

Do You Know Your True Identity As A Man?



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As A Man?***

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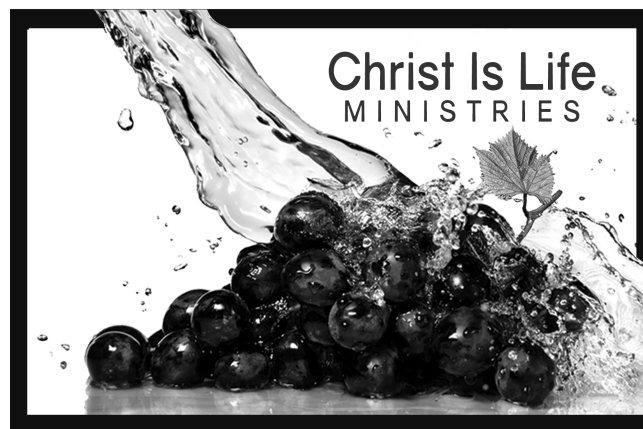
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The Layout of This Study

I want to thank you for choosing to study *Do You Know Your True Identity*. Before you begin, I believe it would be helpful to give you the layout of the study. The study contains six lessons, and each lesson has five daily readings (Day One, Day Two, etc.). If you are meeting weekly, this will give you seven days to complete the five daily readings. Throughout each lesson will be **Questions, Scriptures for Meditation**, and an **Engaging God** section.

Questions

The questions are primarily designed for you to compare what you believe with the truth that you have just read. This is key to exposing any false beliefs that you may have.

Meditation of Scripture

Some people struggle with the word “meditation” because of the New Age connotations. However, it is a biblical word that we do not need to shy away from. The key is what and Who that we are meditating on. The focus of our meditation will be on God and His truth. I believe that meditating on God’s word is crucial because it allows the Holy Spirit to take His truth and make it revelation to you.

Engaging God

The “Engaging God” sections in each lesson are the most important parts of this study. This section is designed for you to ask the Holy Spirit to give you personal revelation, understanding, and application of what you have just read. This is especially crucial when you come to truths that contradict what you believe. (If we don’t seek God to reveal His truth, then we will never move beyond the false beliefs that we may be believing.) Therefore, be sure and take the time to engage God as you go through the study.

Revelation

Since I will be using the word “revelation” throughout the study I want to define what I mean when I use this word. “Revelation” simply means that God **supernaturally** takes His truth and makes it personal to you and to your life situations. Revelation takes you from intellectual understanding to spiritual understanding of God’s truth.

Key Truth

Please remember this key truth as you go through this study:

**You will not live beyond what you believe.
If what you believe is a lie, then that is how you will live.**

This is key because what you believe affects what you think, your behavior, and the choices that you make. Therefore, one of God’s objectives through this study is to expose your false beliefs, to renew your mind, and to set you free according to John 8:32. Therefore, my prayer for you is that you will seek Him throughout this study to set you free from your false beliefs and the adverse effects that those false beliefs are creating in your life.

How Understanding My True Identity Is Transforming My Life

There is a very personal reason why I teach the truths of our new identity in Christ. The reason is that without knowing and believing the truths that I am about to share with you, my life would at this point be a total disaster. I was raised in a home where my father was angry, controlling, and abusive. My mother was in a self-protection (protecting herself from my dad) mode during my time growing up. My desire early on in life was to do whatever it took for my parents to love and accept me. The problem is that I could never do enough to “earn” my parent’s love, acceptance, and worth.

My dad’s anger and abuse led me to believe that I would never be able to do enough to be loved and accepted. The result was that I began forming beliefs about myself. Some of the beliefs were that I was not accepted or acceptable because I felt so much rejection. I must not be lovable because I could not do enough to be loved by my parents. I was inadequate because my dad made me feel that way. By age 18 these beliefs became very strong, and they eventually became strongholds in my life. I trusted Christ for salvation during my senior year in high school. However, someone forgot to tell me a very critical truth when I was saved. That truth is that I am a NEW creation in Christ with the result that I have a NEW IDENTITY!

After thirty years of trying to live the Christian life by my own effort, my beliefs about myself of rejection, unworthiness, and inadequacy only grew worse. It wasn’t until October 1998 that I was told two truths that began a radical shift in my life. The first truth is what I shared in the *Living Life From A New Source* study that the Christian life was not about me living for God. Rather, it was about Christ living His life in me (Galatians 2:20). However, just as impactful as that truth was, the second truth that I learned is that at the point of salvation God gave me a new identity to live from. This new identity is my true identity according to 2 Corinthians 5:17.

“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

As I began learning about my true identity in Christ, I began seeking God to renew my mind to His truth and to set me free of my false beliefs. As I began taking steps of faith, God worked a very deep work in me to a point that I no longer believe that I am rejected, unworthy, or inadequate. I truly believe that I am accepted, worthy, and adequate in Christ. It was not an overnight transformation, but it was a supernatural process that eventually took place. To be honest with you, I never thought that I would ever be set free of my false beliefs and the behaviors that resulted from those beliefs. Today, however, as a result of God’s work in me, I can affirm what Paul says in Ephesians 3:20 when he says, “Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all we could ask or think...”

My prayer for you as you go through this study is that He will renew your mind and set you free from any and all false beliefs that you have about yourself.

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Lesson One

Is What You Believe About Yourself The Truth?

DAY ONE

Introduction

After understanding the truth about living THE Christian life from Christ as the Source, I believe that the second most foundational truth for a Christian man is to understand is their TRUE identity in Christ. Let me start first by defining the word “identity.”

How Do We Define Identity?

You may be asking at this point: What do you mean by “identity?”

YOUR IDENTITY

How you FEEL or what you BELIEVE about yourself as a man.

This leads me to ask you two questions:

- **What is it you believe about yourself?**
- **Is what you believe about yourself as a man the truth?**

Remember this truth as you go through the rest of this study:

***You will not live beyond what you BELIEVE and if what you believe is a LIE
then that is how you will live.***

Is It Possible That You Are Wearing A Mask(s)?

I used the masks on the front cover as a visual for how I see so many Christian men living their lives. I know because I wore many masks for so many years as a Christian. What do I mean by “masks?” As I shared in my testimony, I had false beliefs about myself such as I am inadequate, unworthy, and a failure. The problem is that I did not know the truth about my identity as a man “in Christ.” In addition, I did not want you to see myself as I saw me so I created a “new self.”



I did this by putting on masks of self-sufficiency, self-confidence and success. The problem is that the “new self” was just a new “false self” because the masks were just as much of a lie as what I believed about myself. In other words, I was covering up a false self with another false self.

How about you? Is it possible that you have false beliefs about yourself and are wearing a mask or masks so that other people won’t see you as you see yourself? I believe this is the result of not knowing our true identity.

***If you do not know your TRUE identity, the tendency will be to
put on MASKS to cover up your false self.***

The key point is that if you don’t know the truth you will cover up your false beliefs with more false beliefs. Therefore, without knowing and living from our true identity we will never be set free from our false beliefs. Therefore, let’s first explore how our false beliefs were formed and discover what false beliefs you may believe about yourself.

How Our FALSE Beliefs About Ourselves As Men Were Formed

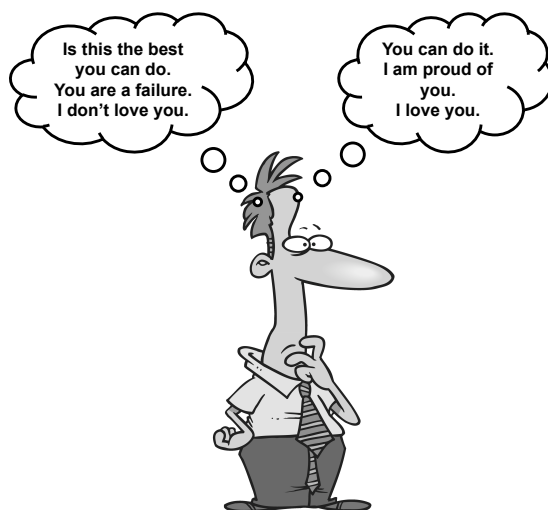
“As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”

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?” “I don’t love you.”**

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 21 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.

Question: In what ways do you believe that the messages you have listed positively or negatively impact how you feel or what you believe about yourself as a man?

Meditate: Read Proverbs 23:7 above and ask the Lord to reveal to you how what you believe about yourself impacts every area of your life.

Repeated Messages Led To Beliefs About Yourself

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. Therefore, I define a false belief as:

FALSE BELIEF

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

In this next section, we will explore some of your false beliefs.

What Are Some Of Your False Beliefs?

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. (It is important to be honest with yourself as you go through this list.) You might consider asking the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what you believe from this list. Go to the diagram on page 21 and write down your beliefs inside the circle.

I believe or I feel that as a man I am:

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

I need to let you know at this point that every one of the beliefs listed 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.

The positive false beliefs look appealing but how do we know they are false beliefs. The key word is “self.” Anything that you believe about yourself that has self attached to it is a false belief.

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. But before you do, please do the following exercise.

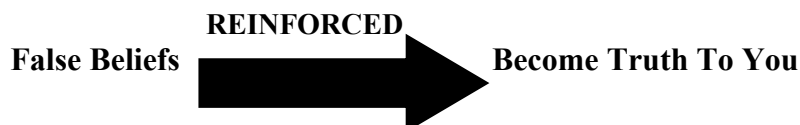
Exercise: One way of helping you understand that the two lists above are false beliefs is to add the word “Christian” after each one. For example, a “rejected Christian” or a “self-reliant Christian.” I hope that sounds like a false belief when you add the word “Christian” to your belief. We will compare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

What Happened As Your False Beliefs Were REINFORCED?

“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

In addition to forming false beliefs, a further problem developed. You continued to believe and to reinforce these false beliefs long enough that they have become the truth to you.

The diagram below illustrates this point.



As you continue to take ownership of your false beliefs, they become entrenched to a point that it results in a serious problem.

The Problem:

Some of your false beliefs have become so true to you that even when God's truth EXPOSES your false beliefs; you still believe your LIES.

You are going to see this point very clearly in Lesson Three when you will learn the characteristics of your true identity. The key point being that the longer we continue to believe our false beliefs the more entrenched they become.

DAY TWO

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*

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 ATTITUDE 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 men 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 and feeling like you have all the answers (know-it-all). Self-confident men 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 or father 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.

DAY THREE

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 such things as your job, hobbies, alcohol, pornography, 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?

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 as a man will keep you in BONDAGE to your fleshly attitudes and behaviors.

Exercise: Please refer to pages 19-20 of this lesson entitled “Fleshly Behaviors” and write below five fleshly behaviors that you want to be set free from.

Take your five fleshly behaviors from enter them on the lines at the bottom of page 21. As you look at the diagram on page 21 you can now get a better idea of how your messages form your lying beliefs and the fleshly behaviors that flow from those beliefs.

Question: Write down how your fleshly behaviors might be negatively impacting yourself, your wife, your kids, your friends, or your co-workers.

DAY FOUR

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	Unforgiveness
Anger	Guilt	Pride	Bitterness	Selfishness
Self-pity	Inadequacy	Fear	Worry	Frustration
Unworthiness	Blame	Rejection	Insecurity	Dissatisfaction

Exercise: From the list above, choose which things most characterize the misery of the soul that you may be experiencing now as the end result of your fleshly behavior.

Question: Do you want to be set free from your fleshly behaviors?

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.’”

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 misery of our flesh.

Does the fleshly behavior stemming from your false 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.

Questions: Do you want to be set free from the lies that you believe about yourself? What do you think will be the results if you are not set free? How do you believe that you are set free from your lying beliefs?

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.

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.

Questions: Based on Romans 7:15, what are some things that you would like to be doing but are not doing or vice versa? Have you tried to not do (or do) these things using your own willpower? Is it working?

Key Truth For Our Study:

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

DAY FIVE

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 wives at different times. The tendency is that when we reject our wives, 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 husband, may need a lot of affirmation. When your wife 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.

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 father.

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.

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

Fleshly Behaviors

Be self-absorbed

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

Withdraw (isolate myself)

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

Escape (pain/pressure) by using:

promiscuity	carousing
drugs and alcohol	talking
staying busy	school
hobbies/games	reading
computers	fantasy
television	movies
pornography	sleep
overeating	religion
work/career	sex

Be anxious (worry and fret)

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

Seek guidance from:

astrology/horoscopes,
fortune telling and/or
the occult

Be self-disciplined (self-reliant)

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

Become obsessed with:

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

Become dominant

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

Stay in control through:

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

Lack compassion, gentleness

understanding, kindness,
love, become defensive

Be self-righteous (self- justifying)

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

Be critical (judgmental)

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

Be self-assured (self- confident)

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

Come across as insensitive,

uncaring, unsympathetic,
indifferent or unconcerned

Be complacent (nonchalant)

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

Fleshly Behaviors (Continued)

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

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

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

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

Be self-deprecating
assume I am always the
problem
become overly apologetic
be too hard on myself
uncomfortable with success

have difficulty receiving: love,
compliments, forgiveness
be unable to forgive myself

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

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

Put up a front
hide what I really think
pretend
try to impress others
and/or get attention
fake it (act like I know
something even when I don't)
be pretentious (phony, unreal)
be superficial (never let
anyone
get too close)

Be passive (lack initiative)
quit too easily (give up)
don't take chances
wait for someone to tell me
how to think and what to do
vacillate (be too changeable)
be indecisive
avoid failure at all costs
procrastinate (put things off)
be irresponsible (unreliable)
be lazy (apathetic, lethargic)

Be tense ("on guard")
find it hard to relax
be restless
become impatient
be easily agitated

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

Live by my feelings
believe that truth is what I feel
be too sensitive to criticism
be hypersensitive
be touchy (irritable)
be controlled by fear, anger,
doubts and insecurities
automatically read in rejection

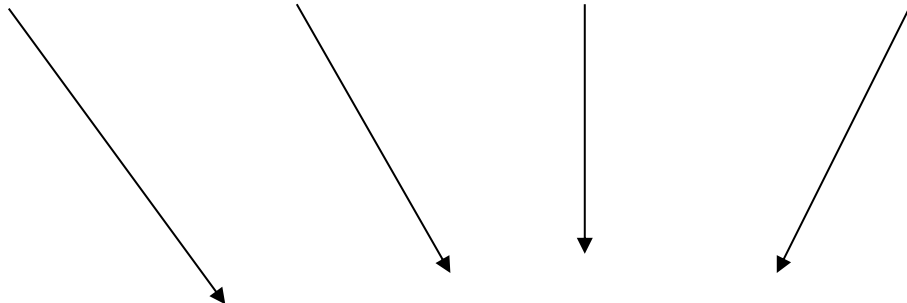
Be a pleaser (be nice)
try to keep everyone happy
avoid conflict/keep the peace
say what I think others want
overly submissive
have difficulty saying "no"
can't stand up for myself
afraid to disappoint others
give in to others too easily

Be a caretaker (rescuer)
be overprotective
be overly responsible
become too involved with
other's affairs/concerns
be possessive (too invested)
talk too much and listen poorly
make decisions for others

Be too serious (intense)
be overly analytical
not be able to have fun
lack joy or life

MESSAGES ABOUT MYSELF THAT I RECEIVED:

--	--	--	--



**Have made me feel and think
this way about myself:**

FALSE BELIEFS

I FEEL or BELIEVE I AM:



The fleshly behaviors that result from my lying beliefs:

Lesson Two

What Did God Accomplish To Give You A New Identity?

DAY ONE

Introduction

I hope that you learned in the last lesson some of the false beliefs about yourself and the fleshly behaviors that flow from those false beliefs. I trust that your desire is that you want to be set free from your false beliefs and the fleshly behaviors. In this lesson, we will see what God accomplished at salvation to set you free. I will be using a number of diagrams to illustrate some key truths. I can't encourage you enough to pray through this lesson rather than trying to learn these truths intellectually. Ask the Spirit to give you revelation of what you are about to read. 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?

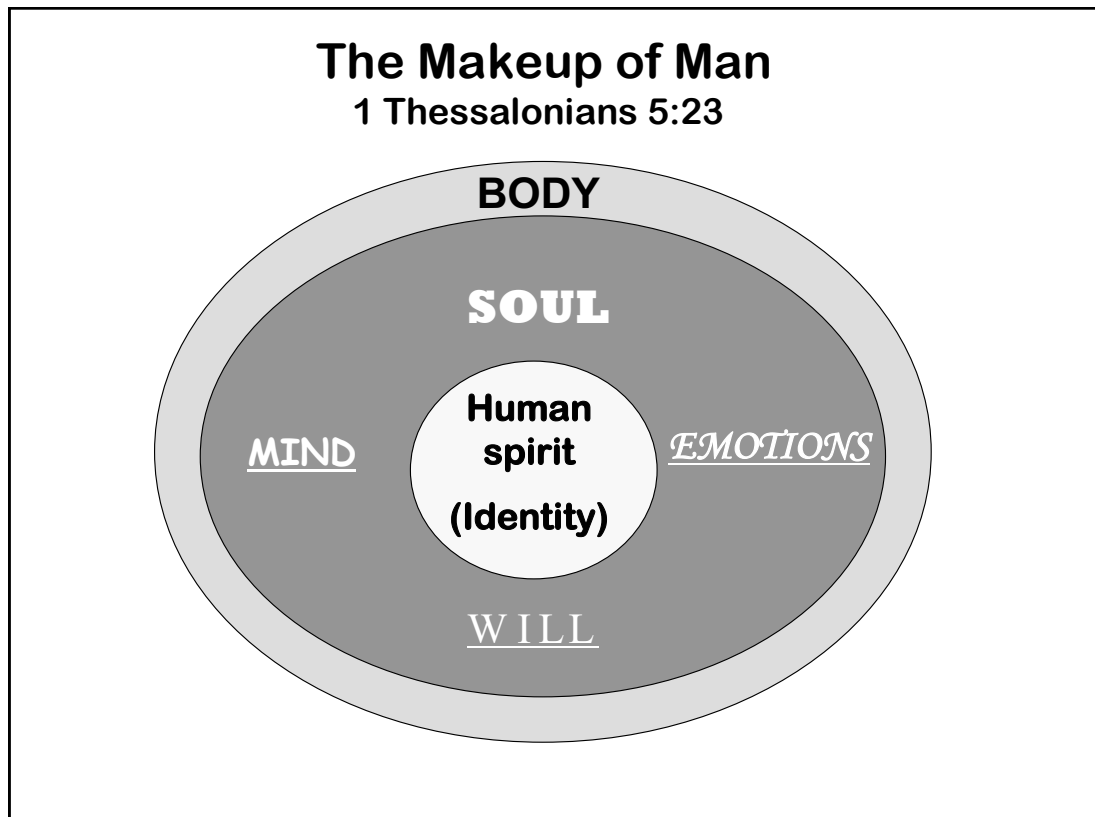
When God said in Genesis 1:26 that He created man in His likeness, He meant that He created man first and foremost as a “**spirit**” being. John 4:24 reveals that we, as spirit beings, can worship God:

“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:



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.

Questions: Have you thought about yourself being first and foremost a “spirit” being? How might it affect how you see yourself and others if you saw yourself as a spirit being having a human experience rather than as a human being having a spiritual experience?

Meditate: on the truth that your soul is different from your human spirit as written in 1 Thessalonians 5:23 and Hebrews 4:12.

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.

DAY TWO

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's and Eve's bodies, souls, and spirits before the Fall. This is important because we will see how significantly they changed after the Fall.

BODY - was ETERNAL. (Genesis 1:27)

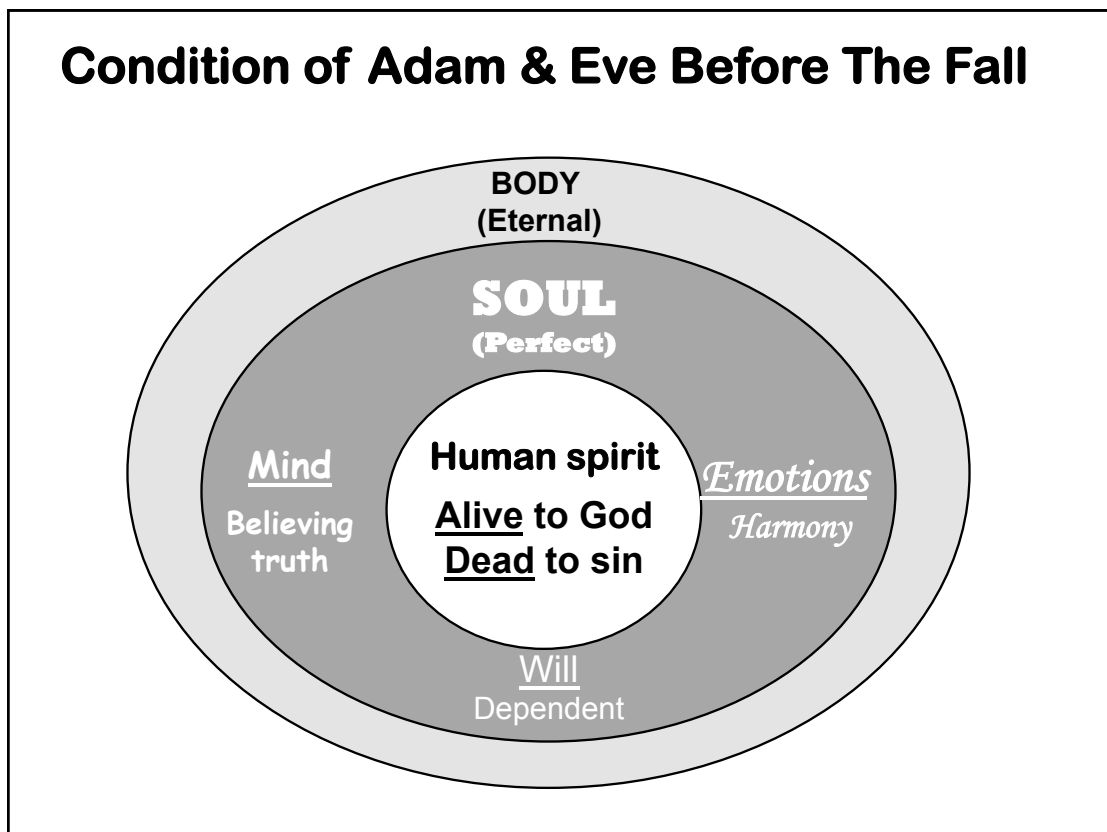
SOUL - was PERFECT. (Genesis 1:26)

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.

HUMAN SPIRIT - (Romans 6:11)

1. Was ALIVE to God.
2. Was DEAD to sin.

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). The condition of the human spirit had changed. It is now DEAD to God and ALIVE to sin.**

"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

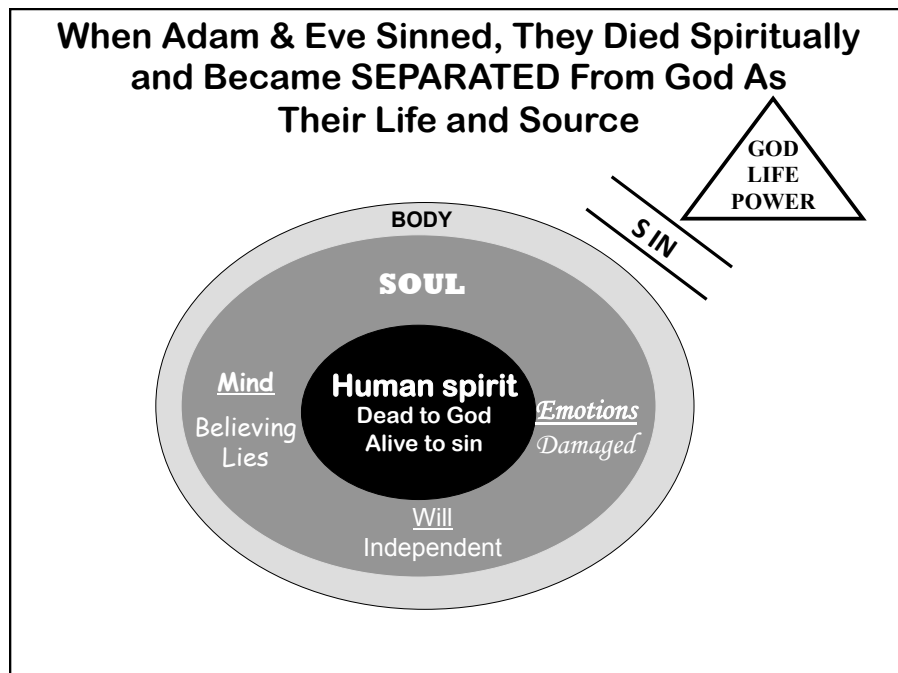
- **They became separated from God HIMSELF.**

"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.



KEY TRUTH

Before the Fall, Adam's and Eve's human spirits were ALIVE to God and DEAD to sin. However, after the fall their human spirits became DEAD to God and ALIVE to sin.

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

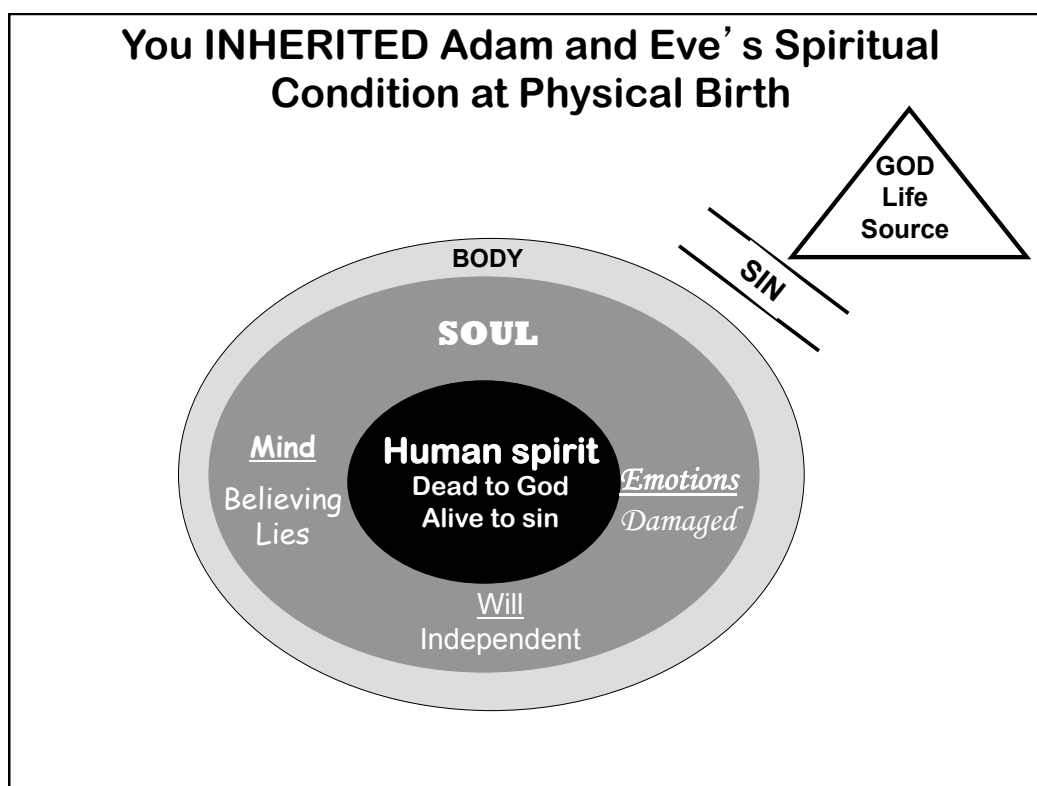
"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned." Romans 5:12

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.)



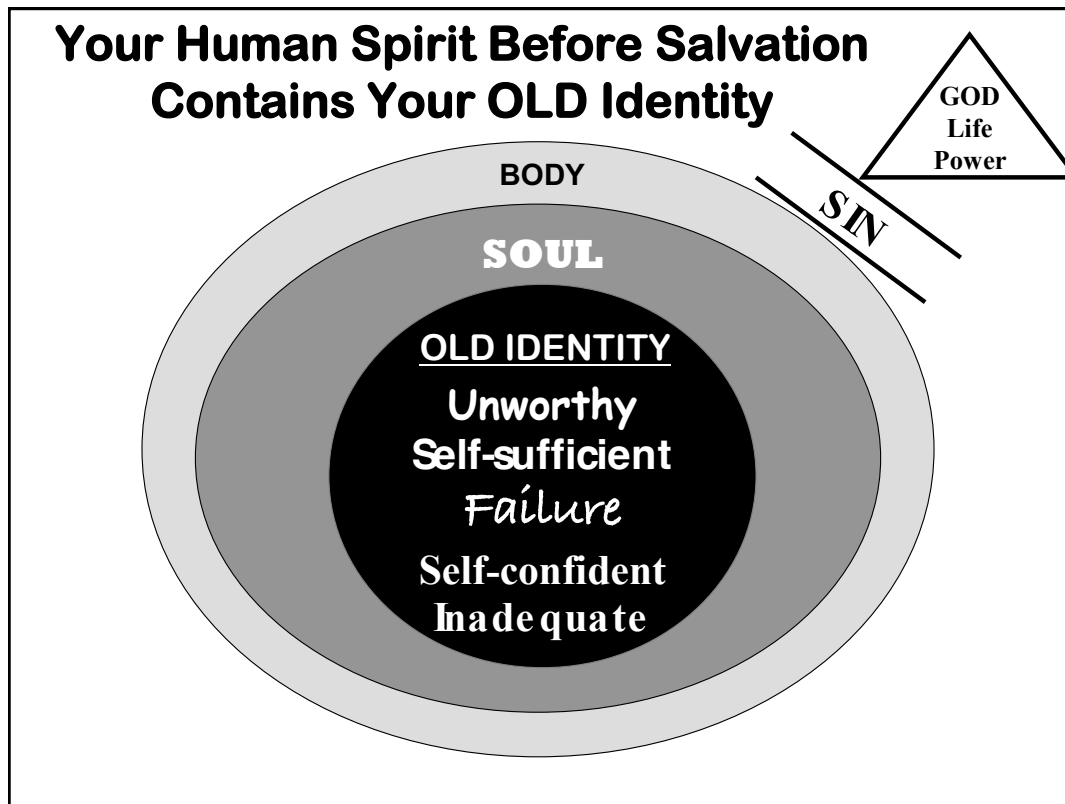
DAY THREE

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 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.

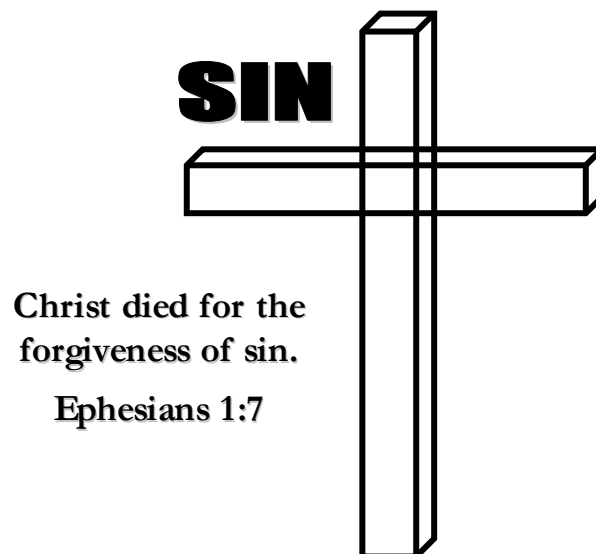
Because of your spiritual condition and your old identity, God needed to accomplish something in man to change his spiritual condition. Therefore, let’s look at how God solved man’s dilemma.

Remember, what we learned in Book One about the two sides of the cross (the SIN side and the LIFE side of the cross). I want to review the two sides of the cross using some diagrams.

Part One - The SIN Side of The Cross

Remember that what Christ accomplished in dying for and redeeming us from our sins the SIN side of the cross.

The SIN Side of the Cross

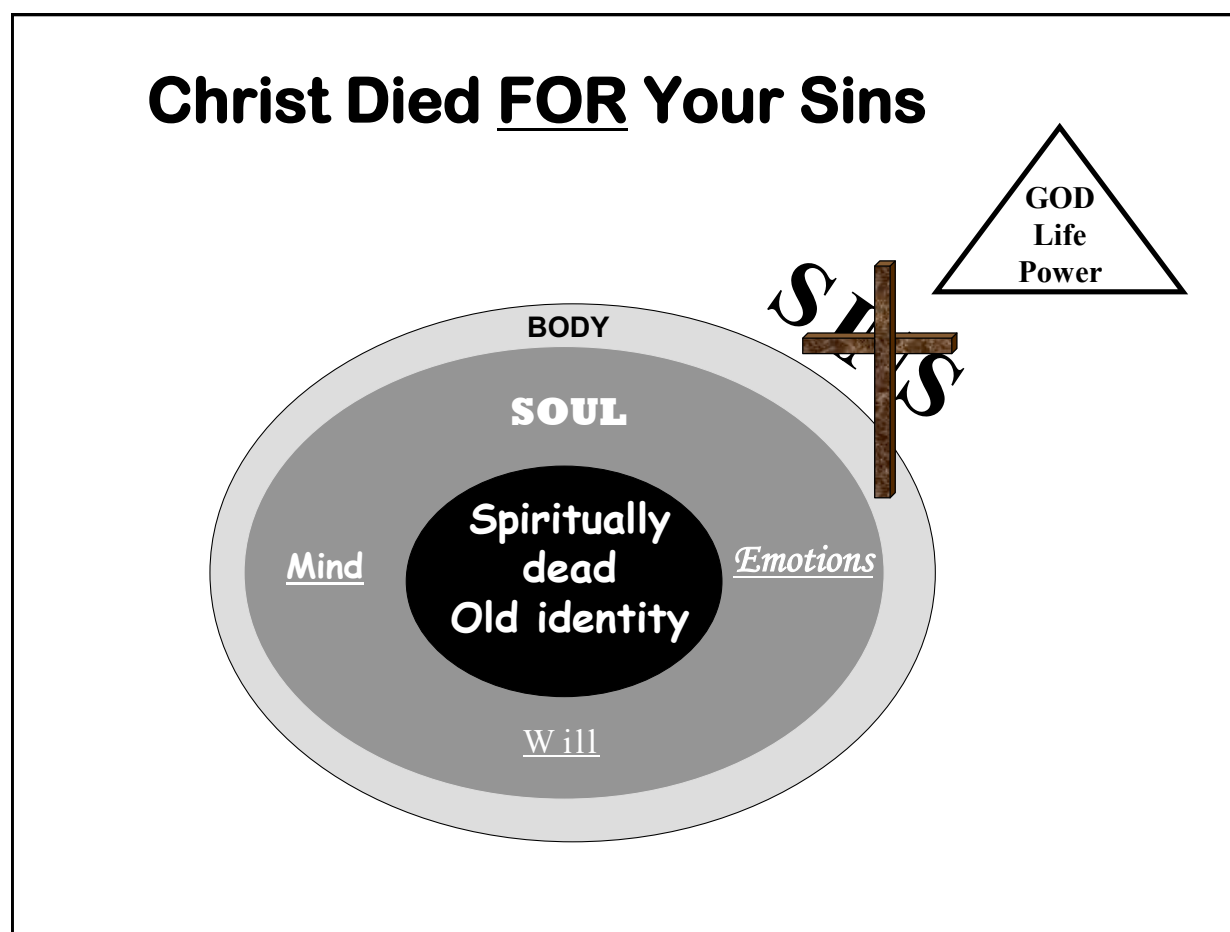


God's Solution For The SIN Side of The Cross - Christ Died FOR Our Sins.

"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 us, sent His Son Jesus to die for our sins so that by receiving Him by faith as our Savior, we would spend eternity with Him. Therefore, the first part of God's solution was for Jesus to die for our sins. We see in the following circle diagram that our sins were **blotted out** through Christ's death on the cross:

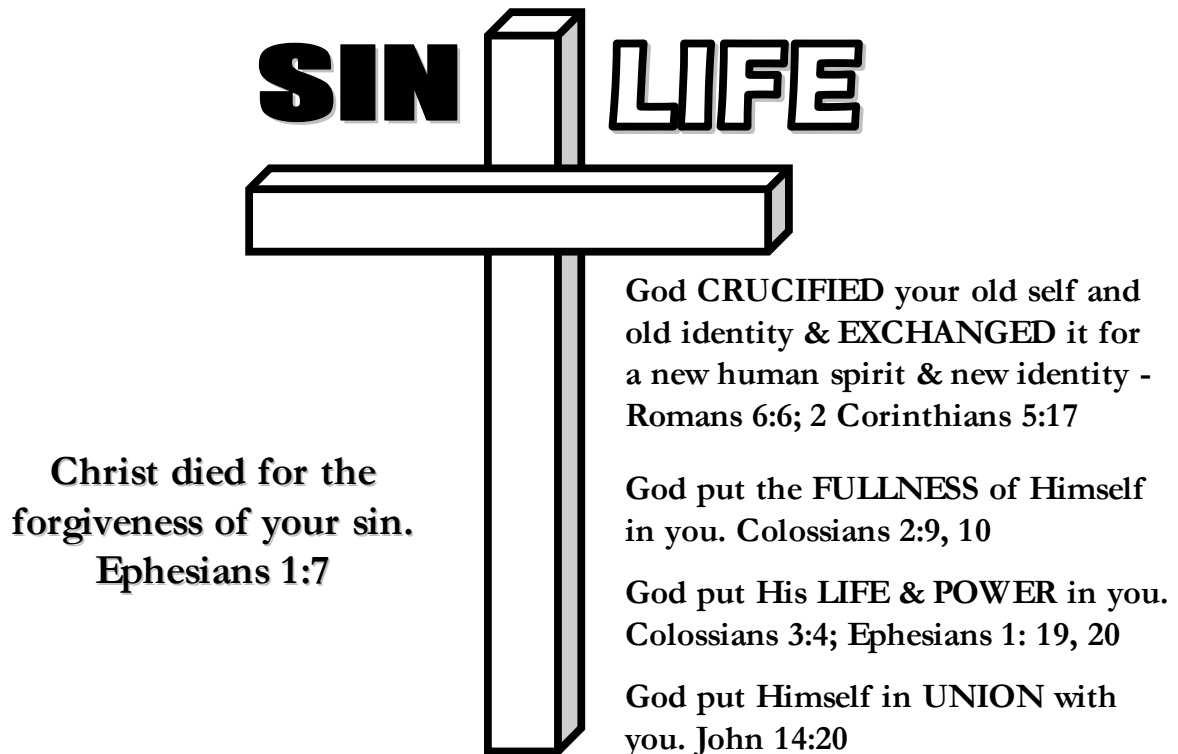


However, even though our sins were dealt with, there was MORE that was needed to be provided at salvation.

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 but alive to sin. We still had our old identity, and we were still separated from God. Therefore, let's look at what God did to remedy these issues. We learned that what God accomplished in addition to removing our sins is called the LIFE side of the cross. The diagram on the next page summarizes the LIFE side of the cross.

The LIFE Side of The Cross



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

DAY FOUR

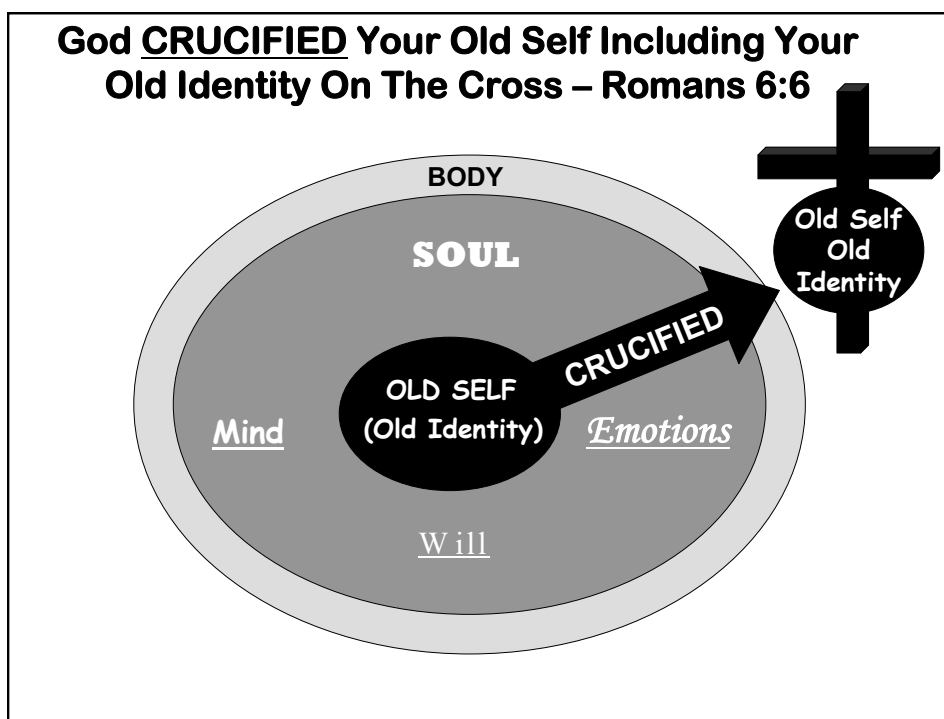
GOD'S SOLUTION - PART 1 - Your Old Identity Was CRUCIFIED On The Cross.

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 (dead human spirit and 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)*

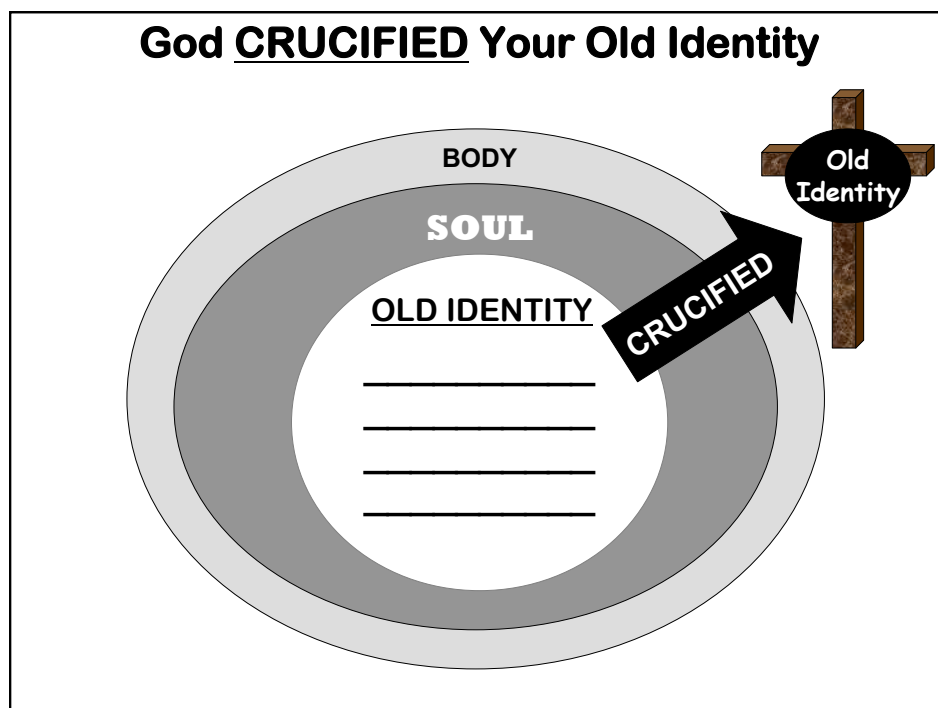
*“**I (the dead human spirit and the old identity) was crucified with Christ and I (the dead human spirit and the old identity) no longer live ...**” Galatians 2:20a (Parentheses mine)*

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.

Exercise: Write in the center circle below labeled “Old Identity” your false beliefs from the diagram on page 20.



Question: Based on what we just learned, what happened to your lying beliefs at salvation according to Romans 6:6 and Galatians 2:20?

Meditate: on Romans 6:6 and Galatians 2:20 and ask God to give you revelation and a deeper understanding of the significance that your old human spirit and old identity were crucified with Christ.

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

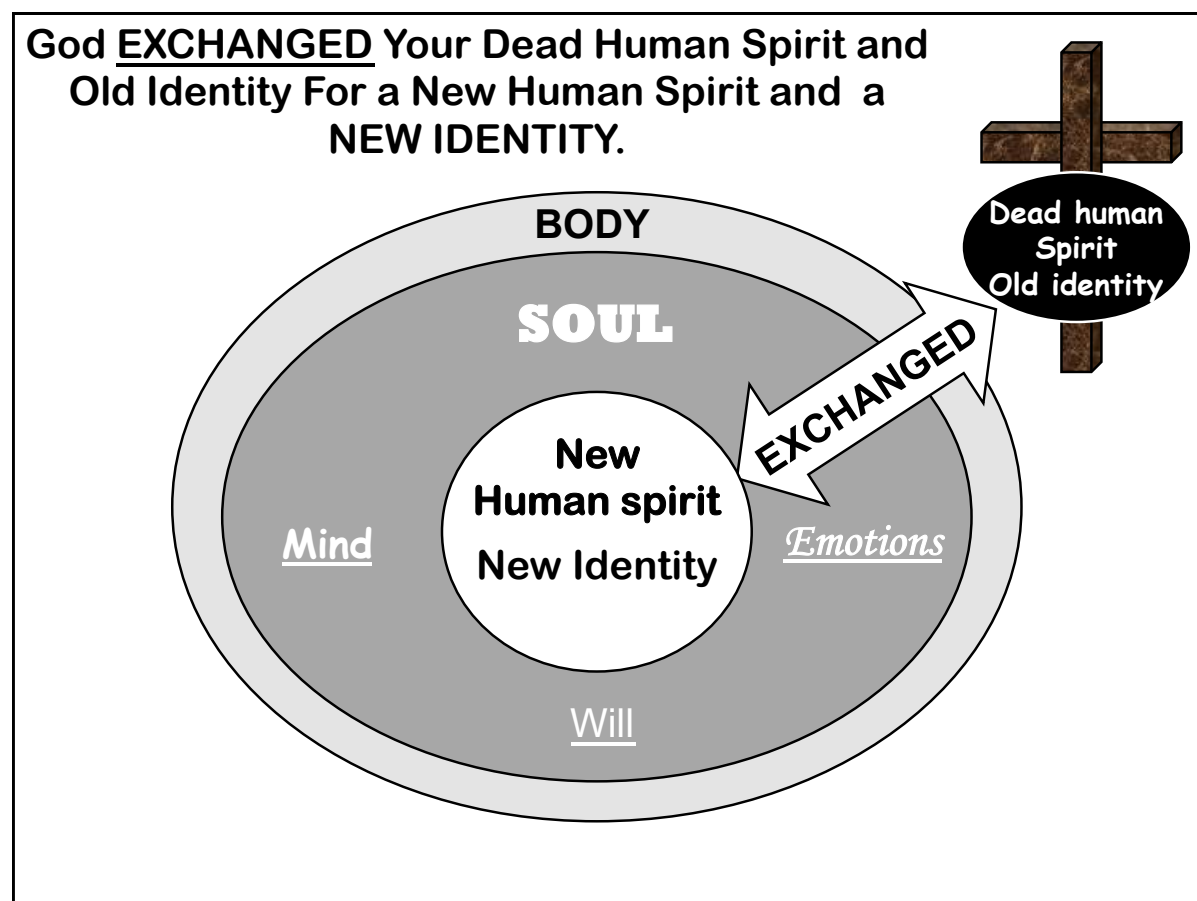
This verse says that when you trusted Christ for salvation, you became a **new creation**. Becoming a new creation means that you now have a **new human spirit** and a **new identity in Christ**. The “old things” in 2 Corinthians 5:17 (referring to your dead human spirit and your old

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 human spirit and new identity)** within you, and I will remove the **heart of stone (dead human spirit and 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.



Questions: If God has given you a new identity, do you have to continue living from your old identity? How might it change the way you live if you no longer live from your false beliefs?

Meditate: on 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Ezekiel 36:26-27 and ask the Lord to reveal to you the truth that He exchanged your old identity for a new identity.

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

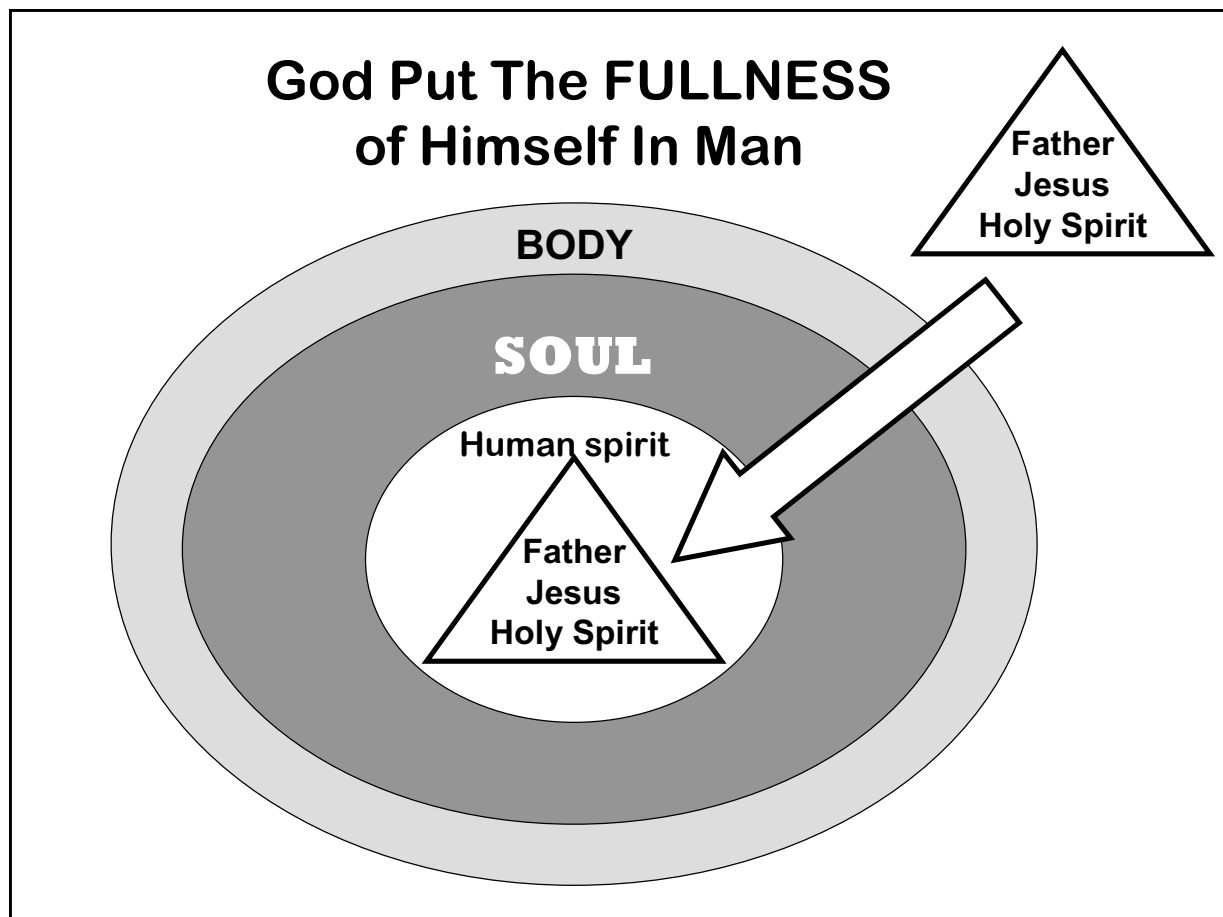
In addition to exchanging our old identity for a new identity, we learned in Book One that:

1. God put the fullness of Himself into you.
2. God put His life and power into you.
3. God put Himself in union with you.

The next three diagrams will illustrate these three truths. Since man was separated from God as his source for living life, the first thing God did was 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 next diagram 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 behaviors.
- 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.

Questions: If God is the Source for living life, does He intend for YOU to be the source? Are you trying or have you tried in your own ability to accomplish any of the things listed? If so, how is it working for you? If it is not working, what should you do?

Meditate: on 1 John 5:12, 1 Corinthians 1:30, John 14:6, and Acts 17:28

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.

DAY FIVE

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 his every need.

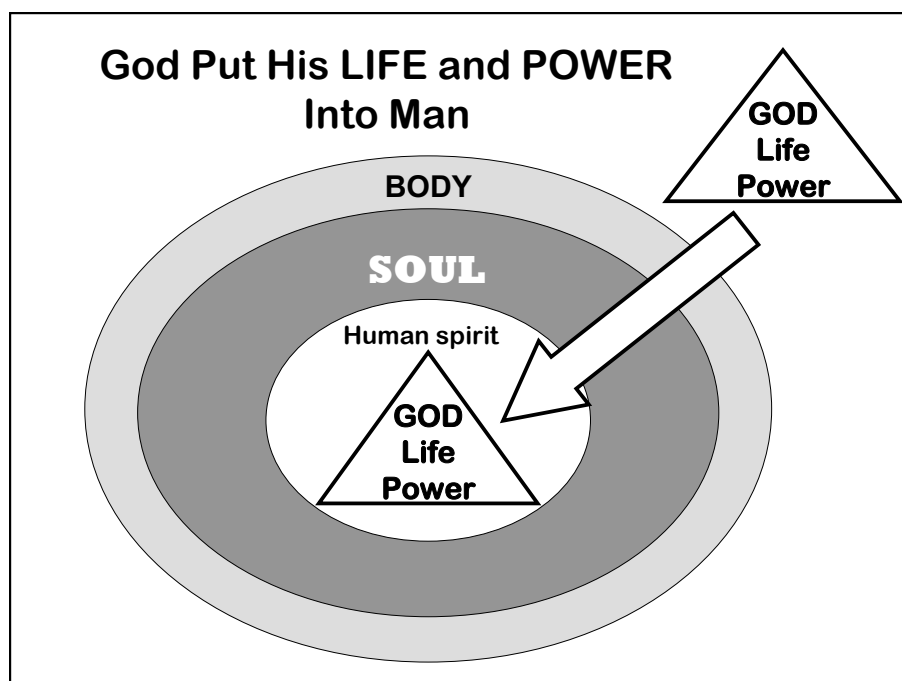
God's POWER

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.

The next diagram illustrates this truth:



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:

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

The diagram on the following page shows your new identity in UNION with God:



Questions: Since God is in an inseparable union with you, can He ever leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)? If God is in an inseparable union with you, can you lose your salvation?

Meditate: on 1 Corinthians 6:17 and John 14:20 and think about the truth that God is in union with you.

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.

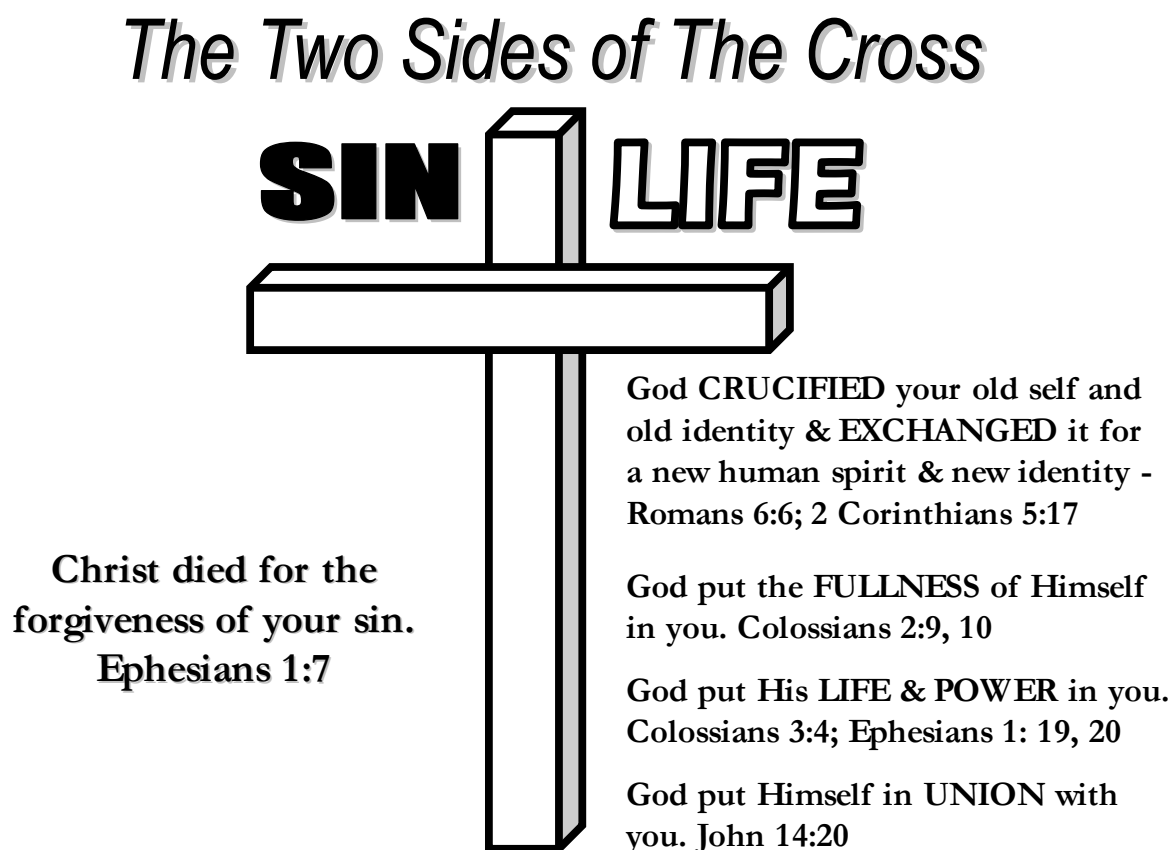
Question: If you doubt God's love for you, is it possible that through all that He did for you at salvation you might be persuaded in a deeper way that He truly does love you?

Meditate: on all that God did for you on the cross and at salvation to forgive your sins, to give you His life, and to give you a new identity. Does meditating on these truths give you a greater heart of thanksgiving?

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 sides of the cross once more.



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.

Lesson Three

What Is Your True Identity As A Man?

DAY ONE

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

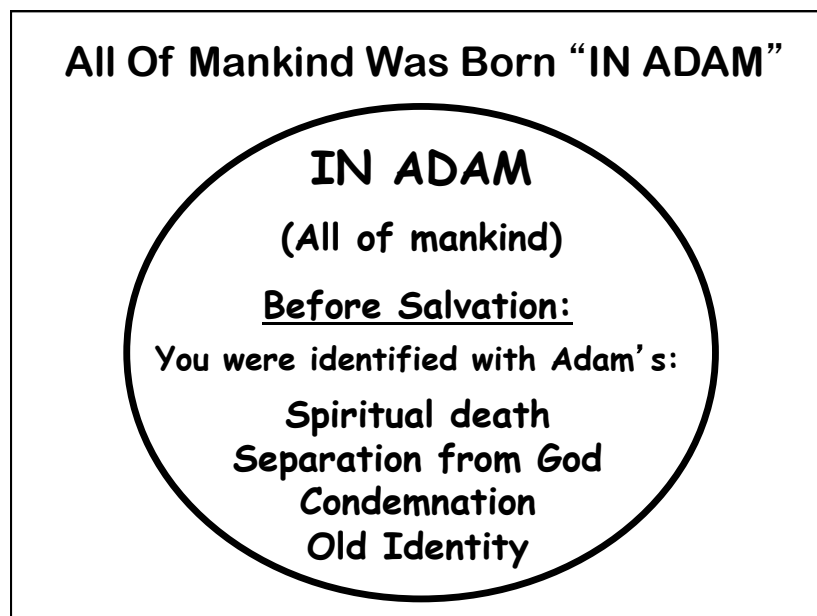
“IN” ADAM

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.

As a result, part of our old identity 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 (made up of your false beliefs)** – Proverbs 23:7

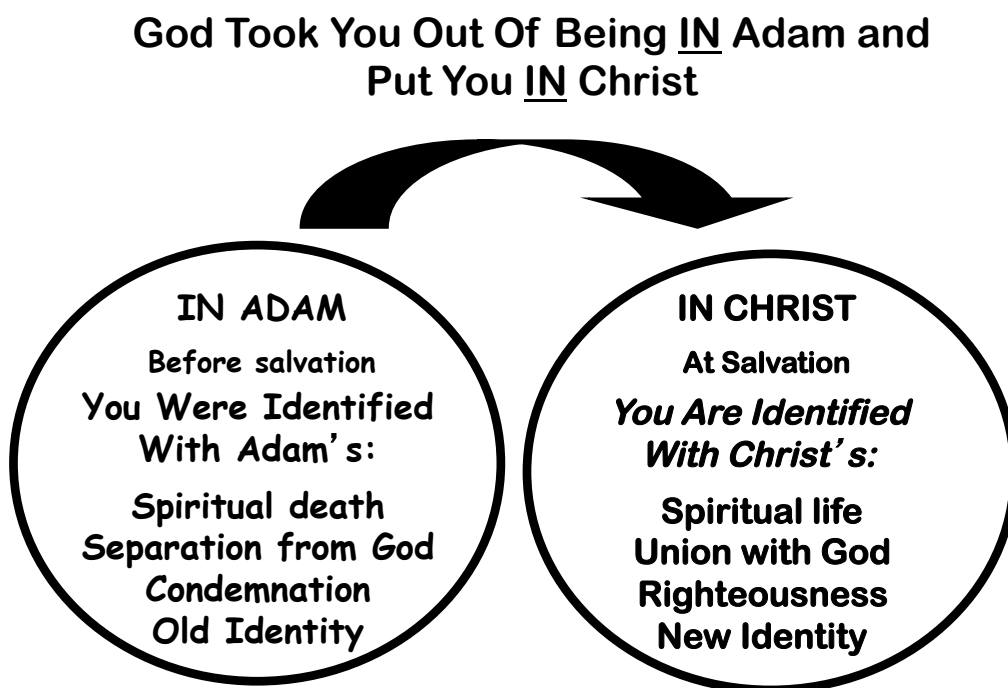
We see in the next diagram an illustration of what it looks like to be born **IN** Adam:



“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:



*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*

Have You Been Believing The Lie?

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?

Meditate: on Romans 5:18-19, 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Philippians 3:9 and ask God to persuade you that you are righteous based on what He did at salvation.

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***.”*

<i>Now that you are <u>RIGHTEOUS</u> in Christ, God <u>NO</u> longer condemns you, and you <u>NO</u> longer have to condemn yourself.</i>
--

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.

DAY TWO

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.

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 As A Man In Christ

***“For we are God’s MASTERPIECE....”
Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)***

We are now going to be looking at some of the godly characteristics that make up your true identity in Christ. I don’t know what your reaction will be as you read through the following list. My first response was that this is too good to be true. If you feel the same way, realize that everything listed below is the truth of who you REALLY are in Christ.

Therefore, I would like for you to read through this list slowly and let the truth of your true identity sink in. 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 as a man in Christ, I am victorious.”

Some Of The Characteristics of Your TRUE Identity As A Man “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 and 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. (See 1 Cor. 1:2; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:2)
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.
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.
Colossians 3:12	In Christ, I am chosen of God, holy, and dearly loved.

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

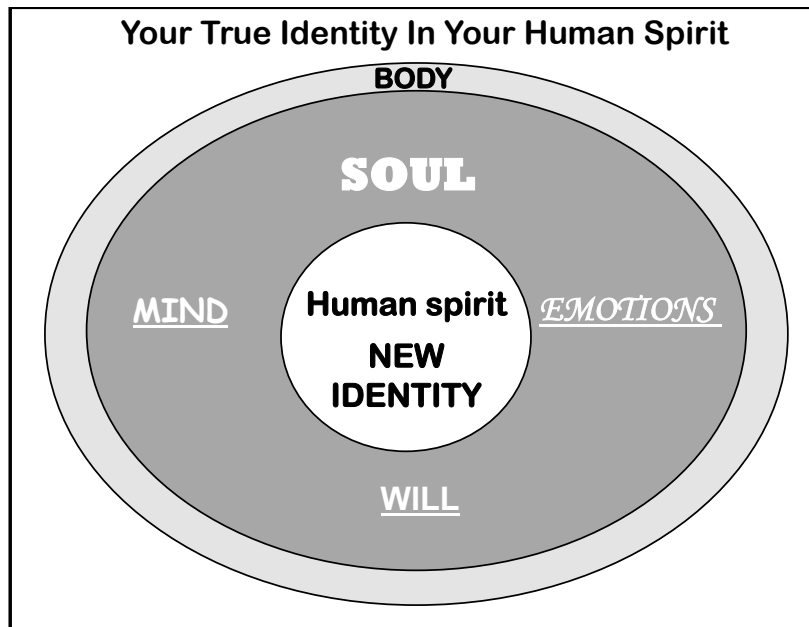
Exercise: Read each of the characteristics of your true identity out loud. From that list, choose five of the characteristics that you would most like to experience. Look up the verses for each of those characteristics.

Meditate: on these characteristics of your true identity.

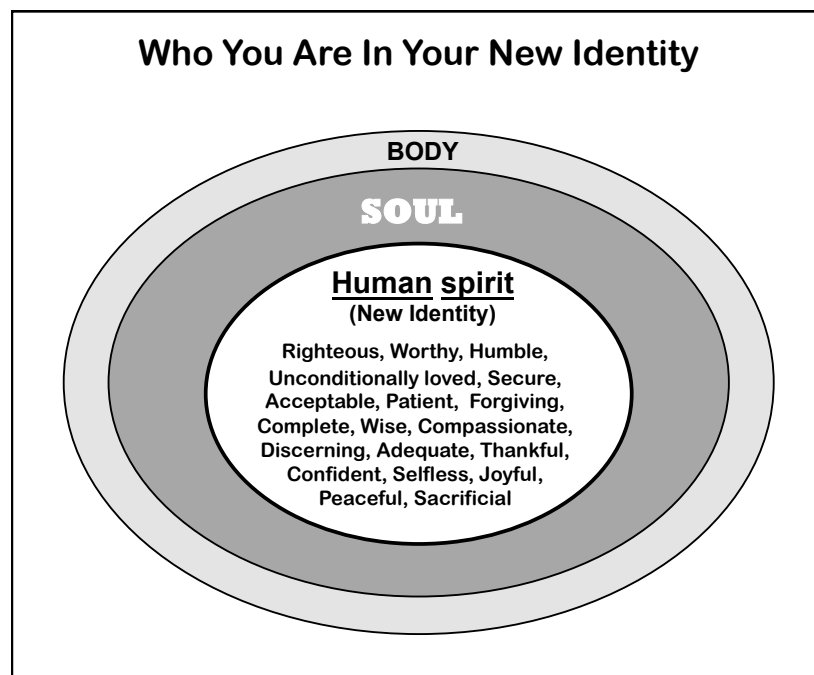
Engaging God: Begin asking God to renew your mind to the truth of who you are in your true identity. Specifically ask Him to persuade you of the scriptural truth of those five characteristics that you would most like to experience.

Your True Identity And The Circle Diagrams

Remember the diagram below that we studied in Lesson Two. It depicts your true identity being located in your human spirit.



In the following diagram, I have enlarged the human spirit to show some of the characteristics of your true identity.



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.***

DAY THREE

Expanding On Some Of The Characteristics Of Your New Identity As A Man

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, as a man, 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.

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.

Psalms 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."

Ezekiel 24:38 - *“They will no longer be a prey to the nations, and the beasts of the earth will not devour them; but they will live **securely**, and no one will make them afraid.*

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 as a man 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, as men, 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 as men 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 as a man 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 men feel or believe they are unworthy and/or inadequate. We look at ourselves, and we don't measure up to the world's or other men's standards of adequacy/worthiness. We may seek our adequacy and worth in relationships, our job, or in “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 as a man 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 3:1 – “*See how **great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God.***”

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?

Meditate: on the verses for the four characteristics of your new identity in this section.

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.

DAY FOUR

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 as a man 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.

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.

Colossians 1:12 – “giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the **saints** in the kingdom of light.”

Most Christian men 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. 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.

DAY FIVE

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 you believe that you are unconditionally accepted 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.

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 Your 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, does it change the truth of your identity as a man in Christ? The answer is NO! As men, God has given us, in our human spirit, a new identity that is separate and apart from our 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 wife 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?

Meditate: On the truth that your behavior does not determine your identity.

Engaging God: If you struggle with the truth that your identity as a man 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 man, your sinful, fleshly behavior does NOT
determine your identity in Christ.
What GOD SAYS about you determines your new identity.***

#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. It is important to understand that your false beliefs or negative feelings about yourself don't change the truth of who you are as a man 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 on the following page:

False Belief Or Feeling

You feel/believe that you are rejected.

You believe that you are self-sufficient.

You don't feel like forgiving.

You don't feel unconditionally
loved by _____.

The Truth Of Your New Identity In Christ

You are accepted and are acceptable in Christ.
(Romans 15:7)

Your sufficiency can only be found in Christ.
(2 Corinthians 9:8)

You are a forgiving person in Christ.
(Ephesians 4:32)

God unconditionally loves you. (1 John 4:16)

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.

Meditate: on the truth that your false beliefs and negative feelings do not determine your true identity as a man.

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 as a man 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.

Lesson Four

God's Process of Transforming You To Live From Your True Identity

DAY ONE

Introduction

I hope that you were encouraged as you learned in our last lesson about your true identity. At this point in the study, people usually ask me the following 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 experience and live from my true identity?”

These are the two questions that we will be answering in this lesson. Let's start by answering the first question.

Why Do I Still Choose To Live From My False Beliefs?



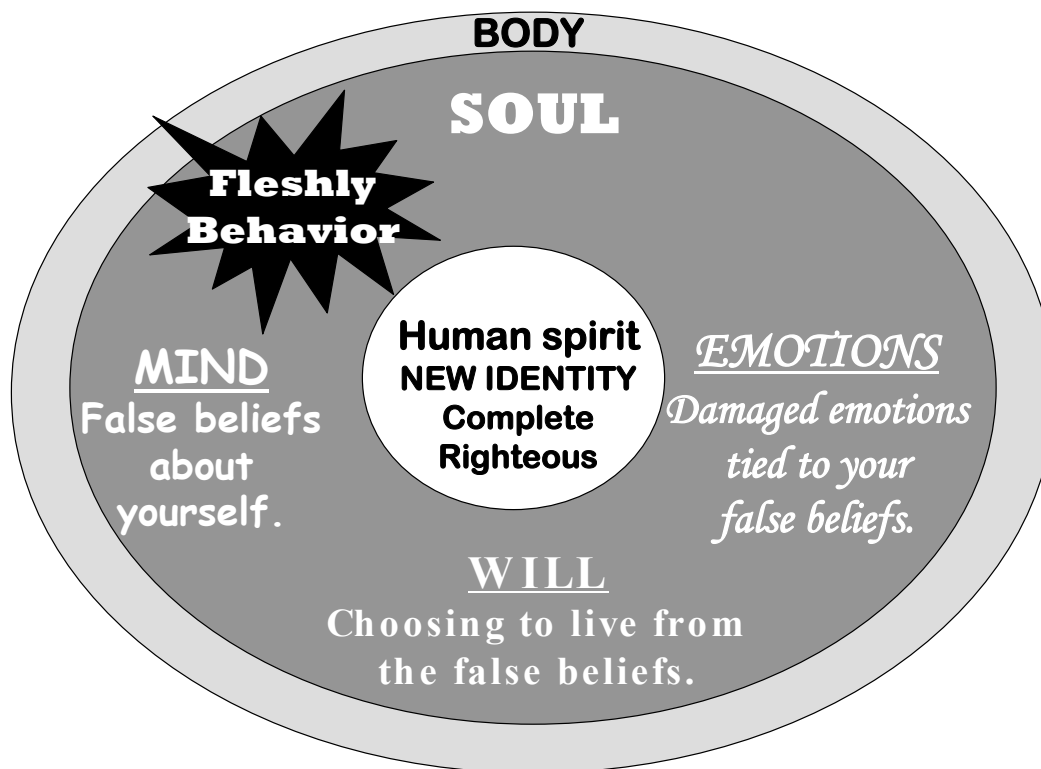
This is a crucial question because the answer to this question reveals in a deeper way why we have to differentiate the soul from the human spirit. Remember from Lesson Two that God removed your OLD human spirit and your OLD identity and gave you a completely NEW human spirit with a NEW identity. The problem is that even though you possess a new identity in a new human spirit, your soul needs to be transformed to a place where you are experiencing and living from the characteristics of your new identity versus living from your false beliefs. Let me explain.

Remember the makeup of your soul. It is made up of your mind, emotions, and will. Let's look at the condition of the mind, emotions, and will prior to being transformed.

- **MIND** – still contains false beliefs about yourself.
- **EMOTIONS** – are tied to your false beliefs about yourself and become damaged emotions.
- **WILL** – is choosing to live from your false beliefs.
- **FLESHLY BEHAVIORS** – are the result of choosing to live from your false beliefs.

The next diagram contrasts the difference between the condition of the soul and the condition of the human spirit:

The Condition Of Your SOUL Before Being Transformed

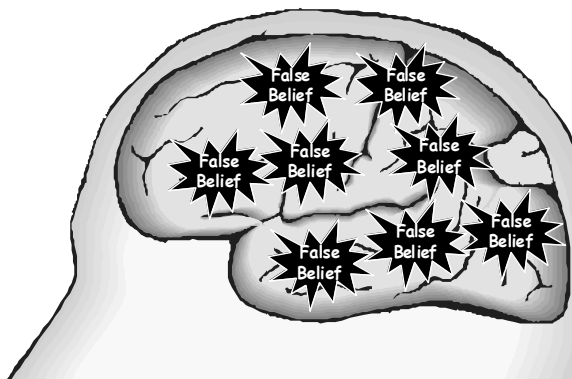


Even though you have a NEW identity in your HUMAN SPIRIT, your SOUL is that part of you that still needs to be TRANSFORMED.

Let's delve further into the condition of the mind, emotions, and will prior to being transformed.

MIND – contains false beliefs about yourself

Your Mind Has False Beliefs About Yourself



*"Be not conformed to this world, but **be transformed** by the **renewing of your MIND....**"*

Would you agree with this statement: What you think about yourself is what you believe about yourself? For example, if you think that you are insecure and inadequate, do you believe that you are insecure and inadequate? The point is that thinking and believing go hand in hand. Since your thinking and beliefs are in your mind, then what God wants to do with your false beliefs is to renew your mind so that your thinking and beliefs line up with the truth of your true identity.

Using our example above, God wants to renew your mind to the truth that in your true identity you are totally secure and adequate. As He renews your mind to these truths, you will start thinking and believing the truth as opposed to the false belief. Think about the following statement:

What you THINK and BELIEVE about yourself seems true to YOU even though it may not line up with the truth of your true identity.

Therefore, what God wants to do is to use His truth to renew your mind and to set you free from your false beliefs. We have discussed before that **knowing** the truth and **believing** the truth are two separate issues. You now know that you have a new identity. The question is do you really believe it? As you seek the Spirit to renew your mind, He will take you from knowing the truth to believing the truth that you have a new identity.

God wants to RENEW your mind to the truth of your new identity so that your BELIEFS about yourself will line up with your true identity.

Personal Testimony: I shared that I had strongholds of fear 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 and accepted, I did not believe that those things were true of me. However, the fact that I did not believe God's truth at that time did not change the fact that it was true. As God began renewing my mind to His truth, I began to believe that I am fearless and accepted.

Exercise: Go back to the list of the characteristics of your true identity in Lesson Three and mark those characteristics that you now **know** are true but that you really do not **believe** are true of you. Then ask yourself this question, "Does my unbelief about my true identity change the fact that what God says is true of me 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.

Example: "Lord, I am entrusting the false belief that I am an inadequate person to You, and I am asking You to renew my mind to the truth that I am totally adequate in my true identity."

Example: "Lord, I believe that I am a self-confident person. Renew my mind to the truth that I am a Christ-confident person and not a self-confident person."

DAY TWO

EMOTIONS – become DAMAGED when they are tied to your lying beliefs

Emotions are part of our human makeup. Emotions tend to be either positive or negative. However, emotions/feelings can become “damaged” when they line up with and reinforce our false beliefs about ourselves.

Emotions that are TIED to our false beliefs become what I call “DAMAGED” emotions.

Like thoughts, feelings can be an integral part of forming our beliefs. Early on in life we began to feel certain ways about ourselves (i.e. inadequate, insecure, self-confident, etc.). If these feelings continue and begin to attach themselves to our beliefs of inadequacy, insecurity, or self-confidence, our feelings will begin to reinforce our false beliefs. When this happens, then “I feel” becomes “I am.” When our emotions reinforce our false beliefs, they become “damaged” emotions.



For example, let’s assume that you have ongoing feelings of insecurity. Let’s assume that you also have a false belief that you are an insecure person. As these feelings continue, they begin to reinforce your false belief to a point where “I feel insecure” is equivalent to saying “I am insecure.” From then on, every time you have feelings of insecurity, they continue to reinforce the false belief that you are insecure. In other words, “I feel” becomes the same thing as “I am.”

***DAMAGED emotions result when
“I FEEL” reinforces our false beliefs that “I AM.”***

The Healing of Our Damaged Emotions

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



God promises to heal our damaged emotions according to Psalm 147:3. As God renews our minds to the truth of our true identity, it will result in the healing of your damaged emotions. How does this work? As God replaces our false beliefs with the truth of our true identity, then those damaged emotions associated with our false beliefs can no longer attach themselves to the false belief because we are now believing the truth. This doesn’t mean that we won’t have those emotions come up from time to time. However, the difference will be that those damaged emotions will no longer automatically take us from “I feel” to “I am.”

At some point in the transformation process, those damaged emotions will no longer have a grip on our soul because the truth of our true identity will be a greater reality than our feelings. Another way of saying it when those damaged emotions come up is, “Because I believe the truth of my true identity, I choose to no longer let those emotions determine my identity.”

For example, you may have a false belief that you are a self-sufficient person. Every time that you feel self-sufficient, it reinforces your false belief that you are self-sufficient. As you seek God to renew your mind to the truth that your sufficiency can only be found in Christ (2 Corinthians 9:8), then when those feelings of self-sufficiency come along, you will find yourself beginning to no longer take ownership of those feelings. (Remember: Early on in this transformation process you will take ownership of those feelings many times.) However, over time, as you begin believing that you are Christ-sufficient, then your feelings of Christ-sufficiency will supersede your feelings of self-sufficiency. The self-sufficient feelings will never fully go away but as you are being transformed, they will no longer take you from “I feel” to “I am.”

I feel the need to emphasize one more time that the healing of our damaged emotions is a PROCESS! The healing will come incrementally as we continue to seek the Spirit to replace the lies with His truth. One final note. Healing of some of your damaged emotions will take longer than others because of the degree of strength that they have over you.

FEELINGS that you have about yourself that are CONTRARY to the truth of your new identity will be transformed as you BELIEVE the truth.

Exercise: Write down some of the damaged emotions that you have that are tied to your false beliefs. For example, “I feel unforgiving” is tied to the belief that “I am an unforgiving person.” You might want to refer to the diagram on page 20.

Meditate: on Psalm 147:3.

Engaging God: Using what you wrote down above, begin asking God to heal your damaged emotions.

DAY THREE

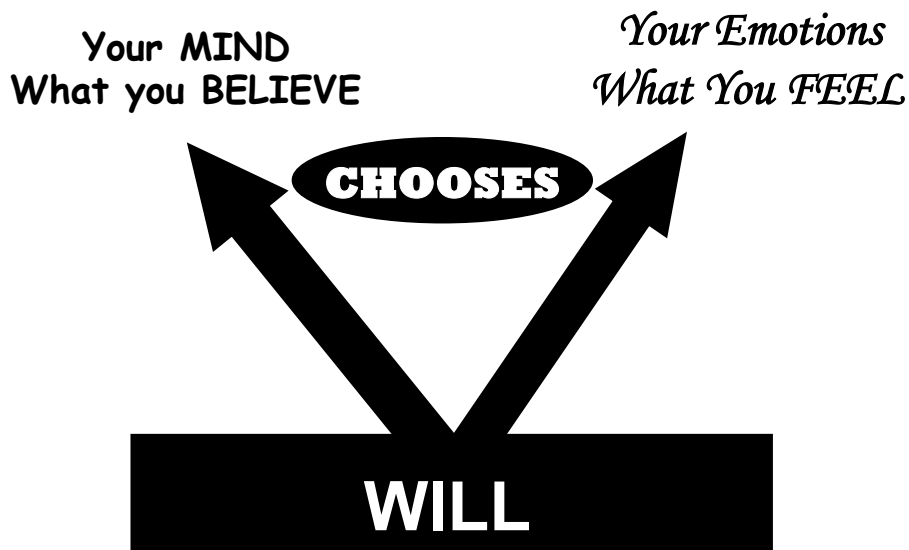
WILL – is making CHOICES based on your false beliefs

As we have discussed before, from your will you make choices. When it comes to your identity, the will has two choices. You either choose to live from your true identity or you choose to live from your false beliefs. Which choice you make will determine whether you stay in bondage to the lies or be set free by His truth.

In addition, we need to understand that the will is directly tied to what we believe and how we feel. In regard to your identity, look at this key truth:

***Your WILL makes CHOICES based on what you BELIEVE
or how you FEEL about yourself.***

The next diagram illustrates this truth:



**You WILL make choices based on what
you BELIEVE or what you FEEL**

If you do not seek the Lord to renew your mind and heal your damaged emotions, you will continue to choose to live from those beliefs and emotions. Each time your will makes that choice, you reinforce your false beliefs. (Remember: It may be more of a subconscious choice than a conscious one.) Continuing to reinforce your false beliefs will only make it a more difficult path to be set free from because those false beliefs become more entrenched. In addition, there is another problem:

When you CHOOSE to continue living from your false beliefs and damaged emotions, the result will be FLESHLY BEHAVIORS.

Remember from Lesson One we said that living from the “flesh” is the result of living from our false beliefs. It is also the result when we live from our damaged emotions. From the flesh flow fleshly behaviors. I think it is important to reemphasize this point to understand why it is so crucial that we allow the Holy Spirit to transform our mind, will, and emotions. If we don’t, then we continue living in the “death” of our fleshly behaviors.

Let me share a personal example to make this point. I had a false belief that I was inadequate coupled with ongoing damaged emotions of inadequacy. The result of choosing to live from my false belief resulted in fleshly behaviors of being critical, judgmental, and self-righteous. I wasn’t necessarily making a conscious choice to live from these behaviors. They were simply the overflow of living from my false beliefs. The longer I lived from these false beliefs and damaged emotions, the more entrenched the beliefs and the stronger the fleshly behaviors became.

Next, let’s talk about God’s transformation of our will.

God’s transformation of our will

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

I hope that we can now see even more clearly why our minds and emotions need to be transformed. If not, we become “stuck” in living out of our fleshly behaviors. Therefore:

As we seek God to RENEW our minds to the truth and to HEAL our damaged emotions, we will begin choosing to live from the TRUTH of our true identity rather than from our false beliefs.

How does this transformation process work practically? To illustrate, let’s go back to the previous example concerning my inadequacy. Once I began learning my true identity, I began seeking God to renew my mind to the truth of my adequacy in Christ. As God began to renew my mind to the truth, He began to heal my damaged emotion of inadequacy.



What this looked like practically is that as a result of renewing my mind to the truth and with healing of my damaged emotions, my will began saying “no” to thoughts and emotions of inadequacy. In other words, I no longer was taking ownership of those thoughts and emotions. Over time as I began to believe the truth, the Lord began setting me free from my fleshly behaviors. What freedom looked like is that I found myself less and less going to my fleshly behaviors of being critical, judgmental, and self-righteous. In addition, God began replacing these fleshly behaviors with godly behaviors such as love, acceptance, and humility. It

was a supernatural process that took place over a period of time, but increasing freedom from these fleshly behaviors did take place.

Here are some key points to remember in God's transforming process:

1. The renewing of your mind to your true identity may take longer in some areas than others because some of your false beliefs are STRONGER than others because you have believed them for a longer time.
2. Therefore, it may take walking by faith for SOME TIME before you experience any significant change in your thinking, feelings, or behavior.
3. During those times that you don't feel that the Spirit is moving quickly enough to transform you, ask Christ to BE your patience and perseverance.
4. Early on, your DEFAULT choice will be to go to your fleshly behaviors. However, as you are being transformed over time, you will find your fleshly behavior being transformed into godly behavior.
5. Seek God to reveal to you a thought, choice, or behavior that is CHANGING as you seek Him to renew your mind.

Engaging God: Seek the Lord to begin replacing your fleshly behaviors with godly behavior.

What Are The Results of A Transformed Soul?

"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you FREE." John 8:32

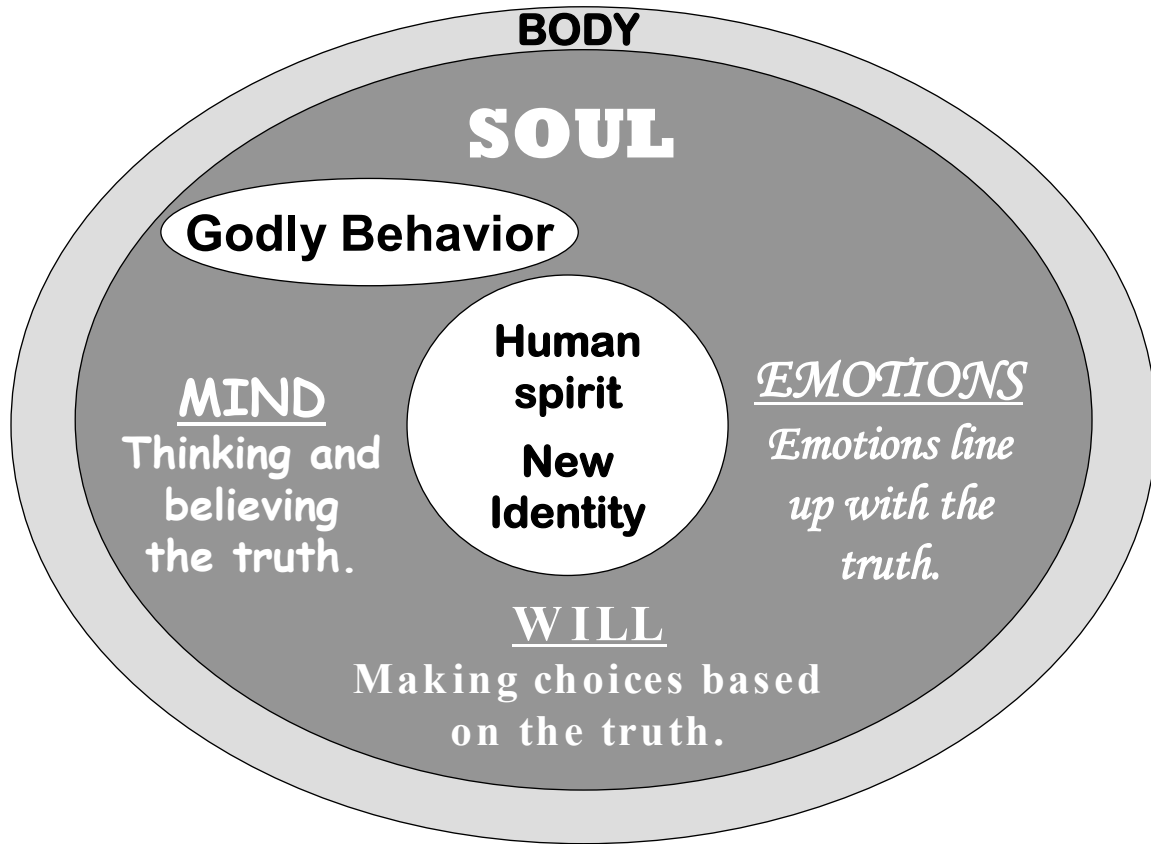
**God wants to TRANSFORM your soul so that your mind, will, and emotions
LINE UP with your true identity in your human spirit.**

Let's summarize this section by looking at what the results are if you allow God to transform your soul:

1. Your **mind** will begin to **think** and **believe** the truth of your true identity.
2. Your **emotions** will begin to **line up** with the truth of your true identity.
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.

The diagram below illustrates the results as God transforms our soul so that our mind, emotions, will, and behaviors line up with the truth of our true identity.

Transformation Of The Soul



KEY TRUTH

Remember that transformation is a LIFE-LONG process.

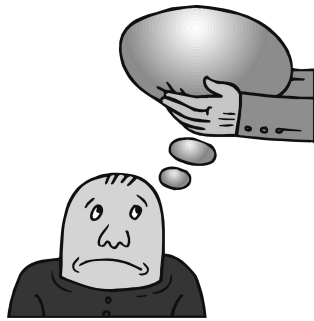
Our soul is CONTINUOUSLY being transformed to believe God's truth.

DAY FOUR

What Steps of Faith Look Like Concerning Your Identity

Steps of Faith Concerning Your Lying Beliefs

Engaging God: Take one of your lying beliefs from 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.”

Key Point: I believe that it is important to use and verbalize God’s truth as you take steps of faith.

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.”

Steps of Faith Concerning Living From Your True Identity

Engaging God: Go to 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 at the end 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 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.”

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 that 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 I do not have to take ownership of that rejection. As You do this, move me away from my fleshly desire to reject back to my spouse.”

DAY FIVE

Steps of Faith and Identity In The Workplace

Key truth: Many Christians 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.”

Engaging God: Begin taking steps of faith in one or more of these areas concerning your true identity.

Key Truths To Remember During Your Walk of Faith

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.:

1. It is crucial to understand that being transformed to live out of your true identity 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, but you can know by faith that God IS working.
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.
6. If you walk LONG enough by faith, changes WILL take place.

Key Truth:

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

How Do We Know That Changes Are Taking Place?



The promise is that you will eventually experience the changes that God is making in your thoughts, emotions, choices, and behaviors. Let’s take a closer look at what you can expect.

1. You begin to have thoughts that line up with the truth versus your false beliefs of old.
2. As your mind is being renewed, your emotions will begin to line up with your thinking.
3. This does not mean that you won't have feelings that are tied to your false beliefs, but you will find yourself not responding to them as often.
4. As your mind is being renewed and your emotions line up with God's truth, you will find yourself making choices based on His truth.
5. As you are being transformed, God will transform your fleshly behaviors into godly behaviors.

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.

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 that you are 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 because God wants you to **cooperate** with Him by faith in order for you to be set 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?

Lesson Five

The Resistance To God's Transforming Process

"The Line" And Your True Identity

DAY ONE

Introduction

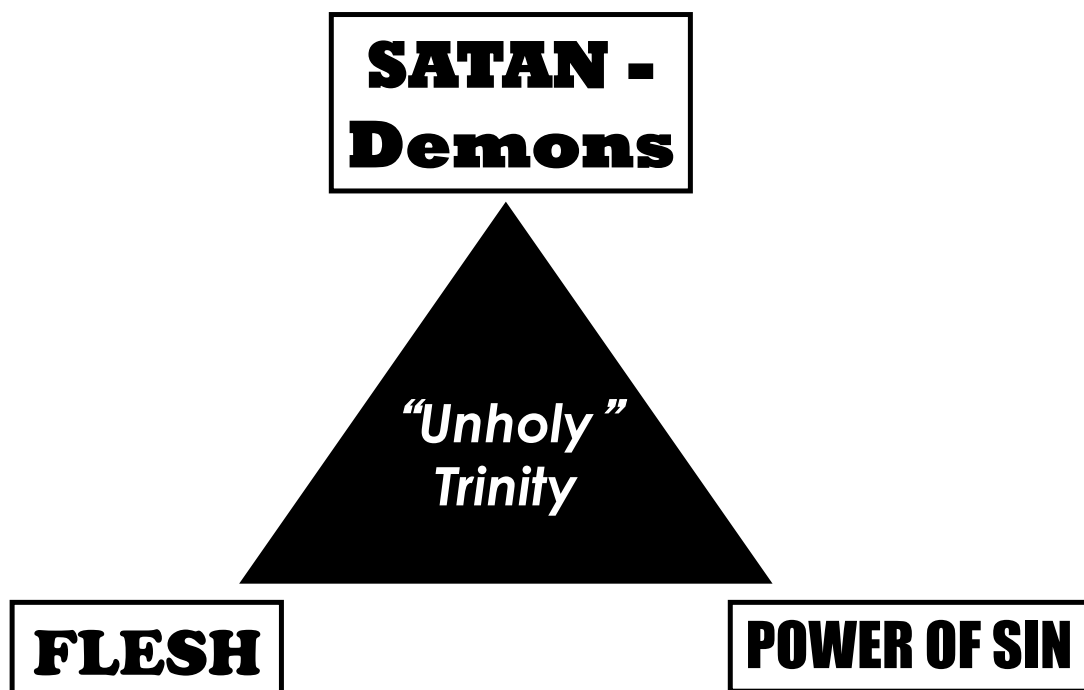
In the last lesson we looked at what it looks like to take steps of faith for God to renew our minds to our true identity. When we take steps of faith we will meet resistance to God's transforming process. Therefore, we will look at how to engage God to overcome this resistance.

The RESISTANCE To God's Process

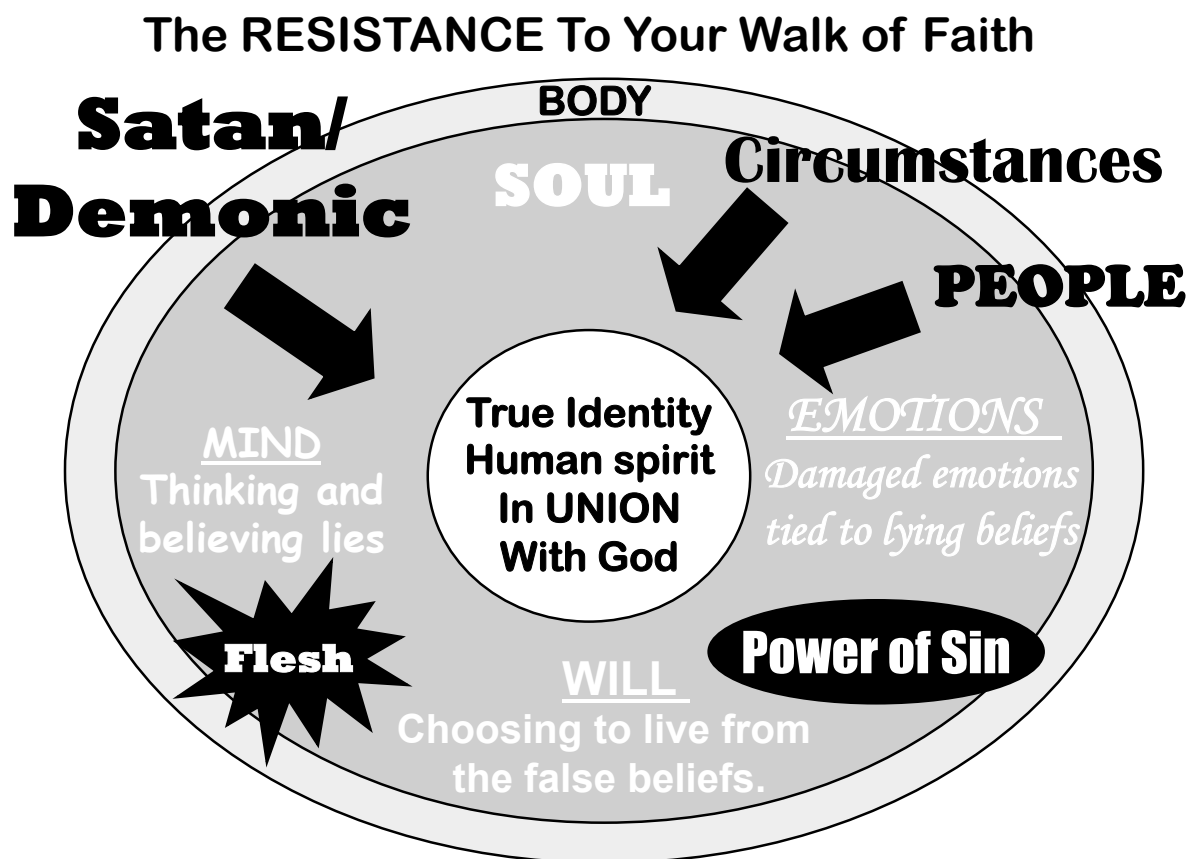
Three causes of the resistance are part of the "unholy trinity"

- The Flesh
- The Power of Sin
- Satan/Demonic

The "Unholy" Trinity



However, there are two other causes that create resistance in our walk of faith. One is circumstances and the other is people. Below illustrates that we have internal resistance from the flesh and the power of sin and external resistance from Satan/demonic, circumstances, and people.



There will be non-stop RESISTANCE to God's process of transformation from your flesh, the power of sin, Satan/demons, circumstances, and people.

Therefore, let's begin by looking at how our flesh resists God's transformation process.

1. Fleshly Resistance



First of all, since you have been living with your false beliefs and fleshly behaviors, then any desire to change will create resistance because your fleshly behaviors are so entrenched.

Therefore, when people or circumstances trigger those false beliefs then the fleshly behaviors associated with those false beliefs automatically “kick” in. They become your “default” behaviors. What is tied to these fleshly behaviors is what I call “fleshly rights.”

Let me give you an example to illustrate this principle. Let's assume that you are the boss of your own company and that you have a false belief of self-confidence. Let's also assume that the

fleshly behaviors that flow out of that false belief are that you become demanding and critical of others.

When you see that one of your employees is not measuring up to your standards then your flesh will say: “I have the **right** to be demanding or critical of that person.” Because your false beliefs and fleshly behaviors are so ingrained in you, your fleshly rights associated with these behaviors become the “default” responses. In other words, you have been demanding and critical so long that you automatically go there when someone does not meet your expectations.

What is the TRUTH?

The truth is that you have NO fleshly rights.

The truth also is that God wants to renew your mind to the truth that your true confidence can only be found in Christ. (Philippians 1:6)

Therefore, what is God’s process of removing your fleshly resistance:



- First, God wants me to DIE to (or turn away from) my fleshly rights. – 2 Corinthians 4:11
- God does that by EXPOSING the “death” that my fleshly behaviors are causing me and others. – Romans 8:6
- Once I recognize the death of my fleshly rights, I must SEEK God to renew my mind with the truth. Matthew 7:7
- As God renews my mind, He will set me free by moving me to a place where I will NO LONGER desire to “exercise” my fleshly rights. - John 8:32

Let’s apply these four principles to our example above. First, the Holy Spirit wants me to die to my fleshly rights to be demanding and critical. He does this by revealing to me the “death” (misery of the soul) that my demanding and critical attitudes are causing me and my employees. Once I see that death, I start taking steps of faith like this:

“Lord, I now see clearly the death my fleshly behaviors and fleshly rights are causing my employees. I am trusting you to renew my mind to the truth and set me free from these fleshly rights.”

After seeking to renew your mind, you will no longer have the desire to “exercise” your fleshly rights. In addition, you will find your behavior changing in that you will be more patient and more understanding of your employees.

Engaging God: Ask God to reveal to you some of your fleshly rights? Seek God to reveal to you the death those fleshly rights are causing and set you free from them.

DAY TWO

2. How The Power of Sin Resists Your Walk of Faith

Remember, that the power of sin serves up your fleshly behaviors like a server at a restaurant would serve up a “dessert” tray. Early on in your walk of faith the power of sin has a strong grip on your false beliefs. However, as you allow God to renew your mind to your true identity, you will find that the power of sin in that particular area will have less and less a grip on you.

Example: Let’s assume that you have a strong false belief of feeling or believing you are rejected. Let’s also assume that the power of sin serves up such fleshly behaviors as anger, defensiveness, or a desire to reject others when someone or something pushes your beliefs. Let’s say you begin seeking God to renew your mind to the truth that you are accepted and acceptable.

Early on in this transformation process (because the power of sin has such a grip on you) you will take ownership of and react with one or more of these behaviors. However, as God begins renewing your mind to the truth the power of sin will try to serve up the fleshly behaviors but you will find yourself resisting taking ownership of them. Why?

Experiencing The Truth = POWER

What do I mean? As your belief in the truth of your true identity grows stronger, you will find yourself experiencing more of God’s power. This power is a “spiritual” willpower that will over time begin to overpower the power of sin.



Think of it this way. Let’s say a body builder which represents the power of sin is arm wrestling with a young boy which represents your willpower. When they arm wrestle the power of sin will always overpower the willpower to resist. However, as you take steps of faith (exercising your faith) there will be a time where God has moved your “spiritual” willpower to a place where you say “no” to the power of sin and don’t take ownership of any of the fleshly behaviors the power of sin is serving up.

Engaging God: Seek God in one particular truth of your true identity and ask Him to grow your spiritual willpower to say NO to the power of sin when it serves up your fleshly behaviors.

3. Satanic/Demonic Resistance To Your Walk of Faith

We have talked about it before but the last thing that Satan and his demonic forces want is for you to be set free. You see, Satan and his demons know the truth of your true identity. They know the freedom and transformation that will take place if you start walking in the truth. Therefore, their overall strategy is to keep you in bondage to your false beliefs about yourself.

***To accomplish this, they will try and KEEP you from
KNOWING the truth of your true identity.***

However, if Satan/demons can't keep you from knowing the truth, they will do everything they can to derail your walk of faith as you seek God to renew your mind to the truth. They primarily do this through your thoughts.

Here are some examples of how the Satan/demons create resistance in our minds to God's transformation process:



1. Insert **condemning** thoughts when you go back to your fleshly behavior.
 - a. "Look at you. You failed again."
 - b. "You must be doing something wrong because nothing is changing."
2. Try to create **doubt** in your mind by inserting thoughts like:
 - a. "You will never be set free."
 - b. "This walk of faith is really not working."
 - c. "You might as well give up."
3. Create doubt in your mind about **God's ability or willingness** to renew your mind.
 - a. "If God can renew your mind, why hasn't He done it by now."
 - b. "This false belief is too strong for even God to transform."

Early on in the transformation process, you will buy into these condemning and doubting thoughts. However, at some point you need to catch yourself and seek the Lord to show you the origin of your thoughts. As you grow in your walk of faith, your discernment will grow to a point where you will more readily know that those thoughts did not originate with you.

Let me give you a personal example. I remember early on when I was beginning to teach these identity truths. I was very much in the early stages of being persuaded that I was truly adequate in Christ. My beliefs of inadequacy were still pretty strong. I will never forget the first conference I taught. After I was done what I heard was: ‘They didn’t get what you were saying. You really did a poor presentation. You will never teach as well as the experienced teachers.’

When I look back on that time, it is very clear to me that Satan or his demons were trying to derail me early on from teaching these truths. However, as the Lord renewed my mind to truth that my adequacy is in Him then I would more readily discern the origin of these thoughts.

Key Point To Remember: Satan/demonic are not totally responsible for all of our lying, condemning, or doubting thoughts. Our own mind can produce those thoughts as well. The key point is that as we grow in our walk of faith our discernment will grow to a place where we no longer take ownership of those thoughts.

Engaging God: As you encounter lying, condemning, or doubtful thoughts concerning your true identity, begin the “holy habit” of asking God the origin of those thoughts.

DAY THREE

4. How Circumstances Create Resistance

Circumstances can create resistance to God's renewal process by triggering our lying beliefs, damaged emotions, and fleshly behaviors. Let me give you an example:

Let's assume that you have the false belief that you are a fearful person. You go to work and find out that there are impending layoffs at your business. In that moment when you hear this news, great fear grips you. At that moment you take ownership of the fear, which reinforces your false belief, and paralyzes your thoughts and feelings.

Engaging God: What recurring circumstances are keeping you from experiencing freedom from a particular false belief? Seek the Lord to reveal to you that He will use that circumstance to reveal your need for Him and move you into a deeper dependence on Him to transform you in that area.

5. People Can Create Resistance



People can create resistance especially if you are in a close friendship or you are married. Negative or condemning remarks from these relationships can reinforce your false beliefs about yourself. Another way in which relationships can cause resistance to God's work in our lives is in the area of unforgiveness. If you have been hurt or rejected by another person which reinforces your false belief that you are rejected, then your flesh might say "I have the right to not forgive."

Therefore,

Engaging God: Are there people in your life that because of their fleshly remarks or attitudes are keeping you in bondage to your false beliefs or are creating an attitude of unforgiveness in you? Seek God to give you the "spiritual" willpower to not take ownership of someone else's fleshly remarks or attitudes.

In summary, it is important to understand there will be overt and covert resistance from within from external sources as well. I want to end this lesson by discussing what I call "The Line." I trust this illustration will help give you a more practical understanding of God's transformation process.

"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.

SPIRIT

(Human spirit in union with the Spirit of God)

SOUL

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

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.

<i>Being able to live in the UNSEEN realm is a reality only for Christians.</i>

DAY FOUR

“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 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

Seen Realm - EXPERIENCE

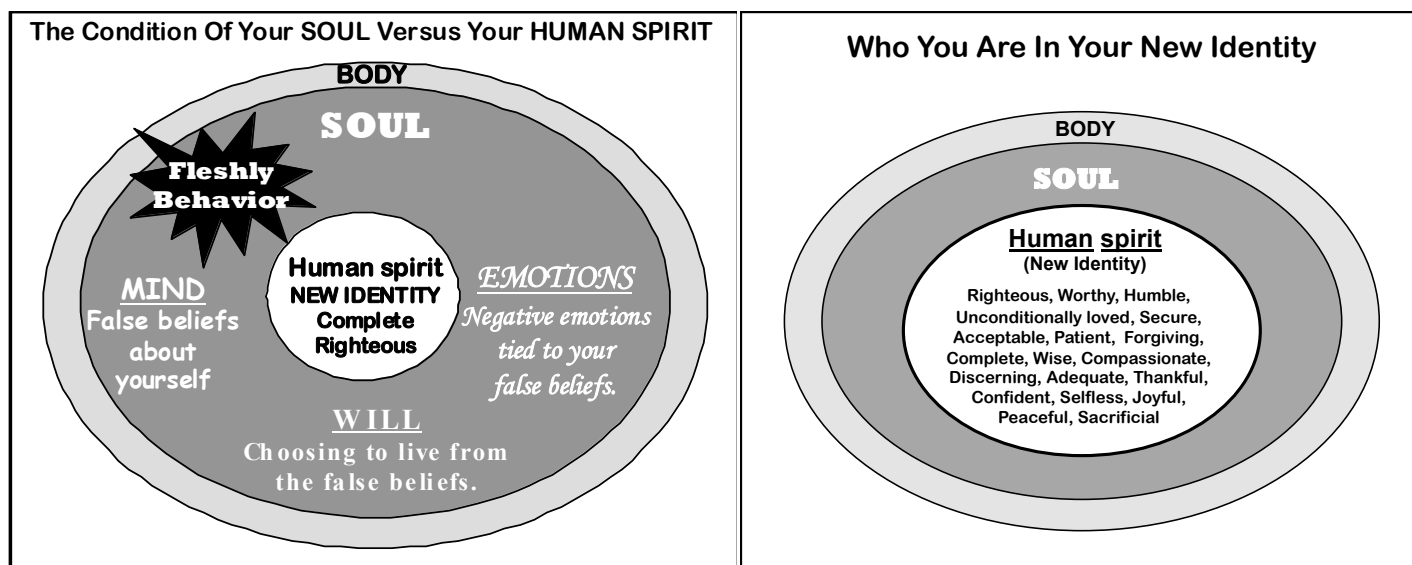
SOUL

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

New Identity In The Spirit Versus Condition of The 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

Damaged Emotions Tied To Lying Beliefs

Will choosing to live from false beliefs.

Fleshly Behavior

DAY FIVE

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.

God’s desire is that we live ABOVE “The Line” in our true identity.

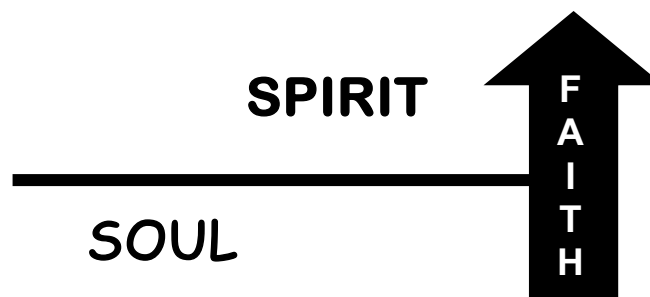
How Do We Live Above “The Line?”

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*

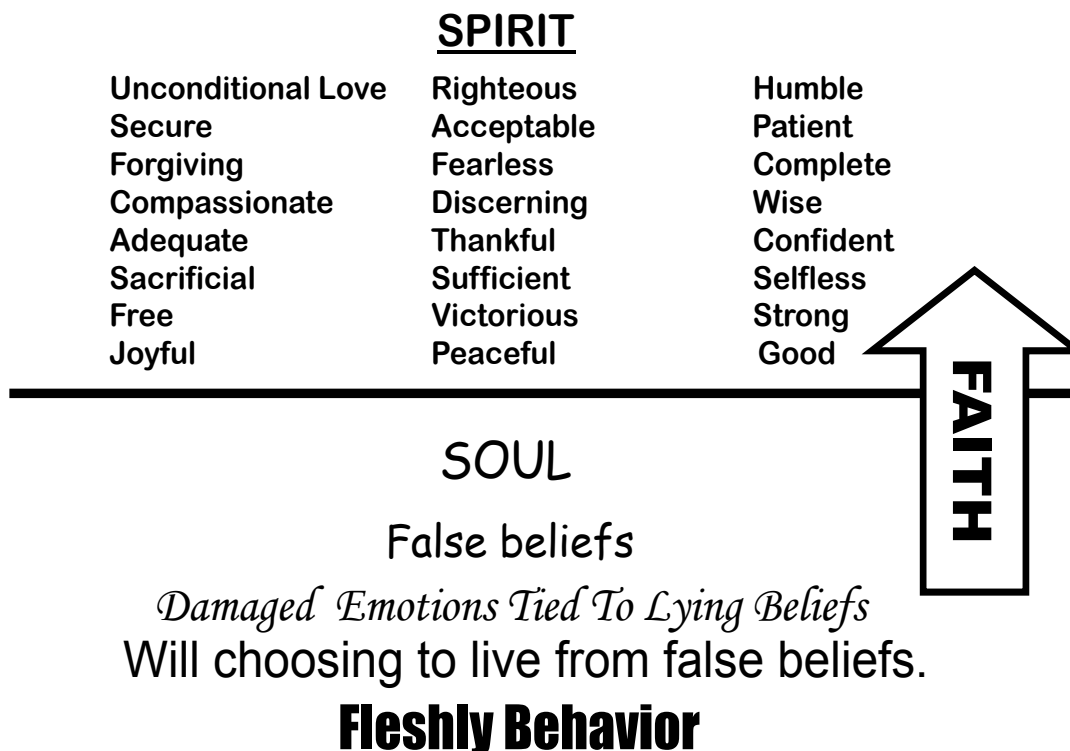
The following diagram illustrates how faith takes us from living from our soul to living in our spirit:



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

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 Live ABOVE The Line



"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.

As we take steps of faith, God's power is released to transform our soul to believe and choose to live from the truth of our true identity.

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

SPIRIT

Unconditional Love
Secure
Forgiving
Compassionate
Adequate
Sacrificial
Free
Joyful

Righteous
Acceptable
Fearless
Discerning
Thankful
Sufficient
Victorious
Peaceful

Humble
Patient
Complete
Wise
Confident
Selfless
Strong
Good

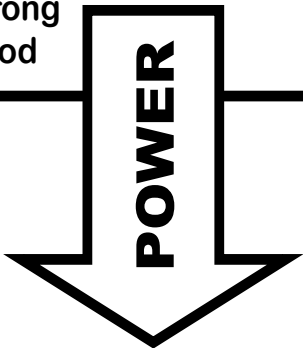
SOUL

Renew our minds to the truth

Damaged emotions line up with the truth.

Will choosing to live from the truth

Christ-like Behavior



POWER

Summary

I hope this analogy of the line helps give you a better visual of the difference between the condition of the soul and the human spirit.

Lesson Six

Experiencing Christ-Like Attitudes In The Soul

Final Truths About Our True Identity

DAY ONE

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.**

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:

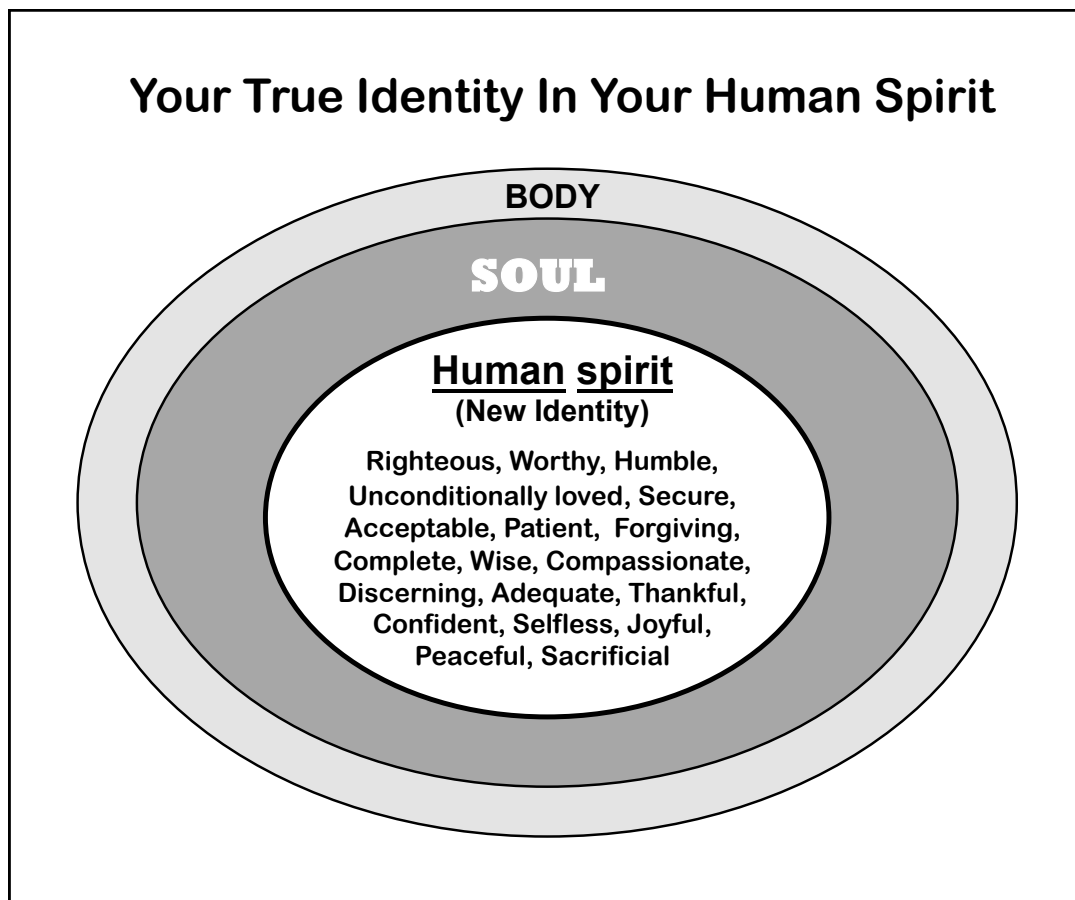
*“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive** whatever grievances you may have against one another. **Forgive** as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on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

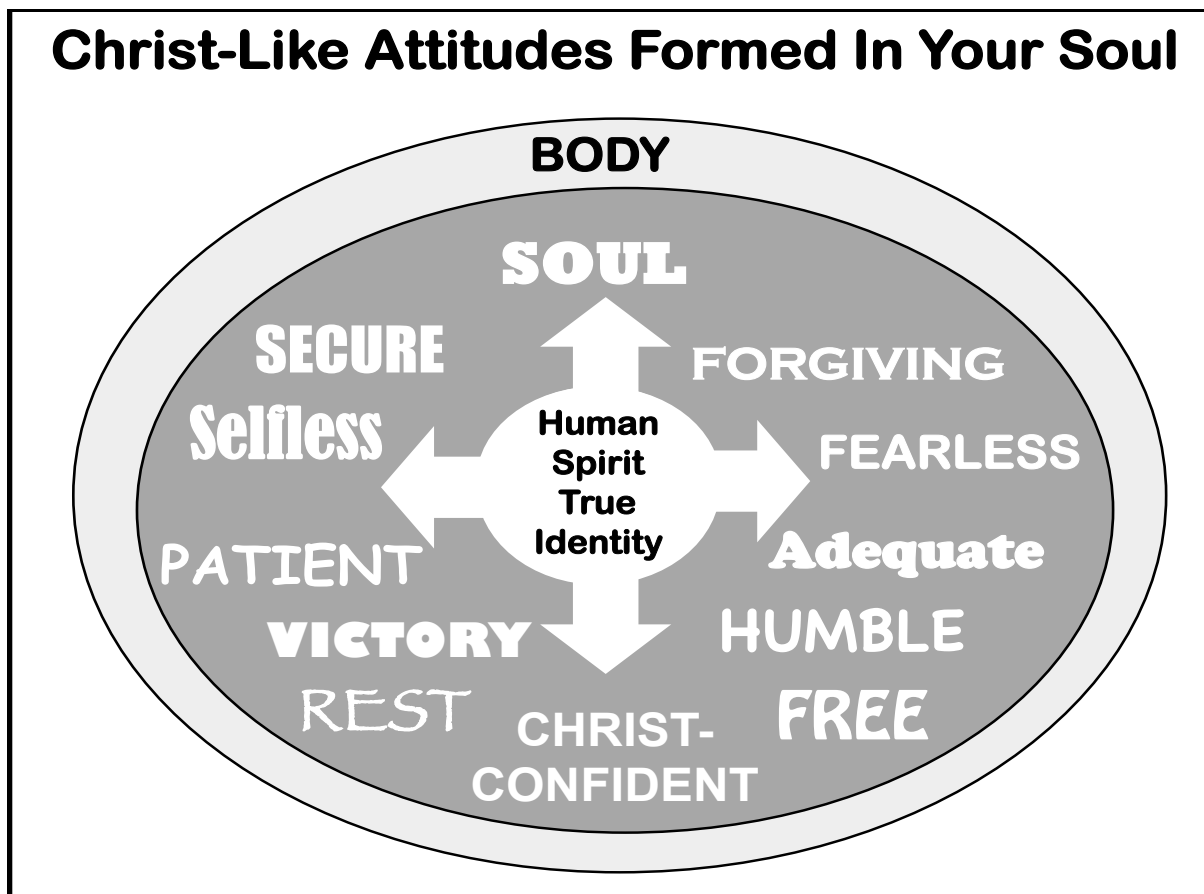
Unconditional love	Worthy	Humble
Secure	Acceptable	Patient
Forgiving	Christ-confident	Fearless
Compassionate	Discerning	Wise
Adequate	Thankful	Kind
Sacrificial	Righteous	Selfless
Free	Victorious	Strong
Joyful	Peaceful	Good

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?

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:



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.
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.

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. The diagram on the following page illustrates this truth.

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

Another way to illustrate this is in the diagram below.

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

DAY TWO

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 rejected. You begin taking steps of faith, and as you do, you will discover that you will be experiencing Christ's security, adequacy, and rejection. Each step of faith that you take will increase the experiential reality of your security, adequacy, and acceptance in Christ. The next diagram illustrates God's process in the soul:

Transformation Of The Soul

**Secure
Adequate
Accepted**

SPIRIT

SOUL



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

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.

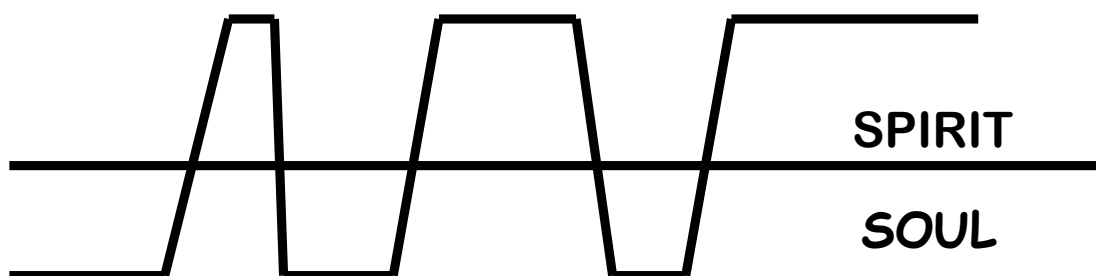
In addition, as you begin to walk by faith, you have what I call a "weak" faith or what Jesus calls "little" faith. Your weak faith is a result of the level of your unbelief in who God is and what He can and will do. Along with your weak faith is your "strong" false belief and the accompanying flesh. 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.

A Realistic View Of Your Walk Of Faith

You spend MORE time living from your true identity.



**You spend LESS time living from your false beliefs
and fleshly behaviors.**

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 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.

Final Truths About God's Transformation Process

#1 Early On In Your Walk of Faith You Will Need To Be Intentional About God's Transforming Process

Because your lying beliefs may be entrenched early on, it is crucial to be intentional in your walk of faith. By this I mean that many times early on it is important to seek God to renew your mind and set you free. Also, because the resistance is stronger early on it is important to intentionally seek God's power to break down the resistance.

#2 - 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 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?"

Engaging God: If you are struggling with God's timing concerning your transformation, seek Him to be your patience as you move down the path of transformation.

#3 - God's Transformation In Your Life Is Supernatural!

*"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.

DAY THREE

#4 - 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:

***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.

#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.

#5 – As You Begin To Be Transformed Your God-Confidence Will Grow

I will never forget when I began to experience freedom from my false beliefs of inadequacy and anxiety. My confidence in God's ability began to grow. I was now experiencing His adequacy and His peace. As my behaviors began to line up with the truth and I was no longer in bondage to anger and a critical attitude, my God-confidence grew even more. Therefore, if you walk long enough by faith then you will experience transformation and you will find your confidence in God's ability grow.

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:

*“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.

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

DAY FOUR

What It Look Like In Your Daily Life To Live From Your True Identity

MARRIAGE

What are some of your needs in the marriage relationship?

1. Identity
2. Unconditional love
3. Acceptance
4. Forgiveness
5. Value/Worth
6. Selflessness
7. Security

Identity

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

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

Question: How might it change how you see your wife if you see her as a new creation in Christ rather than you focusing on her 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 husband no longer have to try to get your need of unconditional love met by your wife. Since that need is met in Christ, you can ask Christ to unconditionally love your wife through you.

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

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 wife'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 wife's rejection?

Forgiveness

What are your choices when your wife offends you? You can either forgive your wife, or you can have the attitude that your wife 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 wife 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?

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 as men by our wives. 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 wife?

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 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.

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.

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?

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 that we men 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."

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

Acceptance

We all want 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.

DAY FIVE

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 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.

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 father 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.
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."

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.

Remember That You Have A Choice

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

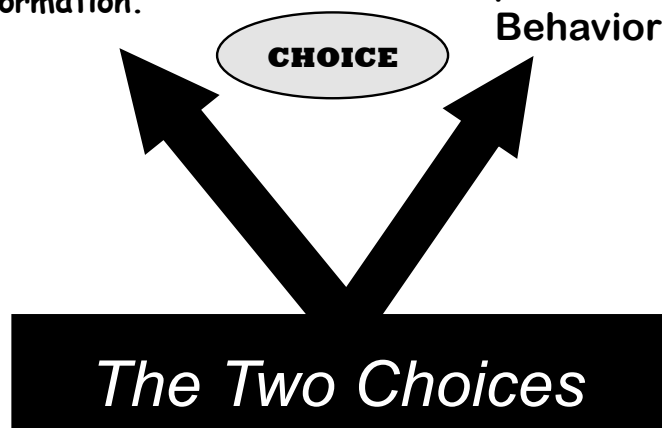
CHOICE #2: To continue walking by faith

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:

**Continue to believe the false beliefs about yourself =
More misery, fleshly behavior
and no transformation.**

**Living From Your True Identity
= Renewed Mind, Freedom,
and Experiencing Christ-like
Behavior**



What Choice Will You Make?

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 false 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.”***

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 your true identity as a man. 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

Where Do I Go From Here?

At our website listed below, we encourage you to check out our four-part discipleship series called ***Growing Up – Growing Out – Growing Deep*** designed to teach Christians how to fulfill their purpose and calling. The first book in the series is called ***Growing to Become Like Christ***.



Book One covers the following topics:

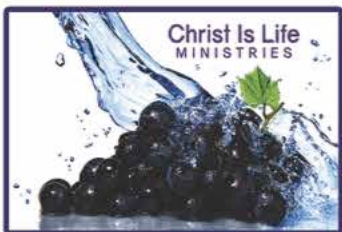
- What it means to grow up spiritually to become like Christ.
- The difference between living “A” Christian life versus living “THE” Christian life.
- What it looks like practically to grow to become like Christ.
- What are some of the hindrances to spiritual growth and how we overcome them.
- How becoming like Christ transforms every area of our lives.

CILM DISCIPLESHIP MATERIALS

CILM has this series and many other studies, booklets and videos at our website listed below. To purchase ready-to-use copies from **Amazon** or **download for free** and do your own printing, copying and binding, please go to the **Discipleship** tab of our website. We hope you will take advantage of these materials.

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(2025-07-15)



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Edition 1