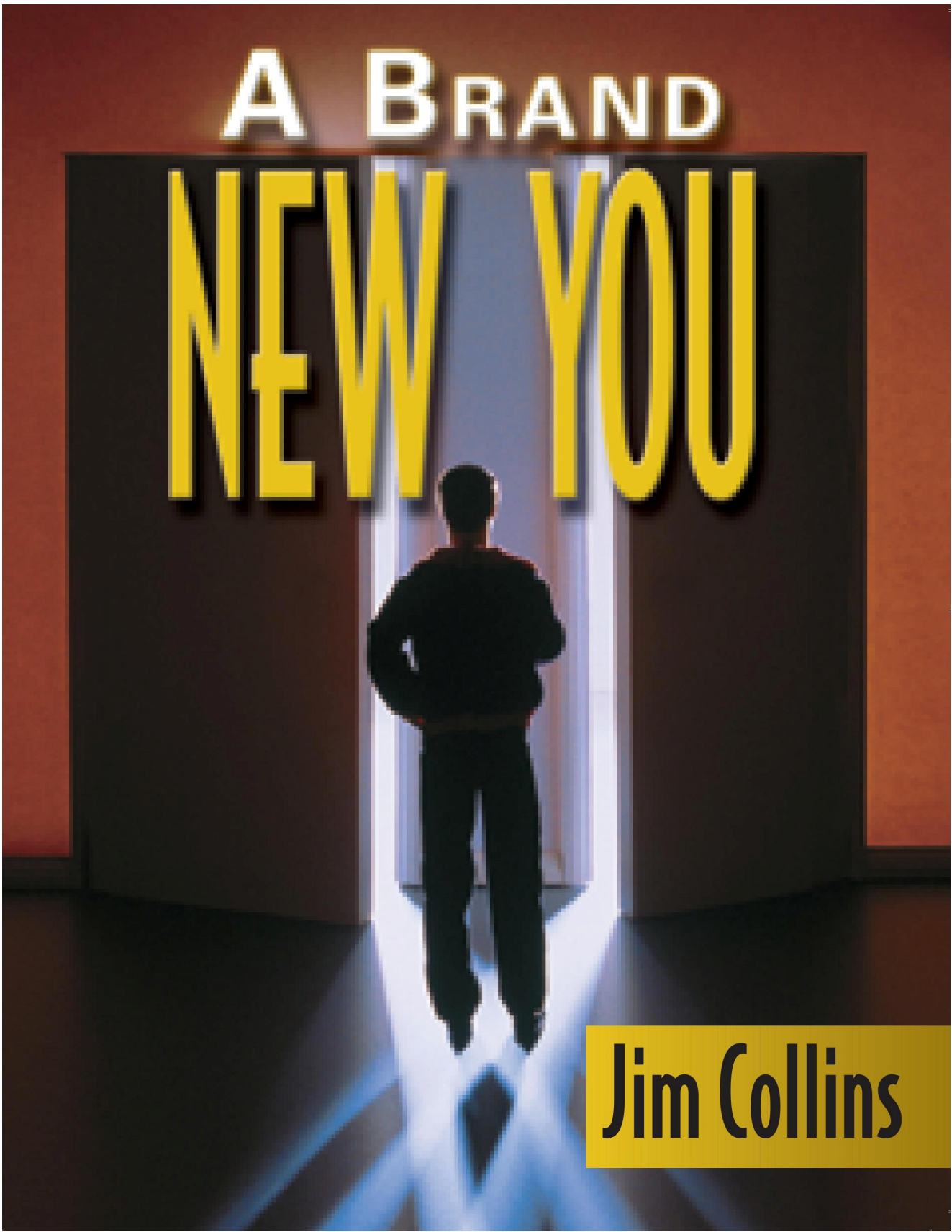


A BRAND NEW YOU

The image is a book cover for 'A Brand New You' by Jim Collins. It features a silhouette of a person standing in a doorway, looking out into a bright, glowing light. The title 'A BRAND NEW YOU' is prominently displayed at the top, with 'A BRAND' in white and 'NEW YOU' in large yellow letters. The author's name, 'Jim Collins', is in a yellow box at the bottom right.

Jim Collins

THIS IS YOUR TIME!

God thinks of you as a one-of-a-kind creation of Himself.

God created you to be able to access His ability.

You were created not just to exist, but to live a fulfilled and significant life.

God has a future planned for you that includes prosperity and hope and love.

We all long to know that our lives have meaning, purpose, and hope. Everybody wants to discover his or her destiny and the power to make his or her dreams come true. When you become "A Brand New You", you will be able to fulfill God's plan and accomplish God's purpose for your life!



Beyond Positive Thinking Ministries was founded by Jim Collins. The mission of this ministry is to teach people how to tap into the force that created the universe by showing them who they are, what they have, and what what they can do because they are in Christ Jesus.

BEYOND POSITIVE THINKING MINISTRIES

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A Brand New
YOU

Jim Collins

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A Brand New You

by Jim Collins

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Introduction

God has a plan for your life!

Have you ever heard that before?

God created you to have fellowship with Him through the process of realizing your God-given dream. Your dream is simply God seeking expression through you. You were created to do something that nobody else can do. God has a unique destiny for your life. He planned your destiny before you were in your mother's womb. Every day of your life is in the forefront of God's mind. This is your time!

Psalm 139:13-17 (NLT)

v.13 You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.

v.14 Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous and how well I know it.

v.15 You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.

v.16 You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

v.17 How precious are your thoughts about me, O God! They are innumerable!

God uses the term “marvelous workmanship” (verse 14) to describe you. His thoughts of you are precious and He thinks about you all the time. You were already in the mind and heart of God before the beginning of time. You always were, you have always been, a part of His marvelous plan for history! God thinks of you as a loved and cherished one-of-a-kind creation of Himself. What is God's plan for His wonderful creation - YOU?

Ephesians 2:10 (AMP)

For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

The Greek word translated “workmanship” is the word *poiema*, from which we get the English word poem. It literally means “a work of art.” God created you as a work of art with the purpose of accomplishing His work in the earth. As a result of being God's handiwork and being part of His prepared plan, He wants you to live the good life which He prearranged and made ready for you to live. You were created not just to exist, but to live a fulfilled and significant life. God has a future planned for you that includes prosperity and hope and love.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

There is hope for your future. No matter how dark your situation in the world seems to be, God has a plan. No matter how insignificant or useless you may feel, God loves you and wants to use you in His plan. No matter how sinful and separated from God you think you may be, His salvation is contained in the plan He has for you and your life. Your significance and your worth as a person are due exclusively to what God says you are; a work of art from his own hands.

God's Plan for You

We all long to know that our lives have meaning, purpose, and hope. Everybody wants to discover his or her destiny and to discover the power to make his or her dreams come true. But in order for you to fulfill the plan God has for your life, you have to first know what God's original plan was for mankind. God outlines His original plan for mankind in the first two chapters of the book of Genesis.

Genesis 1:26-27 (Message)

v.26 God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth."

v.27 God created human beings; He created them godlike, reflecting God's nature. He created them male and female.

God created the heavens to house the earth. He created the earth for mankind, and He created mankind for His pleasure. God created mankind godlike, reflecting His nature. This means that God created the human race to be like Him and to have His ability. God stated that human beings are responsible for the earth and everything in it. God's original plan was for mankind to have dominion over all the earth and to exercise that dominion through daily fellowship with Him.

God receives pleasure when His most prized creation, mankind, has fellowship with Him. His desire from the beginning of creation was to have a family to enjoy. The desire of God's heart was to have a family to fellowship with, and that is why He created the human race.

Knowing that we are created in God's image provides us with a solid basis for self-worth. Human worth is not based on possessions, achievements, physical attractiveness or public acclaim. Instead, it is based on being made in God's image.

Because we bear God's image, we can feel positive about ourselves. Criticizing or downgrading ourselves is criticizing what God has made and the abilities He has chosen for us. Knowing that you are of significant worth is your own personal confirmation that God loves you and that He knows you personally. You have a valuable contribution to make to those around you.

We were created to have a relationship with God. God wants to spend time with us. Spending time with God is called fellowship.

What happened to God's original plan for mankind? The answer to that question is found in the first book of the Bible, Genesis, and is outlined in the story of creation.

Genesis 2:4-7 (NKJV)

v.4 This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens,

v.5 Before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground;

v.6 But a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

v.7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

This is the time in the creation story when God created mankind physically. God had already created mankind spiritually, as we read in Genesis 1:26-27 earlier. Now God puts the spirit He created into a physical body. Next, God puts the man in the Garden of Eden and gives him one simple command.

Genesis 2:15-17 (NKJV)

v.15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

v.16 And the Lord God commanded the man saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

v.17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Remember the phrase in verse 17, “you shall surely die.” We are going to come back to that in just a moment. But first, let’s continue with the creation story.

Genesis 2:18, 21-23 (NKJV)

v.18 And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make a helper comparable to him.”

v.21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.

v.22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man he made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

v.23 And Adam said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman because she was taken out of man.”

The next thing that happened in the creation story led to the predicament the human race finds itself in today.

Genesis 3:1-6 (NKJV)

v.1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”

v.2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

v.3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

v.4 And the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.”

v.5 “For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

v.6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

The serpent in the above portion of Scripture refers to Satan, also known as the devil. This is confirmed in the book of Revelation as outlined in the following verse. More on the serpent’s role in this drama in just a moment.

Revelation 12:9 (NKJV)

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

According to Genesis 2:17, after Adam and Eve had eaten the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they should die, right? Look at what happened.

Genesis 3:7-13 (NKJV)

v.7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

v.8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

v.9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?”

v.10 So he said, “I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

v.11 And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”

v.12 Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”

v.13 And the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

What happened to Adam and Eve as a result of eating the forbidden fruit? Did they die? Not that day anyway. The type of death God was speaking of in Genesis 2:17 was not physical death, but spiritual death. Adam would have never died physically if he did not first die spiritually. Just as God created mankind twice, first spiritually and then physically, there are two kinds of death, spiritual death and physical death.

Notice in the above portion of Scripture that the eyes of Adam and Eve were opened and they then became aware that they were naked so they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves up. Didn't they know they were naked prior to this time? Sure they did, but they were not ashamed of their nakedness.

Genesis 2:25 (NKJV)

And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

What happened? The physical realm, also known as the sense realm, gained the ascendancy in their lives as a result of their sin. Before they sinned, Adam and Eve had free and perfect fellowship with God in the Garden of Eden. They were more conscious of the spiritual part of their makeup than the physical part of their makeup. Their spirits had continual fellowship with God. Because God is a Spirit, to have continual fellowship with God required spiritual awareness from Adam and Eve.

John 4:24 (AMP)

God is a Spirit (a spiritual Being) and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth (reality).

But when Adam and Eve sinned, spiritual death occurred. Spiritual death is separation from God. Spiritual death resulted in broken fellowship. Adam and Eve had always known the privilege of daily one-on-one conversations with God. The privilege of continual fellowship was now ended. The loss of that privilege was extended to the future generations of the human race. We are all now subject to the same spiritual death that Adam and Eve experienced.

Adam committed high treason and sold out to the devil and as a result, the entire earth and everything in it became dominated by spiritual death. Now God's original plan for mankind was thwarted.

If you continue reading chapters three and four from the book of Genesis, you will see that all God created that was once beautiful had now become cursed. The curse included God's most prized creation, mankind. Adam and Eve now became spiritually dead.

Spiritual death is separation from God. When God created Adam, Adam possessed spiritual life, the life and nature of God. Due to Adam's sin all of humanity that followed him became as he had become, spiritually dead.

In the following Scriptures, we see a picture of the spiritual death that entered the world because of Adam's sin.

Romans 5:12 (Message)

You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we're in—first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death.

Romans 5:14 (Message)

Even those who didn't sin precisely as Adam did by disobeying a specific command of God still had to experience this termination of life, this separation from God. But Adam, who got us into this, also points ahead to the One who will get us out of it.

The entire human race is now separated from God because of Adam's sin. The entire human race is now the victim of broken fellowship.

Notice in the following verses that everyone is separated from God, all fall short of God's glorious standard, and everyone is missing the shining greatness of God in their lives. God's glorious standard and the shining greatness of God refer to the plan and purpose of God for your life. Because of Adam's sin, God's original plan and purpose for humanity, and for your life, have been hindered.

Romans 3:23 (NLT)

For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 3:23 (NLV)

For all men have sinned and have missed the shining-greatness of God.

What is the solution to this dilemma? What must happen so that mankind can be redeemed from spiritual death and brought back into fellowship with God? What must be done to reestablish God's original plan for mankind?

We needed to be redeemed from the dominion and control of the devil. Mankind needed a way to once again receive the life and nature of God. We were never capable of redeeming ourselves. God came and redeemed us Himself, in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. Where spiritual death once reigned, spiritual life has now become available. This great work, this redemption, is the gift of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:22 (AMP)

For just as [because of their union of nature] in Adam all people die, so also [by virtue of their union of nature] shall all in Christ be made alive.

Just as in Adam all die spiritually, everyone is made alive spiritually in Christ. A new birth must take place whereby the life and nature of God can be imparted to mankind. We find Jesus speaking about this spiritual experience, this new birth, in chapter three of the Gospel of John.

John 3:1-7 (NLT)

v.1 After dark one evening, a Jewish religious leader named Nicodemus, a Pharisee,

v.2 Came to speak with Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are proof enough that God is with you."

v.3 Jesus replied, "I assure you, unless you are born again, you can never see the Kingdom of God."

v.4 "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"

v.5 Jesus replied, "The truth is, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.

v.6 Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven.

v.7 So don't be surprised at my statement that you must be born again.

Here we see a picture of the new birth. In verse three, Jesus said that in order to see the Kingdom of God, a person must be born again. Then Nicodemus said in verse four, "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?" Nicodemus was thinking in terms of the physical realm, but Jesus in verses five and six is talking about the spiritual realm.

The new birth takes place in the human spirit, the part of man that communicates with God. It is not the physical part of us that needs to be born again like Nicodemus thought, but the spiritual part of us. The new birth is the rebirth of the human spirit.

When a person gets born again, their human spirit is filled with spiritual life. Jesus called spiritual life eternal life. When a person gets born again, he or she receives eternal life.

John 3:13-16 (NLT)

v.13 For only I, the Son of Man, have come to earth and will return to heaven again.

v.14 And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so I, the Son of Man, must be lifted up on a pole,

v.15 So that everyone who believes in me will have eternal life.

v.16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

Jesus came from heaven to earth to give us eternal life. Eternal life, mentioned in verses 15 and 16 above, is the nature of God that is imparted to man at the new birth. It is the nature of God that makes man a new creation. Receiving eternal life means receiving the life and nature of God. A born again Christian is one who has received eternal life, one who has received the life and nature of God. The word “Christian” literally means, “little Christ”. That is what we become, one who emulates Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

When you join with Christ, become born again, your old nature of spiritual death is replaced by a new nature of spiritual life. You become something that did not exist before; you become a “little Christ”. You now possess more than you may realize. You now possess access to the ability of the Creator of the universe. When you really understand this, it will be the end of lack in your life. There will be no more sense of unworthiness, no more limitations in your abilities, no more anxiety, no more condemnation, no more satanic oppression, and it will be the end of any spiritual inferiority complex.

The apostle Paul said in Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” He knew the ability he had in Christ and you can know that you have it too!

Can you imagine what it would mean if you had the ability of God? Think about that for a second. What can’t God do? ***What can’t God do?*** He can do anything, right? You can have the same ability living on the inside of you, in your spirit. When you receive eternal life, the ability of the Creator of the universe becomes available for your benefit and the benefit of others.

This is where Christianity differs from all other religions. There is no other religion claiming that God actually re-creates the human spirit and imparts into it His life and His nature. Christianity is supernatural. It culminates in Jesus, the supernatural man, who was supernatural in His birth, in His life, in His death, in His resurrection, and in His ascension.

Receiving eternal life, the life and nature of God, is a supernatural experience that occurs during the rebirth of every child of God.

Many people think of eternal life as only meaning that when they die they will spend their eternity with God in heaven instead of in hell with the devil. This is a very limited view. Your eternal life starts right here on earth the moment you receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. Eternal life is a present possession, not something the child of God will only obtain later. Read what Jesus Himself said about eternal life.

John 3:36 (NLT)

“And all who believe in God’s Son have eternal life. Those who don’t obey the Son will never experience eternal life, but the wrath of God remains upon them.”

John 5:24, 26 (NLT)

v.24 “I assure you, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.”

v.26 “The Father has life in himself, and he has granted his Son to have life in himself.”

John 6:40, 47 (NLT)

v.40 “For it is my Father’s will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life—that I should raise them at the last day.”

v.47 “I assure you, anyone who believes in me already has eternal life.”

Notice in John 5:24 that Jesus makes reference to passing from spiritual death into spiritual life. When you have Jesus you have the life of God, spiritual life. The Creator of the universe will now lead and inspire

you.

1 John 5:11-12 (NLT)

v.11 And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

v.12 So whoever has God's Son has life; whoever does not have his Son does not have life.

The person who has placed his or her faith in Jesus Christ has eternal life as a present possession.

God is life. Those who fellowship with Him must possess His quality of life. Spiritual life begins with spiritual birth, which occurs through faith in Jesus Christ. Faith in Jesus Christ infuses us with God's life, eternal life.

Enjoying Your New Life

How does eternal life, the God-kind of life, impact our physical lives while we are on the earth? Jesus gives us the answer in the following verse when He tells us why He came to the earth.

John 10:10b (AMP)

“I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).”

Jesus said that He came so you could have AND enjoy life, and have it in abundance! Having life means you have received eternal life. When you have God's life, you will be able to appreciate life more fully. Now, why is that? Jesus came to give us an abundance of God's life. He gave you abundant life from heaven so you could create your own abundant life here on earth. An abundant life, for the most part, is an enjoyable life.

Receiving eternal life, the God-kind of life, is the most miraculous experience in a person's life because it satisfies the heart-hunger of the human race. God created mankind to have fellowship with Him. God made a provision whereby the human race could receive His life and nature so that fellowship would be possible.

The person who goes through life without receiving the God-kind of life will always have a sense of emptiness inside. There is a void in each of us. A God-shaped void that can only be filled by the love and eternal life that is freely offered to us. There is no greater abundant life available to us than the life, nature, and ability of the Creator of the universe.

When you receive God's eternal life, you immediately have the ability of the Creator of the universe at your disposal and that ability allows you to enjoy life!

How do we receive eternal life? The same way we receive any gift. Simply unwrap it and start enjoying it. How do we unwrap it? By finding out what God's Word says about receiving eternal life and then exercising faith to receive it. The faith necessary to receive salvation comes from hearing what God's Word says about salvation.

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 6:23 (NLT)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Your salvation experience occurs when you receive the free gift of eternal life. Eternal life becomes yours when you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and believe that He was raised from the dead.

Romans 10:9-10 (NLT)

v.9 For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

v.10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your

mouth that you are saved.

One of the challenges that prevents us from receiving and enjoying this free gift of eternal life is thinking we must do so many good things before God will save us and give us eternal life. Salvation has nothing to do with being good enough or doing enough good things. Salvation has only to do with your mouth-confessing and heart-believing, as clearly stated in Romans 10:9-10. Remember this, no matter how many good things we think we could do to earn our salvation, we would still remain spiritually dead.

The attitude of “doing enough good things to earn salvation” is filled with pride because we can never do enough “good things” in and of ourselves to earn our salvation. Pride is boasting about the good things we have done to justify spending eternity with God in heaven. Some people are trusting in their own good works to save themselves. However, good works are not good enough. What is required is a perfect work; the work already accomplished by Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT)

v.8 God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

v.9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

So salvation is simply a free gift from God that you can receive by accepting the sacrifice that Jesus Christ already made for you. Notice in the following verse that Jesus not only tells you to come to Him, but He assures you that He will not cast you out when you do come to Him.

John 6:37 (NKJV)

“All that the Father gives to Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”

He is willing to take you in right now. Will you receive Him now? If so, say the following prayer out loud:

“Father, I come to You in the name of Jesus. Your Word says that if I will come to You, You will take me in and by no means cast me out. I’m asking You to take me in now. I’m ready to receive Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. Romans chapter 10, verse 9 says that if I confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead, I will be saved. I confess Jesus as my Lord and I believe that You raised Him from the dead. I am now saved. I now have eternal life. I now have Your life, Your nature, and Your ability living in my spirit. Father, in the name of Jesus, I ask the Holy Spirit to be my teacher as I meditate daily in Your Word to find out who I am, what I have and what I can do because I am now a child of God. I thank You and praise You in the name of Jesus. Amen.”

Congratulations! You are now in the family of God. Prior to being born again, God was simply God to you. Now that you are born again, God has become your Father and you have become His child. This adoption process, the new birth, is the work of the Holy Spirit. Your re-created human spirit is now the home of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit confirms that you are a child of God your Father.

Romans 8:14-16 (NKJV)

v.14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

v.15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

v.16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Because you have received Jesus, the Holy Spirit has adopted you into the family of God. One of the hallmarks of your new relationship is that you can be led by the Spirit of God which now resides within you.

When you become a new creation in Christ Jesus, you have a new heart filled with God's desires. And now that you have received the Holy Spirit, you have the desire to obey God and fulfill His plan for your life.

Your new life can now be characterized by the phrase “in Christ.” The phrase “in Christ” refers to a

relationship between God and the person who has received Jesus Christ as his or her personal Lord and Savior.

It is not because you belong to a particular church or attend a certain religious meeting that you have a relationship with God; it is because you belong to Jesus. It is because you are now a member of the family of God. To be “in Christ” simply means to become a child of God, a son or daughter of the Creator of the universe.

God is our spiritual Father and He created the universe. How much do you think He wants His children to have in life? As parents we want our children to have the best in their lives. We want our children to enjoy life and everything that life has available for them. God the Father is the same way and more so. He created everything and we, as children of God, have become heirs to it all. This is the reason He created us, to have fellowship with Him, to have dominion over all the earth, and to enjoy life in union and communion with Him. Fellowship here can be referred to as intimate conversation and communion. One of the greatest desires of an earthly parent is to have fellowship, intimate conversation and communion with their children, and so it is with our heavenly Father.

Galatians 4:6 (AMP)

And because you [really] are [His] sons, God has sent the [Holy] Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba (Father)! Father!

“Abba, Father” refers to a close intimate relationship with God. The phrase “Abba, Father!” is more appropriately translated “Daddy!” It is expressive of an especially close relationship to God. You can talk to God just as you would talk to a trusted friend.

Many people think of God as an ogre or a tyrant, sitting in heaven with a sledgehammer waiting for us to make a mistake. Waiting, and ever so ready to hit us over the head, condemn us, and leave us feeling just awful. Have you ever felt that way? Nothing could be further from the truth. Jesus came to save us, not to condemn us.

John 3:17 (NKJV)

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

God is not some type of oppressive being. He is your heavenly Father, and because you are His child, He wants to bless you in every area of your life.

God's desire is to bless you by fulfilling the plan He has for you on this earth. He has tremendous plans for you that nobody else can accomplish. You are unique, special and irreplaceable. Your destiny is important; there is nobody else to replace you! God the Father in heaven is a God of love, and you are an heir of God through Christ. God has given you an inheritance to enjoy. Your inheritance is found in the Word of God.

Galatians 4:7 (AMP)

Therefore, you are no longer a slave (bond servant) but a son; and if a son, then [it follows that you are] an heir by the aid of God, through Christ.

As a son or daughter of God, your inheritance is revealed to you in Christ Jesus. You have become an heir to everything God says you are, everything God says you have, and everything God says you can do. You are/have/can because you are now in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26 (AMP)

For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith.

Faith is the key that allows you to receive your inheritance. You receive your inheritance by faith, meaning that everything included in your inheritance already belongs to you. Now it is up to you to receive your benefits package.

Ephesians 1:11 (NLT)

Furthermore, because of Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us from the beginning, and all things happen just as he decided long ago.

Notice that your inheritance is part of the plan God prepared for you when He chose you from the beginning of time. Your inheritance includes all the benefits of God. The benefits of God are also referred to as the promises of God.

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV)

For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

2 Corinthians 1:20a (AMP)

For as many as are the promises of God, they all find their Yes [answer] in Him [Christ].

The promises, or benefits, of God are threefold. First, who we are in Christ; second, what we have in Christ; and third, what we can do because we are in Christ Jesus. How do we discover who we are, what we have, and what we can do?

We discover these things by locating and learning the “in Him” Scriptures. There are over 100 “in Him” Scriptures in the New Testament. What is an “in Him” Scripture? The “in Him” Scriptures contain the following, or similar, phrases:

In Christ, in Christ Jesus, in Him, in Himself, in the Beloved, in the Lord, in Whom, in His Son, by Christ, by Him, by Himself, by His Blood, by His Grace, from Whom, of Christ, of Him, of His Love, through Christ, through Him, with Christ, with Him, in Me, in My Love, in My Name, in His Name.

The “in Him” Scriptures will tell you about your rights and privileges: who you are, what you have, and what you can do because you are in Christ Jesus. For a complete listing of the “in Him” Scriptures, visit www.beyondpositivethinking.org and click on In Him Scriptures.

Now that we know how to recognize these Scriptures, how do we locate them? Most of the “in Him” Scriptures are found in the Gospel of John and in the Epistles.

The Epistles are found in the New Testament and include the letters from the book of Romans through the book of Jude. The Epistles are the books of the Bible that were primarily written to the churches. We, as Christians, make up the modern day church. Therefore, the Epistles are written to and for us. The principles in the Epistles are as relevant today as they were 2000 nearly years ago.

What should you do with the “in Him” Scriptures after you have located them? Your inheritance must be received by faith, and faith is released by the words you say. Your faith becomes effective in your life when you say the same things about yourself that God says about you in His Word.

Philemon 1:6 (NKJV)

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

You should verbally acknowledge every good thing that is in you in Christ Jesus. Start saying the same things about yourself that God says about you. In other words, you continually make a positive confession of who you are, what you have, and what you can do because you are in Christ Jesus.

Then you act on the “in Him” Scriptures in every area of your life. You conduct your life according to these “in Him” Scriptures. You practice living the “in Him” Scriptures.

The promises in God's Word will become real to you as you say them and practice them. They are already real in the spiritual realm. As you continually **confess** and **act** on God's Word, the promises of God will become a reality to you in the physical realm.

You verbally confess who you are:

I am a child of God. Galatians 3:26

I am a partaker of His divine nature. 2 Peter 1:4

I am a new creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17

I am more than a conqueror. Romans 8:37

You verbally confess what you have:

I have eternal life. 1 John 5:11-12

I have the victory. 1 John 5:4

I have abundant life. John 10:10

I have divine health. 1 Peter 2:24

I have divine provision. Philippians 4:19

You verbally confess what you can do:

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

I can do the works of Jesus. John 14:12

I can fulfill God's plan for my life. John 17:4

I can forgive others. John 20:23

I can walk in love. 1 John 3:14

The following Scripture includes all three things; who you are, what you have, and what you can do because you are in Christ Jesus.

1 John 4:4 (NKJV)

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.

First, you are God's child. Second, you have the greater One (the Holy Spirit) living in you. Third, you have overcome the world.

Make daily verbal confessions of who you now know you really are. Here is a sample confession you can make based on this verse: "I am of God. I am His very own child. I have the great and mighty Holy Spirit of God leading, guiding and directing my life. I overcome the world and its challenges."

The Work of the Holy Spirit in Your Life

Remember, you have a new nature now. Your re-created human spirit is now the home of the Holy Spirit. The key to living a resurrected life (an abundant life of victory!) is to learn how to let the real you, your re-created human spirit, dominate and control your mind and body.

When the Holy Spirit controls your life, the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the work which His presence within accomplishes, will produce results in your life that are pleasing to God.

One of the best ways to feed your spiritual nature is to understand the work of the Holy Spirit in your life. The Holy Spirit will help you grow spiritually. Here are 10 revelations about the work of the Holy Spirit in your life:

1. You have the Holy Spirit living in you!

Ezekiel 36:27 (NKJV)

I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

John 14:16-17 (NKJV)

v.16 “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.

v.17 The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

1 John 4:13 (AMP)

By this we come to know (perceive, recognize, and understand) that we abide (live and remain) in Him and He in us: because He has given (imparted) to us of His [Holy] Spirit.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NKJV)

v.21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God,

v.22 Who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Ephesians 1:13 (NLT)

And now you also have heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago.

Ephesians 4:30 (NLT)

And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he is the one who has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (AMP)

v.19 Do you not know that your body is the temple (the very sanctuary) of the Holy Spirit Who lives within you, Whom you have received [as a Gift] from God? You are not your own,

v.20 You were bought with a price [purchased with a preciousness and paid for, made His own]. So then, honor God and bring glory to Him in your body.

Galatians 4:6 (NKJV)

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

Colossians 1:26-27 (NKJV)

v.26 The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.

v.27 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.

2. The Holy Spirit is your Teacher!

1 John 2:20, 27 (NLT)

v.20 But you are not like that, for the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and all of you know the truth.

v.27 But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you all things, and what he teaches is true-it is not a lie. So continue in what he has taught you, and continue to live in Christ.

John 14:26 (NKJV)

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

John 16:13 (NKJV)

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”

John 17:17 (NKJV)

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

Notice that God's Word is truth. God's Word contains His will. The Holy Spirit within you will teach you all things in the Word of God and reveal His will for your life.

3. The Holy Spirit is your Comforter!

John 14:16 (AMP)

“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever.”

4. The Holy Spirit fills you with God's love!

Romans 5:5 (NLT)

And this expectation will not disappoint us. For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV)

v.22 But the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

v.23 Gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

John 13:34-35 (NKJV)

v.34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

v.35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

1 John 4:8, 16 (NLT)

v.8 But anyone who does not love does not know God-for God is love.

v.16 We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in Him. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

1 John 3:14 (NLT)

If we love our Christian brothers and sisters, it proves that we have passed from death to eternal life. But a person who has no love is still dead.

The following Scriptures describe the characteristics of the God-kind of love, which is the new kind of love that the Holy Spirit has deposited in your re-created human spirit.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV)

- v.4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
- v.5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
- v.6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
- v.7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
- v.8 Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (AMP)

- v.4 Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily.
- v.5 It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].
- v.6 It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail.
- v.7 Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening].
- v.8 Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end].

The Holy Spirit has filled you with God's love. Now you can love others with the love God has given you. You cannot fail when you love others because love never fails!

The most important key to living a fulfilled life is to be successful in all your relationships. Your relationships will be successful when you walk in love.

Galatians 5:14 (AMP)

For the whole Law [concerning human relationships] is complied within the one precept, You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself.

5. The Holy Spirit fills you with God's power!

Acts 1:8 (AMP)

But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

1 John 4:4 (NKJV)

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.

6. The Holy Spirit keeps you well!

Romans 8:11 (NLT)

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as he raised Christ from the dead, he will give life to your mortal body by this same Spirit living within you.

7. The Holy Spirit prays for you!

Romans 8:26 (NLT)

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.

8. The Holy Spirit tells you about the future!

John 16:13 (NLT)

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not be presenting his own ideas; he will be telling you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV)

“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”

9. The Holy Spirit will lead you!

Romans 8:14-16 (NKJV)

v.14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

v.15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

v.16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

10. The Holy Spirit strengthens you!

Ephesians 3:16, 20 (NKJV)

v.16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man.

v.20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

Conclusion

You are now counted in God's eyes as a son or daughter, someone for whom nothing is impossible. The limitless ability of the Creator of the universe lies within you just waiting for you to act.

Christ's sacrifice and His gift to you are both for your benefit and for the benefit of others. You are now able to fulfill God's plan and accomplish God's purpose for your life!

Mark 10:27 (NKJV)

But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

A list of "I am" affirmations is included at the end of this book. The "I am" Scriptures will enable you to continually say the same things about yourself that God says about you. Recite the "I am" Scriptures every morning to strengthen your faith while you confirm your reality. The reality is that you are going to have what Jesus said you would have; whatever you say.

Mark 11:23 (NKJV)

"For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says."

One of the best ways to activate God's power in your life is to continually confess what His Word says about you. As you continually confess God's Word, you are confirming that His ability is within you. When you do this, God will confirm that His Word will accomplish its purpose.

Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

God has given you a brand new start and a new way of living. A new way of living that is characterized by who you are in Christ and empowered by the ability of God through the person of the Holy Spirit within you.

God's ability is released in your life when you meditate daily in God's Word, confess God's Word, and make a habit of acting on the Word of God.

A Final Word

If you found a really great doctor, a helpful mechanic, or even a terrific diet, you would probably tell your closest friend about it. Since you have found the One who gave you a new life, don't you think that is something you ought to share?

The news you have to share is the best news anyone could hear! Write down the name of one person who would benefit from becoming a brand new you. Start praying for that person. Ask the person who gave you this book to help you share your faith with him or her. Give your friend a copy of "A Brand New You." Go through it with them and invite them to receive eternal life.

If you would like additional copies of "A Brand New You" contact:

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I am...

A child of God (*Romans 8:16*)

Redeemed from the hand of the enemy (*Psalms 107:2*)

Forgiven (*Colossians 1:14*)

Saved by grace through Faith (*Ephesians 2:8*)

Justified (*Romans 5:1*)

Sanctified (*1 Corinthians 6:11*)

A new creature (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

A partaker of His divine nature (*2 Peter 1:4*)

Redeemed from the curse of the law (*Galatians 3:13*)

Delivered from the powers of darkness (*Colossians 1:13*)

Led by the Spirit of God (*Romans 8:14*)

A son (daughter) of God (*Romans 8:14*)

Kept in safety wherever I go (*Psalms 91:11*)

Getting all my needs met by Jesus (*Philippians 4:19*)

Casting all my cares on Jesus (*1 Peter 5:7*)

Strong in the Lord and the power of His might (*Ephesians 6:10*)

Doing all things through Christ who strengthens me (*Philippians 4:13*)

An heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus (*Romans 8:17*)

Heir to the blessings of Abraham (*Galatians 3:14*)

Observing and doing the Lord's commandments (*Deuteronomy 28:1-2*)

Blessed coming in and going out (*Deuteronomy 28:6*)

An inheritor of eternal life (*1 John 5:11-12*)

Blessed with all spiritual blessings (*Ephesians 1:3*)

Healed by His stripes (*1 Peter 2:24*)

Exercising my authority over the enemy (*Luke 10:19*)

Above only and not beneath (*Deuteronomy 28:13*)

More than a conqueror (*Romans 8:37*)

Establishing God's Word here on earth (*Matthew 16:19*)

An overcomer by the blood of the Lamb and the word of my testimony
(*Revelation 12:11*)

Daily overcoming the devil (*1 John 4:4*)

Not moved by what I see (*2 Corinthians 4:18*)

Walking by faith and not by sight (*2 Corinthians 5:7*)

Casting down vain imaginations (*2 Corinthians 10:5*)

Bringing every thought into captivity (*2 Corinthians 10:5*)

Being transformed by a renewed mind (*Romans 12:2*)

A laborer together with God (*1 Corinthians 3:9*)

The righteousness of God in Christ (*2 Corinthians 5:21*)

An imitator of Jesus (*Ephesians 5:1*)

The salt of the earth (*Matthew 5:13*)

The light of the world (*Matthew 5:14*)

About the Author

Jim Collins is the author of “*Beyond Positive Thinking: Success and Motivation in the Scriptures*” and “*The Secret to Abundant Living*.”

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