

Letting Go of the Past for the Rivers to Flow!

I. Learning To Let The Rivers Flow!

Foundation Scripture:

(NIV84) Jn 7:37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, *“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.”* **38** Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” **39** By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Today’s reference anchor scripture:

2 Cor 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

KJV 17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

YOU ARE A NEW CREATURE: A NEW CREATION OF GOD!

YOUR OLD WAY HAS PASSED AWAY!

YOU HAVE A NEW WAY TO LEARN TO LIVE!

SAY!

“I am a new creature, the old things have passed away and all things for me are new! I must learn the new way of thinking and living so I may thrive in my new life!

(NIV84) 2 Co 5:15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

- A. There now are a different set of rules
 - 1. How are we supposed to live? How does Christ want us to live? What should be the purpose of our life?
 - 2. Now, if you will think ahead... Where will we get the power to live the life Christ wants us to live? You are right, from the spirit.
- B. However, we will not experience the fullness of the spirit until we have the knowledge that we can live in the spirit. Once we do, we have to alter our behavior so that we walk in the spirit.
 - 1. We have to learn to yield to the spirit and not resist it.
(NIV84) 1 Th 5:19 Do not put out the Spirit’s fire;
(NKJV) 1 Th 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.
 - 2. Our attitudes should be those of Christ. We should allow thoughts and our words of the spirit to speak for us. Not words of the flesh

WE SHOULD ALLOW OUR THOUGHTS AND OUR WORDS BE THOSE OF THE SPIRIT

- a. To do this we must be trained.

16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

- C. Here is a stumbling block before us. I have tried to share this with you before. Perhaps you will now begin to understand the significance of what I have been trying to reveal to you.
1. You see, once we begin to understand what Christ has done for us we think differently about people.
 - a. We see people from a spiritual point of view. They are either saved or they are lost!

16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

(KJV 1900) 2 Co 5:16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. 17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

WHEN YOU ARE IN CHRIST, YOU NO LONGER SHOULD ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE DEFINED BY HUMAN STANDARDS

2. We must begin to recognize what Christ has done for us! We are a new creation! If we are in Christ, we are no longer black, white, brown, olive, yellow, red or any other thing defined by the human mind.
 3. God has another plan for our lives. Why should we submit ourselves to earthly standards?
 4. Why have we allowed satan to rob us of the vision God wants to give us for our future? Why do we allow satan to have so much authority over us. He enslaves us in our minds!
- D. We must start allowing ourselves to become mature. We must begin to submit ourselves to the will of God for our life in Christ.
1. This is a conscience decision to allow ourselves to let go of the past and see things from a new perspective. The perspective of Christ in us.
 2. It is difficult for the flesh to let go, but it is of the Spirit to do so!
(NIV84) Is 43:18 “Forget the former things; (Old things have past away) do not dwell on the past.
19 See, I am doing a new thing! (all things have become new!)
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. (The river flows)
20 The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen,
21 the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise. (From their lips it flows!)
 - a. But we must recognize we are a new creation given this ability by God. We cannot continue to see ourselves from a worldly perspective and must no longer see others that way!

3. If we wish to experience all the blessings of God, We must allow Jesus to reign in us!

WE MUST ALLOW JESUS TO REIGN IN US. THEN, THE RIVERS WILL FLOW!

(NIV84) Col 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. *(a new way of thinking!)*
2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. *(Let them go and soar)*

((NKJV)Ro 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh (earthly/worldly) set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally (not spiritually) minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.)

Col 3:3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. *(you have been born again. You have been born again of the spirit as...)*

*((NIV84) 1 Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (remember Isa 43:18-21)
10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.)*

Col 3:4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. *(Remember who you are!)*

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. *(these become gods we bow to! Let them go!)*

6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived *(before you were born again a new creature)*. **8** But now *(since you have been born again)* you **must** rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. **9** Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

11 Here *(When Christ is in us, we begin to show)* there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, **and is in all**.

Ga 3:26

You are all sons of God through faith **in Christ** Jesus, **27** for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. *(In the mind of God)*

E. FIVE (5) major distinctions of the flesh are gone now!

1. **Jew nor Greek** - we stop speaking of race; this is no longer a major priority!
 - a. The church should take its stand against racial prejudice!
 - b. Only Christ can solve our racial problems!
2. **circumcised or uncircumcised** - this speaks of religious distinctions
 - a. Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Pentecostal, Mormon, Church of God, COGIC, Charismatic...etc
3. **barbarian, Scythian** - cultural & national differences
4. **slave nor free** – Class differences, rich/poor, educated/uneducated, yellow/chocolate
5. **male nor female** – gender distinctions

F. We have been changed! These are descriptions of the flesh. If this is what we see, we are not seeing correctly.

1. We have not truly learned to live in the spirit!
2. We are indeed speaking words of the flesh. The flesh is death! By you referring to your race, or any reference according to the flesh of yourself, you are degrading yourself from the high standard that Christ has set for you!

16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer

3. We now have eternal life. We have the key to share with all; not regarding their race as anything to be regarded!
 - a. Is this a stumbling block for you? Perhaps the problem is that you have not grown spiritually enough to realize the importance of the Holy Spirit in your life.
 - b. this is a deception of the devil.

**RACIAL DISTINCTION OR CLASS DISTINCTION IS OF THE FLESH
THERE IS NONE OF THIS IN THE SPIRIT!**

So many are babes in the spirit subject to thoughts of the flesh! Such will never see the fullness of the spirit!

WE MUST LEARN AND GROW IN THE SPIRIT AND NOT BE HINDERED BY CONCERNS OF THE FLESH!

(KJV 1900) Ro 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

(KJV 1900) Ga 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

4. We must stop pursuing the things of the flesh for they are not for us!
We are of the Spirit created to have living waters flow from within us!