WHAT COMES AFTER NEW BIRTH AS A CHRISTIAN?

Becoming a Christian is just the beginning. Jesus has wonderful things He wants to do together with you. Let Him lead you through a quick introduction into what you need to know next.

Living The Victorious Christian Life!

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Introduction

A New but Similar Experience

Becoming a child of God is new and different just like it was for you to be born a human. It was a new world, a new body, a new family, and a new life. You have been training, experiencing, and interacting with people and circumstances that have been shaping and influencing you from the moment you were born. Now, you have been born AGAIN.

A Two-Step Process

God required that you be born a human before you would be able to be born as His child. One of the reasons had to do with power. Just like your parents wouldn't allow you to drive a car until you were "old enough," was because of power. If you weren't ready to handle certain "dangerous" things, they worked with you and trained you to get ready for them. Your heavenly Father has allowed you to be born AGAIN while you are still human so He could get you ready for the kind of power that children of God have.

Supernatural Power

Attitudes and character are the main issue concerning child-of-God power. You and Jesus will be working on these two issues getting you ready for this power. Since you are now a child of God, you are getting spiritually older. Just like you are a certain age based on when you were born, you have a spiritual age. As a human, if you aren't "acting your age," then you aren't maturing at a normal rate.

Keep Learning and Growing

Heb 5:11-14 (NIV) We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to <u>distinguish good from evil</u>.

Things You Need to Know

Just like you needed to have some adults help you get prepared for life, you need mature Christians to explain what you have been born into. What happened to you when you were born into the family of God and became a citizen of His eternal kingdom? If you are willing to learn and give your attention to Jesus and the Bible, you will soon be functioning in the spirit realm with much of the same success as you have with being human. However, as you become more and more successful as a child of God, it will enhance your human life.

Getting Things from God's Word

Understanding The Sinful Nature

As you already know, not one spiritual disease of sin will be allowed to enter God's eternal kingdom. Adam and Eve just committed one sin and it spread around the world. The reason there are wars, famine, pestilence, disease, poverty, and crime is because of the **sinful nature** that got passed to all of Adam and Eve's children. Sin is deadly and very contagious. You were a carrier and a participant. People infected you; and, you infected people. Why? The **sinful nature** that resides in your body is pushing you and everyone else is sin.

Gal 5:19-21 (NIV) The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery (excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures); idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Not All of You Got Cured

You are a child of God and have been forgiven and cured of every past, present, and future sin. For as long as you don't sin on purpose, you have a perfect record with God. But, your body didn't get changed. It still has the **sinful nature** and is still causing you a lot of trouble. So, there are some wonderful things that happened to you as a child of God. Let Jesus help you understand how He is going to help you deal with the animalistic drives, desires, and impulses of your body.

Four "If's" That Can Challenge You

Rom 8:9 (NIV) You, however, are controlled not by the SINFUL NATURE but by the SPIRIT, IF the Spirit of God lives in you. And IF anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. The only way you can cease to be controlled by the sinful nature is to be able to apply this Scripture. If you aren't sure **the Spirit of God lives in** you, or if you aren't sure you **have the Spirit of Christ** in you, then this verse and the following ones will NOT bring their power into you.

Rom 8:10 (NIV) But IF Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. If you aren't sure **Christ is in** you, then you can't be sure your **spirit is alive because of righteousness.** And, you won't be able to get the transformation of your body through the next verse.

Rom 8:11 (NIV) And IF the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He Who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, Who lives in you. If you aren't sure that **the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead is living in** you, then you won't be able to know that **He Who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to** your **mortal** body **through His Spirit, Who lives in** you. This study is designed for Jesus to help you know the truth about these four "ifs."

How To Live by Faith

You Must Live by Faith

Rom 1:17 (NIV) For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is BY FAITH from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." Once you have been born again, it is vital that you get some issues solved in faith. It is your responsibility to live a life of faith that is based on the fact that you believe God and the Bible are telling you the truth. In Romans 8:9-11 there are some "ifs'" that can challenge your faith. YOU have to decide whether or not Jesus and the Holy Spirit came inside you after you did what Romans 10:9-10 told you to do.

Christian Results Come Through Your Mouth and Heart

Rom 10:8 (NIV) But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: Jesus wants to make sure you believe that when you used this, it had the power to make you a Christian. This is how all of Christianity works. The Bible comes alive and real inside you through your mouth and your heart.

Salvation Cured You of All Spiritual Disease

Rom 10:9 (NIV) That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Since you did this, if you believe that the Bible is telling you the truth, then you know you were saved (born as a child of God) at that moment. Since that is true, Jesus and the Holy Spirit came into your body. They joined your spirit inside your body and are now helping you live the Christian life.

Justification Opened the Door to Jesus

Rom 10:10 (NIV) For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. This your proof that you are saved and are justified or healed from every spiritual disease that you have become infected with. Since you are now cured, that made it possible for Jesus and the Holy Spirit to come into your body and be available to help you start succeeding in life.

This Is What You Did

Rev 3:20 (NIV) Here I (Jesus) am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me. You opened the door to your heart when you confessed with your mouth and believed in your heart. This is Jesus telling you what He did when you obeyed Romans 10:9-10. It is Him letting you know that He is inside you. He is now qualifying you for getting the benefits and results of Romans 8:9-11. But, before that is addressed, let Jesus give you some more proof.

This Is Your Proof

1 Cor 6:19-20 (NIV) Do you not know that <u>your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, Who is in you</u>, Whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God <u>with your body</u>. This is your proof that the Holy Spirit came inside your body. Now that all of this has been established by the WORD OF GOD, you can start to look at these next three verses that are based on your faith that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are living inside you.

Moving Forward in Faith

You Are Not Controlled by the Sinful Nature

Rom 8:9 (NIV) You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, <u>if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ</u>. Now Jesus can help you BELIEVE that your body is no longer in control. No matter how long it has controlled you, no matter how addicted you have been, no matter how weak you have been in relationship to your body, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are inside you giving you access to Their power so you can win over your body.

This Is Just Before You Exercise Your Faith

Rom 8:10 (NIV) But if Christ is in you, <u>your body is dead because of sin</u>, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. This verse is laying out what your current condition is. Even though you ARE born again as a child of God, a member of His family, and a citizen of His kingdom, your body stayed the same. It didn't get saved, justified, or born again. It is NOT a Christian; and, it is not changed from its animalistic desires, drives, cravings, impulses, and nature. It still contains its **sinful nature** that drove you and imprisoned you up until you did what it took to be born as a child of God. Now by taking advantage of these Scriptures, you are going to work with Jesus and the Holy Spirit and win.

This Is Where You Believe This Is True

Rom 8:11 (NIV) And if the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He Who raised Christ from the dead <u>will also give life to your mortal bodies</u> through His Spirit, <u>Who lives in you</u>. Now that you know that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are living in you, you are ready to BELIEVE that **the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead is living in** you, and **He Who raised Christ from the dead** gave **life to** your **mortal body.** How? By you reading this and believing it. Now all you have to do is confess with your mouth that: **"The Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead is living in** me, and **He Who raised Christ from the dead** gave **life to** my **mortal body."** Confess this out loud.

The same procedure that you used to be saved and justified is the same one that brings life to your mortal body. It is true that your body will feel too tired to go to church. It will be too bored to read the Bible or do devotions. BUT, you will now have the power to MAKE it do what you want it to do that is spiritual.

This Is Where You Decide to Redirect Your Body
Rom 8:12 (NIV) Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. The **sinful nature** is in your body. Just a short time ago, you didn't have a choice. In between Romans 8:10 and Romans 8:11, you were a prisoner to your body (Rom 7:22-23). Now Jesus is talking to you through Romans 8:12 trying to help you believe that you NOW have a choice. If you decide to fight against that **sinful nature** in your body and no longer feel an obligation to it, you are ready to take your first steps into yielding to and taking advantage of the Holy Spirit's power flowing inside you.

Your First Attempts at Forcing Your Body to Do Good
Rom 8:13-14 (NIV) For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if BY the Spirit YOU put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. This is where Jesus helps you understand where to put your faith so you can start bringing your body under your control.

1. **For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die:** You are to be tested at this point. Is there anything that you know of that your conscience, the Bible, or Jesus is speaking against that you are NOT WILLING to give up? Your whole relationship with God is based on your God-given free will. He WILL NOT help you, if you have something you are willfully holding on to. If you go through this and it doesn't work, it damages you. You need to understand that God only responds to honesty, integrity, and sincerity. You can't fool Him. If you sincerely want to start on this journey of putting **to death the misdeeds of the body,** you are ready to take the next step.

   But if BY the Spirit YOU: You are going to do what you have been trying to do but failing. As long as it was just the "**YOU"** that was trying to **put to death the misdeeds of the body,** it was all human effort and you remained **a prisoner of the law of sin at work within** your **members.** But now, you are doing it, believing that the Holy Spirit is backing your efforts with supernatural power.

2. **If BY the Spirit YOU put to death the misdeeds of the body:** This is done moment-by-moment and issue-by-issue all during your day. When something comes up where the Holy Spirit speaks to your conscience and warning you that you are about to think, feel, say, or do something that is wrong, bad, or evil. It is at that moment that you can "decide" not to do it. You can start thinking about something else and stop a bad thought. You can stop and change the wording in a statement. You can say "no" to an invitation to do something wrong.

You need to know that you will feel the same as you did before. However, it is VERY important for you to know that it is NOT the same. The Holy Spirit is empowering you to do the right things. He is enabling you to make decisions, redirect your eyes from something bad, say "no" to something very tempting, and empower you to walk away from the situation victorious.

3. **If BY the Spirit YOU put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live:** It all has to do with your faith. If you believe the Holy Spirit is empowering you, then He is! If you believe that you are just getting better at it, you will lose. If you start practicing this procedure in faith, believing that it is the Holy Spirit empowering you, your life will head in the direction of Biblical living.

The Heart and Mouth System

Applying This Procedure to All Scriptures

Rom 10:8 (NIV) But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming. This verse is telling you that the Word of God is near you. So, let Jesus take you through this powerful method that will help you enhance your putting **to death the misdeeds of the body,** and all the other spiritual things you read in the Bible to live and do.

1. **The word is near you:** This is talking about the Bible. All the words in the Bible are **near you.** They are right there ready to be incorporated into your life. All you have to do is see that they can be transferred from the Bible into your life because God has made them **near you.**

2. **It is in your mouth:** The **"it"** means the Word of God. The Word of God is in your mouth. Once you were born again, you were made a child of God. Children of God have the words of the Bible available in their mouth. If you read a Scripture and it is one that God wants you to have and live, all you have to do is speak it and the first step of getting it has been accomplished. If it is one YOU want, then you can speak it all day long and nothing will happen. Plus, that kind of running your own life hurts you. It can cause you to start believing that God's spiritual procedure doesn't work.

3. **And [it is] in your heart:** The next step in this two-step spiritual system is, believing in **your heart.** Faith and believing will be a life-long journey for you. But, for now, the simplest aspects of your faith are found in Hebrews 12:2.

The Journey of Faith

Faith Comes from Jesus

Heb 12:2 (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. You can't believe ANYTHING without Jesus giving you faith for it. He controls who believes what in the spirit realm. And, nothing is done in the spirit realm without faith. So, this arrangement keeps new and untrained Christians from doing massive damage to themselves, other people, and God's plan.

Using your experience with salvation, you can learn how to live the Christian life successfully. It will be necessary to let Jesus take you back to the moment when you did what Romans 10:9-10 told you to do. If you believe that doing those things in Romans 10:9-10 made you a child of God, a member of His family, and a citizen in His kingdom, then this will be very meaningful and faith-building.

Letting The Salvation Experience Train

Rom 10:9 (NIV) That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. This was probably a blur in your mind. So many new things were coming at you that you may not really remember what all you did. So, it may take Jesus leading you back into it even though you may not remember. The main thing is to let Him show you what you did and then help you realize that, that simple process of confessing and believing caused you to be born into God's family. It turned you into a child of God and a citizen of His eternal kingdom.

Body Control Through Confession and Believing

From One Miracle to The Next

Since confessing and believing was able to turn you into a child of God, it makes it easier for you to believe that it will be able to help you gain control over your body. It is just a matter of you applying this confession and believing system to Romans 8:13. You will just use the middle part of that verse to work on.

Applying The Principle

If BY the Spirit YOU put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live: You will need to confess this with your mouth and believe that it is true in your heart. It is a matter of you believing that the Bible only tells the truth. You will take this segment of this verse and turn it into a confession. Go back to your salvation experience and let Jesus show you how you turned that verse into a confession and an item to believe in.

Building On a Miracle
If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord": You were presented this segment of this verse and were led into turning it into a confession like, "I confess that Jesus is Lord." This is now what Jesus is leading you into with the segment out of Romans 8:13.

If BY the Spirit YOU put to death the misdeeds of the body: Let Jesus lead you into a confession with your mouth saying something like, "I confess that I can put to death the misdeeds of my body by the Holy Spirit."

If you…believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead: Since you became a child of God through believing in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, can you believe that, **if BY the Spirit YOU put to death the misdeeds of** your **body, you will live?** This is teaching you how to use the system of confession with your mouth and believing in your heart. It also is helping you realize that the Bible always tells the truth. And, it is teaching you HOW to get the truths from the Bible into the actions of your life.

Practical Applications

I Can Make My Body Go to Church
Heb 10:25 (NIV) Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Now for some practical applications of putting **to death the misdeeds of the body.** Rather than you going somewhere that would influence you in the wrong direction, let Jesus help you take faith-action and demonstrate that the confession and believing work. Even though your body may not want to go to church, you NOW have the power to make it go.

I Can Make My Body Read the Bible
2 Tim 3:16-17 (NIV) All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. Even though your body would rather do something fun and entertaining to it, you can NOW make your body give your spirit powerful food from God's Word.

I Can Make My Body Do Devotions
2 Tim 2:15 (AKJV) Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Even though devotions don't do the same for your body as does reading some worldly material, you can make it go to the study place and do daily devotions.

The more you practice making your body do those things that bring spiritual power, the easier it will be to make your body do things that are living the truths of the Bible. The next thing you will need to start practicing is keeping your body from sinning.

Putting To Death the Misdeeds

Identifying Misdeeds

Gal 5:19 (NIV) The acts of the SINFUL NATURE are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery (excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures);

Gal 5:20 (NIV) idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy;

Gal 5:21 (NIV) drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

I Can Keep My Body from Doing Sinful Nature Things

Rom 8:13-14 (NIV) For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if BY the Spirit YOU put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. AFTER you have had some time making your body do spiritual things, you should be much more powerful in your spirit. You should have more practice, skill, experience, and success. It will then be time for you to start using confessing with your mouth and believing in your heart concerning **sinful nature** issues.

Moment-By-Moment and Issue-By-Issue

Mat 4:1-4 (NIV) Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. The tempter came to Him and said, "If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

If you approach prayer and requests to God concerning helping you with spiritual issues like most Christians, you will want to get God's help through general prayers. You will typically pray a prayer about Romans 8:13 as a general prayer of something similar to, "Jesus, help me, by the Spirit, to always put to death the misdeeds of my body." But, Christianity is lived moment-by-moment and issue-by-issue. When Satan came to Jesus, Jesus wasn't able to resist him in general. He had to deal with each temptation with a specific Scripture. At that MOMENT, He had to deal with that first temptation as a specific ISSUE.

All Day Long

John 15:5 (NIV) "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do NOTHING. As you are going through your day, you need to learn how to include Jesus in every decision you make. You need to learn how to include Jesus in every temptation you face. As you go through each day, all day long you need to be inviting Jesus into your thought processes. It is a simple matter of including Jesus' name in your thought-questions. Rather than thinking: "What should I do in this matter?" You would think: "Jesus, what should I do in this matter?"

Simple But Requires Supernatural Help

Rev 3:20 (NIV) Here I (Jesus) am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me. This is Jesus' relationship with you. If you don't include Him in your thoughts during your day, He won't give you help and guidance. But, just because you are convinced that, that is the way you should run the thoughts of your day, doesn't mean you will automatically start doing it. You will have to ask Jesus to help you do it. And, when you fail from time to time, you will have to keep asking until it becomes an automatic part of the way you think.

Supernatural Help

Isa 55:8-9 (NIV) For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. Let Jesus help you believe that to invite Him into your decisions and your moments of being tempted, you are opening your mind to the resources of God. You are getting His knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, wisdom, and power. Inviting Jesus into these moments and issues is for you to be empowered **by the spirit** to **put to death the misdeeds of the body,** when it is a moment of temptation.

The Three Keys to All Christianity

Mat 7:7-8 (NIV) ASK and it WILL be given to you; SEEK and you WILL find; KNOCK and the door WILL be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. This is what you want Jesus to help you realize that you are doing all day long every day. Let Jesus help you read these verses and confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that they are true. Let Him help you see that this is why your Christian life is going to get stronger, more dynamic, and more successful. This is HOW you live the Christian life and be victorious.

World Changers TLC

Devotions With Jesus

It is important that you have plenty of spiritual food each day. At wctlc.com there are several wonderful programs that can help you stay healthy and grow as a Christian. "Devotions With Jesus" is a daily-devotional series that provides a healthy diet for your new child of God spirit inside you. Just go to wctlc.com and select: "I would like to have DEVOTIONS to do each day." And, it will get you ready to grow with Jesus on a daily basis.

The Power Courses

Also, you can select: "I would like to know more about CHRISTIANITY." Jesus uses this training course to help you understand how to join Him and His power. He will help you do wonderful and liberating things that you didn't have the power to do before. The wctlc.com website can be an extremely valuable resource for most of your Christian needs.