

CLASS 1: THE NEW CREATION

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the end of this class, participants should:

- Know of their salvation and be confident of it.
- Know about the origin of Sin – The Adamic origin. Sin is the nature of the unbeliever, regardless of if he does good or bad.
- Know that forgiveness is available to a Christian if he sins
- Understand that their parentage is of God and He gave them freely because they believed
- Understand the reality of Spirit , Soul and Body

1) The New Creation: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2: 10 [Amplified]; Galatians 6:15
"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a NEW CREATION, old things are passed away and all things are become new" 2 Corinthians 5:17

- This is the cardinal point. The Christian is a NEW CREATION. He is one who never existed or pre-existed, altogether a new man, with a new kind of life and this life comes directly from God.
- This birth is a rebirth in the real sense of the word, because to God this man never had a past, nor existed. He is a brand new person with a new life. Talk about the encounter of Jesus and Nicodemus in John 3:3-4. The term Born Again was given by Jesus, and he said being born again is a MUST and not an option. IT IS ONLY BY BEING BORN AGAIN THAT YOU BECOME A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST JESUS.
- The new creation is God's workmanship created, made, brought to life by God, created in Christ to do good works - *Ephesians 2:10*. The new creation is not remade or refurbished. He is not just endowed with a new character. He is created with the nature of God in his spirit. He hails from God. The Bible says:
For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision availeth much but a new creation. Galatians 6:15.
- The new creation may look the same outside – no change in skin color, size and shape, but the truth is that he is completely new inside, in his spirit. This is so because being born again is of the spirit. Therefore, the new creation now lives his life from the inside.

He has the divine nature of God in his spirit. He is as holy and righteous as God is. What we receive when we get born again is a NEW NATURE.

-What makes a Man a Man is the Human Nature.

-What makes a Tree a tree is the Plant Nature.

-What makes a Dog a Dog is the Animal Nature.

-What makes a Man BORN AGAIN is the NATURE and LIFE of GOD he receives. -To be born again is a MIRACLE; God's Miracle.

ANALOGY:

A fairly used engine in a car with a New Body is a fairly used Car. This is because the ENGINE is the Car. When a Man is born again, he has received a NEW Engine. Even though the body may have a dent or a scratch, because the ENGINE (his Spirit is NEW). He is NEW .

- Now that you are born again, you are born into the family of God.

- The family of God includes all who believed in Him in the past, those who believe in Him now, and those who will in future. God is the father of every believer: this makes all Christians, brethren (brothers and sisters). You therefore are a part of God's family.
 - Ephesians 3:15: *"From whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named"*

- Before we got born again, we were not in the kingdom of God's Son i.e. His family; we were alienated from it. Now as children of God, we have been translated into the kingdom of His Son. By virtue of our salvation, we are born into God's family.

Colossians 1:13: *"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son"*.

 - Eph 2:19 'Now therefore, ye are no more strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God'

- **2) Born of God:** John 1:12-13; Romans 10:9-10, Titus 3:5, John 3:3-6

- This new creation in Christ Jesus is born of God.

A son is the child of his father, born of his father's seed.

 - John 1:12-13 - *But as many as received him, to them he gave power to become the sons of God even to them that believe on his name. Which were born not of blood nor of the will of flesh nor of the will of man, but of God'*

The Bible says to all that believe in His Name, God gave the right to become His sons. In John 1:12-13, God calls the one who believes in His son, born of His seed and God's seed is His WORD. That is why we cry, 'Abba Father' because the very life of God in us makes us His beloved sons, just as much as Jesus is.

- He is not born of man or of the flesh. He is born of God because he received the nature of God in his spirit (John 3:3-6). He first believes in his heart that the Lord Jesus was raised from the dead and then confesses what he believes with his mouth. (Rom. 10:9-10). As soon as this is done, he is

automatically birthed of God.

- **3) The Origin of Sin:** *Rom. 5:14-16, 21, 18-19; Rom. 3:23-28, 1John 2:2.*

- Sin came into this world through Adam, when he disobeyed God and committed high treason against God in the Garden of Eden. The consequence of that action caused the death nature of Satan to pass upon all men and it's because of that nature that all men sinned. Gen. 2:17

- Since then, sin became the nature of every man that is born of Man. You do not have to do anything to sin but rather you sin because you have the nature of sin in you. Rom. 5:14-16, 21, 18-19

- This is the reason why the birth of Jesus could not have been through the agency of Man otherwise Jesus too would have been born a sinner. But Jesus was born of a virgin without a man and so without the sin nature. He also lived above the temptations of sin, (Heb. 4:15) so His blood was pure enough to be the price (*propitiation – atoning sacrifice*) for our justification. He was our substitute. Jesus' death paid for the sin that came by Adam and so Righteousness nature come by Jesus as a free gift to all Men! *Rom. 3:23-28, 1John 2:2.*

- This is the gospel (good news) to all men, to the sinners. This is why we preach!

- **4) Salvation by Grace:** Ephesians 2:2-10; Romans 5:9-13

- Salvation is by grace. You do not have to do anything to attain it. It is a gift from God. All we have to do is receive it by faith. Christ miraculously destroyed the penalty of sin and its power over us on the cross. Through faith in Christ, we stand acquitted or not guilty before God. This is the grace of God at work.

- *“For by grace you were saved through faith, and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Eph. 2:8-9).*

- We became Christians through God's grace, not as a result of any effort, ability, intelligent choice or act of service on our part. It is therefore evident that no action or work we did could have helped us obtain or qualify for salvation. It was by God's grace. All that is required is to believe the lordship of Jesus and confess it with our mouths.

- Romans 5:17. Those who receive abundance of grace and of the free gift of righteousness will reign in life, through Jesus. This is God's word to all Christians; we can reign over all the vices and evil in this world.

5) Assurance of Salvation

Sometimes, the devil likes to deceive God's children by making us feel that we are not saved.

Our assurance of salvation is that thing that lets us know of a certainty that without any doubt, we are born again. Our assurance of salvation is not through our feelings. Two key ways we are **assured of our salvation are:**

a. The Word: Romans 10:9-10, 1 John 5:9-10

We know that we are saved by what the Word of God says concerning our salvation. In Rom. 10: 9-10 we see that you believe with your heart and with your mouth confess what you believe, then you are saved. No matter how doubtful we may feel sometimes, this scripture gives us assurance.

From the Word of God, we know that ‘the witness of God is better’ – 1 John 5:9-10. God Himself witnesses that our salvation is assured by the belief in our hearts and the confessions that our mouths made.

b. The Witness of the Holy Spirit: Romans 8:16

“The Spirit Himself beareth witness that we are the sons of God”.

We may not always feel as though we belong to God, but the Holy Spirit always bears witness with our spirit that we are God’s children. He does this through the inward witness. He lets us know by this witness who we are. The Holy Spirit witnesses with our spirit that is alive to God, that we are born and saved of God. We hear Him communicating with us (our spirit) that we are born again.

By the above two means, we are continually assured of the fact that we are saved despite our feelings. It does not matter what our senses tell us. The only important testimony is the one God gives concerning us!

6) Remission for the Unregenerate: Acts 2:38; Matthew 26:28; Ephesians 1:7

- An unregenerate being is someone who is not yet born again (an unbeliever, a sinner). When a sinner comes to Christ, he does not receive forgiveness. An unbeliever needs to get his sins remitted to be born again - he gets remission of his sins when he believes that Jesus is Lord and confesses this with his mouth. Remission is the actual washing away of sins in such a way that the sin never even existed before. This is being born again.
- Jesus Christ, when He died on the cross of Calvary, died for the whole world, both the regenerate (Christians) and the unregenerate (non-Christians). *“For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sin”* (Matthew 26:28).
- This is why the bible says that if any man is in Christ Jesus, he is a new creation. Old things have passed away, and all things have become new. It is wrong, therefore, for an unbeliever to ask God to forgive him of his sins. Forgiveness belongs to those who are already in a relationship with God, but remission is for the sinner. Our redemption came through His blood.
 - Ephesians 1:8: *“In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”.*

ANALOGY: Use Remission of Money (Western Union Money transfer): Once money is remitted it no longer belongs to the remitter. The remitter can no longer claim that money. The recipient who receives the money becomes the New Owner of the money. In the case of a sinner, his sins are once and for all remitted to Calvary.

7) Forgiveness for the Christians: 1 John 1:9-10; 1 John 2:1-3

• It is possible for a child of God (a Christian) to sin, although this ought not to be. When a Christian does what is wrong or makes a mistake, he does not need to confess the Lordship of Jesus Christ any longer as he did this to get born again. All he needs to do is to be truly sorry and ask God to forgive him as the scripture says and receive forgiveness.

○ *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).*

- If we confess our sins, God forgives us. He is not counting our mistakes against us. God sees us as righteous children always. He sees His son Jesus Christ in us, and sees us through His son, even when we make mistakes. If we make a mistake or sin, all we have to do is confess to Him and He forgives us. We must always believe that He has forgiven us, and not brood over our past mistakes.
 - *“...If anyone (born again child of God) sins, we have an advocate with the father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1)*
- Jesus Christ is our advocate. He has already suffered your penalty in your place. All you need to do is confess and believe that you are forgiven, because He has indeed forgiven you.

8) Man is a Spirit. He has a **Soul** and lives in a **Body**: 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 4:12; Job 4:19; Job 10:11.

A) The Spirit

The Spirit Man got saved 2 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Corinthians 6:17

It is the spirit of man that got saved. This is the man mentioned in 2 Cor. 5:17. His body remains the same. His physical / external appearances remain unchanged, because HE IS SPIRIT.

The human body that houses a man is not the person. The real person is the spirit, the one who got born again. That is the one alive to God and he cannot be seen with the optical eye.

God is Spirit. *“But He who is joined to the Lord is one Spirit with Him” (2 Cor. 6:17).* That tells us that the spirit man is the one that is alive with God.

He lives In the Word of God 1 Peter 2:2; Matthew 4:4; Hebrews 5:12-14

We all need to eat food to grow. Just as the human being (our physical bodies) must eat to stay alive and be healthy, so also the spirit of man must feed to be healthy. **The food for the spirit is the Word of God.** The Christian cannot live on bread alone as Jesus said, but on every one of God's Word (Matthew 4:4). When we are born again, we are spiritual babies and we have to feed to grow. Just as a human being who does not eat well will easily fall ill, so will the human spirit that does not feed on the Word of God be susceptible to attack. If we are healthy, we will grow, that's the only way. Every Christian should be desirous of God's Word, to grow and be nourished by it (1 Peter 2:2, Hebrews 5:14).

As we live by the Word and feed on it our appetite for it increases, hence the development of our spirit is enhanced. Christians cannot live without the Word.

The fruit of the recreated human spirit: Galatians 5:22-23

Fruit refers to the character that we exhibit externally that tells people who we really are. – *By their fruits you shall know them.*

- Just as a tree produces fruits and is recognized by these fruits, so also the spirit (man's spirit) produces character traits that are Christ's nature. These traits that the believer exhibits are used to identify that he is a Christian.
- For these fruits to grow in us depends on how much of Him we know by feeding on His Word and how much we love Him. Jesus Christ is the vine; we are the branches - the fruit bearing part of same vine.
- These fruits are different from *the gifts of the Holy Spirit*. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are spiritual gifts given to believers by the Holy Spirit as He wills. At every point in time the Christian has the fruit of the spirit because they are in his nature.

B) The Soul (Mind)

The soul is the processing centre of man; it houses his emotions, will, feelings and intellect (sensory perception) and is the window between the Spirit and the Body

- **i) The renewal of the mind: Romans 12:1-3; Ephesians 4:21-22**
Before we became Christians our minds and thoughts were filled with things and values of the world, obviously not of God. Therefore, our minds have to be renewed and our thoughts aligned with and consistent with godly living. The mind is the seat of the will, the intellect and the emotion. The information in the mind therefore is what determines what the man will become. Paul said that transformation of our lives comes as we renew our minds. In other words as we take off the old information we had before we got saved and put new ones from the Word of God, our lives will be *transformed*. Old habits that were there before one got born again are stopped as our mind is renewed through the Word of God
- **ii) It is renewed by the Word of God: James 1:13-15; 2corinthians3:18**
Paul, in his second epistle to the Corinthian Church, said that as we behold the glory of God, we are transformed into the same image that we see in the Word, from one level of glory to another. Our mind is renewed by the Word of God. The Word of God is the glory of God. As we behold it, our mind is being renewed and our body is being transformed. The glory of God is revealed in our lives. James said that our life could only produce the right fruit when we consistently behold the Word.

C) The Body

Bringing the body under submission: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Colossians 3:5;

The body has no will of its own. It is either a slave to the senses or a slave to the spirit. Paul lets us know that it is our responsibility to keep our bodies under the rulership of our spirit. The body wants to do what it feels like doing, but many times the feelings in the body may be contrary to the Word of God. At such

times, we put the body under subjection to our spirit. In other words, we tell it what to do. Paul says the reason for putting the body under is so that we do not get disqualified after preaching to others. It is possible to be disqualified for the prize. Anyone who walks by the flesh will definitely be disqualified for the prize, that is

why Jesus said that God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must do so in spirit and in truth. We do not worship God in the flesh, but in the spirit.

9) New Creation Realities. The New Creation.....

- is complete in Him: Colossians 2:9-10; 1 John 2:3
There is nothing else that the believer needs that he does not already have in Jesus Christ. All of God's goodness dwells in Jesus and the Believer is complete in Him.
- has eternal life: John 3:16; John 5:24; 2 Timothy 1:9-10; 1 John 5:11-12
Eternal life is more than life that will not end. Eternal life is the very life of God that makes God, God. This life is in Jesus and if we have Jesus we have this life. We have God in Us!
- now lives in Zion: Hebrews 12:22-24; Colossians 1:13; John 17:14
Believers are not of this world, they are from Zion. Zion is where God is, a place of rest, a place of all possibilities!
- Sits in the place of power: Ephesians 1:19-21; Ephesians 2:6,10; Matthew 28:18-19 Mark 16:16-18.
As believers we sit in the place of power with God. Because of this when we decree a thing it comes to pass. Our words are powerful and they cause changes in situations.
- Is God's address: Colossians 1:27; Ephesians 2:21-22; Corinthians 6:19
Every believer carries God in him because His nature is in us. So when people are looking for God, they should see Him in us. We reflect His glory and personality.
- is God's extension: Jeremiah 51:20-22; Acts 1:8
We are God's outstretched arm. We represent Him to the world. Where they need healing from God, we lay hands, where salvation is needed, we preach the Word.

REVISION QUESTIONS:

- The bible says you are born of God; this means you have the exact kind of relationship Jesus has with God. How true is that?
- Who are those that belong to the family of God?
- How will I be continually assured of my salvation despite what my senses tell me?
- Fidelis is feeling condemned and guilty because he committed a sin. What should he do as a child of God?
- How is Remission of Sin different from Forgiveness of Sin?
- Write short notes on (1) Spirit, (2) Soul and (3) Body.

TODAY'S CONFESSIONS:

"I am a NEW CREATION. I never existed or pre-existed. I am not refurbished. I am altogether a brand new person, with a new kind of life. My new life comes directly from God. I have the everlasting, indestructible and eternal life of God at work in me. The life of God is in every cell of my body. It's in my soul. It's all over me. I am God's workmanship, created in Christ to do good works. I do good works because I am righteous. I am created with the nature of God in my spirit. I hail from God"

"I am a new creation. I may look the same outside but the truth is that I am completely new inside, in my spirit. Therefore, I now live my life from the inside. I have the divine nature of God in my spirit. I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus"

- **SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION**
"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a NEW CREATION, old things are passed away and all things are become new" 2 Corinthians 5:17