

# Walk in your New Life

*Complete in Christ*

Ed Horak

## Introduction

**Y**ou may have accepted Jesus as your Savior and Lord. You may believe that Jesus shed His blood for the forgiveness of your sin, and that God raised Him from the dead. You may even have been involved in a church for some years, yet if you look at your life right now, you may conclude that you are not really walking in all the freedom that Christ promises. This book will show you how to enjoy abundant life in Christ, and change for the better will be on its way!

God delights in your well-being. He wants you to walk in all that He has provided in Christ. His love has no limits, only those we impose through ignorance and disobedience. Read this book with the goal of receiving all that you can from the Lord. Take time to think about what the scriptures are saying to you, and open your heart to change.

## If it is Finished What is There Left to Do?

*So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. **John 19:30***

When Jesus uttered these climatic words on the cross at the hinge point of history, little did His onlookers appreciate the impact they would have on your life and mine. He had just achieved all that you and I need to walk free from sin and its consequences. He had lived the sinless life, and had been the perfect sacrifice to satisfy God's demands. His work was finished! Today, as far as pleasing God is concerned, there is nothing left to do except trust Him in faith. So your Christian life begins with a big "Done", not a long "To Do" list of religious observances. Jesus has done it all, and when we trust in Him we are completely acceptable to God.

Put it this way: does your behavior qualify you to believe, or does your belief impact your behavior? God positions you in Christ, then your Christian practice flows out of this new place of favor and blessing. Your heart has to be changed, then your hand will do what God wants. Your conduct depends on your calling, not the other way round. In learning to walk free, don't get the cart before the horse! The Bible way is to work things from the inside out, not from the outside in. Receive into your heart all that Jesus has already done, then act out what is on the inside. This is the heart of what is described in the Bible as the 'new creation'.

## New Creation Realities

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has **reconciled** us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be*

*reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21*

God's word says you are now a new creation, not will be one if only you could 'get your act together' somehow. Victorious living is not a matter of works, but of faith in what has already taken place in the spirit. God has moved on your behalf, forgiven you and sent His Spirit to live on the inside of you. His Spirit will now empower you to live the life He has planned for you.

Your life of freedom must be founded on the following key new creation realities.

## **Regenerated not Renovated**

*But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ... Titus 3:4-5*

When you accept Christ and are born again, you are saved by what He has done for you. He 'regened' you spiritually or regenerated and renewed your spirit, made you **really** brand new and did not just renovate your spirit with a coat of 'spiritual paint' to cover up the old and bad. No, He totally made everything brand new, and old things passed away, in God's book at least!

When Jesus introduced the new covenant in His blood (Matthew 26:28), He did so in fulfillment of Ezekiel 36:26 where He promised He would put in us a new heart, and take out the old.

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of 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 keep My judgments and do them. Ezekiel 36:26-28*

God is the one who causes you to walk in His statutes and keep His judgments. This happens because He lives in you, and your spirit is totally recreated not merely reconditioned! The spirit you now have as a born again Christian is not the same as you had before. Even though your outward behavior may not have caught, it will when you present yourself to the Lord to renew your way of thinking according to Romans 12:1-2. We will look into this more in chapter four.

Some Christians tend to dig up their past sins much like a grave robber digs up old bones long void of any life. They forget that God has forgiven and forgotten their sins, and that they are 'buried with Christ' in the grave. They replay past hurts over and over again like continuous loop of tape, thus exalting the power of the past over the promise of the future. Choose to arise into new life in Him, and step out of the darkness into the light of this new creation reality: you are brand new in God's sight!

*How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:2-4*

## **Reconciled:**

God is not angry with us!

*Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ...*

**2 Corinthians 5:18-19**

God reconciled you to Himself, and restored you to a relationship where the hostility and alienation that once existed is no longer there. Sin is destructive and God hates sin, but loves the sinner. In Christ He dealt with the sin problem that separated you from Him. God's righteous wrath fell on Jesus at the cross, so it certainly does not fall on you. Jesus was your substitute, and God does not hold your sin to your account. He nailed it to the cross, took it out of the way, and set you free from that debt. In fact, you are so free that He even wants you to take this good news to the world. The message he wants you to get and share is this: in Christ let's get together!

## **Righteousness:**

(God's gift of right standing to you).

*For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ...*

*For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. **Romans 5:17,19***

To be made righteous means to be made in right standing with God. In Christ you now stand in the right place before God. Your trust in Christ seats you at God's right hand of favor and blessing, the same place of forgiveness and favor.

Fully appreciate God's **gift** of righteousness. God gives you this gift because He loves you and wants to bless you, not because you have earned it through good deeds. The good deeds come later as an expression of your love, thankfulness and identification with His desire to bless others through you. They are not a pay off to prove to God that you were good enough to deserve his blessing.

Your own righteousness amounts to nothing but filthy rags compared to God's righteousness. No matter how good you may get, you will always fall short. So stop, receive His gift and rejoice that God saw fit to restore you to His right hand of favor.

## **Receivers of His Divine Nature**

*Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

**2 Peter 1:2-4**

You may have cried out to God for His grace and peace to be yours. Fact is you already have them. But to enjoy their benefit you have to receive revelation knowledge of what He has already done in your

heart. God's people perish for a lack of knowledge, and not for a lack of God's power, nor even prayers. You have to know, believe and act on what you already have in Christ to enjoy continued victory.

*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.*

**Hosea 4:6**

Notice that the above passage says that God has already given you "all things that pertain to life and godliness". You just have to know about it! It's like someone depositing a million in a special bank account, but you simply don't know about it, or if you do, believe that it true. In both cases you are not going to make any withdrawals.

When God comes to live on the inside of you when you are born again, He brings all that He is and has with Him. His nature and power becomes available to you to partake of through believing in the promises. If you truly believe that God has made Himself available to you, you will enjoy His fullness. If you don't however, you will not enjoy the benefits of your relationship with God.

In the book of Genesis, God set in motion the divine principle of 'like reproducing like'. He submits to His own principles or word. He made Adam after his own kind. That was why Adam is called the 'son of God' (Luke 3:38). Today when a person accepts Jesus as Lord he is given the power or authority to be called a 'child of God'.

*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

**John 1:12-13**

Notice that you are 'born' of the will of God. He implants His new nature in you. Of course this may 'blow the minds' of folk steeped in tradition and religion, but it is true anyway! God changes your nature. Where your old nature caused you to habitually sin before you were born again, your new nature is programmed for righteousness. The key issue here is do you really understand this and renew your thinking to think in line with God's word or not?

God's nature is to love, give, and forgive. He is full of faith, hope and love. In fact, He is love! He is all-powerful, full of mercy and patience, and much, much more. He is all this without limit. The point is that He now lives in you! The question is, do you accept the powerful truth that you can and should partake of His divine nature! It's yours for the taking. God said it, and that should settle it!

A sinner sins because his nature is predisposed to sin. A born again Christian who has been made new in Christ has new nature predisposed to righteousness! Of course, the old way of thinking has to be reprogrammed, and once again is the subject of chapter four.

**Redeemed:**

(Bought back with a price).

*He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13-15*

This has already happened, and you are now delivered from satan's kingdom, having been bought back (redeemed) at the price of Jesus blood. Once you 'belonged to satan' but now you belong to Jesus. You and satan have forever parted company, and you are no longer a slave to sin, but altogether free to be

a voluntary slave to righteousness. You might say that you are now “under new ownership and management.” Satan has no legal right to your life, only Jesus does. When Satan knocks at your door with guilt and condemnation again, don’t open it to him. Jesus is now at home with you in your heart.

Notice that in God’s sight you are already delivered, not will be but **already** delivered! Past tense. Of course your adversary will try to convince you otherwise, taking you back to the past, where you did mess up. When he reminds you of your past, remind him of his future: fire and brimstone in the lake of fire.

## Faith not Feelings

*For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7*

You have probably felt at some time or another that you were not saved. Then later, the positive feelings came back and you felt on top of things again, only to repeat the cycle over again. Quite a roller coaster ride, but not a recipe for stability! Feelings should come only after the facts and faith. The facts of God’s word should be the foundation of your faith, not the way you feel. Feelings change, but facts don’t!

When someone gets married, the facts are, that once the marriage license is signed, they are married. If something happens in the relationship and one party wakes up the next morning not feeling too much like being married, the fact is they are still married! The contract says so, and that settles it. Well, apply this to your walk with the Lord. The contract (the Bible) says you are saved by a confession of the Lordship Of Christ, not by how you feel on any particular day.

When you walk by faith, your feelings no longer dictate to you what you should or should not do. The word of God is your starting and ending point. Your motivation is no longer rooted in whether you feel like it or not! You live move and have your being based on unchanging truth, not feelings.

## Where Does God Live?

In our hearts of course. Sure He has the whole earth, heaven and a universe to run. But, as far as this life right now on earth is concerned, God is with us! He is Emmanuel, right here as close as we need and want Him to be!

Renew your thinking to become God-inside minded. Yes, God **inside** minded. He is not somewhere off in cosmic eternity, He is here, right there in your heart.

*"I will dwell in them  
And walk among them.  
I will be their God,  
And they shall be My people." 2 Corinthians 6:16*

God dwells **in** you. You enjoy the hope of glory because Christ is **in** you, not because he is far and distant from you.

*To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles:  
which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Colossians 1:26-27*

Not only do the Father and Son live in you, but the Holy Spirit too. For they are one. The Holy Spirit is the greater one in you. Greater than any problem you have ever faced or ever will.

*You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 1 John 4:4*

Be convinced that God saw fit to come and live on the inside of you to not only help, guide, comfort and teach you, but also to enjoy your company and spend eternity together with you. Right now, accept the Bible fact that God lives in your heart, and begin developing your sweet fellowship or communion with the Holy Spirit.

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen. 2 Cor 13:14*

## **The ABC's of Who You Are in Christ**

The first chapter of Ephesians powerfully describes who you are in Christ and what you can enjoy being in right relationship with Him.

First, you are '**accepted** in the beloved' (Ephesians 1:6). Nobody enjoys rejection, and in Christ, you no longer need fear rejection. If he has accepted you, who is to reject you? Be encouraged that God has seen fit to include you in His family.

Second, you are '**blessed** with every spiritual blessing' (Ephesians 1:3). God has made available every spiritual blessing to you in Christ. They are yours for the taking. You don't have to work for them, just enjoy them and thank and praise Him!

Third, you are '**chosen** in Christ' (Ephesians 1:4). When God chooses someone He does so because He wants to, and has a purpose behind it all. You have a reason to live in freedom. You are chosen to carry His name and blessing to others in need. Your life has value because God has put His stamp on you, and sealed you for Himself with His Holy Spirit of promise.

Fourth, He has '**destined** you to be conformed to His image' (Ephesians 1:5). He has set in motion a process whereby you can become more like Christ every day. He has given you His promises that you can partake of His nature and become like Him: think the way He thinks, speak the way He speaks, and act like He acts.

This may seem foreign to you, nevertheless God wants you to mimic Him, in the same way a child learns to mimic its parents.

Fifth, God wants you '**enlightened** as to His purposes' (Ephesians 1:18). A child has to come to know why he was born. Growing up has a design and purpose to it. As a Christian you don't automatically discover who you are and why you were called into God's family simply by being born. You have to be spiritually enlightened as to God's purposes. This happens when you pray over your own life the prayer that Paul prays in Ephesians chapter one.

*Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, ... Ephesians 1:15-19*

Personalize this prayer for yourself. (An example is found at the end of this chapter.) Pray it daily and watch God show you things from His word that you have never seen before.

## **The Big Picture... From Where God Sits!**

There are three key words in the book of Ephesians that will help you understand the big picture and where you fit in with what responsibilities. They are:

- **Sit**, which speaks of the position you enjoy and the relationship you have with and towards God. Chapters one through three deal with this.
- **Walk**, which speaks of the practice you must employ towards your fellow man. This is covered in chapters four through five.
- **Stand**, which describes a posture you must adopt towards your adversary. Chapter six covers this important warfare area.

If you are to walk in freedom, you have to know where you are ‘seated’ and what you will have to do when the adversary challenges your new position in Christ.

### **Sit / Seated in Christ**

Your **position** is at God’s right hand in the heavenly places in Christ. You receive this position by knowing and believing in faith inwardly all that Christ has done for you.

*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **Ephesians 2:4-6***

Your **priority** here is to sit at His feet and discover ‘Who you are in Him’. Don’t try to go out and do battle in life without first being grounded in your relationship with Him. We have already looked at those ‘new creation realities’.

Your **prayer** focus is to ask for spiritual enlightenment as to this position or authority you have in Christ.

The **action** expected of you is to receive all that has already been done for you by Christ, and simply step into His provision. Like a drowning man must stop struggling in order to be saved, you too must stop struggling to be right. Accept that you are righteous in Christ and then, and then only do the good works God has called you to do.

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

**Ephesians 2:8-10**

## Walk

Your walk in Christ is an expression of who you already are. Your **practice** stems from who you are. You walk worthy of your calling because God has made you worthy (Ephesians 4:10). You walk in wisdom because God's wisdom is now in you (Ephesians 4:17). You walk in love, because God is love and he lives in you (Ephesians 5:2). You walk in the light, because the light of the world has set up residence in you (Ephesians 5:8). You walk carefully, because The God who lives in you is no fool (Ephesians 5:15).

Your **priority** is to learn how to 'work out' what God has already been 'worked in'.

Your **prayer** focus is to ask God to strengthen you with His 'might' to continue walking out His will in your life.

*...that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,...* **Ephesians 3:16-17**

Invoke the Holy Spirit's help in everything you do. You have your responsibilities; He will help you accomplish all that is expected of you by the Lord. Develop your relationship with the Holy Spirit by talking to Him. He is with you, and will never leave you.

Your **action** is to daily take steps to walk in love and wisdom. As you actively commit what you are doing, He will order your steps according to His will.

*In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall direct your paths.* **Proverbs 3:6**

## Stand / Withstand

Your **protection** on the journey comes from knowing who you are in Christ and the authority you have in His name. Jesus has disarmed the enemy, and when you know this you will not allow him to bully you any more. God has not given you a spirit of fear or intimidation but of power love and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).

You now stand your ground on territory already purchased for by Jesus blood. Your peace, sufficiency, and health is ground that already belongs to you in Christ.

When you **put on** and consistently **wear** the full armor of God, you are able to withstand the attacks of the enemy. Your responsibility is to put it on! This means to adopt as your own, God's salvation as a helmet, protecting your thoughts. His breastplate of righteousness protects your heart, the belt of truth holds it all together, and your feet are firmly planted on solid ground of good news. The sword in your hand represents the faith filled words you speak, and the shield of faith wards off any spiritual attack against you. With it you quench the fiery darts or arrows of guilt and condemnation that try to burn back into your new inner man.

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

*Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the*



*shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; Ephesians 6:10-11,13-18*

Your **priority** is to fight the good fight of faith **from** a position of victory, not **towards** a position of victory. You are already legally or positionally victorious in Christ. What you need to do now is **enforce** satan's defeat in the name of Jesus, by declaring your victory in faith. For example, if you have sickness, declare in faith that you are already healed by Jesus stripes, no matter how you may feel. If you confused and distressed by some problem in your life, boldly declare in faith that you have a sound mind, indeed the mind of Christ! Stand your ground. Don't say what you are experiencing; say what you have been promised is already yours!

Your **prayer** focus is on asking God for boldness to keep speaking what belongs to you in the face of the enemy's lies and opposition.

*...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. Ephesians 6:18-20*

If the apostle Paul saw fit to ask the Ephesian church to pray for him that he might have boldness to continue speaking and make know God's gospel, how much more do you and I need boldness to do the same. When satan attacks, the first thing he tries to stop is your confession of faith. He perverts the process and gets you back on talking up the problems instead of talking up the God's promises.

Your **action** steps are to stand your ground with your armor on, and know that satan no longer has power over you. Do not succumb to his lies. He will, of course, tell you that nothing has changed; that you are the same old rascal you used to be.

You have 'put on' the new man and put off the 'old man' you used to be (Ephesians 4:24). You are brand new and you don't belong to him any longer! You now belong to Jesus!

## **Divorced from Sin and Married to Jesus!**

The Bible teaches that as far as God is concerned we are already dead to sin and married (in spiritual union) with Jesus. We must realize that when He died and rose again, we died and rose gain with Him! As we spiritually identify with this in faith we have the power to consider ourselves 'dead' or unresponsive, to sin and temptation. We are no longer 'slaves' to sin doing what it dictates but bonded to Jesus, and responsive only to His promptings. We are legally under Jesus ownership, and as we present our bodies to Him we begin the process of transformation. Read Romans chapter six and seven in this light.

Here are some passages that are important to your walk in the new life Jesus has come to give us all.

*How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body*

*of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.*

**Romans 6:1-7**

*...reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.* **Romans 6:11**

*And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.* **Romans 6:18**

*Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another-- to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.* **Romans 7:4**

## Conclusion

*...and you are complete in Him,* **Colossians 2:10**

Accept that you are **complete** in Christ. You cannot look to other things to make you feel complete. Be convinced that your relationship with Christ is all you need for total fulfillment in life, then consecrate to walk with Him and commit to His word. When you are consistent in your devotion, you can then enjoy the contentment that comes from knowing that you are pleasing God and helping your fellow man.

## A Prayer to Pray Daily Over Your Life

*Dear Father God,*

*Give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of my Lord Jesus Christ, and may you enlighten the eyes of my understanding; that I may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in me, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward me because I believe. (Based on Ephesians 1:15-19)*

## About Confession

Most people tend think that confession only deals with confessing something wrong when you sin and get caught out. Bible confession also involves boldly declaring or acknowledging what God has done in you and for you.

*...that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.* **Philemon 6**

God wants you to acknowledge or declare all that He has already done for you in Christ...even if you are not yet fully walking in it! In His mind, every good thing is already “in you in Christ Jesus.” For these good things in you start manifesting, you must begin to speak them out in faith. So at the end of each chapter take time to speak out loud the “confessions” listed and drawn from the scriptures used in each chapter.

## **Taking Possession through Confession**

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### **Faith begins with an expression**

(From the scriptures covered in this chapter)

- *I am a new creature in Christ, and old things are passed away, behold everything is brand new.*
- *I am accepted in the beloved and made complete in Christ.*
- *I have already been blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*
- *I have chosen by Christ and am destined to become more like Him as I grow in faith.*
- *I am seated spiritually in heavenly places in Christ at God's right hand of favor and blessing, and have authority over any evil entity.*
- *I am set free from satan, no longer a slave to sin, and I am now in God's kingdom, 'married' to Jesus.*
- *I have the greater one, the Holy Spirit living inside me, and he is my teacher, guide, comforter and helper in my life.*
- *In Christ I am reconciled to God and made to be righteous because of His blood.*

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