaholic. If you are married with a family, this can take a huge toll on both the job and the family.

Engaging God: Ask God to reveal how that you are trying to find your identity, your worth, or your security in the workplace.

Key Truth To Remember:

The flesh is an attitude and/or a behavior. It is NOT your TRUE identity.

Summary

I hope that this lesson has not only revealed to you your false beliefs but has also exposed the fleshly behavior that flows from those false beliefs. I know that it can be discouraging if you continue to live from those false beliefs. I pray that as a result of God exposing the impact that your fleshly behavior has on every area of your life, it will create a desire to not only learn the truth but to be set free by the truth. The good news is that God knew that we needed a new identity to replace the old one. In the next lesson we will look at what happened at the cross and at salvation to give you a new identity.

Engaging God: Continue to seek God to renew your mind to the truth of your true identity and replace your fleshly behavior with godly behavior.

The Power of Sin

“But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but (the power of) sin which dwells in me.” Romans 7:20 (Parenthesis mine)

Remember the definition of the power of sin:

THE POWER OF SIN is

an INTERNAL and ONGOING power in your life that seeks to DRAW you or TEMPT you to live independently of God.



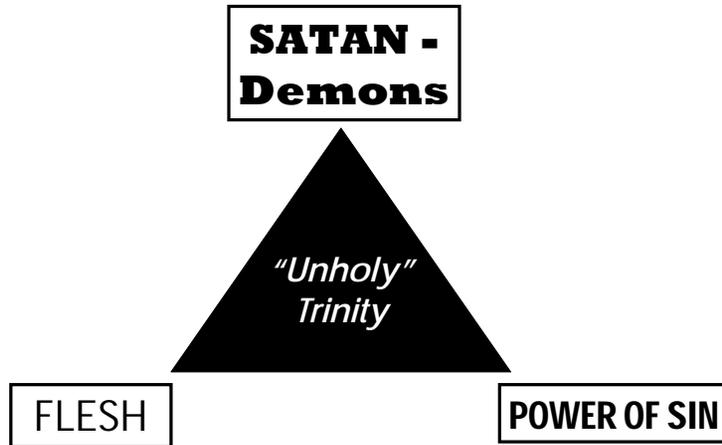
The power of sin “partners” with your flesh by serving up several fleshly behaviors to choose from when you choose to live from your false beliefs. It is crucial to walk in God’s power over the power of sin.

Engaging God: Ask God to give you a greater awareness of the power of sin and it’s impact on your decisions. When you feel you are being overcome by the power of sin seek God’s power over the power of sin.

Satan/Demonic

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy...” John 10:10a

The "Unholy" Trinity



The Flesh Resists You Walking In Your True Identity

“For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.” Galatians 5:17

If you have been walking in faith for any length of time, you know that there is a battle. Galatians 5:17 tells us that there is a battle between the flesh and Spirit. The battle looks like this in a verse we have studied before.

*“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*

Because of the strength of your flesh, it will resist being transformed. That is why it is so crucial that you take steps of faith and trust God to renew your mind to the truth. As you do, you will find yourself living more from your true identity and less from your fleshly behavior produced by your false beliefs.

Lesson Two

What Did God Accomplish To Give You A New Identity?

Introduction

I trust that what you learned in the last lesson are some of the false beliefs about yourself and the fleshly behaviors that flow from those false beliefs. My hope is that you want to be set free from your false beliefs. In this session we will focus on what God accomplished at the cross and at salvation to begin the process of setting you free. Let's begin by understanding God's design of man.

God's Design Of Man

1 Thessalonians 5:23 reveals to us God's design of man:

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete....”

This verse reveals that man is a three-part being. We are made up of a **body**, a **soul**, and a **human spirit**. Let's look further into the meaning of the body, soul, and human spirit.

Body - The body represents the **physical** body or that part of you which is seen. This is where you relate to the physical world. This is the place of your five senses. This is the dwelling place of the next two parts of your being, the soul and the human spirit. They may be a little more difficult to understand because they are unseen. The body will pass away, but the soul and the spirit are eternal.

Soul - The soul is your unique **personality** or the psychological part of you through which you relate to people and to the circumstances of life. The soul is made up of your

mind (Proverbs 23:7), **will** (1 Corinthians 7:37a), and **emotions** (Luke 10:33).

Human spirit - The third part of your being is your human spirit. Your human spirit is not to be confused with the Holy Spirit. Your human spirit is that part of your human makeup that you have from birth. However, you did not receive the Holy Spirit until the point when you trusted Christ by faith for salvation. What is the function of the human spirit?

When God said in Genesis 1:26 that He created man in His likeness, He meant that He created man first and foremost as a “**spirit**” being. John 4:24 reveals that we, as spirit beings, can worship God:

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

In addition to worshiping God from our human spirit, it is also from our human spirit that we learn from (Job 32:8), commune with (Psalm 51:12), receive revelation and wisdom from (Ephesians 1:17), and most importantly have an intimate relationship with God (Romans 8:16).

The key point for this study is that the human spirit is the place of your IDENTITY.

The following diagram helps illustrate the body, the soul, and the human spirit:

news for you since so many Christians spend so much time in self-condemnation.) When you fail, you simply confess your failure to God, and turn back in the next moment into dependence upon Him. The key truth is this:

Even if you turn back to the flesh many times, the key is to NOT stop SEEKING God by faith.

Engaging God: As you walk by faith, ask God to persuade you that even if you go back to the flesh you are not a failure. Simply confess your sin, turn back to Him in repentance and continue walking. Don’t waste any time after you sin in self-condemnation.

There Will Be No RESISTANCE To God’s Transformation Process

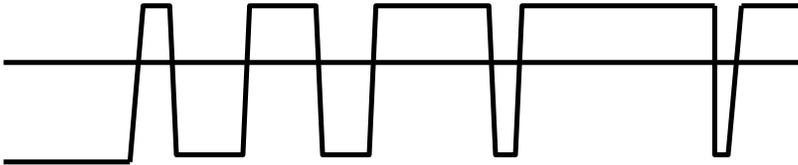
There will be non-stop RESISTANCE to your walk of faith from your flesh, the power of sin, and Satan/demons.

Remember from *Living Life From A New Source* I call the flesh, the power of sin, and Satan/demons as the “unholy trinity.”

Realistic View Of Your Walk of Faith

SPIRIT

You spend MORE time living from your true identity.



You spend LESS time living from false beliefs and fleshly behavior.

SOUL

REMEMBER:

The truth is that you will turn back to self (the flesh) as the source MANY times, but remember that in the NEXT MOMENT you can repent of your flesh and turn back to God as your Source.

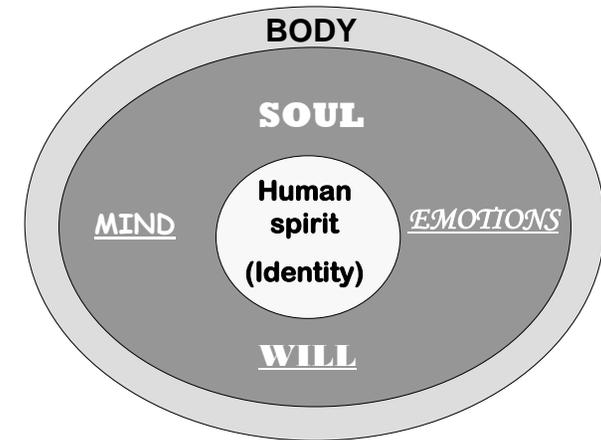
Even though you will return to the flesh many times, this does not make you a failure and is no reason to condemn yourself. Why? Romans 8:37 says that you are not a failure in God's eyes but are "more than a conqueror" in Christ. You do not have to condemn yourself when you fail because Romans 8:1 tells us:

*"There is now **no condemnation** for those who are **in Christ Jesus**."*

Since you are in Christ, God no longer condemns you, and you no longer have to condemn yourself. (I hope that is good

The Makeup of Man

1 Thessalonians 5:23



The truth is that we can't slice ourselves down the middle and see these three parts. However, I trust that this diagram will give you a better idea of the three parts of man. We will see in the upcoming diagrams why it is so important to understand that the soul and the human spirit are distinctly different.

A Very Important Note To Remember

Sometimes people confuse the soul and the human spirit as evidenced by how they may use them interchangeably. However, the word of God makes it very clear in Hebrews 4:12 that there is a difference between the two:

*"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the **division of soul and spirit**..."*

This is a very critical scripture in that it clearly states (as does 1 Thessalonians 5:23) that the soul and spirit are uniquely different. You will better understand the difference as we progress through the study. Suffice it to say for now that the difference is that the soul is the place of **self-consciousness** while the human spirit is the place of **God-consciousness**.

Think About This

God sees you first and foremost as a SPIRIT being having a human experience rather than a HUMAN being having a spiritual experience.

Engaging God: Ask the Lord to give you a deeper understanding of the truth that He sees you primarily as a spirit being encased in a human body.

The Condition Of The Body, Soul, and Spirit Of Adam And Eve

Now that you understand the difference between the body, soul, and human spirit, I want to look at the condition of Adam and Eve's body, soul, and spirit before the Fall. This is important because we will see how significantly they changed after the Fall.

BODY - was ETERNAL. (Genesis 1:27)

SOUL - was PERFECT. (Genesis 1:26)

1. Their minds were believing TRUTH.
2. Their emotions were in total HARMONY with God and with each other.
3. Their wills were consistently choosing to walk in moment by moment DEPENDENCE upon God.

2. You may have been rejected by someone, but that rejection does not rob you of your Christ-like attitude of acceptance.
3. You may have been wounded by someone, but you forgive them because of who you are living from your Christ-like attitude of forgiveness.
4. Some circumstance or individual makes you feel inadequate, but that does not rob you of your Christ-like attitude of your adequacy.

REALISTIC View of Your Walk of Faith Using The Line

As much as we do not want to go back to your false beliefs, early on in your walk of faith, you will go back to them which results in fleshly behavior. Why? First of all, it is your default position. By this I mean that living from your false beliefs and the flesh is what you are familiar with.

In addition, as you begin to walk by faith, you have what I call a "weak" faith or what Jesus calls "little" faith. Your weak faith is a result of the level of your unbelief in who God is and what He can and will do. Along with your weak faith is your "strong" false belief and the accompanying flesh. Your false beliefs and flesh will have a strong grip on you early on but as you continue to exercise your faith, the truth will become stronger than the strength of your false beliefs and flesh.

Let look at these truths using "The Line" analogy. You will see (on the left side of the diagram) that early on in your walk of faith you will spend more time below the line living from your false beliefs and fleshly behavior. However, as you continue in your walk of faith, you will find yourself spending more and more time above "The Line" living from your true identity.



The Difference Between A Human Attitude and A Christ-Like Attitude

Human attitude – an attitude that can be **changed** by thoughts, feelings, the flesh, the power of sin, circumstances, relationships, Satan, or the world.

Christ-like attitude – an attitude that remains **unchanged** regardless of thoughts, feelings, the flesh, the power of sin, circumstances, relationships, Satan, or the world.

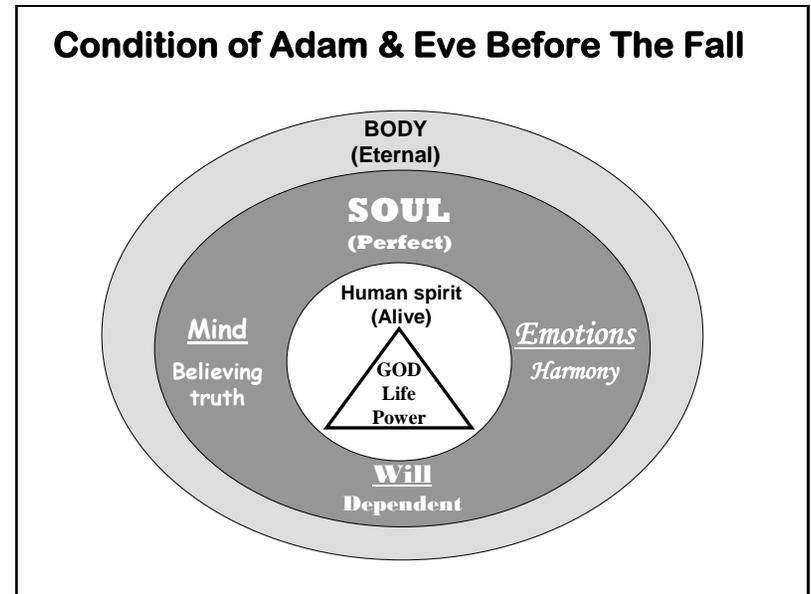
Examples of Living From A Christ-like attitude:

1. You may have lost your job, but that circumstance does not rob you of a Christ-like attitude of peace or confidence.

HUMAN SPIRIT – Was ALIVE. (Genesis 2:7)

1. Contained the FULLNESS of God.
2. Contained the LIFE and POWER of God.

On the following page is a diagram depicting the condition of Adam and Eve before the Fall.



When Adam and Eve Sinned, Things Changed.

God’s plan from the beginning was that Adam and Eve would experience eternal and abundant life. However, for man to continue to experience this eternal and abundant life, God gave man free will to make a choice. That choice was to continue living moment by moment in dependence upon God as their Source or to make a sinful, disobedient choice to live independently of God.

We know from Genesis 3 that they were tempted by Satan, disobeyed God, and ate of the tree of the knowledge of good

and evil. At that moment, their condition radically changed. Let's see what the Bible tells us about what changed.

At the point when Adam and Eve sinned, their condition changed:

- **Their human spirit died because of sin. (i.e. spiritual death)**

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

- **They became separated from God HIMSELF.**

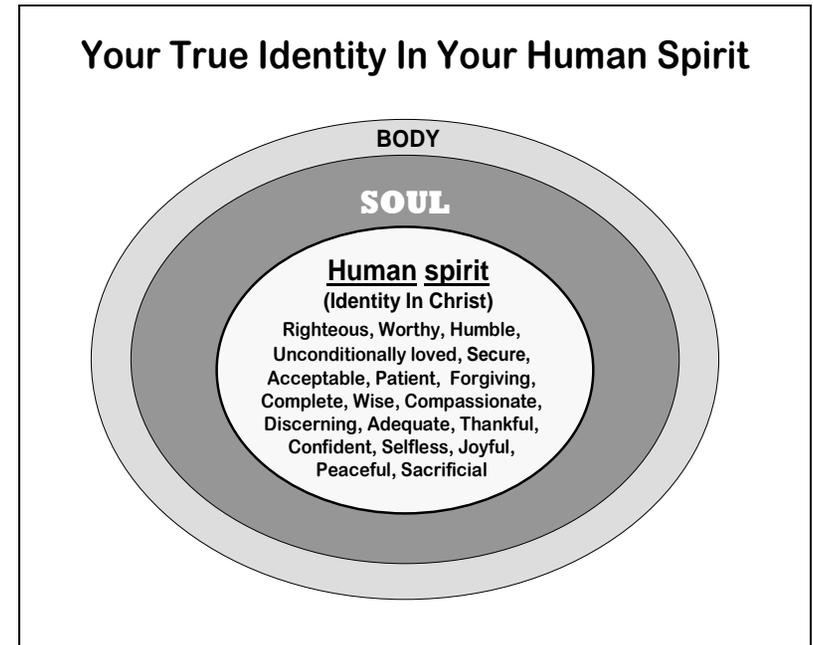
“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear.” Isaiah 59:2

- **They became separated from God's LIFE and POWER.**

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

The diagram below illustrates Adam's and Eve's condition after the Fall. Notice that the human spirit is no longer spiritually alive.

Remember the diagram of the characteristics of your identity in Christ in your human spirit?



Now look at a diagram depicting your identity in your human spirit manifesting itself as Christ-like attitudes in the soul:

Example: Three characteristics of my identity in my **human spirit** are that I am adequate, secure, and forgiving. As God transforms my **soul**, I will begin thinking, feeling and choosing to be adequate, secure and forgiving.

The fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22, 23 are examples of your identity in your human spirit that will eventually manifest themselves as Christ-like attitudes in the soul:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.....”

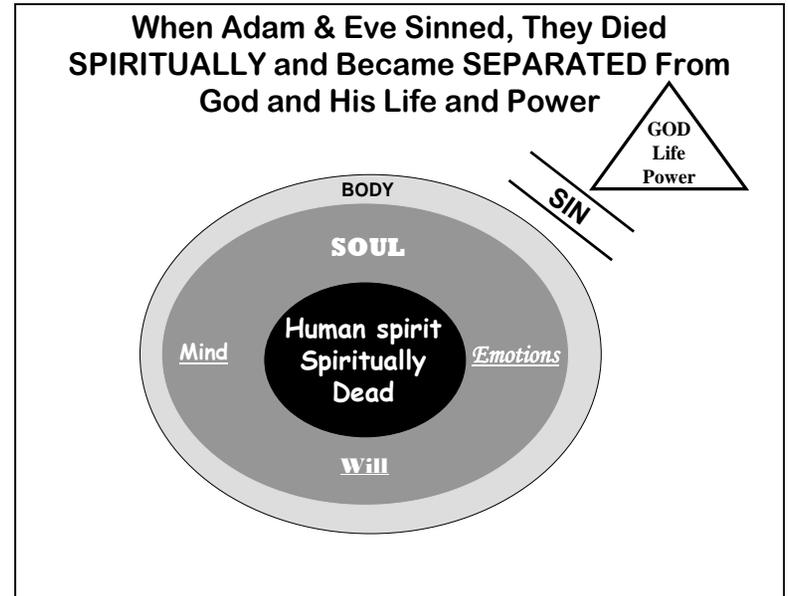
We see this same truth in Colossians 3:12-14:

*“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.**”*

Below is a partial list of some of the characteristics in your identity. God’s desire is to transform your soul so that these characteristics become Christ-like attitudes of the soul.

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|----------|
| Unconditional love | Worthy | Humble |
| Secure | Acceptable | Patient |
| Forgiving | Kind | Fearless |
| Compassionate | Discerning | Wise |
| Adequate | Thankful | Free |
| Christ-confident | Sacrificial | Good |
| Selfless | Victorious | Strong |
| Righteous | Peaceful | Joyful |

Exercise: Which three of the characteristics of your true identity in your human spirit would you most like to experience as Christ-like attitudes in your soul?



KEY TRUTH

Before the Fall, Adam and Eve’s human spirit was ALIVE to God and DEAD to sin. After the fall their human spirit became DEAD to God and ALIVE to sin.

How Did Adam’s and Eve’s Decision Affect You?

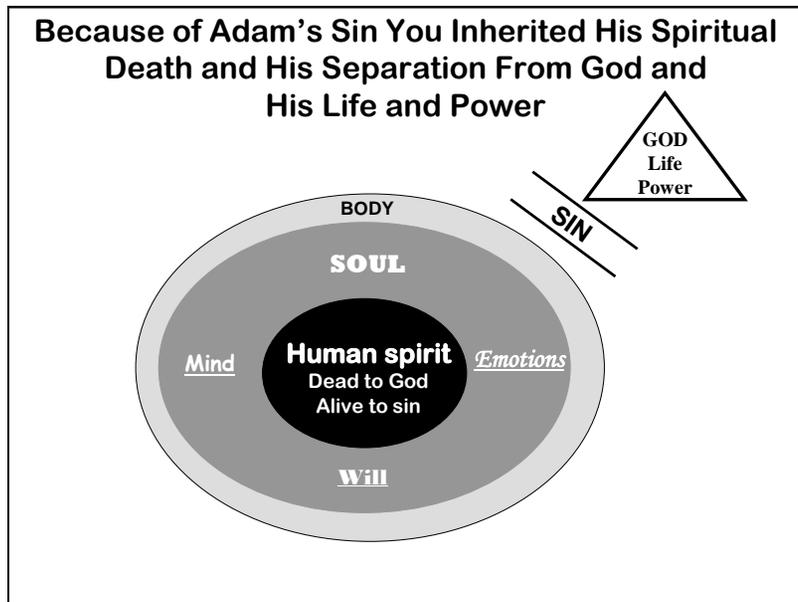
*“Therefore, just as through **one man** sin entered into the world, and **death through sin**, and so **death spread to all men, because all sinned.**” Romans 5:12*

The problem is that we are all descended from Adam and Eve. As a result, when you were physically born, you inherited “spiritual” birth defects from Adam and Eve. In other words, you inherited their spiritual condition after the Fall.

At physical birth, you inherited Adam's and Eve's condition:

- You were born **SPIRITUALLY DEAD** to God. – Romans 5:12
- You were **SEPARATED** from God. – Isaiah 59:2
- You were **SEPARATED** from God's **LIFE** and **POWER**. – Ephesians 4:18

The diagram below illustrates your spiritual condition at physical birth. (Notice that the human spirit is dead to God but alive to sin.)



IN Addition, You Began Forming An OLD Identity.

As I mentioned in Lesson One, before you were saved you began forming an identity based on the positive or negative lying beliefs that you came to believe about yourself. I call

Lesson Six

Developing Christ-Like Attitudes In The Soul

Final Truths About Our True Identity

What Is God's Ultimate Objective In Your Soul?

God's ultimate objective in your soul is found in Philippians 2:5, 2 Corinthians 3:18, and Galatians 4:19:

*"Have this **attitude** in yourselves which was **in Christ Jesus**."*
Philippians 2:5

*"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

*"My children, with whom I am again in labor until **Christ is formed in you**."* Galatians 4:19

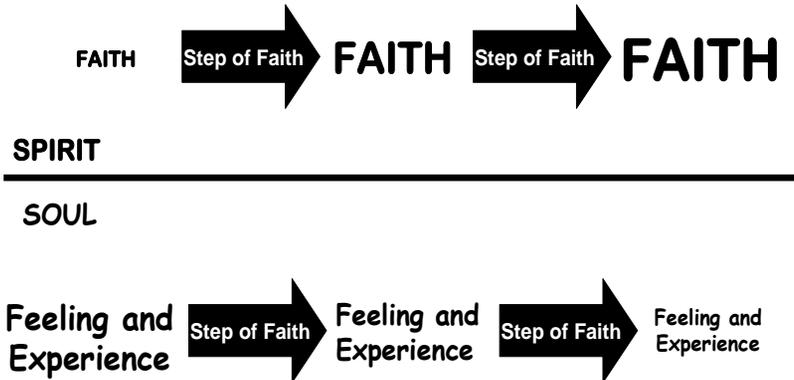
What do these three verses tell us?

God's ultimate objective is for the characteristics of your true IDENTITY in your human spirit to manifest themselves as Christ-like attitudes in your soul.

Concerning your true identity, transformation is a process where the characteristics of your identity manifest themselves as Christ-like attitudes in the soul. What is a Christ-like attitude?

A Christ-Like Attitude
is an experiential reality in your soul of the characteristics of your true identity in your human spirit.

As We Take Steps of Faith, Our Faith Will Become A Greater Reality Than Our Feelings



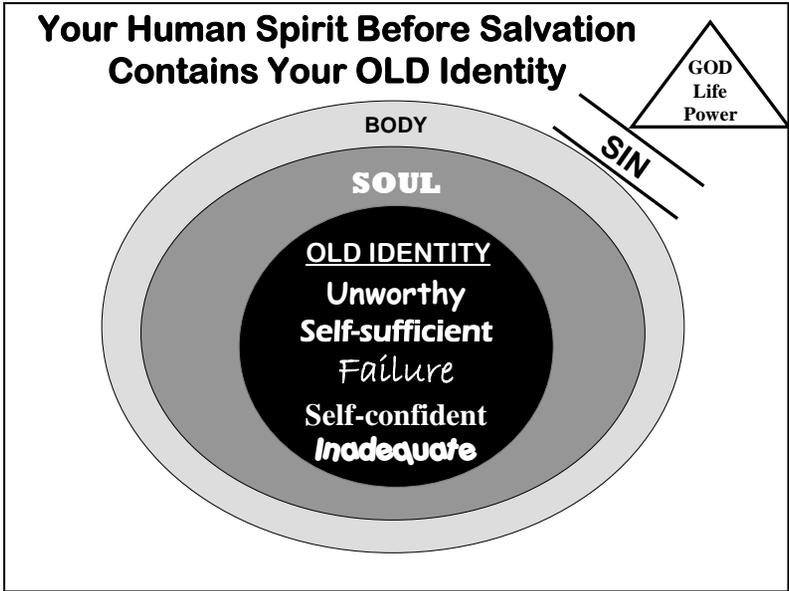
Summary

I hope that “The Line” analogy has been helpful in gaining a clearer understanding of how your walk of faith transforms your soul below “The Line” to match up with what is true in your spirit. In the last lesson we will be discussing the application of our true identity to areas of our lives.

this identity that is made up of your lying beliefs your “OLD identity.” Since your identity is part of your human spirit, then let’s look at an illustration of your old identity with its lying beliefs.

Your positive and negative false beliefs about yourself prior to salvation made up your OLD IDENTITY.

In the next diagram, you will see that I included a mixture of positive and negative false beliefs that made up the old identity.



KEY TRUTH: Remember that what you believed before you were saved is who you really WERE.

Question: Why do you think that I used the past tense “WERE” in the sentence above?

Because of your spiritual condition before salvation, you had NO choice but to BELIEVE the false beliefs of your old identity and to LIVE FROM the fleshly behavior of your old identity.

Your Condition Created A Problem That Only God Could Solve.

Because of your spiritual condition and your old identity, God needed to accomplish something in man to change his spiritual condition. Therefore, let’s look at how God solved man’s dilemma.

Part One - The SIN Side of The Cross

I call what Christ accomplished in dying for and redeeming us from our sins the SIN side of the cross. See the SIN side of the cross in the next diagram on the next page.

***Which Is The Greater Reality:
Faith or Feeling/Experience?***

What You BELIEVE by faith

SPIRIT

SOUL

**What You Are FEELING
and EXPERIENCING**

When you begin a walk of faith, the truth is that your feelings and experiences are a greater reality to you than your faith. Why is that? It is because before you started walking by faith, your feelings or experiences in your soul were the only realm that you knew. It was your only reality. You were more “soulical” than “spiritual” because what was going on in your soul was a greater reality than what was true of you in your spirit.

Where God is taking you in the sanctification process is the reality that what you believe by faith above “The Line” becomes a greater reality than what you are feeling or experiencing in your soul below “The Line.” The diagram on the following page illustrates this truth.

Your lying beliefs will give you strong feelings that are just the opposite of what God says is true of you. It is important to remember that some of your lying beliefs are more entrenched than others. Therefore, it may take longer for you to be persuaded of the truth in those areas.

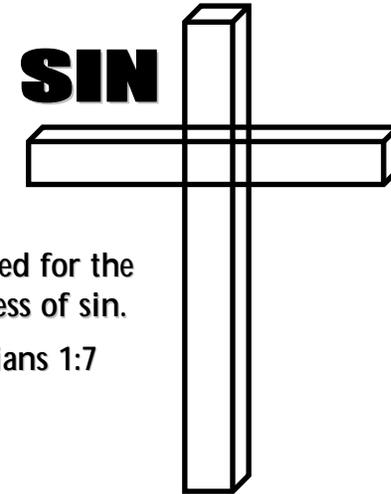
Engaging God: Find three characteristics from the “Characteristics of Your New Identity in Christ” list that you feel in your soul are just the opposite of what is true of you in your true identity in Christ. Engage God to renew your mind to the truth even though your feelings contradict God’s truth. A step of faith might look like this:

Step of faith: “Lord, I feel inadequate, insecure, and rejected even though Your truth says that I am adequate, secure, and accepted in You. Renew my mind to believe Your truth even though I feel just the opposite in my soul.”

Your Feelings Are A Greater Reality To You Than Your Faith. Why?

When we look at the issue of faith versus feelings, the questions that we have to ask are, “Which is the greater reality to you? Is it what you believe by faith or is it what your feelings or experiences are telling you?” The next “line” diagram illustrates this point:

The SIN Side of the Cross



Christ died for the forgiveness of sin.

Ephesians 1:7

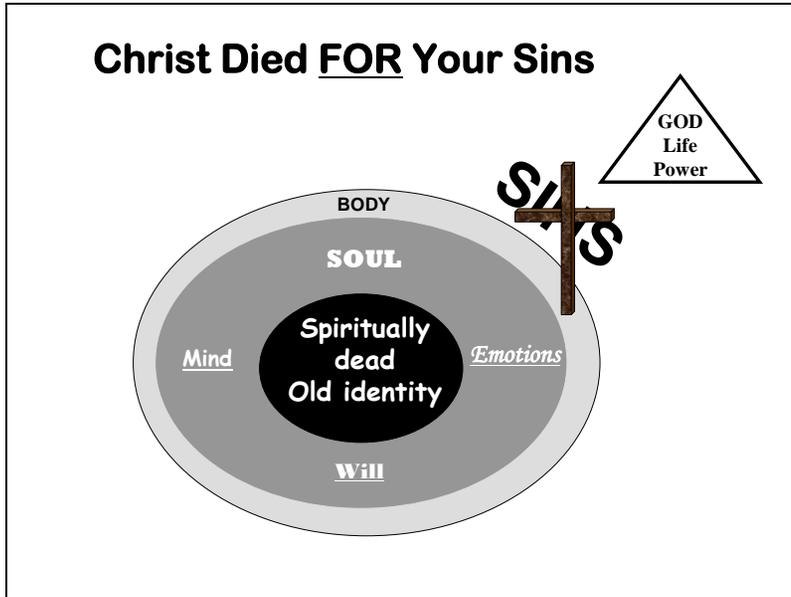
God’s Solution For The SIN Side of The Cross - Christ Died FOR Your Sins.

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us.” Ephesians 1: 7

*“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us.**” Romans 5:8*

We, as believers, know that if Jesus had not gone to the cross in order to provide forgiveness of sins, there could be no salvation or reconciliation with God. We would still be eternally separated from Him and be destined for Hell. However, God, in His grace and love for you, sent His Son Jesus to die for your sins so that by receiving Him by faith as your Savior, you would spend eternity with Him. Therefore, the first part of God’s solution was for Jesus to die **for** your

sins. We see in the following diagram that our sins were **blotted out** through Christ's death on the cross:



However, even though the sins were dealt with there was MORE that was needed to be accomplished at salvation.

The LIFE Side Of The Cross

In addition to removing our sins, God still needed to deal with our human spirit that was dead to God and alive to sin. We still had our old identity and we were still separated from God. Therefore, let's look at what God to remedy these issues. I call what God accomplished in addition to removing our sins the LIFE side of the cross. The diagram on the next page summarizes the LIFE side of the cross.

Key Point:
Whether you feel or experience what is true of you DOES NOT change the truth of your true identity in Christ.

What Is The Truth When Your Feelings CONTRADICT What Is True In Your Spirit?

In your walk of faith, many times how you feel in your soul will be just the opposite of what is true of you in your identity in Christ. Let's use the same truths that we used above that you are secure, adequate, and patient in Christ.

Due to the lies that you may be believing about yourself, you feel in your soul just the opposite of what is true in your identity. You may be feeling insecure, inadequate, and impatient.

In my true identity in Christ I am:

**Secure
 Adequate
 Patient**

SPIRIT

SOUL

Even though I still feel:

*Insecure
 Inadequate
 Impatient*

Identity In Christ and Feelings

The Truth: In Your Identity In Christ You Are

Adequate
Secure
Accepted

SPIRIT

SOUL

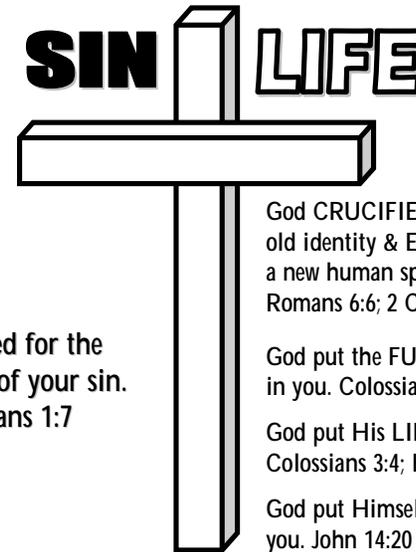
Even though you may not
experience or feel

Adequate
Secure
Accepted

Engaging God: Go to the list on page 41 that lists the characteristics of your new identity in Lesson Three. From that list choose three characteristics that you may not experience or feel are true of you. Begin taking steps of faith and ask God to begin transforming your belief system so that you will believe what God says is true of you in your new identity even though you may not be feeling or experiencing His truths. A step of faith might be:

Step of faith: “Lord, Your truth of my identity in You says that I am _____. However, I am not feeling or experiencing these things that You say are true of me. I am asking You to persuade me that even though I may not experience these characteristics, it does not change the fact that they are true.”

The LIFE Side of The Cross



Christ died for the
forgiveness of your sin.
Ephesians 1:7

Let's break down each of the truths of the LIFE side of the cross.

GOD'S SOLUTION - PART 1 - Your Old Identity Was CRUCIFIED On The Cross.

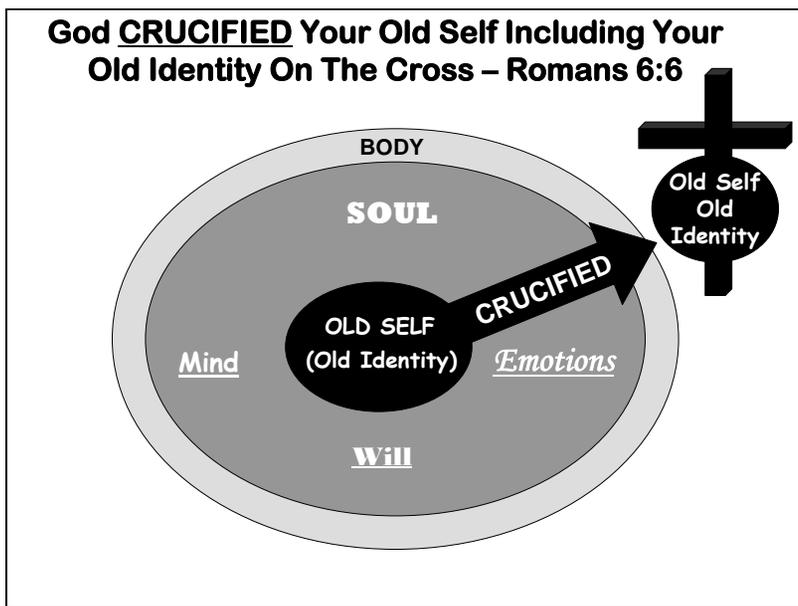
Your dead human spirit in the Bible is called your “**old self**” (See Romans 6:6 below). Since your identity is located in your human spirit, your old identity is part of your “old self.” Before God could give you a new human spirit and a new identity, He had to deal with your old self and old identity. Therefore, He **crucified** your old self and old identity (with all of your lying beliefs) **with Christ** on the cross. We see this truth in the following verses:

*“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)

“I (the old identity) was crucified with Christ and I (the old identity) no longer live ..” Galatians 2:20a (Parentheses mine)

The next diagram depicts your old identity being crucified with Christ at the cross:



Note: You may be asking, “How can my old self and old identity be crucified with Christ since the crucifixion of Jesus took place over 2000 years ago?” The answer to that is that in the eternal realm with God there is no time. Everything is present with God so that regardless of when you were saved, God sees your old self and old identity being crucified with Christ on the cross. This is truly beyond man’s comprehension. Like the rest of scripture, this is a place where we must believe it by faith.

The Realm Of The Spirit Versus The Soul

Realm of

FAITH

SPIRIT

SOUL

Realm of

Feeling and Experience

Let’s look at an example of living from the truth of your new identity by faith versus what you may be feeling in your soul. The truth is that “in Christ” you are adequate (2 Corinthians 3:5), secure (Psalm 139:5), and accepted (Romans 15:7).

We see in the next diagram that these three truths of who you are in your identity in Christ are above “The Line.” Even though this is true in your spirit all the time, you may not always feel adequate, secure, or accepted below “The Line” in your soul.

The Process of Transformation

**Secure
Adequate
Fearless**

SPIRIT

SOUL

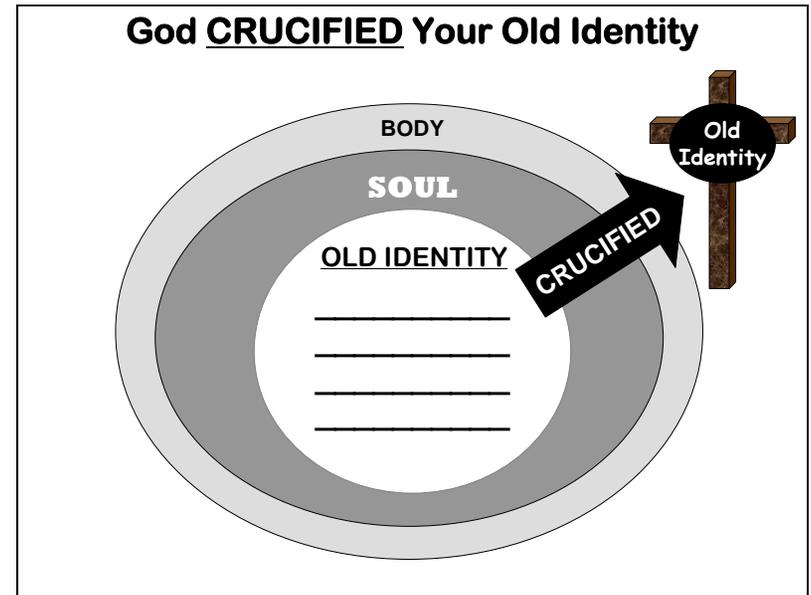


Transformation of the soul is a step by step process whereby you will eventually experience in your soul what is true of you in your true identity.

“The Line” and FAITH and FEELINGS

We discussed in the last lesson the struggle between walking by faith but not feeling or experiencing our walk of faith. I want to explore this further by using “The Line” analogy. Above “The Line” in our spirit is the realm of faith. Below “The Line” in our soul is the realm of feeling and experience.

Exercise: Write in the center circle below labeled “Old Identity” your false beliefs from page 6 and 7.



Engaging God: Ask God to give you a deeper revelation of the truth that the false beliefs you still have about yourself were crucified at the cross.

KEY QUESTION:

If your false beliefs are part of your old identity that was CRUCIFIED at the cross, then do you NEED to continue believing your false beliefs any longer?

GOD’S SOLUTION – PART 2 – God EXCHANGED Your Old Identity For A New Identity.

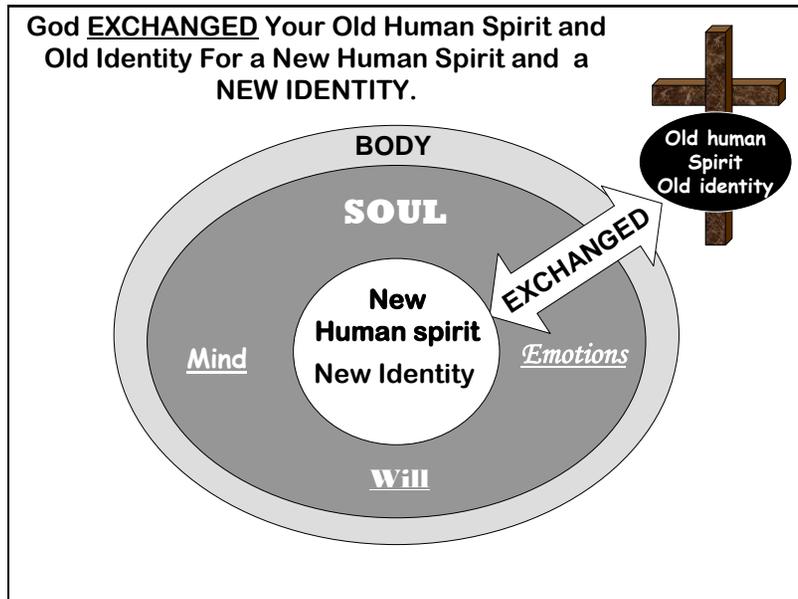
*“Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”
2 Corinthians 5:17*

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 human spirit** and a **new identity in Christ**. The “old things” in 2 Corinthians 5:17 (referring to your old self and your old identity) were crucified (passed away), and the “new things” (your new human spirit and 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)

The next diagram illustrates how God EXCHANGED your old self and old identity for a new human spirit and a new identity.



Transformation Means That What Is True In Your Spirit Is Now True In Your Soul

SPIRIT

Unconditional Love	Righteous	Humble
Secure	Acceptable	Patient
Forgiving	Fearless	Complete
Compassionate	Discerning	Wise
Adequate	Thankful	Confident
Sacrificial	Sufficient	Selfless
Free	Victorious	Strong
Joyful	Peaceful	Good

SOUL

Unconditional Love	Righteous	Humble
Secure	Acceptable	Patient
Forgiving	Fearless	Complete
Compassionate	Discerning	Wise
Adequate	Thankful	Confident
Sacrificial	Sufficient	Selfless
Free	Victorious	Strong
Joyful	Peaceful	Good

God's Process of Transformation In The Soul

Let's look a little closer into God's process of transforming your soul. Let's assume that you believe the lies that you are insecure, inadequate, and fearful. You begin taking steps of faith, and as you do, you will discover that you will be experiencing Christ's security, adequacy, and fearlessness.

Each step of faith that you take will increase the experiential reality of your security, adequacy, and being fearless in Christ. The next diagram illustrates God's process in the soul:

Walking By Faith Allows God's Power To Transform Our Soul

SPIRIT

Unconditional Love	Righteous	Humble
Secure	Acceptable	Patient
Forgiving	Fearless	Complete
Compassionate	Discerning	Wise
Adequate	Thankful	Confident
Sacrificial	Sufficient	Selfless
Free	Victorious	Strong
Joyful	Peaceful	Good

SOUL

Renew our minds to the truth

Negative/damaged emotions lining up with the truth.

Will choosing to live from the truth

Christ-like Behavior

God Wants What Is True In Your Spirit To Be True In Your Soul.

In addition to renewing your mind, healing your emotions, and transforming your will, you will begin to experience in the soul the characteristics of your of your true identity.

SPIRIT

Unconditional Love	Righteous	Humble
Secure	Acceptable	Patient
Forgiving	Fearless	Complete
Compassionate	Discerning	Wise
Adequate	Thankful	Confident
Sacrificial	Sufficient	Selfless
Free	Victorious	Strong
Joyful	Peaceful	Good

SOUL

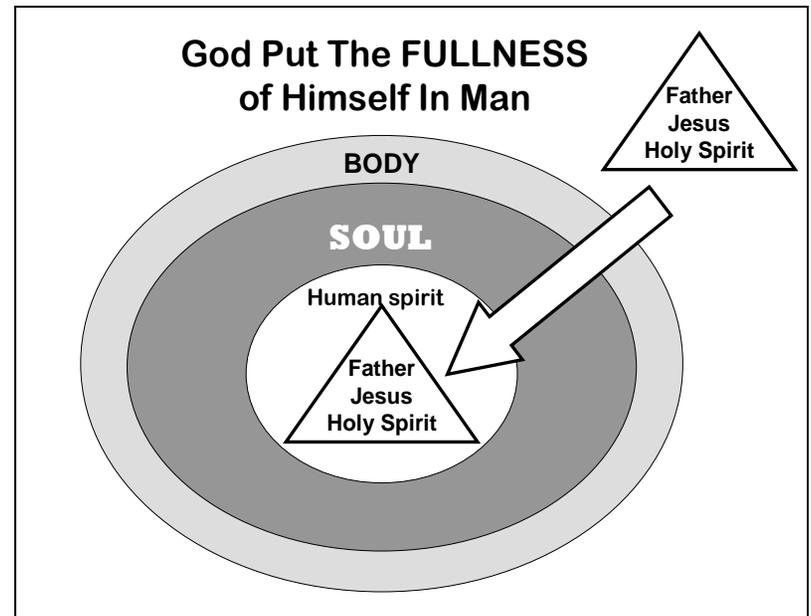
Experience Your True Identity

GOD'S SOLUTION – PART 3 – God Put The FULLNESS Of Himself Into Man.

Since man was separated from God as his source for living life, God had to reinsert Himself into man. As a result of being saved, we are now in Christ, with the result that all the fullness of The Deity dwells in us. We see this in Colossians 2:9, 10.

“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

You now contain the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Look at the diagram on the following page that illustrates this truth.



KEY TRUTH

God put the FULLNESS of Himself into man so that man NO longer has to be the source from which to live life.

*“He is the Source of your life in Christ Jesus.....”
1 Corinthians 1:30a*

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

What are some examples of what it means that God is your Source?

- Only God can meet your needs for unconditional love, acceptance, worth, security, identity, meaning, and purpose.
- Only God can resolve your impossible situations and hurting relationships.
- Only God can set you free from your lying beliefs with His truth.
- Only God can transform your sinful attitudes and behavior.
- Only God can give you victory over the flesh, sin, and Satan.
- Only God can persuade you of who you are in your true identity.

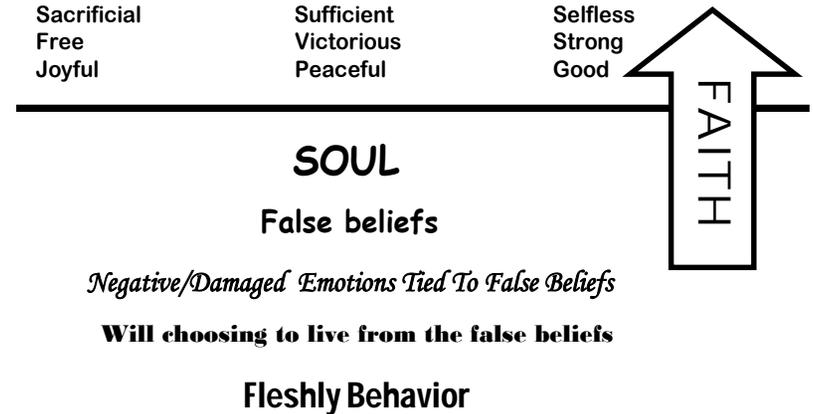
Engaging God: Ask God to give you a deeper revelation that He is to be your Source for living life. Ask Him to expose areas in your life where you are trying to be the source.

Let’s apply that truth to the diagram below. Our part in God’s process is to start taking steps of faith to live above “The Line” from our true identity.

Faith Is What Takes You To Living ABOVE The Line

SPIRIT

Unconditional Love	Righteous	Humble
Secure	Acceptable	Patient
Forgiving	Fearless	Complete
Compassionate	Discerning	Wise
Adequate	Thankful	Confident
Sacrificial	Sufficient	Selfless
Free	Victorious	Strong
Joyful	Peaceful	Good



“The Line” and God’s Transformation of The Soul

As we studied previously, God wants to transform our soul so that our:

- Minds** – are renewed to believe the truth of our true identity.
- Emotions** – begin to line up what we are believing about our true identity.
- Will** – chooses to live from our true identity.
- Christ-like behavior** – is produced as a result.

Look at the following diagram to see what the transformation of the soul looks like in the Line analogy.

**God's desire is that we live
ABOVE "The Line" in our true identity.**

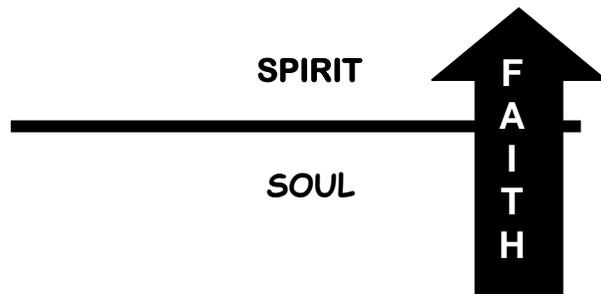
How Do We Live Above "The Line?"

How do we live above "The Line" and set our mind on things above? How do we experience all that is true of us in our true identity? The answer is **faith**. Not only is our union the place of faith, but faith is also what moves us from living from our soul to living from the Spirit. 1 John 5:4 says that our faith is the victory:

*"... And this is the **victory** that conquers the world, our **faith**."*
1 John 5:4

*"And without **faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."* Hebrews 11:6

The following diagram illustrates how faith takes us from living from our soul to living in our spirit:



FAITH is what takes us from living below "The Line" in the soul to living above "The Line" from our true identity.

GOD'S SOLUTION – PART 4 – God RESTORED His LIFE and POWER Into Man.

Remember from our previous study, *Living Life From A New Source*, that we are containers of the fullness of God's life and power.

Christ's LIFE

*"...Christ who **is** your life..."* Colossians 3:4

*"I am... **the** life."* John 14:6

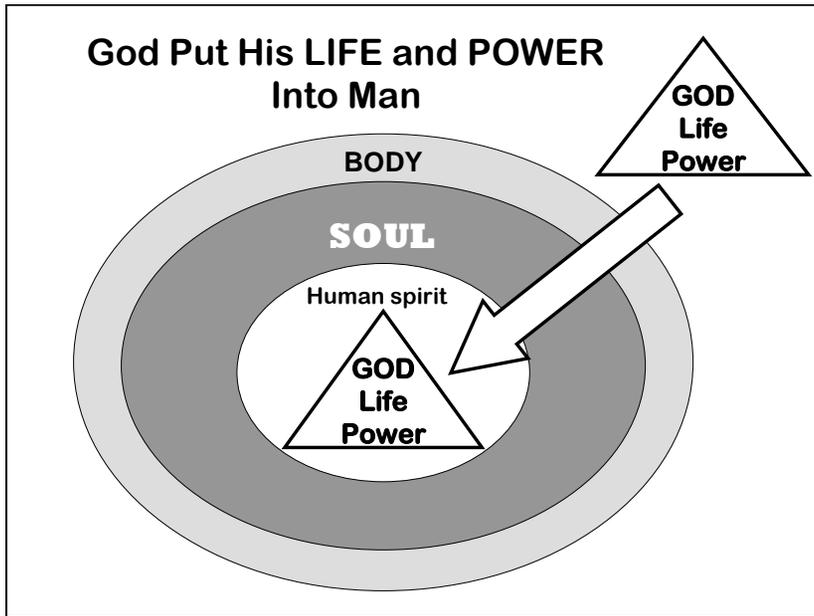
Christ put the FULLNESS of His LIFE in man to draw on to meet every need.

God's POWER

In addition to Christ's life, you now contain all of God's power. Paul informs us of this in 2 Corinthians 4:7:

*"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that **this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.**"*

God put His POWER into you to TRANSFORM the way you think, believe, choose, and behave.



Your True Identity Versus The Condition of Your Soul

SPIRIT

Unconditional Love	Righteous	Humble
Secure	Acceptable	Patient
Forgiving	Fearless	Complete
Compassionate	Discerning	Wise
Adequate	Thankful	Confident
Sacrificial	Sufficient	Selfless
Free	Victorious	Strong
Joyful	Peaceful	Good

SOUL

False beliefs

Negative/Damaged Emotions Tied To False Beliefs

Will choosing to live from the false beliefs

Fleshly Behavior

GOD'S SOLUTION – PART 5 – God Put Himself In UNION With You.

Now that you are a new creation, God accomplished one more thing at salvation. He put Himself in UNION with you. In other words, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit joined themselves to your new, righteous human spirit (new identity). God reveals this truth in the following verse:

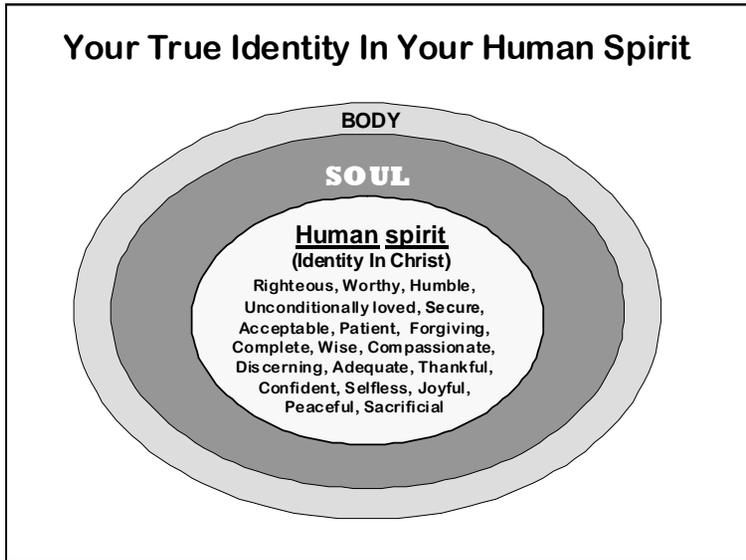
*“But the **one** (the believer) who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit (in union with) with Him.” 1 Corinthians 6:17 (Parentheses mine)*

You no longer have a God who is separated from you. Your God is now in an **intimate, eternal, and inseparable** union with you. Read John 14:20 for further confirmation of your union relationship:

Where Does God Want You To Live?

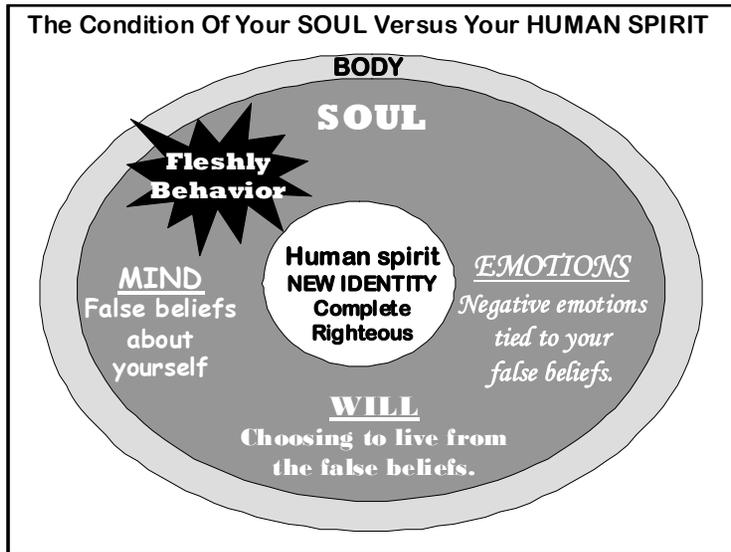
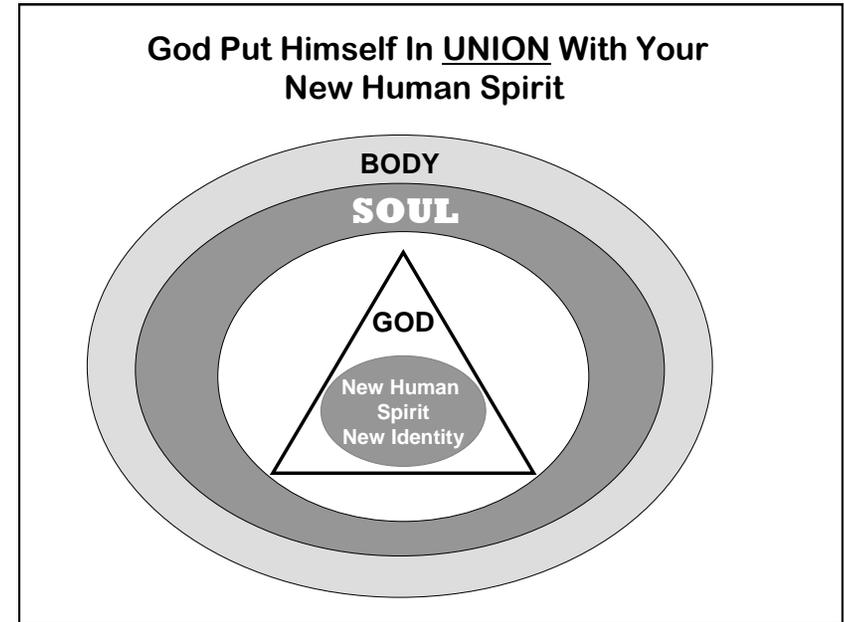
“Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.” Colossians 3:1, 2

After looking at the previous diagram, where do you think that God wants us to live? Is it above “The Line” from our true identity or below “The Line” from our soul? It is obvious that God wants us to live above “The Line” from our true identity. It is obvious that God wants us to live from the truth rather than to continue living from our lying beliefs.



*“In that day you shall know that **I am in My Father**, and you **in Me**, and **I in you**.”*

The next diagram shows your new identity in UNION with God:



Engaging God: Ask God to reveal to you in a deeper way what it means for you to be in union with Him. If you somehow believe that you can lose your salvation, ask God to persuade you that is impossible because of His inseparable union with you.

Question: If you doubt God’s love for you, is it possible that through all that He did for you at salvation you might be persuaded in a deeper way that He truly does love you?

Engaging God: If you doubt God’s love for you, ask Him to use all that you have learned in this lesson to persuade you of His love for you.

Let’s Review The Two Sides of The Cross

To summarize this chapter, look at the SIN and LIFE side of the cross once more.

The Two Sides of The Cross

SIN  **LIFE**

Christ died for the forgiveness of your sin. Ephesians 1:7

God CRUCIFIED your old self and old identity & EXCHANGED it for a new human spirit & new identity - Romans 6:6; 2 Corinthians 5:17

God put the FULLNESS of Himself in you. Colossians 2:9, 10

God put His LIFE & POWER in you. Colossians 3:4; Ephesians 1: 19, 20

God put Himself in UNION with you. John 14:20

Summary

I trust that you are encouraged by all that God accomplished on the cross to restore your human spirit to the same condition as that of Adam and Eve before the Fall. The good news is that you no longer have to believe the false beliefs that you have about yourself. All of this was done as a result of God’s love and desire to draw you into an intimate relationship with Himself. In the next lesson you will discover your new identity in Christ.

will study this principle in greater depth later in the study.) Remember that faith must always have an object, and the object of the Christian’s faith is God. Let’s now add these two principles to our line diagram:

SPIRIT
(Human spirit in union with the Spirit of God)

Unseen Realm - FAITH

THE LINE 

SOUL

Seen Realm - EXPERIENCE

Question: Why do you think that God wants the unseen realm of faith to become a greater reality than the seen, experiential realm?

Engage God: As you move down the walk of faith, ask God to make the faith realm a greater reality to you than the experiential realm.

“The Line” and Our Identity

Let’s apply “The Line” analogy to our true identity in the Spirit versus the condition of our soul. We do this by taking the two circle diagrams below and inserting them into “The Line” diagram.

Let’s take the following two diagrams and insert them into the Line analogy below. Your true identity in your human spirit is above the line while the condition of your soul is below the line.

Unseen Versus The Seen Realm

2 Corinthians 4:18 says:

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

The unseen realm is the spirit realm in which God lives and moves. As Christians we live in the unseen realm of our union with God as we walk in dependence on Him. The seen realm is the place where life takes place in our soul. It is the place of our five senses.

Being able to live in the UNSEEN realm is a reality only for Christians.

Faith Versus Experience

“for we walk by faith not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7

There are two more distinctions that we need to make concerning the seen and the unseen realms. The place where we walk by faith referred to in 2 Corinthians 5:7 is in the unseen realm of our union with God. The seen realm in our soul is the place of “sight” or experience. It is in the soul that we feel and experience life moment by moment.

God’s desire is that the realm of faith will become a GREATER reality than the realm of experience.

It is important to separate the two “lives” because faith does not necessarily include feelings and/or experiences. (We

Lesson Three

What Is Your True Identity?

Introduction

I trust that as a result of what you learned in the last lesson that you have a better understanding of what God did at salvation to give you a new identity. I want to begin this lesson by giving you another way to understand what God did in you at salvation. After that discussion, we will see the makeup of your new identity in Christ.

Another Way To Understand What God Did At Salvation

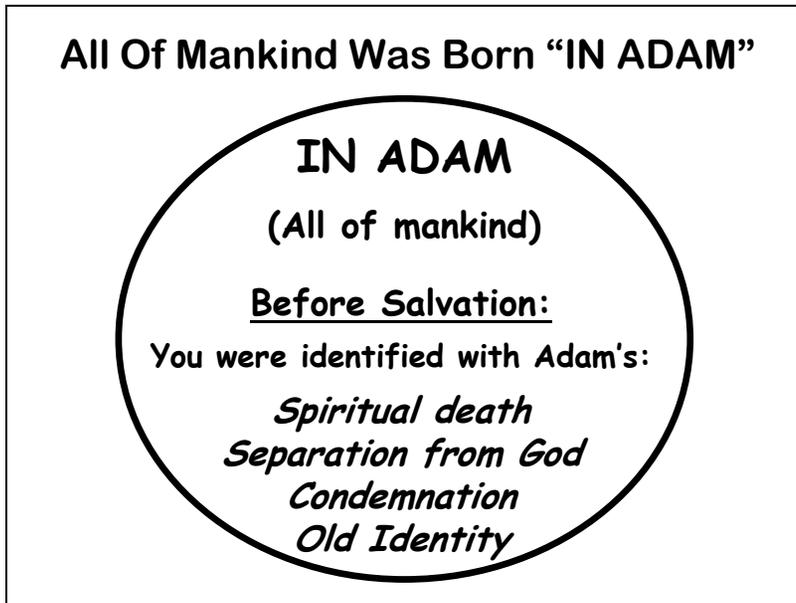
“IN” ADAM

I want to give you another way to see what God accomplished by removing our old identity and giving us a new one. As we mentioned before, we inherited Adam’s spiritual condition. Another way to say this is that since we all came from Adam’s gene pool, we were all physically born IN Adam.

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

- **Spiritual death** – 1 Corinthians 15:22
- **Separation from God** and His life and power – 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:



“IN” CHRIST

However, as a result of trusting Christ for salvation, you are **NO** longer identified with Adam in his spiritual death, separation, condemnation, and old identity. 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 in taking you out of being **IN** Adam and placing you **IN** Christ:

Lesson Five

“The Line” And Your True Identity

Introduction

In the last lesson we looked at what it looks like to take steps of faith for God to renew our minds to our true identity. In this lesson, I want to introduce a visual analogy to further help you understand God’s transformation process. I call this analogy “The Line.”

“THE LINE”

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit...” Hebrews 4:12

In Hebrews 4:12 we are reminded that the soul and the spirit are separate. Now that we understand the condition of the two, look at an illustration that we will use throughout the rest of the study that I call “**The Line**.” In the illustration below I call above “The Line” living from the Spirit. Your spirit is your human spirit in union with the Spirit of God. Below “The Line” is living from your soul.



Two More Things That We Need To Know About The Soul and Spirit

Living from Christ's - **freedom** means that you no longer are in bondage to sin.

Living from Christ's - **power** means that you have His power over sin, the flesh, Satan, the world

Living from Christ's - **adequacy** means that you no longer have to believe or feel inadequate.

Living from Christ's - **wisdom** and discernment means that you no longer depend on your own.

Living from Christ's - **sovereignty** means that you no longer have to try to be in control.

Living from Christ's - **supply** means that you don't have to try to get your needs met elsewhere.

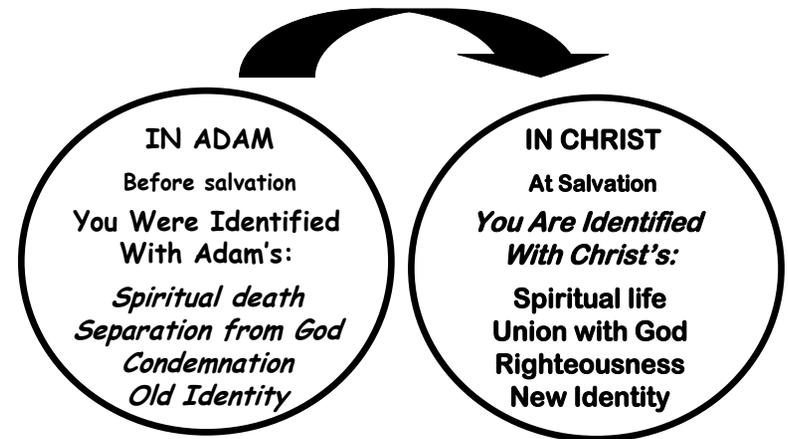
Summary

This is a turning point in the study in that God wants you to **cooperate** with Him by faith in order to set you free from your false beliefs. He is asking you to take steps of faith in order for Him to renew your mind and to transform your life so that you no longer believe the lies and no longer live from the fleshly behaviors that flow from those lies.

What will be the consequences if you don't

take steps of faith concerning your true identity?

God Took You Out Of Being IN Adam and Put You IN Christ



You had an OLD identity IN Adam before salvation. However, now that you are IN Christ, you have a NEW identity.

What Is Your New Condition Now That You Are IN Christ?

1. You are spiritually ALIVE.

God brought you from death to life. We see this is 1 Corinthians 15:22:

“For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”
1 Corinthians 15:22

2. You are now in UNION with God.

You are no longer separated from God. We saw this previously in John 14:20:

*“In that day you shall know that **I am in My Father**, and you **in Me**, and **I in you**.”*

3. You are now RIGHTEOUS!

There is another critical way that you became identified with Christ. 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! Warning: You may have a struggle with this truth but look at God’s word concerning your righteousness.

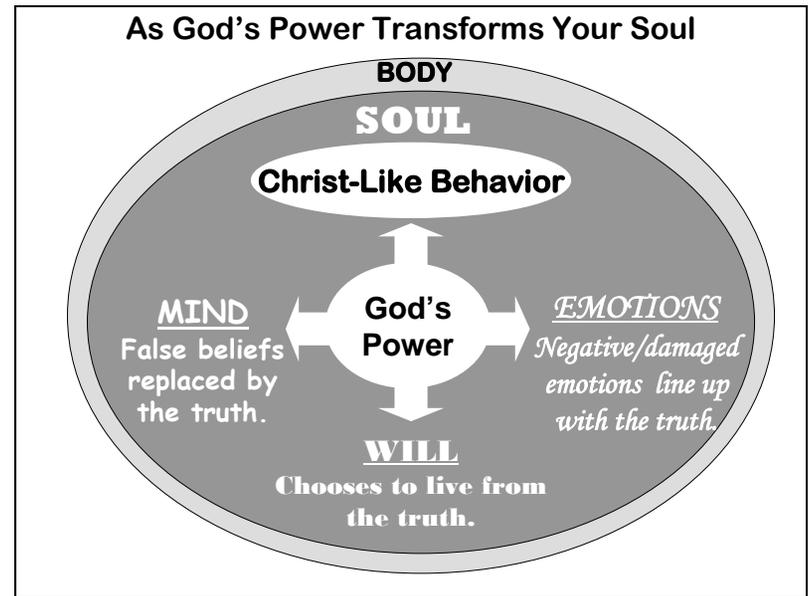
*“for with the heart a **person believes**, resulting in **righteousness**...” Romans 8:10*

*“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)*

*“**having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ**, to the glory and praise of God.” Philippians 1:11*

*“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*



What Does It Look Like To Live From The Truth Of Your New Identity?

Living from Christ’s - **strength** means that you no longer have to live from your illusion of your own strength.

Living from Christ’s - **confidence** means that you no longer rely on your self-confidence.

Living from Christ’s - **security** means that your security does not depend on what the world offers as security.

Living from Christ’s - **victory** means that you live from victory instead of striving for victory.

Living from Christ’s - **unconditional love** means that you no longer have to try to get your need for unconditional love met from others.

Living from Christ’s - **acceptance** means that you can no longer be rejected.

Living from Christ’s - **forgiveness** means that you have no excuse for not forgiving someone.

2. Therefore, it may take walking by faith for **SOME TIME** before you experience any change in your thinking, feelings, or behavior.
3. You may not be aware of some of your false beliefs about yourself, so ask God to **REVEAL** to you those lying beliefs.
4. Seek God to reveal to you a thought, choice, or behavior that is **CHANGING** as you seek Him to renew your mind.

What Changes In Your Soul When Transformation Takes Place.

As you continue to walk by faith, God will transform your soul in the following ways:

1. God will renew your **mind** by replacing your false beliefs about yourself with the truth of your true identity.
2. Your negative/damaged **emotions** will begin to line up with your beliefs.
3. From your **will** you will begin to make choices based on your true identity versus your false beliefs.
4. God will transform your fleshly behavior into **Christ-like behavior**.

You can see in the diagram below the results of God’s power working in your soul.

Have you believed the lie that you have to work for God to be righteous? Have you thought that it was up to you to do (or not do) something to attain God’s righteousness? These three verses (and many others) tell us that we became righteous the moment that we were saved! In other words, righteousness is not something that you earn. It is something that you receive at salvation because God gave you a new righteous identity.

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.

Questions: Have you believed up to this point that you had to do (or not do) something to earn God’s righteousness? What difference might it make in your life if you no longer had to work or to strive to be righteous?

Engaging God: If you struggle with the truth of your righteousness, ask the Holy Spirit to persuade you that righteousness is not something that you earn. Rather, it is part of the finished work that Jesus accomplished on the cross.

It is also important to know that since you are now righteous in Christ, there is **no** more condemnation from God. He will never condemn you again for your sins. Furthermore, you no longer have to condemn yourself. Paul confirms this in Romans 8:1:

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

Now that you are RIGHTEOUS in Christ, God NO longer condemns you, and you NO longer have to condemn yourself.

Question: If there is no more condemnation and you are righteous, do you have to continue believing that God will condemn you or that you have to condemn yourself?

Engaging God: If you struggle with self-condemnation, (especially when you sin), ask God to renew your mind to Romans 8:1 and set you free from self-condemnation.

4. You have a NEW IDENTITY (You are a PARTAKER of the divine nature.)

“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)

Having a new identity means that you are a PARTAKER of God’s 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

God made you a partaker of His divine nature the moment when you were saved. “**Partaker**” in the Greek means “one who shares.” Therefore, as a result of your union with God in your human spirit, you share part of God’s divine nature.

Another way of saying it is that there are some “godly characteristics” that God is sharing with you. This does not mean that you are becoming deity. It means that there is a part of God’s divine nature that He is sharing with you or is imparting to you.

Key Truth: Feeling rejected by a spouse is one of the greatest struggles in marriage. We can say things to our spouse that makes them feel rejected. The good news is that knowing that you are totally accepted in Christ and you do not have to take ownership of your spouse’s rejection. How might living from that truth transform your marriage? The following is an example of what a step of faith might look like in this area.

Step of faith: “I feel rejected by my spouse. Persuade me that I am totally accepted in You and do not have to take ownership of that rejection. As You do, move me away from my fleshly desire to reject back.”

Steps of Faith and Identity In The Workplace

Key truth: Many Christians (mostly men) are trying to find their adequacy, worth, and identity in the workplace. The following are some examples of steps of faith for God to transform you in this area.

Step of faith: “Lord, I am trying to find my identity and sense of worth in my workplace. I am trusting You to transform my thinking so that I will find my identity and worth in You.”

Step of faith: “Lord, I don’t feel that I truly measure up in my job. I feel very inadequate. I am trusting You to renew my mind so that my job does not determine my adequacy. Persuade me of the truth that my adequacy is based on who I am in Christ.”

KEY TRUTHS: Concerning The Walk of Faith and Transformation Of Your Soul

1. The renewing of your mind to your true identity may take longer in some areas other than others because some of your false beliefs are STRONGER than others because you have believed them for a longer time.

God to persuade you of this truth. The following are some examples of what that might look like.

Step of faith: “Lord, even though my behavior is telling me a lie that I am not accepted or an acceptable person, I am trusting You to transform my life so that I will believe by faith the truth that in You I am totally accepted and acceptable.”

Step of faith: “Lord, I feel so much guilt and shame over what I have done in the past. I am struggling with believing that I am righteous in Christ. Persuade me that You dealt with that guilt and shame on the cross and that I am righteous according to Your truth.”

Steps of Faith and Identity Concerning Your Marriage

Key Truth: If your spouse is a Christian, remember that they have a new identity as well. As a result, God not only wants you to see yourself as a new creation, but He also wants you to see your spouse as a new creation. Therefore, you can not only pray for yourself in this area, but you can also pray for your spouse as well. Here are some steps of faith concerning identity in marriage:

Step of faith: “Lord, give me and my spouse spiritual eyes to see ourselves as new creations.”

(If your spouse is willing to share his or her lying beliefs with you, you have the wonderful privilege of interceding for him or her in prayer.)

Step of faith: “My spouse is believing the lie that he/she is _____. I am asking You to replace his/her lie with the truth that he/she is _____ in Christ.”

Partaker of God’s divine nature means that you SHARE with God GODLY characteristics that He imparts to you as part of your new identity.

Your True Identity In Christ

Below is a list of some of the characteristics of your new identity in Christ. When you read through this list remember that “in Christ” refers to who you are in your true identity. For example, you might read each characteristic like this: “In my true identity in Christ, I am victorious.”

Some Of The Characteristics of Your TRUE Identity “IN” Christ

Romans 8:35, 38-39	In Christ, I am unconditionally loved.
1 Corinthians 15:57	In Christ, I am victorious.
Psalms 71:5	In Christ, I am confident.
Psalms 56:4	In Christ, I am fearless.
2 Corinthians 9:8	In Christ, I am sufficient.
Psalms 139:14	In Christ, I am worthy.
2 Corinthians 3:5	In Christ, I am adequate.
Romans 8:37	In Christ, I am more than a conqueror.
Ephesians 6:10	In Christ, I am strong.
Psalms 71:5	In Christ, I am confident.
Romans 15:7	In Christ, I am accepted & acceptable.
Ephesians 4:24	In Christ, I am righteous and holy.
Colossians 3:13	In Christ, I am a forgiving person.
Colossians 2:10	In Christ, I am complete in Him.
Galatians 5:1	In Christ, I am free.
Colossians 3:12	In Christ, I am compassionate, humble, kind, patient.
Psalms 139:5	In Christ, I am secure.
Ephesians 1:1	In Christ, I am a saint.
John 15:13	In Christ, I am sacrificial.
Philippians 2:3	In Christ, I am others focused.

Galatians 5:22, 23	In Christ, I am joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle.
Romans 8:17	In Christ, I am a joint-heir with Christ.
John 1:12	In Christ, I am a child of God 1
Corinthians 2:16	In Christ, I am in possession of the mind of Christ.
Galatians 3:26, 28	In Christ, I am a son of God.
John 15:15	In Christ, I am Christ's friend.
Colossians 3:12	In Christ, I am chosen of God, holy, and dearly loved.
Hebrews 3:14	In Christ, I am a partaker of Christ.
1 Peter 2:9, 10	In Christ, I am a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

Question: What are some of the characteristics listed above that you do not feel or believe are true of you?

Exercise: Read each of the characteristics of your true identity out loud. From that list, choose five of the characteristics that you would most like to experience. Look up the verses for each of those characteristics.

Engaging God: Begin asking God to renew your mind to the truth of who you are in your true identity. Specifically ask Him to persuade you of the scriptural truth of those five characteristics that you would most like to experience.

Since your human spirit includes your new identity, the next diagram will give you a visual of some of the characteristics of your new identity in your human spirit.

Steps of Faith Concerning Living From Your True Identity

Engaging God: Go to the page 41 in Lesson Three that lists the characteristics of your true identity. Choose one or more characteristics that you want to experience more of and begin taking faith steps for God to renew your mind to the truth.

Example #1: “Lord, the truth is that I am totally secure in You, and because of that nothing or no one can rob me of that security. I am asking You to persuade me of the truth.”

Example #2: “Lord, the truth is that my strength can only be found in You. Reveal to me how my strength and ability is powerless against my flesh, the power of sin, and Satan.”

Steps Of Faith To Transform Fleshly Behavior

Exercise: Look at the fleshly behaviors that you listed on page 19 of Lesson One that flow from your lying beliefs. Begin taking steps of faith to engage God to transform your life in those areas.

Example #1: “Lord, I know that my lying belief of inadequacy is causing me to be a people-pleaser and a controller. I am trusting You to renew my mind to the truth that I am totally adequate in my true identity. I am asking You to move me away from my fleshly behavior of people-pleasing and controlling.”

Example #2: “Lord, I want to protect or insulate myself from my fears. Renew my mind to the truth that in my true identity that I am fearless. Remove that fleshly desire to protect or insulate myself.”

Remember: Your behavior does not determine your identity. If you struggle in this area, take steps of faith for

1. It is crucial to understand that transformation is a PROCESS. It is a journey and not a sprint.
2. You will not necessarily FEEL or EXPERIENCE God's power flowing in you as you begin taking steps of faith.
3. God is NOT telling you how He is working. We trust by faith that He is transforming us as we walk by faith.
4. There will be resistance to our walk of faith by the flesh, the power of sin, Satan, and our own mind.
5. You may have to take SEVERAL steps of faith before you experience any changes in how you think or feel about yourself.

Engaging God: If you feel unwilling to take steps of faith for God to renew your mind to the truth of your true identity, ask Him to give you the willingness to take those steps.

What Steps of Faith Look Like Concerning Your Identity

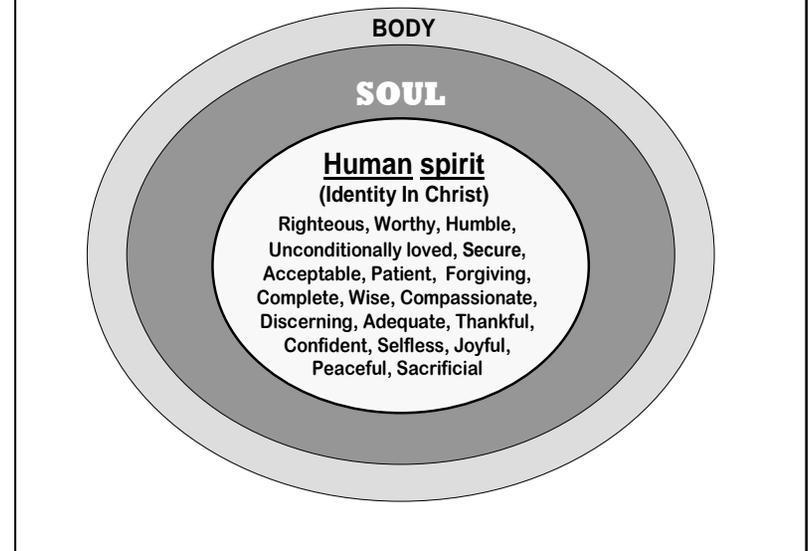
Steps of Faith Concerning Your Lying Beliefs

Engaging God: Take one of your lying beliefs you listed on page 19 in Lesson One and begin taking steps of faith for God to renew your mind to the truth. Some examples of steps of faith might be:

Example #1: “Lord, I am believing the lie that I am inadequate. Your word says in 2 Corinthians 3:5 that I am totally adequate in You. I am trusting You to renew my mind to the truth.”

Example #2: “I am believing the lie that I am self-sufficient because of my IQ or ability. Persuade me that my sufficiency can only be in You and not in myself as I walk in my true identity.”

Some of the Characteristics of Your New Identity IN Christ



KEY POINT TO REMEMBER:

How you FEEL or what you BELIEVE about the truth of your new identity does NOT change the fact that God's truth is TRUE.

Expanding On Some Of The Characteristics Of Your New Identity

To give you a better sense of what your new identity looks like, let's take a closer look at a few of the characteristics of your new identity.

In Christ You Are COMPLETE.

Colossians 2:9 - “For **in Him** all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form”

Colossians 2:10 - “and **in Him** you have been made complete”

Before salvation we were all incomplete. However, at salvation God made us complete in Christ. All of God’s fullness dwells in Jesus, and Jesus dwells in us with the result that we are complete in Him. In other words, there is nothing that we need to add to our completeness in Christ.

Question: If you feel or believe that you are incomplete, does that change the truth that you are complete in Christ?

In Christ You Are Totally ACCEPTED and Are ACCEPTABLE.

Romans 15:7 - “Accept one another, then, just as **Christ** accepted you...”

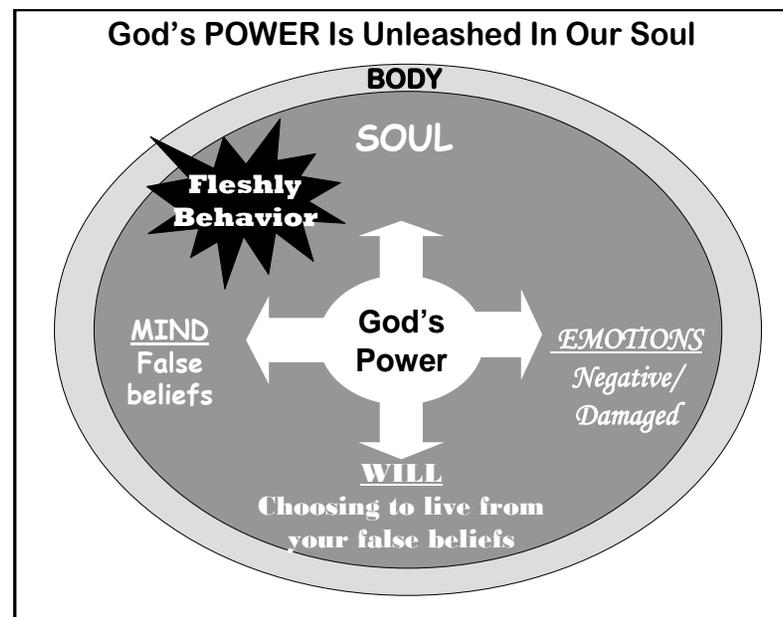
The reason why a holy God can totally accept us is because He has made us acceptable. You may feel or experience rejection coming from others, but that does not change the truth that you are accepted by God unconditionally! This means that there is no sinful behavior too great to cause God to reject you. (God does not condone sinful behavior, but He does not reject you because of your sinful behavior.)

As a result, you no longer have to earn (or perform for) God’s acceptance or the acceptance of others. You can receive God’s acceptance and be free from rejection by others. Believing that you are accepted in Christ will give you the freedom to accept others unconditionally.

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?

“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)*

Using the circle diagram below, you can get a visual understanding of what it looks like for God’s power to be unleashed in your soul:



3. Key Truths Concerning God’s Process of Transformation

We studied these truths in *Living Life From A New Source* but I feel it is important to remind you of them before we go any further in the study.

true identity. Secondly, we must understand that Christ put His life in us to be the Source to renew our minds and to set us free from our false beliefs about ourselves. Finally, our part in God's process of transforming us to walk in our true identity is to live by faith.

2. Remember That When You Take A Step of Faith ALL of God's Power Is Pouring In You To Transform You

Remember the power that lives within you?

*"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*

Remember that the same power that resurrected Jesus from the dead is in you! It is also the same power that created the heavens and the earth! It is the power that is holding you and me and everything else together in the universe at this very moment. It is this same supernatural power that lives within you, and it is released when you take a step of faith.

It is through God's POWER that your mind will be renewed to the truth of your TRUE identity.

This is why Paul is testifying in 1 Corinthians 2:5 that our faith should not be in our ability 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*

Questions: Since God unconditionally accepts you, can He ever reject you? If you really believe that you are accepted in Christ, do you have to take ownership of any rejection directed toward you by others (or even by yourself)?

Engaging God: If you struggle with rejection, ask the Holy Spirit to persuade you that you are totally acceptable and that you no longer have to take ownership of someone else's rejection of you.

In Christ You Are Totally SECURE.

Psalm 91:14 - *"Because he has loved Me; therefore, I will deliver him; I will set him **securely** on high because he has known my name."*

What are you feeling insecure about? Is it your job, your marriage, or just those insecure feelings that you have about yourself? You no longer have to feel that way because in Christ you are totally secure. Are you trying to find security in something or someone else other than God? The truth is that our only true security is in Christ. Since He is sovereign and is the only One who is truly in control, we can live from our security in Him.

Questions: What events or relationships in your life are making you feel insecure? What difference would it make in those situations if you really believe that you are secure in Christ?

Engaging God: Ask God to reveal to you what or whom you are putting your security in other than Him. Seek Him to renew your mind to the truth that your only security is in Him. (God will sometimes allow the things we are putting our security in to be removed so that we will realize that our only true security is in Him.)

In Christ, You Are STRONG.

Ephesians 5:10 - “Finally, be **strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.**”

We all have an inner strength, a physical strength, and an intellectual strength. We tend to use our strength resolve or deal with the issues of life. However, events, circumstances, and relationships can rob us of those human strengths. God allows events in our life to reveal to us that our human strengths are no match for the power of sin, the flesh, or Satan.

He reminds us through these events that the supernatural strength He provides us in our true identity can never be defeated or overcome. Paul came to realize that his human strengths were actually weaknesses in 2 Corinthians 12:8-10.

Questions: What are some things that can rob you of your physical, intellectual, and inner strength? What do you think it would look like in your life to live from Christ’s strength?

Engaging God: Ask God to reveal to you how you are trying to use your own inner or intellectual strength to deal with struggles or issues in your life that can only be truly dealt with in God’s strength. Seek Him to give you deeper revelation and desire to quit trusting in your own strength and live from His strength.

In Christ You Are Totally ADEQUATE.

2 Corinthians 3:5 - “Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our **adequacy** is from God.”

Many believers feel or believe they are unworthy and/or inadequate. We look at ourselves, and we don’t measure up to the world’s standards of adequacy/worthiness. We may seek our adequacy and worth in relationships, our job, or in

may begin believing. However, you will find that as your mind is being renewed that your emotions (for the most part) will start falling in line with the truth that you believe.

2. Even though your mind is renewed to the truth and your emotions line up with the truth, you still have to make a moment by moment **choice** to walk in the truth.

Key Truth:

Even though your mind is being renewed to the truth, you still have to make the CHOICE to walk in and live from the truth moment by moment.

Steps Of Faith And The Renewing Of Your Mind

1. Truths To Remember In Your Walk of Faith

*“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*

Remember these three key truths concerning the walk of faith and transformation:

1. **“I no longer live”** - Paul is NOT the source for transformation. God is
2. **“Christ lives in me”** - CHRIST is the source to live His life in us and transform us.
3. **“I live by faith”** - Our part in God’s process is to walk by faith.

This verse applies to our study in that we must first recognize that we are not the source to renew our minds to our

He wants to set you free TO:

- Experience the divine characteristics of your true identity.
- Walk in and enjoy who you truly are in Christ.
- Impact other relationships as a result of living from your true identity.

Transformation Of The Soul

“Be not conformed to this world, but **BE TRANSFORMED** by the renewing of your mind...”Romans 12: 2a (Emphasis mine)

I continue to take you back to Romans 12:2 because the key to experiencing your true identity is a renewed mind. In addition:

The key to TRANSFORMATION of your soul concerning your true identity is the RENEWING of your MIND.

Why? Because through the renewing of your mind:

1. Your **mind** will begin to **think** and **believe** the truth.
2. Your **emotions** will begin to **line up** with the truth of your true identity versus your false beliefs.
3. If your mind is believing the truth and your emotions line up with the truth then you **can choose** to live from the truth versus the false beliefs.
4. The result will be that God will **transform** your **fleshly behavior** into godly behavior.

Key Points To Remember:

1. Emotions are a “wild” card. Even though your mind can be transformed, this does not mean that your emotions will always line up with the truth that you

“things.” However, these will never bring us the adequacy or worthiness that we can only find in Christ. Here’s the good news: Believing and living from your adequacy in Christ relieves you of the pressure of trying to find your adequacy in someone or something else.

Questions: Even though you feel or believe that you are inadequate, does that change the truth that you are totally adequate in Christ? How do you believe it would change your behavior if you truly believe that you are adequate in Christ?

Engaging God: If you struggle with inadequacy, begin entrusting your inadequacy to God and take steps of faith for Him to renew your mind to the truth that you are totally adequate in your new identity.

In Christ You Are UNCONDITIONALLY LOVED.

1 John 4:16 - “And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. **God is love...**”

Romans 8:38,39 - “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**”

You no longer have to believe that you are unlovable because God immeasurably, eternally, and unconditionally loves you. It is His essence to do so! He has no greater desire than to love you because of Who He is. In addition, Romans 8:38-39 clearly points out that nothing can separate you from His love. There is nothing that you can possibly do that will change God’s continuous flow of His love for you.

God’s love does not depend on who you are or on what you have or have not done. It is based solely upon Who He is. Since God is love, and He is in you, then you possess all of

God's love. You not only can receive God's unconditional love, but you can also allow God's love to flow through you to others.

Questions: If you don't feel or experience God's unconditional love, does that change the truth that He loves you? How would it change your perspective toward God if you truly believe that there is nothing that you can do (or not do) to change His love for you?

Engaging God: If you struggle on some level about God's love, seek Him through steps of faith to replace your lying beliefs with the truth that He eternally, immeasurably, and unconditionally loves you.

In Christ You Are VICTORIOUS And Are More Than A Conqueror.

1 Corinthians 15:57 - *"but thanks be to God, Who gives us the **victory** through ... Christ."*

Romans 8:37 - *"But in all these things we overwhelmingly **conquer through Him** who loved us"*

You may see yourself as a failure, but in Christ you are victorious and a conqueror. There is no problem, conflict, or adversity that Christ cannot conquer through you. On the other hand, you may see yourself as a "self-sufficient" victor or conqueror in life apart from Christ.

Since the truth is that apart from God you can do **nothing** (John 15:5), God loves you enough that He will bring impossible circumstances (or relationships) into your life to reveal to you your inability to overcome that situation. Recognizing your weakness and inability to resolve a situation will turn you to dependence upon God and will allow Him to be victorious through you. Therefore, start living from the victory in Christ in your true identity.

beliefs and negative emotions, the result will be fleshly behavior.

As God renews your mind to the truth and heals your damaged emotions, your WILL responds to the truth and CHOOSES to live from the Spirit instead of living from the flesh.

*"But I say walk by the Spirit, and you will **not** gratify the desires of the flesh."* Galatians 5:16

Walking in the Spirit is closely tied to what you believe about yourself, God, others, and the Christian life. If you continue believing the lies, you will continue to "gratify" or to live from your fleshly behavior.

Engaging God: Begin taking steps of faith by asking God to renew your mind to the truth so that you will choose to live from the Spirit rather than living from the flesh.

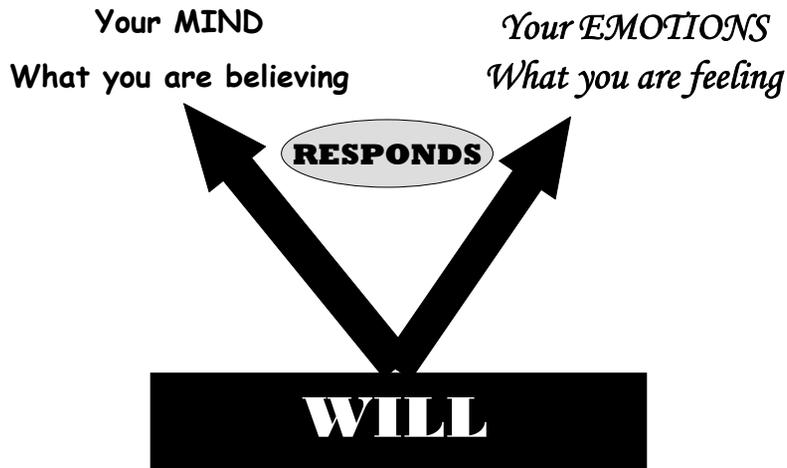
Walk of Faith and Transformation

We saw in the previous section that for God to transform us, He must renew our minds. He also wants to accomplish one other thing according to John 8:32:

*"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you **FREE.**"*

As God renews your mind to the truth, He will set your free FROM:

- **Bondage to your false beliefs.**
- **Fleshly behavior caused by your false beliefs.**
- **Negative emotions tied to your false beliefs.**



*Your Will Makes CHOICES Based On
What You Are BELIEVING Or FEELING*

Therefore, if you continue believe false beliefs with their associated damaged emotions, your will has no choice but to live from those false beliefs. As you believe and make choices based upon your false beliefs, those choices will produce fleshly behaviors.

Question: Look at the choices that you make that result in living in the flesh (i.e., sin patterns). Can you tie your choices back to your false beliefs/damaged emotions?

Engaging God: Ask God to renew your mind to the truth of your true identity so that your will begins to make choices based on the truth.

FLESHLY BEHAVIOR Results From Your False Beliefs.

Your fleshly behavior is the outflow of your false beliefs. In other words, as your will chooses to live from your false

Questions: If you feel like a failure, does that change the truth that in Christ you are more than a conqueror? If in Christ you are victorious, do you have to strive to be victorious?

Engaging God: Look at the areas where you think you are failing in life. In those areas, ask God to give you revelation of what it looks like to walk in victory in those areas.

In Christ You Are FREE.

Galatians 5:1 - *“It is for freedom that **Christ has set us free.** Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”*

Romans 8:2 - *“For the power of the life-giving Spirit **has freed you through Jesus Christ** from the power of sin that leads to death.”*

Take a close look at Galatians 5:1. It says that you have been set free. It is past tense! It is a completed act. Your freedom was won at the cross. As a result, in Christ you are free from the power of sin, from your fleshly behavior, from legalism, and from your defeating sin patterns.

You are also free from the grip of the world and the power of Satan. In other words, you no longer have to live as if you are still enslaved to those things because the truth is that you have been set free from them.

Question: Even though you may not be feeling freedom in some area of your life, does it change the truth that you have been set free?

Engaging God: Ask God to persuade you that even though you may not feel free from the power of sin, fleshly behavior, a defeating sin pattern, etc., that you have been set free.

In Christ You Have The MIND OF CHRIST.

1 Corinthians 2:16b - "...we have the **mind of Christ.**"

What does it mean that you have the mind of Christ? It means that you no longer have to rely on your limited and finite wisdom, understanding, discernment, and intellect to try and figure out life. For every situation that you face, you can draw on Christ's infinite knowledge, wisdom, understanding, and discernment.

Question: Could it be that God allows difficult situations in your life so that you will see your need to draw on Him as your Source for divine wisdom, discernment and understanding? What are the situations you are facing today that you need the mind of Christ?

Engaging God: In those situations, ask God to stop you from continuing to draw on your limited wisdom, discernment or understanding and begin to draw on His.

In Christ You Are A SAINT.

Ephesians 2:19 - "*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the **saints**, and are of God's household.*"

Most believers I know identify themselves as sinners. Why? Because they believe their sinful behavior determines their true identity. However, since you are a "saint" you no longer have to identify yourself as a sinner. Why? God says over and over in His word that you are a saint. This doesn't mean that you will never sin again. It means that in God's eyes your identity is no longer determined by your sinful behavior.

You might say it this way: in your true identity you are no longer a sinner. Rather, you are a saint who sometimes sins.

For example, you may believe the lies that you are an insecure, unforgiving, and rejected Christian. Since your lying beliefs are tied to your feelings, then every time that you feel insecurity, unforgiveness, and rejection, it reinforces your lying beliefs of insecurity, unforgiveness, and rejection.

As God replaces the lies with the truth that you are a secure, forgiving, and accepted Christian in Christ, you may still have feelings of insecurity, unforgiveness, or rejection. However, once your mind is renewed to the truth, those negative feelings that surface can no longer attach themselves to the lies because you now are believing the truth. The following truth is something that you need to keep in mind as God begins to heal your damaged emotions:

***FEELINGS that you have about yourself that are
CONTRARY to the truth of your new identity does NOT
change the truth of your new identity!***

Exercise: Write down some of the negative/damaged emotions that you have that are tied to your false beliefs. For example, "I **feel** unforgiving which reinforces the lying belief that I **am** an unforgiving Christian."

Meditate: on Psalm 147:3.

Engaging God: Ask God to renew your mind to the truth and set you free from your negative and damaged emotions.

WILL – is choosing to live from your false beliefs.

Your will is a RESPONDER to what you **believe** or what you **feel**. Your will makes CHOICES based on what you believe and/or how you feel. The next diagram illustrates this truth:

How do emotions become damaged?

Like thoughts, feelings can be an integral part of forming your belief systems. For example, if a traumatic event occurred early in your life such as a divorce or the early death of a parent or a sibling, you might develop feelings of abandonment. If the feelings are properly dealt with, the feelings will fade away.

However, if the feelings are not properly dealt with, they can shape your belief systems. Once accepted as true, the feelings will no longer be questioned. In other words, if those feelings surrounding the events are reinforced, you can go from “I feel abandoned” to “I am abandoned.” Once you reach the point of saying “I am,” you have formed a belief system around that feeling.

Your emotions become DAMAGED when how you feel becomes the same thing as what you believe. In other words, “I FEEL” becomes “I AM.”

The need for healing of your negative and damaged emotions.

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

As God renews your mind to the truth of your true identity, He will heal your negative and damaged emotions. As the negative/damaged emotions are healed, they will no longer be tied to your beliefs.

Since all of your sins have been removed and God remembers your sin no more (Isaiah 43:25), then know with confidence that God no longer sees you as a sinner.

Question: How might it change the way you think if you saw yourself as a saint who sometimes sins rather than as a sinner?

Engaging God: Ask God to begin persuading you that your identity is no longer that you are a sinner. Seek Him to reveal to you that you are a saint even though your behavior may not always be “saintly.”

In Christ You Are A FORGIVING Person.

Ephesians 4:32 - “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

You may have been offended by another person, and you don’t feel that you have to forgive them (or you believe that you have the right **not** to forgive). The truth is that you have no excuse for not forgiving others. Why? It is because in your true identity you **are** a forgiving person.

Whether or not you feel like forgiving is not the issue. You can choose to forgive because that is your true identity in Christ. If you are unwilling to forgive, ask God to move your heart to be willing to forgive.

Questions: Is there someone in your life that you don’t feel like forgiving? Since you are a forgiving person in Christ, do you still have the right not to forgive that person?

Engaging God: If you struggle with forgiving someone, begin entrusting your unforgiveness to God and diligently seek Him to renew your mind to the truth that you are a forgiving person and set you free from your unforgiving attitude.

Contrasting Living From Human Characteristics Versus Living From Your New Identity In Christ

I feel that it might be helpful at this point of the study to draw a contrast between living from human characteristics versus living from the divine characteristics of our new identity in Christ.

Human strength – is a human strength of character that has limitations and weaknesses.

Christ's strength – has no limitations or weaknesses.

Human self-confidence – has limitations in that there are people or circumstances that can rob man's self-confidence.

Christ's confidence – has no limitations and cannot be compromised by circumstances or people.

Human fearlessness – is an illusion because every man has one or more things that they fear.

Christ's fearlessness – means that you do not have to be fearful in any situation.

Human control – is also an illusion. Man has very little control over circumstances, relationships, and even his own life.

Christ's control – keeps you from sinning and keeps you at rest by knowing that God is in control.

Human acceptance - is based on what others think about you. You can be rejected by others.

Christ's acceptance - means that you don't take ownership of other's rejection because of your unconditional acceptance in Christ.

Meditate: Ask God to clarify in your mind the differences between the characteristics of being a man versus being a man living from his new identity in Christ.

Personal Testimony: Remember that I shared that I had strongholds of fear, inadequacy, and rejection. They were such a strong reality to me that in the beginning when I read in God's word that in my true identity I am fearless, adequate, and accepted, I did not believe that those things were true of me.

However, that fact that I did not believe God's truth at that time did not change the fact that it was true. As God renewed my mind to His truth that I am fearless, adequate, and accepted, I began to believe and to live from His truth.

Question: Do you understand the important difference between knowing and believing the truth?

Exercise: Go back to the list in Lesson Four of the characteristics of your true identity, and mark those characteristics that you now **know** are true but that you do not **believe** are true of you. Does your unbelief change the fact that what God says is true of you is really the truth?

Meditate: on Romans 12:2.

Engaging God: Begin entrusting your false beliefs to God and ask Him to renew your mind to His truth.

EMOTIONS – become negative when they are tied to your lying beliefs.

Emotions are an integral part of our soul. From the beginning God created us with emotions as part of the makeup of our soul. This is part of our "human-ness." Emotions are God's indicators of what is going on inside. They are neither good nor bad. They are amoral and are just part of your humanity. Just like you respond to the warnings of physical pain, you need to learn to respond to your emotional indicators. Emotions that are tied to your false beliefs become **negative or damaged** emotions.

Even though you have a completely new and righteous identity, your soul is that part of you that still needs to be TRANSFORMED.

A Breakdown Of Your MIND, WILL, and EMOTIONS

MIND – Still contains false beliefs about yourself.

The reason that you are still believing the false beliefs about yourself is that at salvation God totally transformed your human spirit, but He did nothing to change the false beliefs that are lodged in your **mind**. Even though you now have a new identity in your human spirit, your mind needs to be renewed to the truth of your true identity. That is why Paul tells us in the first part of Romans 12:2 that the mind must be renewed:

*“Be not conformed to this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind.....”*

What God wants to do is to use His truth to renew your mind and to set you free from your false beliefs. The result will be that you will believe and walk in your true identity in Christ. A key truth to remember is that **knowing** the truth and **believing** the truth are two separate issues. For example, you may **know** that the Word of God says that you are adequate, but you really don't **believe** it because your false belief that you are inadequate is a greater reality to you than God's truth. As strong as your false beliefs may be to you, you need to remember this critical truth:

God wants to renew your mind to His truth so that your true identity will be a GREATER reality to you than your false beliefs.

Engaging God: Ask God to expose where you are living from your human characteristics versus your true identity in Christ. Seek Him to move you away from living from your human characteristics to living from your true identity.

Two Critical Things To Remember Concerning You and Your Spouse's New Identity

#1 - Your BEHAVIOR Does Not Determine Your Identity In Christ

This is a question you may be asking: “Even though God's truth says that I am righteous, accepted, forgiving, etc., my attitudes and/or behavior may tell me just the opposite. Which is true, what my behavior tells me, or what God is telling me is true of me? ”



Even though your behavior may not always line up with what God says is true about you and your spouse, does it change the truth of your identity in Christ? The answer is **NO!** As believers, God has given you, in your human spirit, a new identity that is separate and apart from your sinful behavior. Before salvation, what you believed and how you behaved revealed your identity.

However, now that your new identity is part of God's divine nature in you, your fleshly, sinful behavior no longer determines who you really **ARE**. Consider this illustration. When I was born into the Loveless family, I became a Loveless. It doesn't make any difference if I am a good Loveless or a bad Loveless; my behavior doesn't change my identity as a Loveless. In the same way, your identity in Christ remains unchanged by your behavior.

Let's look at some examples:

Example #1: - Even though you may choose fleshly behavior and commit an unrighteous act of being critical or judgmental, it does not change the truth that in your new identity in Christ you are righteous.

Example #2: - Your sinful behavior may lead you to an unforgiving attitude toward your spouse who has offended you. This does not change the truth that since you are a forgiving person in Christ, you can forgive.

Does the fact that your fleshly behavior does not determine your identity give you license to live from your fleshly behavior? Of course not. God is never pleased with your sin in any form. However, it is essential to understand that because of what God has done in giving you a new identity, you have the choice to live no longer from your sinful behavior.

Questions: What are some of your sinful attitudes/behaviors that contradict your identity in Christ? How do those sinful behaviors affect what you think about yourself? How do you think it might affect you if you believed God's truth about your new identity over your sinful behavior?

Engaging God: If you struggle with the truth that your identity is based on your behavior, then ask God to renew your mind to the truth that your sinful behavior does not determine your identity.

As a Christian, your sinful, fleshly behavior does NOT determine your identity in Christ. What GOD SAYS about you determines your new identity.



This diagram should give you a clearer understanding of why God separates the human spirit from the soul. Your new identity (located in your human spirit) is complete and righteous. Remember the makeup of your soul. It is made up of your mind, emotions, and will. Even though you are complete and righteous in your human spirit, look at the condition of your soul:

- **Mind** – still contains false beliefs about yourself
- **Emotions** – are tied to your false beliefs.
- **Will** – is choosing to live from your false beliefs which produce
- **Fleshly behavior** – flows from choosing to live from your false beliefs and negative emotions.

Questions: What part of you needs to be transformed? Is it your human spirit or your soul? Does the diagram clarify why it is critical to separate the human spirit from the soul?

Lesson Four

God's Process of Renewing Your Mind To The Truth

Introduction

I hope that you were encouraged as you learned in our last lesson about your true identity. In this lesson we are going to look at the answer to the following two questions:

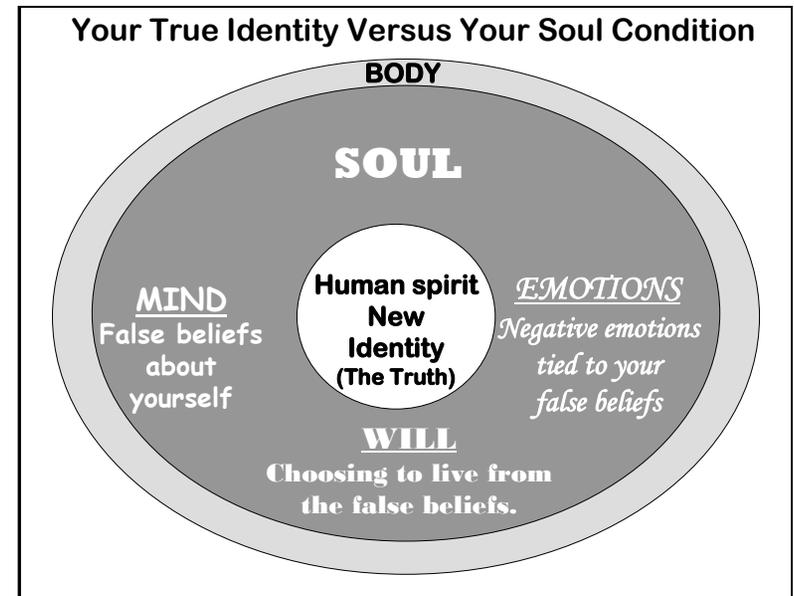
- “I now know that I have a new identity, but why do I still choose to live from my false beliefs?”
- How do I move from living from God’s truth as opposed to living from my false beliefs?”

Why Do I Still Choose To Live From My False Beliefs

Remember from Lesson Two that God removed your old identity and gave you a completely new identity. The problem is that even though you possess a new, righteous identity in a new human spirit, **God did NOTHING to change your soul at salvation.** Look at the diagram below to see the condition of your soul.

#2 - Your FALSE Beliefs And Feelings Do Not Determine Your Identity In Christ

Even though God has given you a new identity in your human spirit, you still have false beliefs and negative feelings about yourself in your soul. Look at the following diagram which depicts this:



You can see by this diagram that even though you have a new identity that the condition of your soul does not line up with the condition of your true identity. We will break this down further in the next lesson.

For now, it is important to understand that your false beliefs or negative feelings about yourself don't change the truth of who you are in Christ. In other words, the false beliefs you are believing or the negative feelings you are feeling do not change the truth of your new identity in Christ.

Let's look at some examples:

<u>False Belief Or Feeling</u>	<u>The Truth Of Your New Identity In Christ</u>
---------------------------------------	--

You feel/believe you are	You are accepted and acceptable in Christ. (Romans 15:7)
You believe that you are self-sufficient.	Your sufficiency can only be found in Christ. (2 Cor. 9:8)
You don't feel like forgiving	You are a forgiving person in Christ. (Ephesians 4:32)
You don't feel unconditionally loved by _____.	God unconditionally loves you. (1 John 4:16)

Your false beliefs and/or your negative feelings do NOT determine your true identity.
What God says is true of you is your TRUE identity.

Perhaps up until now your false beliefs and negative feelings have been the truth to you. However, now that you at least understand intellectually that God has given you a new identity, He wants you to believe His truth as opposed to what your negative feelings and false beliefs are telling you.

Engaging God: Begin taking steps of faith for God to persuade you of your true identity even though you have false beliefs and/or feelings about yourself.

Summary

I trust that God has used the truths in this study to give you deeper insight into the makeup of your identity and that you will allow Him to persuade you of your TRUE identity in Christ. The two questions you may be asking at this point are, "I know that I have a new identity, but why do I still choose to live from my false beliefs?" and "How do I move from living from God's truth versus my false beliefs?" We will explore the answers to those two questions in the next lesson.