

## Summary

- a) This session is the fifth of five sessions that looks at what is right about you because Christ is in you and He has transformed your spirit.
- b) As you will learn in this session, because you are a new creation in Jesus Christ, your new spirit has been created righteous, holy, Christlike, and complete. One-third of your being is already just as righteous and holy as Jesus Christ. One-third of your being has already been conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. This means the work in your spirit is complete. Therefore, God's focus has now shifted to finishing the work in your soul and body.

## Introduction

- a) Ezekiel prophesied, "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances" (Ezek. 36:26-27).
- b) Paul told the Corinthians, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Cor. 5:17 NKJV).
- c) Paul told the Ephesians, "Put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth" (Eph. 4:24).

## The Word Is a Spiritual Mirror

- a) Unfortunately, a physical mirror can't lie. And neither can a spiritual mirror.
- b) But unlike a physical mirror, which exposes blemishes and imperfections, seeing your new spirit in the mirror of God's Word reveals the Spirit's beautiful, completed work in you.
- c) Seeing your spirit as God sees it enables you to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil.
- d) What if looking at yourself in the spiritual mirror of the Word and liking what you see because of Christ was not only healthy but essential? What if meditating on what the Word says about your invisible spirit was a major key to living by Christ's indwelling life?
- e) Here's what I have discovered. The more I look at my spirit through the mirror of God's Word, the more I like what I see (see James 1:23-24). This is Christ-exalting and instrumental to walking in holiness, righteousness, and purity.
- f) If you have never spent long hours looking at your transformed, born-again spirit, I encourage you to try it. Begin meditating on the glorious reality of Christ dwelling in you and how He refashioned your spirit.
- g) See your new spirit as He sees it—already alive, righteous, holy, and Christlike. See the glory of your new spirit because of Christ—already just like Him in this world. Gaze at Christ dwelling in your spirit and stand amazed.
- h) If the battles you lost a decade ago still defeat you today, you can get off the treadmill to nowhere by seeing your spirit as God sees it. This gives you traction to go forward instead of spinning your wheels without progress in your struggle with the flesh, whether it's lust, anger, anxiety, resentment, cynicism, bitterness, offense, rejection, jealousy, or criticism.
- i) I can hear your protests now. But you don't know my struggle with sin and selfishness. You don't know my intense battle with lust. You don't know my internal conflict with rage and anger.

- j) That's true. I don't know your battles and struggles. But I know this. Your conflicts don't define you. Christ in you defines you. Christ in you is your identity. And when you realize your spirit is already alive, righteous, holy, and Christlike, it gives you the traction to put sin and selfishness under your wheels, to overcome it, and to go forward in the Lord.
- k) Seeing your spirit as God sees it is a key to gaining ongoing spiritual victory.
- l) In the last session, you saw that your new spirit has been born again, regenerated, raised from the dead, and is now a partaker of the divine nature. In this session, you will see that your new spirit is now: (1) righteous; (2) holy; (3) Christlike; and (4) complete.
- m) Let's look at these four realities now.

### Your Spirit Is Righteous and Holy

- a) In Ephesians 4:24, notice carefully how Paul described your spirit, when he said, "Put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness."
- b) The new self is the new part of you. It's your new spirit—born again, regenerated, resurrected, and alive.
- c) How do we know for certain the new self refers to the new spirit? Recall what Ezekiel said about the new covenant when he prophesied the Lord giving His people a new spirit (see Ezek. 36:26). In this verse, a new spirit does not allude to the indwelling Spirit. It points to your human spirit, where the indwelling Spirit resides.
- d) Thus, when you read Ephesians 4:24 and Ezekiel 36:26 together, it becomes clear: the new self is synonymous with your new human spirit.
- e) Did you catch the life-transforming truth about your new spirit in this verse? Your new self—your new spirit—has been created in righteousness. Your new spirit has been created in holiness.
- f) This is in the past tense, meaning the work in your spirit is complete. Your spirit is already holy and righteous. You don't have to wait until you die and go to heaven to receive a holy and righteous spirit.
- g) As previously stated, you are comprised of spirit, soul, and body (see 1 Thess. 5:23). Scholars refer to this as the tripart nature of man.
- h) Connecting this with Ephesians 4:24, one-third of you is already righteous and holy. One-third of you is already like Jesus Christ.
- i) When you see how the Word describes your born-again spirit, it changes everything. When you look in the spiritual mirror, you should love what you see. You are not a struggling sinner saved by grace. You are a saint—a holy one—whose spirit is righteous.

### Created in Righteousness

- a) Back to Ephesians 4:24, pay special attention to the phrase has been created. The word created means "to make habitable."
- b) This means, when God regenerated your spirit, He refashioned your spirit specifically for His habitation. Your spirit was divinely designed to be the dwelling place of the Spirit. And when God recreated your spirit, He made it righteous and holy.
- c) One-third of you is already righteous and holy. This one revelation has completely transformed my life.
- d) "If Christ is in you," stressed Paul, your "spirit is alive because of righteousness" (Rom. 8:10).

- e) Think about the wonderful truth of your born-again spirit. Your spirit is alive because of righteousness. One-third of your being is already just as righteous as Christ. Not merely positionally but actually.

### Just As Righteous as Christ

- a) The righteousness Christ imparted to your spirit can never be improved. Amazingly, God is not more righteous than the righteousness He freely imparted to your spirit at new birth.
- b) By His Spirit, God deposited one hundred percent of His righteousness into your spirit the moment you were saved and regenerated.
- c) Though your body is dead because of sin, your spirit has been recreated and is alive because of His imparted righteousness.
- d) A million years from now, as you worship before the throne of God in eternity, your spirit will not be more righteous than it was the moment you were born again.
- e) The righteousness God imparts into your spirit at new birth cannot be improved or enhanced. It is Christ's perfect righteousness. It is His divine nature. This means your spirit is as righteous and holy as Christ Himself.

### You Are a Saint

- a) Thirty-nine times, from Romans to Philemon, Paul called believers saints, undoubtedly a reference to believers as new creations in Christ.
- b) Make no mistake about it. If you are born again, you are no longer a wretched sinner struggling to live a holy life. You are a saint with a righteous spirit who occasionally sins.
- c) When you hear the word saint, especially if you were raised Catholic, you might think of the special Christians throughout history, such as Saint Paul, Saint John, or Saint Peter. Though Paul, John, and Peter are great pillars of the faith, every born-again believer is a saint because their spirit has been recreated in true righteousness and holiness.
- d) The Greek word for saint is *hagios* and means "a most holy thing." If you are born again, your spirit is righteous, holy, free from carnality, and cleansed from defilement.
- e) Perhaps you might protest the idea of your spirit being righteous and holy. If so, consider this.
- If God is righteous and holy, why would He recreate your spirit unrighteous and unholy?
  - Furthermore, how could a holy and righteous God, by His Spirit, dwell in your spirit if it was unrighteous and unholy?
  - Would God really refashion your spirit with some defilement or impurities in it? Of course not.
- f) To me, it's pretty simple. When God recreated your spirit, He fashioned it righteous and holy so His Spirit could dwell there.
- g) He specifically made your spirit to be a habitation for Himself. This is clearly what Paul taught in Ephesians 4:24.
- h) This means the work in your spirit has been completed, and now the Lord's focus is on transforming and sanctifying your heart, soul, and body.

## Your Spirit Is Christlike

- a) Looking once again at Ephesians 4:24, Paul said your new spirit has been created “in the likeness of God.” Again, this is in the past tense, meaning the work of Christlikeness in your spirit is already finished.
- b) When you read Ephesians 4:24, perhaps your mind went immediately back to the garden, when God unveiled His eternal plan to create us in His image and likeness. Specifically, God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness” (Gen. 1:26).
- c) After Adam sinned, his nature was drastically transformed from the image and likeness of God. As the serpent said to Eve, the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge made Adam, and all humanity after him, their own gods, implying self would be enthroned in the hearts of every person (see Gen. 3:5).
- d) As a result, all humanity after Adam became progressively more like Satan, filled with pride, independence, rebellion, lawlessness, and self-centeredness.
- e) Tragically, God’s original intention to create us in His image and likeness was diabolically intercepted, and Satan became “king over all the sons of pride” (Job 41:34). Men and women, once created in the image and likeness of God, fell from this exalted position and were transformed into the likeness of Satan, becoming God’s hostile enemy.
- f) Nevertheless, the Father’s great eternal plan, to conform humanity into the image of His Son, was not forever lost (see Rom. 8:29).
- g) And here’s the good news: When you put your faith in Jesus Christ and were born again, the indwelling Spirit refashioned your spirit back into the image of God.
- h) Though your body and soul were initially unaffected by the second birth—still permeated with sin and self—your spirit was refashioned into the exact image of the living God. Your spirit was remade into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

## You Are Already Like Jesus in Your Spirit

- a) Pause for a second and ponder this reality. You are one-third of the way toward complete Christlikeness.
- b) Your spirit has been recreated and refashioned into an entirely new state, patterned exactly after God’s eternal Son.
- c) Your spirit was instantaneously reborn in the likeness and image of Jesus Christ.
- d) I can’t stress enough how vital it is to see what Christ has already done in you. Meditating on this glorious reality gives you the traction to go forward rather than staying where you are, spinning your wheels in constant frustration.
- e) By God’s doing, He has already conformed your spirit into the image of His Son. John said, “As He is, so also are we in this world” (1 John 4:17).
- f) Notice he didn’t say so also will we be in heaven. He said so also are we in this world. That means right now, in the here and now, you are like Him because Christ dwells in you and He has already transformed your spirit into His image and likeness.
- g) This is not something you confess until you become Christlike. This is not a fake-it-until-you-make-it self-help technique. It’s the absolute truth because Christ dwells within you and He has transformed your spirit entirely.
- h) You are a new creation. The work in your spirit has already been completed. Your spirit is already Christlike because Christ dwells within you.

## Your Spirit Is Complete

- a) Hebrews 12:23 states, “The spirits of the righteous [are] made perfect.”
- b) Made perfect is the Greek word *teleioō* and means “to make perfect, complete, to carry through completely, to accomplish, finish, bring to an end.”
- c) *Teleioō* is more about bringing something to completion than flawless perfection.
- d) When you consider the verses cited in the previous session and this session, it’s clear the work of salvation in your spirit is already complete (see Eph. 4:24; Rom. 8:10; 1 John 4:17; 2 Pet. 1:3-4).
- e) “It is finished,” Jesus of Nazareth cried out on the cross (see John 19:30). Though most of the church knows this, few realize the indwelling Spirit has also finished His transforming work in their spirits.
- f) Even if you don’t realize this yet, it doesn’t change the reality of it. Your spirit has already been saved. No more work needs to be done to your spirit.
- g) God’s eternal purpose for your spirit has already been accomplished. His work in your spirit has been finalized. One-third of your being has already been conformed into the image of Christ.

## Hebrews 12:23 and Hebrews 10:14

- a) Some read Hebrews 12:23 and argue the author is talking about heaven. Therefore, they assert that our spirits will not be perfect until we get to heaven.
- b) Whether the righteous referred to in this verse are in heaven or on earth is debatable. But even if the redeemed in this verse are in heaven, it doesn’t diminish the reality of the Spirit’s finished work in our spirits right now, while we are on earth. Let me explain.
- c) Recall what Paul said in Ephesians 4:24 when he exhorted us to “put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”
- d) As previously stated, the new self is your new spirit that has been created. It is in the past tense, emphasizing the Lord’s already completed work in your spirit. And the phrases *in the likeness of God*, *righteousness*, and *holiness* stress the final results of the Spirit’s already completed work in your spirit.
- e) That said, Hebrews 12:23 is not a wait-until-heaven reality. It’s an already-been-accomplished reality. The work in your spirit is already finished.
- f) Hebrews 10:14 adds further confirmation, stating, “For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified” (NKJV).
- g) The NIV translation states, “For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.”
- h) The NASB translation puts it this way: “For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.”
- i) The word perfected is *teleioō*, the same word used in Hebrews 12:23. Therefore, putting together Hebrews 10:14 and 12:23, here’s what you see. Christ has already perfected those who put their faith in Him, but He has not yet perfected every part of their being. This is clear by the phrase those who are being sanctified.
- j) As you likely know, both from Scripture and life experience, parts of your being are still in the process of being made holy. However, there is a part of you that has already been made complete and Hebrews 12:23 pinpoints exactly what part of you it is. It’s your born-again spirit.

k) In summary . . .

- Hebrews 10:14 states what has already been accomplished while Hebrews 12:23 states where it has been accomplished.
- The phrase perfected forever pertains to your born-again spirit, which is regenerated, alive, righteous, holy, Christlike, and complete.
- Being sanctified, then, relates to your heart, soul, and body, as these parts of your being are progressively conformed into the image of Christ.
- So, there's a tension between the completed work in your spirit and the ongoing work in your heart, soul, and body.

## This Is Not Hyper-Grace

- a) Let me pause here for a minute and explain why this teaching about your new spirit is not to be confused with hyper-grace.
- b) In case you haven't heard of hyper-grace, this is the increasingly popular teaching that takes God's amazing grace to an unbiblical extreme. This false teaching does not stress the need for ongoing sanctification unto complete Christlikeness.
- c) Many hyper-grace teachers make a serious error, applying Hebrews 10:14 to your entire being—spirit, heart, soul, and body. Hyper-grace teachers purport you have already been perfected forever—every part of your being.
- d) Therefore, under the new covenant, there's no need to repent, confess your sins, deny yourself, crucify your self-life, receive fresh circumcisions of the heart, or live a Sermon-on-the-Mount lifestyle.
- e) To do so, they argue, is an old covenant paradigm of dead religion, condemnation, legalism, and bondage. To do so, they claim, brings you under the law, severs you from Christ, and cuts you off from God's grace.
- f) Obviously, these ideas are wrought with serious biblical errors.
- g) If you want to learn more about the dangers of hyper-grace, I highly recommend the book *Hyper-Grace* by Dr. Michael Brown.

## True Grace—Not Hyper-Grace

- a) As is the case with many biblical errors, hyper-grace has some truth in it. Truth you need to live by the indwelling life of Christ.
- b) The truth to extract from this unbiblical teaching is part of your being—your spirit—is already righteous, holy, Christlike, and complete.
- c) When you know that you know how the indwelling Spirit has already transformed your spirit, it enables you to live as an overcomer. It empowers you to live a holy life, inwardly and outwardly.
- d) I'll be honest with you. It took me a while to accept the truths in this session. My religious mind, permeated with Bible verses I only knew in my head, protested against the reality of my spirit being righteous, holy, Christlike, and complete.

- e) My old-school religious upbringing, which I appreciate in many ways, loudly objected to the work in my spirit being complete. Certainly, there must be more that I must do.
- f) But over time, as I slowed down and meditated upon the verses cited in this chapter and the last chapter, my life was radically transformed. I began living more by Christ's indwelling life, and I started overcoming my previous battles with the flesh.
- g) The more I meditated upon the condition of my spirit, especially upon the One who dwelled there, the more I experienced love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control.
- h) If you haven't meditated upon the finished work of the indwelling Spirit in your spirit, take a bold step of faith and either declare out loud or write down in a notebook, the following:

My new spirit has been regenerated and resurrected. My new spirit has been recreated in righteousness and refashioned in holiness. My new spirit is as righteous now as it will be in a million years. My spirit has already been conformed into the image of Christ. The perfectly righteous God has recreated my spirit in perfect righteousness. The Lord has made my spirit the habitation of His Spirit. One-third of my being is now righteous, holy, Christlike, and complete.

- i) Make it a habit to regularly confess the truth about your born-again, righteous, holy, and complete spirit.

### Look At Yourself Through God's Eyes

- a) I encourage you to see yourself through God's eyes. You are not a hopeless hypocrite in bondage to sin. You are a saint, a holy one in whom Christ dwells.
- b) Though your flesh is corrupt and defiled, your spirit is alive, righteous, holy, Christlike, complete, and a partaker of the divine nature.
- c) One-third of your being is already saved, righteous, and just like Christ.
- d) When you see yourself through God's eyes, by meditating upon who He says you are in the Word, it will dramatically change your life.
- e) When your eyes are opened to what the Spirit has already finished in your spirit, you will be ready to live the Spirit-led life.