

New and Renewed

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

2 Corinthians 4:16

Our Christian life began with a new birth, which was the catalyst to so many other new things in our life. *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)* New outlook, new purpose, new lifestyle, new leadership, and a new awareness and appreciation of God's workings...a new life. The Bible is no longer just an unused book on a shelf; it now becomes a lamp unto our feet and a light for our path. As newborn babes we are to desire the sincere milk of the Word so that we might grow. Often the Christian life leads to new friendships. Surrounding ourselves with like-minded people encourages us to learn as their examples of faith teach. With the Spirit's guidance, we will cross paths with people and experiences that would possibly never have occurred before conversion. Each new person we meet can enrich our lives in multiple ways and each new and varying experience is designed by the Great Potter to fashion and shape us for His glory. Prayer will also become our lifeline as we learn to communicate with the Lord. Ritualistic and self-centered prayers should now give way to utterings from the heart with an attitude of humble worship.

Though the new life in Christ is accompanied with fresh and exciting things, there will always exist the reminder that we dwell in a cursed world and in a temporary body. With the hope of eternity before us, we remain subject to pains and sorrows of this earthly life. The Lord even stated that we would have tribulation in this world. These troubles will be felt within and without. Manifestations of the curse can trouble our souls and there is the ever-present reminder that our physical bodies are flawed. *We that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened...(2Corinthians 5:4)* Thankfully our loving Heavenly Father has planned and designed a way for us to be renewed each and every day. By the Holy Spirit within us and the nourishment from God's Word along with our daily communion with Him in prayer we can experience the renewing of the inward man day by day. God is an active participant in our lives; He sees and knows the smallest details of all things that come our way as well as His purpose in those things. He has a perfect prescription for us to be renewed as we follow His daily plan.

~ J. Ekis