

# What's New About You?



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Messianic & Christian Publisher

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Our prayer at Olive Press is that we may help make the Word of Adonai fully known, that it spread rapidly and be glorified everywhere. We hope our books help open people's eyes so they will turn from darkness to Light and from the power of the adversary to God and to trust in **ישוע** Yeshua (Jesus). (From II Thess. 3:1; Col. 1:25; Acts 26:18,15 NRSV *New Revised Standard Version* and CJB) May this book in particular help new believers grow in the Lord..



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## Introduction

### The Purpose Of This Booklet

I sensed the Lord telling me to write a booklet for you, the new believer. A personal friend or mentor who is strong in the Lord may help you walk out your daily life as a new believer, but you might not have someone like that to come alongside you. So I trust this booklet will help you understand and grow from the point of your having just received salvation. In each section, I have given Scriptures that verify what I am writing, since the Word of God, the Bible, is the source of truth.

You have made the most important decision to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, but perhaps you know little or nothing about being a Christian believer or about the Christian faith, and Christians might be using words that you don't understand. Before you can study what your new life in Christ is, you would benefit from understanding the words that are used to explain to you what is happening in your life. This is done in Part One.

Secondly, your life is changed by your decision to make Jesus Christ your Savior and Lord. "What Is the New Birth?" is answered in Part Two.

Part Three explains what some of the changes are which the Holy Spirit does in you and how they impact your life.

The New Birth is just the beginning of your life as a "new creation". Part Four explains your next steps in your Christian walk.

Finally, Part Five helps you know how to handle serious temptations due to addictions, etc.

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## Part 1



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## You Have Made a Decision

You have made a decision to make Jesus Christ the Lord and Savior of your life. You prayed the "sinner's prayer", and now you have a lot of questions. Perhaps you are even doubting what happened to you, thinking that nothing happened—that you were only emotionally moved. Your friends may not understand and may be questioning you in a negative way.

Don't be discouraged. You have made the most important decision of your life. First of all, what happened to you is that your sins were taken away, forgiven and forgotten, and Jesus Christ has entered into your life. This is a spiritual exchange, not an emotional event, although your feelings were probably affected. The extreme release of the heavy load of your sins, no matter how many or how few, may have caused you to express great joy or tears. If your decision is a heart-decision and not just a head-decision, your life is changed. This booklet is designed to help you understand what those changes are. New terms are underlined and explained.

In the Bible, Romans 3:23 tells us that everyone has sinned\*, and Romans 6:23 lets us know that what we earn from sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life (living forever) in Jesus.\* You began your eternal life as soon as you asked Jesus Christ to come into your heart. He is the only way to the Father (God) (John 14:6)\*. Because God so loved you and me, He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, so that if we believe in Him we won't perish but will have everlasting life (John 3:16)\*.

Jesus bore our sins, sicknesses and diseases, and our anxieties in His body on the cross (Isaiah 53:4, 5; I Peter 2:24)\*.

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\* Read the full Scriptures at the end of this part. pp. 13-15

His blood shed on the cross at Calvary was the blood sacrifice needed to atone for our sins. Atonement, sometimes called at-one-ment, means to bring together God and sinful man by covering, canceling, and exchanging our sins for His righteousness and restoring God's divine favor and reconciliation.

We receive salvation when we as individuals accept Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior. The words "salvation" and "save" mean: deliver, health, salvation, rescue, safety, defend, make whole, make well, prosperity, victory (Psalms 91:16, Luke 7:50, Matthew 10:22; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:21)\*. This is what God does for us! You are included now, too! He delivers us, gives us health, rescues us, provides safety, defends us, prospers us, and leads us to victory.

Jesus Christ redeemed you. He bought you back from spiritual death, like someone paying the ransom for your life. The only way we can come to God is by being redeemed (bought back) by Jesus Christ. Because of His death, you are now as righteous as Jesus Christ Himself. He gave us His righteousness by taking our sins and nailing them to the cross (I Peter 2:24)\*. You repented, making a decision that resulted in a change of mind (renouncing old ways), which in turn led you to a change of purpose and action. (Mark 1:15)\* You were converted, which is an experience in which one definitely decides to believe in Jesus Christ as Savior.

Knowing we are forgiven and free from the burden of our sins and finding out about all that Jesus Christ has done for us is definitely good news. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the Good News! It is the message that says God has provided a way of redemption (see "redeemed" in the previous paragraph) through His Son Jesus Christ and that we are now a part of

the Kingdom of God. It is what Jesus and His disciples and apostles preached. The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in the New Testament are also referred to as "The Gospels".

Being born again, the new birth, the second birth, and being reborn are terms used for what happens when you recognize that you are a sinner, believe completely and truly in your heart that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, and confess that Jesus Christ is your Lord. It's when we believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross to save us from our sins by His blood and we repent of our sins, turn to God and turn away from our old life of sin. When you did this, you were "born new" into the family of God (Romans 10:9-10)\*.

Being born again is NOT: believing in Jesus Christ only in your *mind*, joining a church or having a church membership, doing good things (*works*), being good more than you are bad, or never killing anyone or committing other crimes. Although these are good rules to abide by, none of them will give you eternal life!

God is life. Death was NOT part of the Creation or part of God's plan. Death is God's enemy and our enemy as well. I Corinthians 15:26 says, "The last enemy that will be destroyed is death."

God had told Adam (the first man God created) that on the day that he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he would die. Spiritual death, which means separation from God, came when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and did what God had told them not to do. Man then became a child of the devil and took on Satan's nature.

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Part 3



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What Becomes New About You?

Let's look at what you, as a new creature, are like.

\* You have a new spirit of love, and the Holy Spirit lives in you.

It's your spirit that is made new. The outside stays the same until you change it, but it's your spirit that is changed in the new birth. You receive a heart of love, peace, and grace. You are a spirit living in a body and having a soul. When you receive Jesus Christ, He comes to live inside of your body through His Holy Spirit. Your body doesn't change when you are born again, (although your countenance does), and it's up to you to renew your mind (Romans 12:2 below) by studying, learning, and applying the Word of God (the Bible).

Romans 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable sacrifice. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

II Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

Ezekiel 36:26-27 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of

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your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."

Romans 5:1-2 "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

Romans 5:5 " Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

I John 3:16 "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

I Peter 1:22-23 "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, ...."

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### \*You have a new Father and family.

When you receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior (get saved, born again), you become a member of a new family. It is the family of God, the church, the Body. The Head of the church is Jesus Christ, and God is His Father and our Father. Other believers are your brothers and sisters in the Lord.

John 1:12-13 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, not of the will of the flesh, not of the will of man, but of God."

Acts 2:47 "... praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

II Corinthians 6:18 "'I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,' says the Lord Almighty."

Romans 8:14-16 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. 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.' 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God ...."

Ephesians 1:22-23 "And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him (Jesus Christ) to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."



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\* You have a new inheritance.

Jesus was God's firstborn Son, and you are an heir of God and co-heir with Jesus. You inherit the kingdom of God, eternal life, and the promises of God.

Romans 8:15b-17 "... you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."

I Peter 1:3-5 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

Matthew 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ....'"

Hebrews 1:1-2 "God ... has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ...."

Galatians 4:7 "Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

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\* You have a new citizenship in heaven for eternity.

Your choice to believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior puts your citizenship for eternity in heaven, not hell! Hell is a horrible place beyond description. It is a place of torment—forever! Once a person is there, there is no way out, and the pain of realizing that he or she made the choice to go there by refusing the gospel is unbearable.

You may need to share about hell with someone if the Holy Spirit prompts you to do so. God made hell for Satan and his fallen angels, but those who refuse Jesus Christ are actually choosing to follow Satan, making their own decision to go to hell. (Read the Scriptures about hell at the end of this section.)

Heaven is a place of splendor beyond description. Read each of these Scriptures about heaven and meditate on them.

John 14:2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

Ephesians 2:6-7 "... and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

Colossians 1:5 "... because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel."