II Corinthians 5:17 If you’re in Christ, you’re a new creature
- II Corinthians 12:2 = Paul’s personal experience of a man in Christ
- What is available to him is not exclusive for him; anyone who is in Christ is a new creature

- Study the New Testament looking for the words “in Christ,” “in Him,” or “in Whom”
- Everywhere you see those words, Paul is describing something you are/have because you are now in Christ; not something you’re trying to be going to be – but something God says you are right now
- “This is who I am and this is what I have because I am in Christ.”
- These 2 words (“in Christ”) unlock Paul’s revelation on what God has done for us in Christ and who we are as believers
- Christianity doesn’t begin with something you do; it begins with something that has been done for you
- As a Christian, you’re never fighting for victory – you’re fighting from victory that’s already yours in Christ. You take your place in Christ first, then you can deal with the battle from there
- K.E. Hagin: Never fight the devil in the arena of sight, feeling, and circumstance. If you do, he’ll whip you every time. Always make the devil fight you in the arena of faith. In the arena of faith is where God has already done everything He’s going to do about your redemption, righteousness, victory, and blessing. The fight of faith starts with what God has already done for you.

II Corinthians 5:21 You’re the righteousness of God in Christ
- Your faith will have a boldness when you understand that you are the righteousness of God in Christ; you can stand before God without a sense of sin or inferiority
- By the blood of Jesus, God sees you as 100% right
- When Jesus was made to be sin for us, He was made to be everything that sin produced; He took our sickness, poverty, shame, depression – even our death
- Many people believe the first ½ of the verse (Jesus took our sin, death) but don’t believe the second ½ (they have been made the righteousness of God in Christ)
- Righteousness opens the door to everything that righteousness produces – you don’t get the results of what you have done; you get the results of what Jesus has done
- The moment you make Jesus Lord of your life, you become the righteousness of God in Him, and the blood of Jesus not only erases sin, but it removes the guilt and shame of sin so that you have no more consciousness of sin
- The blood of Jesus produces a righteousness consciousness – you are qualified for God’s best blessing. You didn’t do anything, but you have received the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness and now reign in life through 1 man, Jesus Christ (Romans 5)
Ephesians 3:12 In Christ we have access with confidence and boldness into the presence of God

- Your spirit has access to the holy of holies; you can go any time, day or night, and God’s glad to see you. He wants you to come with full assurance of faith
- **You need that boldness because the devil will try to talk you out of it and keep you in the natural.**
- You come in with “the most cheerful expectation of His blessing.”
- In Christ, nobody can get closer to God than you can. He’s not happier to see anybody than He is to see you.
- Even if you don’t feel righteous, hold fast to your confession of faith and the feelings will show up later

II Corinthians 1:20 All the promises of God in Christ are “yes”

- The moment you get in Christ, God says, “Yes, it’s all yours; it belongs to you in Christ.” You don’t have to wonder if He’s going to say, “No, that doesn’t belong to you.”
- He already said yes – because Jesus qualified you for that

II Corinthians 2:14 He always causes us to triumph in Christ

- The game isn’t over until you win, so if you’ll just stick with it – God owns the field, He’s got the clock, He’s controlling the situation – so if you’ll hold fast to your confession of faith, He’ll extend the game until you win
- Win = triumph; a victory parade
- When Jesus triumphed over the devil, He made a public spectacle – not a private victory; every devil knows it
- My triumph comes from Jesus’ triumph
- Just like Disney, you don’t need to wonder if there’s going to be a parade!

I Corinthians 1:30 This is the work of God – you are now in Christ and Jesus is made unto you wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption

Romans 8:1-2 In Christ, there is a spiritual law that lifts you out of the law of sin and death

Colossians 2:9-10 In Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and you are complete in Him Who is the Head of all principality and power

- By your union with Christ, you are also filled with all that’s in God
- Paul lifts Jesus to the highest pinnacle – then says, “You are in Him, and everything in Him belongs to you.”
- If you’re not impressed with who you are in Christ, you just don’t know who He is.

II Corinthians 5:17

- “Ingrafted into Christ” (Amplified): there is no grafting without wounding
- Isaiah 53: Surely He was wounded for our transgressions...
• On the cross Jesus was wounded with our identical condition – He took our sin, poverty, curse, death, sickness and was cut with our condition – and we were ingrafted/inserted into Him, tied up together with Him
• Your identification with Christ: you have the same identical life, blessing, and authority that’s in Christ; God gave it to any person that’s in Christ

I Corinthians 6:17 He that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit
• When you got born again, you didn’t just get to be a forgiven sinner – your spirit got ingrafted into Him; you and Jesus form a single spirit
• God has ingrafted you into Christ to give you the identical condition and access that Jesus has
• Spirit = pneuma; Paul does everything from this “pneuma place” – prays, worships, walks, wars in the Spirit

You can walk so much in the natural that you miss spiritual realities
• My spirit has been given a language to talk to God (who is a Spirit) on His level and speak divine secrets
• When you get filled with the Holy Ghost, all you have to do is locate your spirit
• Your spirit is the real you, the eternal part, the part of you that’s the most like God
• There’s an unseen spiritual connection between you and God. The moment you get ingrafted in Christ, whatever’s playing in heaven is playing in your heart – same life, same victory, same blessing that’s in Christ.

Romans 8 The Holy Spirit bears witness with your spirit
• Holy Spirit’s job = take the things of Christ and transmit them into your spirit; make that a reality so we don’t live in the theology but in the reality of the victory that’s ours in Christ
• The moment you yield to the Spirit/step over into the realm of the Spirit, spiritual realities become more real; your spirit has access to the realm of the Spirit

Ezekiel 36:25-27 Prophecy that in the New Covenant, He’s going to put a new spirit in you
• New heart = new priorities, new affections, new direction; God’s Spirit inside you

Romans 8:9-11 God put His nature in you and now you belong to the realm of the Spirit
• Your body is dead = your body is mortal, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness
• When Jesus paid the penalty for your sin, He walked across that righteousness and gave you the life of God – because of righteousness, your spirit is now alive
• If the Holy Spirit is in you, even your body is going to get full of life
• Your body has a certain bent with appetites and desires that can cause you trouble
• “Your spirit is instinct with life because of righteousness”
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- **Instinct definitions**
  1. An inborn pattern of behavior that is characteristic of a species and is often a response to an environmental stimulus
     - When your spirit is instinct with life, there is an inborn pattern of behavior that is in your spirit
  2. A powerful motivation or impulse
  3. An innate capability or aptitude that’s in your spirit
- Your spirit, now joined to Christ, has a new nature. Even though you have a struggle with your flesh pulling you one way, you have God’s righteous nature (His love nature) in your spirit. You’re not trying to get it in there; it’s already in there because it was born in there.

Example of the Labrador retriever
- Never question its desire to please its owner; may make some mistakes but desires to please
- Has an inborn nature to retrieve; because of that instinct, you can train him (You couldn’t train him if he didn’t have the instinct – don’t try this with a Chihuahua 😊)

- God has put a new spirit and new nature in you and He will never question your desire to please. Even when you’re going right when He’s saying “Go left,” He knows you have it in your instinct. All you need is a little more training.
- The same life that’s in Christ is now in your spirit, so no matter what you’re facing – your flesh may want to wimp out on you – but something in your spirit man says “I’m well able to overcome in this situation,” because it’s born into you.
- You have a new nature, a divine instinct. That’s why, even when your mind/body/flesh is giving you trouble, up out of your spirit the Holy Spirit will bring scriptures. Your spirit will say “Never question my desire to please the Lord.”
- Jesus identified Himself in the Word and said, “That’s me.” He already was that, but that Word identified Him
- When you find scriptures and meditate on them and declare them, that ingrafted Word is able to save your soul, bring you the training, and bring you into agreement with what God says you have and you are in Christ (your new identity)
- Find your identity in Christ, in the Word, and declare “That’s who I am.”
- Your spirit always knows the way home; it can always find its way out of the natural into the presence of God. It’s born into you.

**How’s the Lord going to bring the abundance He promised? Does somebody have to die?**
- No, somebody that was extremely rich already died and left you everything. Then He was raised from the dead to make sure you got it.
- You don’t have to try to figure out how – because something has already been done about this. Take your place in Christ. You have been abundantly provided for. Move from trying to get it into “I got it. It’s mine.”
- Quit thinking of what you’re trying to get or someday going to get. Get the scriptures on who you are in Christ, and say, “Praise the Lord. It’s mine. I have it now.”
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