

What Happens When a Person Receives Christ?

Study #2

There are several questions asked by people who are seeking life's real meaning:

Who am I- in regards to relationships, age, and/or career?

What are my values?

What is my role in society or my purpose in life?

What are my spiritual convictions and beliefs?

What am I passionate about?

When we do not know our true identity in Christ, we will live like who we **believe** we are, instead of who we were created to be. There is a battle going on today for our mind, body, and spirit, which is creating an identity crisis among non-believers and believers in Christ as well. We have an enemy of our souls who wants to gain ground in our lives and the lives of our families.

Do you believe what the Lord says about you?

He has left us all we need here in His Word, the Bible. When we believe what He says about us, we experience true freedom and peace that the world cannot contain or explain. Jesus is waiting at the cross for you because He created you, loves you, and ultimately died for you.

Let's learn our identity in Christ.

2 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. NKJV

Read ***Ephesians 1:3-12***

Blessed be here in this verse means adored or to be praised. The LORD is **worthy** to be praised or celebrated for who He is and all He has done, so we bless Him as a pronouncement of these very reasons.

And why is it that Paul is saying He should be praised?

He has already blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

When we were born again into the family of God, we were born spiritually **wealthy**. In ***Ephesians 1***, Paul explains how to draw on those riches in Christ for daily living with ***spiritual blessings***. Some people hear this promise and ask, *“If I have all the blessings of God, why am I broke, or why do bad things continue to happen to me?”*

Notice the type of blessings promised and notice where they come from. These are spiritual blessings, which are so much better than material blessings. Unsaved and carnal people are only interested in things they can see or touch, so ***spiritual blessings*** make no sense to them. If you are ***in Christ***, these

blessings are already yours, and they are secured for us in the heavenly places **in Christ**.

The LORD has promised not only power to overcome spiritual battles, but a future inheritance as well. The problem with spiritual blessings is that we only receive them by trusting the Lord, since we cannot always see them. Our true citizenship is in heaven, so let us consider the promises we have in the spiritual places. The Lord will also meet our needs here and now, but oftentimes, we are focused on material riches rather than everlasting riches.

Philippians 4:19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. NKJV

The same God who never fails has promised to supply all we need from His riches in glory, and it is by His Holy Spirit that we gain access. Warren Wiersbe said, “*The Father has given us every blessing of the Spirit, everything we need for a successful, satisfying Christian life.*” (Wiersbe)

Because these blessings were given to us **in Christ**, we are assured that God desires us to obtain them all. Christ followers have two realities: the visible and the invisible. We are here on earth physically, with all the temptations and pressures of life.

But spiritually, we are already seated with Christ in the heavenly places, and we are already provided with the power and direction to live here on earth. In ***Ephesians 1***, we are taught that God the Father and God the Son give us ***grace*** and ***peace***.

We also see the need for the Holy Spirit to not only reveal our riches **in Christ** but to help us **access** those riches.

So, what is our response to the Lord's promise?

C. H. Spurgeon said, *“If you have a great notion of His great mercy to you, you will be greatly grateful to your gracious God.”* While reading this, most Christians start thinking of the age-old argument about predestination versus man's free will.

David Guzik said, *“We dare not diminish what Paul writes here. Believers are chosen by God, and they are chosen before they have done anything or have been anything for God. The great light of this truth casts some shadows, namely, in trying to **reconcile** human responsibility with divine sovereignty. Yet the purpose of light is to guide our steps. The light of God's selection gives us assurance to the permanence of His plan and His love towards us.”* (David Guzik)

The Lord exists outside of time and has perfect foreknowledge, so He knew who would accept His free gift of salvation and those He chose before the worlds were made.

So, like I ask all the time: *Which is true, did God choose me, or did I choose Him?* The answer is a simple yes! A professor said, *“Try to explain election, and you may lose your mind. But try to explain it away, and you may lose your soul!”* Nowhere in the Bible are we taught that people are predestined to hell because this **predestination** refers only to God's people.

Wiersbe said, “*Adoption has a dual meaning, both present and future. You do not get into God’s family by adoption. You get into His family by regeneration, the new birth, and adoption is the act of God by which He gives His “born ones” an adult standing in the family.*”

Barclay said, “*In Roman law, the person who had been adopted had all the rights of a legitimate son in his new family and completely lost all rights in his old family. In the eyes of the law, he was a new person. So new was he that even all debts and obligations connected with his previous family were abolished as if they had never existed.*” (Barclay)

Why does God adopt us here?

So that we might immediately begin to **claim** our inheritance and enjoy our spiritual wealth! I didn’t get to choose my natural-born children, but the Lord actually chose us for adoption. The Lord chose us because He loves us, and notice, He chose us to be holy and without blame before Him. A Christian becomes a saint by being *sanctified and cleansed* by Jesus alone, not by any works they can do.

Notice, *He chose us in Christ, not in ourselves.*

We are incapable of being holy or blameless apart from the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, but in Christ, we are holy because He is holy. While Jesus was saying His high priestly prayer in *John*, He prayed...(*John 17:20*) “*I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through*

their word; (John 17:21) that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me” NKJV

God is Holy, and because we are one with Him **in Christ**, by association, we are holy!

Clarke said, “*The words [holy and without blame] are a metaphor taken from the perfect and immaculate sacrifices which the law required the people to bring to the altar of God.*” But now, under the New Covenant, we are **in Christ**.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? NKJV

The Lord chose us in Him because of who we are in Christ, so it does not matter who you are or whether or not you believe you measure up. Spurgeon said, “*God chose me before I came into the world because if He’d waited until I got here, He never would have chosen me.*” The Lord **chose** you because of your new identity **in Christ**, and He chose you with a specific purpose in mind.

Again, which is true, did God choose me or did I choose Him?

Your past does not prevent you from becoming His child. If it is true that He chose us, then you have what it takes to be His. When you were in grammar school, and the team captains were picking people for kickball, *do you remember hoping you were on the good team? Do you remember the feelings of anxiety,*

hoping the other classmates thought you were worthy of being picked?

This verse has such deep meaning, and some of its meaning is lost in the English language. Two words within this verse have such deep, rich meaning, and they are ***accepted*** and ***beloved***. You have heard me say I am God's favorite child, and you may think I am just being cute, but this is where I get that truth.

The word "***accepted***" means to be highly **favored** and to pursue with grace, encircle with favor, and to honor with blessings. This Greek word *charitoō* (Har-ee-toe) is only used one other time in the New Testament: it was said of Mary, the earthly mother of Jesus.

Luke 1:26 Now in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

Luke 1:27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

Luke 1:28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" NKJV

So, if we are in Christ, we are God's favorite children showered with His grace, encircled with favor, honor, and blessings. We are accepted into the ***beloved***.

What is the ***beloved***? The word ***beloved*** in the Greek is the word *agapaō* (ä-gä-pä'-ō). ***Beloved*** literally means, "A person

welcomed, to entertain, to be fond of, to **love** dearly, and to be well pleased with.” This is an unconditional, first-place love that God has for His children.

You and I are not just accepted in the Beloved; we are highly favored in the Beloved, the unconditional love of Jesus Christ. As Christians, we can declare we are highly favored, greatly blessed, and deeply loved. It’s a powerful reminder that we are not alone in this life, and we have the promise of eternal life with Him someday. We have a Father in heaven who loves us, favors us, protects us, and watches over us.

Some of the things we receive with our new identity with Christ:

- Grace and peace
- Every spiritual blessing in heavenly places
- We are chosen with adoption.
- We receive favored status.
- And finally, we are accepted by the Lord into the **beloved**.

The Dictionary defines **acceptance** as, “*The action or process of being received as adequate or suitable, typically to be admitted into a group.*” But the Lord does not choose people based on the coolness factor, or based on looks, or talents, or even our likability.... God’s acceptance of us makes us highly **favored** and pursued with grace, encircled with favor, and honored with blessings. **Beloved**, that unconditional *agapaō*,

first-place love, is the love the Lord desires from us, as a response to His great love for us.

Matthew 22:35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying,

Matthew 22:36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

*Matthew 22:38 This is the first and great commandment.
NKJV*

These religious leaders were talking about commandments having to do with deeds, but Jesus is talking about **affection**. Love God with all your heart, which will cause you to love others. All of the commandments hang on those 2 principles.

Henry Ironside said, *"When the heart is right with God, and He is loved supremely, man too will be loved unselfishly, and so the whole life will be ordered in obedience to the divine Word."*

How can we possibly love God unconditionally and have Him in first place in our lives?

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

1 John 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us. NKJV

Loving the Lord first in our lives comes from a **grateful** heart response to how He loves us. We serve and love the Lord because He first loved us. It is a response from a love relationship, not based on our deeds. The only reason you can love God or anybody else is that God first loved you, and He proved His love by sending Jesus Christ to Earth to die. Once you learn of His unconditional love, you can, in turn, love others.

God does not require or desire us to have a relationship with Him based upon rules or duty. The Lord desires our relationship to be based upon faith, trust, and love. The ability and desire to love the Lord or to love others has to start with the Lord Himself! ***He first loved us.***

When did He begin to love us?

Romans 5:8, "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!"

38 THINGS THAT HAPPEN WHEN WE GET SAVED (BY DR. BOB REAM, 1994)

1. We have access to God's grace.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

2. We are adopted into the family of God as God's sons.

Galatians 4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Ephesians 1:5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, NKJV

3. We have an inheritance.

1 Peter 1:3 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,

1 Peter 1:4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you. NKJV

Colossians 3:24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. NKJV

4. We are chosen.

Ephesians 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, NKJV

1 Peter 1:2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied. NKJV

5. We become a child of God.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: NKJV

6. We get Heavenly citizenship.

Ephesians 2:19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. NKJV

7. We become an heir of God.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Romans 8:17 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. NKJV

8. We become a new creature.

2 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. NKJV

9. We become a servant of God.

Romans 6:22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. NKJV

10. We become a priest of God.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; NKJV

11. We are reconciled to God.

Romans 5:10 For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. NKJV

12. We are Sanctified.

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. NKJV

13. We are accepted in the beloved.

Ephesians 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. NKJV

14. We are baptized into Christ's body.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. NKJV

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. NKJV

15. We are a love gift to the Son.

John 17:9 "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours" NKJV

16. We are buried with Christ.

Colossians 2:10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Colossians 2:11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

Colossians 2:12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. NKJV

17. We are indwelt by Christ.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." NKJV

18. We possess eternal life.

John 10:28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. NKJV

19. We are saved by Christ.

Acts 4:12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." NKJV

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. NKJV

20. We have peace with God.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. NKJV

21. We become a friend of God.

John 15:15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. NKJV

22. We have our name recorded in the Book of Life in Heaven.

Philippians 4:3 And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life. NKJV

23. We are seated with Christ in heavenly places.

Ephesians 2:6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, NKJV

24. We receive a blessed hope.

Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, NKJV

25. We come in fellowship with the Trinity.

1 John 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. NKJV

26. We have a mansion prepared in glory.

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. NKJV

27. We are born again.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'” NKJV

28. We are anointed by the Holy Spirit.

John 14:26 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. NKJV

Ephesians 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, NKJV

29. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. NKJV

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. NKJV

30. Our body becomes the temple of the Holy Ghost.

1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? NKJV

31. We are given spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12

32. We are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. NKJV

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? NKJV

33. We are forgiven.

Luke 7:48 Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." NKJV

34. We are justified.

Romans 4:5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, NKJV

35. We are redeemed.

1 Peter 1:18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

1 Peter 1:19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. NKJV

36. We have an advocate (attorney for defense).

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. NKJV

37. We have the possibility of getting victory over sin.

Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

Romans 6:2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

Romans 6:6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

Romans 6:7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

Romans 6:11 Likewise, you also reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. NKJV

38. We become an ambassador for Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. NKJV