

## YOUR NEW LIFE

Welcome to the kingdom of our Father! As a new creature in Christ Jesus you have just embarked upon the greatest adventure any human being can experience. Along with many millions of others throughout the world, you have been supernaturally born into God's eternal kingdom. Your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, your obedience to His Word and your commitment to Him have brought about this wonderful event in your life. Big changes will begin to take place in your life that are difficult to understand. As you read on you will receive guidance and valuable information that will help you to mature and grow as a new believer.

### A. Our Father's Kingdom

The kingdom of God is one of light, righteousness, holiness, blessing, love, joy, and peace. As you start to understand what has happened to you since you were born again, your heart will be filled with joy and gratitude toward our heavenly Father.

#### 1. Born Into A New Realm

*a. Born of the Water (John 3:3-7; Acts 2:38) and of the Spirit (John 3:3-7; I Peter 1:23)*

Millions of people all over the world believe in God, and talk to Him in their own way, but they have never really had an encounter with Him. They don't know Him (*John 5:37*). To them, God is a religion. They live a life of sin and feel no conviction because they are dead in their trespasses and sins (*Ephesians 2:1-9; Colossians 2:13*).

After you are born again, you will never be the same again. Now, you have had a personal encounter with God, and because you have His life dwelling inside of you, everything will look different to you. The heavens, the trees, people will all look more beautiful and brilliant to you, because now you can see them without the veil of darkness and sin that was covering your eyes before. You will love everybody, regardless of color or race. Now when you read the Bible you will be able to understand it and identify with it. No longer is it a dull book that you dreaded to read.

Now, you can talk to Him as your father and very dear friend, and He will talk back to you. You will now be able to hear His voice because your spiritual ears have been circumcised. Your five physical senses have been quickened; therefore you can feel His presence and love in a very real way. As you go about your daily life, He is there with you. The reason you have such joy and peace is because you have just had an encounter with your creator, the God of all the earth. Only He can give you true joy and peace.

A great hunger will awaken in you to know God more and learn His Word. Now you will desire to talk about God and the things of God with everybody. You have a desire to share with everyone what has happened in your life. You will have a tremendous desire to go to church and be with other people of God. This is a sign that you have been born again.

## **2. Begotten Of The Father**

***a. Received Our Father's nature (Ezequiel 36:25-27; John 1:12; 2 Corinthians 5:17; I John 3:1-2)***

Because of God's nature inside of you, the bad things you used to do before, you don't do anymore. If you used to practice fornication, adultery, drunkenness, lying, stealing, cursing, you don't do that anymore. You feel repulsed and offended by it because the Holy Spirit of God dwells inside you. Does this mean that now you are perfect? Does it mean that you will never make mistakes? No, that is not what it means. You will commit sins, but you will not live a life of sin, practicing sins every day. If you commit a sin, you need to repent immediately and ask God to forgive (***I John 1:8-10***).

Although your spirit has been born again, your soul (mind) needs to be renewed day by day. You still have habits, ways of thinking, traditions and lifestyle that will change as you are being transformed more and more into the image of Christ by prayer and reading of the Bible every day. You cannot change by yourself without the help of the Holy Spirit. Only He can change us. We will cover more about this further ahead.

***b. Became the children of God (Romans 8:14-16)***

After we are born again, God adopts you as a son, and as a result, we are no longer just the creation of God, but sons of God. As sons we have rights, privileges, authority and power to use His name. We are now heirs of the riches of His kingdom which before we did not enjoy because they did not belong to us. Now we are able to enjoy all the promises of God found in the Bible because we are the children of God.

## **B. Your Father's House**

When you are saved, God puts you in a local church, and gives you a pastor to guide you and help you grow spiritually. In time, you will learn to love him and trust his counsel. Every time there is a gathering of believers, you need to make every attempt to be a part of it. The Lord expects you to be faithful and committed and serve Him in that Church. Let's take a look at God's House, what it is, what is in it and why it is so important in your life.

## 1. ***What Is It? (Ephesians 2:19-22; I Peter 2:5; I Timothy 3:15)***

The Church is the House of the Lord, built upon the foundation of apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone. It is not an organization, but a living organism. When God's people come together in one building, it becomes a habitation of God through His Spirit, a place that houses the presence of Almighty God. The House of God!

As each believer, being a lively stone, a holy priest offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ, begins to worship God in spirit and in truth (***John 4:23***), God manifests in their midst and receives their individual and collective spiritual sacrifices (***Romans 12:1-2***).

## 2. ***What Is In It?***

The house of God is where we go with other believers to receive instruction, training, discipleship, guidance, strength and fellowship. Every believer has gifts, talents and abilities given to them by God for the purpose of ministering and helping others. You should make a commitment to be in service as often as possible.

If a believer does not gather together with other believers in the house of God, he is depriving himself and others of a great blessing. When all the believers gather together in one church building, they are able to have fellowship with each other and the blood of Jesus washes them from all sins (***I John 1:7***).

## C. **Growing Up In His House**

Growing and maturing in the spiritual realm is pretty much as in the natural realm. Understand that no matter what your age may be, you were born as a baby into God's kingdom. The rate at which you grow in the spirit will depend on you. God ordained His house to help you grow and mature spiritually.

### 1. **Growing-Up In The Lord**

As a baby grows into a child and matures, it also grows in its ability to understand. Likewise, you too are a babe in the Spirit! You will gain a greater understanding of spiritual things, as you grow older in the Spirit. Your spiritual growth will depend not only on time, but also on your diligence in seeking to know your heavenly Father and His plans for your life. Getting to know Him better will build your confidence and security in His love for you.

*The insecurities of an adopted child can be compared to how you feel as a newcomer to God's family!* You have entered into new and unfamiliar surroundings and there is much adjusting to do. You brought with you a collection of memories, bad habits, experiences, and wrong ways of thinking. As God's adopted child, you'll undergo changes in your lifestyle, environment and ways of thinking.

## 2. Learning To Eat

You must start with the milk of God's word (*1 Peter 2:2, 3:18; 2 Peter 3:18*). If you try to eat too much too soon, it will lead to spiritual indigestion and frustration. Be patient, He will feed you, as you are able to bear it. There has never been an infant that was able to stand on his weak, little legs and begin to walk right away. First they crawl, stand, stagger, stumble and even fall down a few times before he is finally able to walk. In the realm of the spirit you are the same. It takes a long time to develop those spiritual muscles of faith. The more you feed on the word of God and pray, the faster you will grow and the stronger you will become. Develop a prayer closet where you pray to your heavenly father everyday, and develop intimacy with Him.

If you get too confident and try to move faster than your spiritual legs can carry you, you will get into trouble and fall and hurt yourself. On the other hand, if you don't have enough confidence and faith, you will take too long to take the first few steps. Learn to develop balance in everything you do. Do not get discouraged over the first few mistakes you make. We all make mistakes as we grow and develop, some more, some less but everyone makes their share of blunders. It's important that you understand that spiritual growth is a process that will take many years.

You must learn to develop patience, for it will be your best ally as you start to grow spiritually and mature. Enjoy these times of your new experience with the Lord. Just like the childhood years, they are magical and special and will never return. This is only the beginning of an exciting new life and adventure that is in store for you (*Ephesians 3:17-19*). God loves you very much, and His family loves you too. Welcome into the family of our heavenly Father!