

Lesson 1

YOUR NEW LIFE

Opening Verse: II Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Introduction:

Congratulations! You have now begun a new journey in Christ!! This lesson will provide you with foundational teaching on your born-again experience, which is our entrance into the kingdom of God. In addition to that, you will receive the basic concepts on how to grow in your relationship with God.

Born Into a New Realm

The following will help you understand just exactly what has happened to you since you have been born again of the water and the Spirit:

This is how Jesus first explained this miraculous birth to a ruler of the Jews:

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.” (John 3:3-7)

- In order for us to be **saved**, by first **entering** into the kingdom of God, we must be **BORN - AGAIN** .
- Our first birth is physical, wherein we were born from our mother's womb. And then our second birth is **SPIRITUAL**, wherein we are born of the water and of the Spirit.

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Later in the Bible, you will find that our Lord gave Peter the keys that would open the door to this same kingdom (Matthew 16:19). Under Christ's authority, this specially appointed apostle proclaimed the first New Testament salvation message on the Day of Pentecost:

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38)

If we compare the above scriptures (*John 3:3-7 & Acts 2:38*), we will be able to understand the nature of our new birth:

- When we are baptized in Jesus name, we are born of the **WATER**.
- When we receive the Holy Ghost, with the evidence of speaking in other tongues, we are born of the **SPIRIT**.

Thus, we have been born into the kingdom of God according to His eternal word. (*I Peter 1:23*)

Begotten of the Father (Galatians 4:6-7)

- We have received the Father's **NAME** in **water baptism**.
- We have received the Father's **NATURE** when we receive His **Spirit**. God has now become our father and we have become His children through faith and obedience.

The Church as your Spiritual Mother and your Training Center (Acts 11:26)

- It is important for you to be **FAITHFUL** in church attendance, as the Church provides for what you need to become healthy in spirit and in Truth.

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

- The Church is also the place of **TRAINING** for your spiritual growth so that you can become **LABORERS** in God's harvest of souls.
- Your purpose of being born-again is the same as Christ's mission, as He came to our world to save souls (Luke 19:10).

In the house of God you will become acquainted with the following:

○ **Congregational Worship and Praise**

There is much excitement and encouragement as we gather collectively to worship God with all our hearts. As you lift your hands, sing, clap and make a joyful noise unto the Lord – you are not only blessing God but also receiving strength from Him.

- Psalm 150:3-5 tells us to worship the Lord with **MUSICAL** instruments, such as trumpets timbrels, harps, organs and loud cymbals.
- Psalm 98:4 instructs us to make a joyful **NOISE** unto the Lord.
- (Psalm 134:2) “*Lift up our **HANDS** in the sanctuary and bless the Lord.*”
- (Psalm 47:1) “***CLAP** your hands, all ye people, shout unto God with the voice of triumph.*”
- (Psalm 149:3) “*Let them praise His name in the **DANCE**.*”
- (Revelation 19:1,6) “*...I heard a great **VOICE** of much **PEOPLE** in heaven, saying, Alleluia...*”

○ **Ministry of the Spirit**

○ **Preaching of the Word**

We grow by learning and hearing God’s Word. God uses the Pastor to be His messenger – to feed and direct His people with a specific Word that may also minister to a variety of needs in the congregation. God gives each one of us a **pastor of His choice**, to feed our souls and to guide us. Your Pastor is a very important person in your life as he is also the one who watches over your soul (Hebrews 13:17).

Jeremiah 3:15

And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Romans 10:14

*How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and **how shall they hear without a preacher?***

○ **Altar Call**

This is the appointed time for each one of us **to apply God’s message by RESPONDING** to God in prayer.

God always expects us to submit to His will. This would also be a good opportunity to pray for spiritual strength and growth. Your church family may also help pray with you during this time of altar call. (*Matthew 18:19-20*)

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Role of Your Pastor:

Hebrews 13:17

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

BASIC CONCEPTS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

It is not sufficient just to be “born-again.” As we know, newborn babies need to grow up in order to see adulthood. Thus, it is imperative to make every effort to keep our spiritual man alive and healthy as we seek to grow spiritually and to fulfil God’s will for us.

1. Connecting with God through daily PRAYER.

Prayer is the supernatural dimension of our life in God, and it is only through prayer that we can have a true relationship with God.

- Without prayer, we won’t be able to hear His voice and be led by His Spirit.
- Without prayer, we won’t be able to keep our heart clean nor be able to surrender our will to Him continually.
 - Any unrepented sin separates us from God and unforgiveness hinders God from forgiving us.
 - Self-will is the opposite of doing God’s will.
- Without prayer, we won’t be able to supernaturally feel His love and respond back to Him in love.
- Without prayer, we won’t be able to grow spiritually, as we need: (1) to “die” to ourselves (by surrendering our self-will or all of our temporal and carnal desires), and (2) to “live” in Christ by receiving more of His grace, revelation, deliverance and any other ministry through prayer.
- And without prayer, we won’t be able to fulfil His will for lost souls (i.e. spiritual warfare, intercession).

Prayer Guide:

- ◆ **Praise and worship God in your own words and give thanks**
- ◆ **Repent of your sins and forgive any offenses**
- ◆ **Cast your cares unto the Lord** (see sample guide)
- ◆ **Surrender your will to Him and Seek for His Will** (see sample)
- ◆ **Pray in the Holy Ghost** (Jude 20)
Just practice praying in tongues. And it gets easier each time.

2. Learning His WORD.

Aside from our daily prayer with God, we need to learn about God’s Word so that we can become familiar with His voice, to know about His commandments and His will. Basically, we need to know Who God is, as He reveals Himself through His Word.

Romans 12:2

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Through His Church, God not only provides for us a Pastor, but He also gives us **teachers** to equip us (Ephesians 4:11).

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CAST YOUR CARES

Sample Prayer:

Lord, I cast all my cares to you today; I cast unto you all of my responsibilities, my personal needs, my health, my finances, etc. I choose to release my control over these things, and I choose not to be worried about these things, as I trust in You as my Father and faithful provider.

SURRENDER YOUR WILL

Sample Prayer:

Lord, I surrender my will to You, as I seek to obey and accomplish Your will for me today. Reveal Your will to me today and let me follow Your peace.

3. Being Part of the **BODY OF CHRIST**.

Developing your personal relationship with God by prayer and learning His Word, is very important. However, we also need to see ourselves as part of the body of Christ, and not as “independent” Christians. For God deals with us both individually and collectively, as members of His body or His church.

As a body, God leads us through His spiritual authorities, such as the Pastor. As we submit to our Pastor, we will receive God’s instructions, as well as His protection. And as members of God’s church or body, we are interdependent with each other, serving in various functions or parts of His body. Furthermore, the body of Christ is a powerful and capable force that God intended to establish His dominion on earth.

1 Corinthians 12:18 *But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.*

Ephesians 1:22–23

²² *And (God) hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,* ²³ *Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*

OUR PROCESS OF GROWTH:

- We **DIE** to ourselves or become crucified with Christ by surrendering our will to Him & give up our control in everything.
- The **WORD** of God reveals to us His ways of righteousness that we need to conform to.
- God’s **SPIRIT** convicts us to repent and to surrender our will to His will. The ministry of the Spirit can also set us free from influences or bondages that hinder our growth.
- God’s **GRACE** gives us the power to do His will. (Phil. 2:13)
- The ministry of **PRAYER** makes all of this possible as prayer keeps us “connected” to the Source.
- As we **DIE** daily, we grow by having “less” of ourself controlling our life and “more” of God **LIVING** in us.

APPLICATION:

Make a personal commitment to God in the following areas:

- Faithful Church attendance and accountability
- Daily Prayer
- Studying His Word
 - Review previous lessons and read the Bible verses
 - Listen to previous sermons on **www.STLH.org**
 - Bible study resource: **www.ApostolicIron.com**

Date Today: _____