

INTRODUCTION

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WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

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ARE WE THERE YET?

The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years before they finally crossed the Jordan River and entered the Promised Land. This wasn't the end of their journey, however. Upon entering the Promised Land, the Israelites learned that their new-found trust in God would soon be put to the test.

Like the Israelites, many people today believe in the existence of God. Some people have learned great truths about God and have even had personal encounters with him. But in order to live in the Promised Land, it is not enough to simply believe that God exists; we must actually *believe* God.

Now that you've come this far on *The Ultimate Journey*, you must make some very deep, far-reaching choices and decisions regarding your future. You must speak to your own heart and mind in answer to the probing question that our indwelling Lord always asks of His disciples:

“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he was asking his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’

“And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.’

“He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ ” (Matthew 16:13–15)

Wow, what a loaded question! And our Master is presenting the same question to you—right now. You'll answer this question continually in the days to come, so it's time to start proving whether your claim of belonging to God is true. It's time to show what you really think of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

You will be facing an enemy who will do everything possible to bluff you into laying down your weapons and allowing yourself to be dragged back into the “slave pens” of Egypt. Now the real truth about you, and who really lives in you, is going to come out.

Did Christ really conquer the powers of darkness and win the war? Did he really do everything necessary to bring you into his Track A Kingdom? Is Christ really able to give you possession of the land you are about to enter? Does he really live in you and operate through you at all times? Is it really true that all you must do is go in with your brothers and sisters in the faith and take possession of whatever is before you?

You've never before been in the Land of Promise, so you don't yet know its ways. Everything you know and have become comfortable with, and skilled at, pertains to territory you left behind long ago. And so now you must develop patterns that correspond to this new land along with your new God-given identity, commission, and destiny. You will develop and install this new identity and mentality along with new attitudes and priorities. You will learn to focus on the overcoming purpose ahead so you can fulfill your new commission and do your part, as a member of God's Kingdom through your new citizenship, status, and privileges.

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Oftentimes our thoughts and feelings become obstacles to learning God's ways. We tend to live according to our own knowledge and understanding rather than trusting God and living according to his understanding.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.
(Proverbs 3:5)

To “lean not on your own understanding” and acknowledge God instead means to stop trusting in and acting upon your own thoughts and feelings, as you let his thoughts and feelings become yours. In other words, you must stop listening to the voices of your past and your own reasoning, as you learn to listen to and obey the voice of the Holy Spirit within you.

When you signed over the Title Deed of your life to God, you were saying your life was no longer your own—that you were ready to listen to his Spirit within you and obey whatever he told you.

Do you remember what God promised through his prophet Ezekiel? “And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God.” (Ezekiel 36:27–28)

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If you really meant it when you signed over your life to God, then you've already entered the Promised Land!

Understand, though, that the Promised Land is not a destination but rather is the new heavenly ground God has planted you in—your new Christ-In-Me way of seeing reality. The Promised Land means embracing self-surrender and eating the incredible fruit that results from experiencing the life God has always wanted to live with and through you.

It's important to recognize that even after the Israelites entered the Promised Land, they still struggled to truly believe God. Oftentimes they allowed themselves to be overwhelmed by circumstances. Like the Israelites, you, too, need to see your circumstances through God's eyes, rather than your own, as you continue moving forward on *The Ultimate Journey*.

So now the question is: Will you bring your mind into alignment with God's perspective? This will determine whether you'll continue being controlled by circumstances or allow God to take control. But once you've made this change, you'll never want to go back. Shifting your mindset to seeing your circumstances through God's perspective will radically transform your life.

Once the Israelites had reached the Promised Land, God commanded them to cross over the Jordan River and take possession. Even though the land already belonged to them, the Israelites still had to fight the people occupying the territory God had given them. Possessing the land, therefore, required hard work.

In the same way, you will no doubt discover that possessing the new heavenly ground God has given you will be a battle. But don't become discouraged. If you truly died with Christ (in your own mind, heart, and will), and truly exchanged lives with him so that Christ, the Living Word of God, can now live his life from within your flesh, then he will be the one that crosses into the Land of Promise. He will obey his Father from within your spirit, soul, and body. Christ will fulfill the promises that Father made to you. And he will prove—through your flesh—that he has already overcome and defeated the enemy that once dominated you!

Just like the Israelites, you will never be alone during your journey. God will be with you every step of the way, ready and waiting to supply everything you need to overcome whatever you face. Rather than depending upon what you believe to be your own strength and resources, you will learn instead to depend totally upon God.

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During Phase 3, you will learn to restructure your mind so that it comes into alignment with God's truth. You will learn what it means to abide in Christ and experience the blessings of a life surrendered to him. You will see God's law of sowing and reaping as it applies to you and how you can garden your life with Christ toward ever-increasing maturity and fruitfulness. You will possess your new Christ-In-Me identity, that enables you to become the person God created you to be, as you allow Christ to live his life through you in relationship with others.

According to Scripture, the Israelites were God's chosen people, not because there was something unique or special about them, but because God wanted and needed a people through which he could draw all nations unto himself. Likewise, Scripture says that you did not choose God, but rather that God chose *you*.

Now it is time in your journey to allow the Lord's life to be revealed in and through you. As you do, the indwelling reality and truth of the life of Christ will begin to shine out of you, so that he can invade the darkness. Remember, God wants others to have what he has already given to you. And so it is your commission to demonstrate Christ in you before others so they also might receive him!

The question remains: Are you ready to move forward and possess the land God has given you? It's time to "abandon ship," to leave the self-life you've known, as you allow the light of Christ in you to become a beacon of hope amidst a lost and dying world.

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LESSON

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Now WHAT?

Now that we have signed over the rights to ourselves, through the Title Deed, life as we knew it is gone. Life is no longer about self-improvement or fixing ourselves up. Christ now lives in and through us. Life is no longer about “my” journey, but rather is about the plans and purposes of Christ in me. As stated in Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”

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A LOOK BACK

During Phase 2 of *The Ultimate Journey*, you began to learn to depend on God rather than yourself and others. Just as the children of Israel went through the desert in order to learn to trust solely in their Heavenly Father, you’ve begun to learn that everything you need in life has already been secured and provided for through God’s eternal covenant in Christ. Therefore, you no longer need to strive to meet your own needs, as you did in the past. You can now rest in the knowledge that by surrendering your life to Christ, he is faithful to complete the work in you, while interceding on your behalf before the Father for everything you need, now and for eternity.

GAINING PERSPECTIVE

- As the Holy Spirit reveals truth to us, we must continue repenting of the radical independence that caused us to rely on ourselves rather than God.
- Revelation of your indwelling Lord is accomplished 100% by the power of the Holy Spirit and Christ’s authority in you, and 0% by you.
- The paradigm or mental picture you believe, accept, and identify with in your heart of hearts, is utterly crucial to developing a proper understanding of Christ in you.
- Total dependence on the Holy Spirit within you enables the life of Christ to flow out from you in all his glory.

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THE BLAST—YOUR LIFE IS GONE

Imagine taking in a panoramic view of the ocean from high above the water. Except for one small island, there’s nothing in sight but the blue-green sea stretching out before you. The island is your only landmark.

Think of this island as your original, ego-centered self-life. Because the island is the only landmark in sight, you can’t help noticing its pristine sand beach and lush green interior composed of what we’ll call “self-life trees.” Whenever you gaze

out across the endless sea, your eyes always come back to the island because it's the only activity on your radar screen.

Suddenly the scenery changes as a hydrogen bomb falls from the sky in the middle of your island, detonating on impact. Now what? As your eyes survey the landscape for signs of life, what draws your attention now—the island, or the bomb?

It's crazy to even ask, right? If an atomic bomb were dropped on that island, nothing that remained would be recognizable—not even a toothpick! And you wouldn't even think of salvaging any wood from the self-life trees that had once covered the island. All you'd be able to see and deal with now would be the awesome mushroom cloud and total devastation caused by the atomic blast. You couldn't do anything with that island, or receive anything from it, because nothing would be left to work with!

AFTER THE BLAST: NOTHING BUT CHRIST

In the spiritual realm, the change that occurs the moment the risen Lord Jesus Christ comes into your life is even more powerful and devastating to your corrupt self-life than the damage done by an atomic bomb! While God's redemption through Christ doesn't annihilate the *real* you—the person God created you to be—it certainly does a devastating job on your radically independent self-life. In fact the

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self-life no longer exists! From then on you have no life but the risen Lord Jesus, which is Christ in you. From that point forward, Christ becomes the only activity on your radar screen—and all that matters in life.

You now realize as never before the awesome truth that always was, is, and shall be: that all you are, all you have, and all you do comes directly from Christ living in you.

After the blast on that island, which is analogous to the spiritual regeneration of being born again, everything in your spiritual reality becomes Christ and *nothing else*. Therefore, the indwelling presence of Christ can now be gloriously manifested in and through your life. This is the appropriate response and reflection of the spiritual reality upon transferring ownership of your life to Christ through the Title Deed ceremony at the end of Phase 2.

Do you understand what occurs when you give up ownership of your life? As you allow the Holy Spirit to take up residence within your regenerated spirit, you're in Christ-Life forever! The Holy Spirit is now infused into you as a newly created child of the Living God and a citizen of God's Eternal Kingdom. You have become a living member of his body on earth and have entered a brand new reality.

Wouldn't such a radical transformation call for a whole new way of seeing and identifying yourself? Wouldn't it require a whole new way of thinking, reacting, and

operating in this demon-possessed world? In Phase 3, you will develop a whole new way of seeing yourself in the reality of Christ living in you. Consider these scriptures in relation to the life-changing transformation that has occurred within you:

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. (Romans 6:6–7)

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 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. (2 Corinthians 5:14–15)

Christ is now everything to you. Life is no longer about your wants, your needs, and your desires, as when you were running your life apart from Christ. Your life has been taken over. And thus your former way of living, which focused on self-improvement, is no longer a workable option.

A TALE OF TWO WRECKS **— AN ALLEGORY —**

Both vehicles had been involved in head-on collisions. After being towed to the same junkyard, they sat side by side for several years in the same miserable, twisted condition—rusting and disintegrating. One of the vehicles was a red wreck. The other vehicle had been so badly burned in the crash that there was no telling what color it had been.

The two wrecks were absolutely hopeless and could do nothing for themselves. They could never save themselves from their junkyard fate. If they were ever to change, they would have to depend 100% on someone else to redeem them.

As it turned out, several years later, their hopes for restoration were rekindled. Two men came to the junkyard on the same day, looking for wrecks to restore. One man arrived in the morning and was immediately drawn to the red wreck. He realized it had once been a fancy foreign sports car—great looking and expensive. “Wow! What a find,” the man thought. “I’ll straighten the frame, pound out the dents, rebuild its parts, restore the interior, and give it a nice paint job. I’ll fix it up

and it will be as good as new.”

With that in mind, the man bought the red wreck and towed it home to his garage. He put the wrecked vehicle up on concrete blocks. Over the following months, he worked on that wreck in his spare time—pounding, welding, sanding, refitting, and improving. All this attention made the red wreck feel great. She felt important once again.

That same day, another man arrived at the junkyard in the afternoon and bought the other wreck—the one that had caught fire and was now so badly charred you couldn't tell what color she had been. Before the accident she had been a fleet car, an economy sedan that wasn't worth much money and certainly was nothing to brag about. Unlike the red wreck, however, this man had entirely different plans for the burned-out sedan. And he didn't buy just that one wreck: he bought all of the remaining wrecks in the junkyard! Unlike the other man, he didn't take the wrecks home to tinker with. Instead he took them all to his factory.

The charred wreck was really impressed with this treatment. “My,” she thought, “he must really think I'm valuable and important. He's not just taking me to a workshop to fix me up. He's going to all the trouble of taking me to a big plant to do a proper restoration job and bring me back to what I used to be!”

That's what she thought, so the burned-out wreck was happy thinking about her bright new future. The man's intent, however, had never been to simply restore the wreck. Instead of being singled out and prepared for restoration, the burned-out wreck was picked up by giant steel claws and placed on a huge conveyor belt. The conveyor began moving the wreck and all her companions toward a huge, impressive-looking structure. The wreck's initial curiosity quickly turned to horror, however, once she realized the conveyor was about to drop her into a roaring, white-hot blast furnace!

When the wreck was directly over the furnace, two giant doors opened. Then the conveyor dumped the wreck into the inferno. The wreck couldn't believe this was happening. “Wait a minute!” she cried out. “I had no idea what this guy was getting me into! He isn't going to fix me. He's going to absolutely annihilate me!”

Her protests didn't matter, however, because it was too late now. In no time her metal began to glow white-hot in the furnace. All of the impurities from her past that had become embedded were being burned off. Soon the impurities disappeared, and her metal became soft and pliant. In only minutes the wreck had lost all of her stubborn, twisted form and every trace of her former identity. She was still there as the same metal, but now she was transformed into something brand new: a puddle of pure, white-hot, molten steel. The heap she used to be was now dead and gone. What had needed improvement had been destroyed. All that now remained of her was pure, clean potential for the future.

Then the molten steel of the former wreck was poured into a set of forms. These forms would fashion the framework for the most beautiful, elegant limousine she

had ever seen. What had formerly been a burned-out wreck of an economy sedan was now being formed into the image and likeness of a luxury limousine!

As her molten steel began to conform to the new shape, another mold was placed over her and was joined to the first mold. Then a machine applied tremendous pressure to both molds. “Oh, this is painful!” she cried out. “So this is what death and resurrection must feel like. Self-improvement never felt like this!” As the steel began to cool, however, the pain subsided and she felt wonderful.

Not a trace remained of the formerly burned-out sedan. While she was still the same steel, she had been transformed into something new, something free of the limitations from her past. After being reduced to zero, she had undergone a total metamorphosis. She had a brand new shape, purpose, identity, and destiny she had never dreamed possible.

“Yes, I’m still here,” she thought. “But the life I now live, I live as a result of the one who saw me, chose me, and believed in what he could make of me, when he redeemed me from the junkyard. I am brand new with a fresh start and new abilities, leading me into a completely new future.”

After the destruction and rebirth of the burned-out wreck, into what was now a luxury limousine, the owner of the factory reserved her for his personal use. Strangely enough, the two former junkyard wrecks encountered each other once again. It just so happened that the man who had purchased the red wreck to tinker with and fix up was the brother-in-law of the man that had transformed the burned-out wreck into a luxurious limousine.

At the next family gathering, the two men arrived in their respective “new cars.” The factory owner’s limousine looked immaculate and glorious and ran at peak performance. And how could it not? After all, wasn’t it now completely new, starting with zero miles? Wasn’t every part absolutely brand new and designed to fit perfectly?

And what of the other “improved” car, the former red wreck? Well, you have to give her owner some credit for trying. He spent months working to fix, restore, and improve that red wreck. Yes, he had done exactly what he set out to do—he had “fixed her up.” But in the process he also found himself endlessly driving her back to the garage to tinker with problems.

For example, during the trip to the family gathering, the man and his family felt shimmy-like vibrations while riding in the fixed-up vehicle. The replacement dashboard he had installed, which he had purchased from a salvage yard, emitted a maddening set of rattles. The engine always sounded “funny,” and the transmission was stiff and unresponsive. And after being parked a few minutes, fluid would leak from underneath the car and form a puddle on the concrete.

Overall the fixed-up wreck looked pretty good. It was a vast improvement compared to its condition in the junkyard. But no amount of tinkering could make the red wreck “as good as new.” There could never be a substitute for actually being made brand new.

The limousine and fixed-up red wreck noticed each other upon arrival at the family gathering. The limousine, of course, recognized the red wreck immediately. But the red wreck had no idea that this shiny new limousine had formerly been the burned-out sedan from the junkyard.

As he talked with others about the fixed-up red wreck he was now driving, the owner made all kinds of excuses for her condition: “Well, she still has a long way to go, but she’s come along way. If I just keep working hard enough, she’ll get there. You’ll see.”

The time, money, energy, and attention the man had expended fixing the dents and wrinkles were obvious. But so was the fact that despite all the external, cosmetic improvements he made, this was still the same old car with the same old past. It no longer looked as bad as it once did. Even so, it would never be anything more than a cleaner, nicer version of the same old traumatized wreck. While its former condition was now more difficult to discern because of the cosmetic cover-up, you could still see traces of trauma and damage beneath the sanded body and coats of paint.

The difference between the two autos was like night and day—or rather, life and death. Now improved and rebuilt, the former red wreck was a much-improved version of what it had been in the junkyard. But the other car, the burned-out sedan, was not a fixed-up version of its past; the limousine had absolutely died to what it had been. This car was not the restoration of something old, but rather the resurrection of something new, something recreated from scratch. It had no past—only a bright, glorious future. It was in mint condition, straight from the manufacturer’s factory and ready to operate at peak performance.

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By now you see where this allegory is going. The two cars represent two different understandings of what the gospel of Jesus Christ is and does in our lives. The red wreck typifies our spiritual state when we undertake all sorts of religious self-improvement. The transformed limousine, by comparison, embodies the total newness that springs from being crucified unto death and being “born again.”

Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:3–4)

What you were in your radically independent life is totally dead, buried, and gone. The independent self-life you had known is no longer an option. It’s not even on your menu—it is gone forever! So there’s nothing left to improve. There’s nothing left to work with to make your self better.

The following scenario is an example of how a humanistic view of the gospel,

which says, “I have to improve my life,” creates a false view in a person’s mind. This false view leads to misguided assumptions, inappropriate reactions, and bad choices.

THE LIFE OF MILT

Milt is a young Christian whose understanding of being saved is to “give Jesus a try.” At the insistence of a well-meaning evangelist he met on the street, Milt repeated the sinner’s prayer and asked Jesus to come into his life. That prayer is the extent of Milt’s discipleship training and knowledge of what it means to be a Christian.

After repeating the sinner’s prayer, Milt formed the impression that everything in his life would magically change. He anticipated that joy, victory, and abundance would begin pouring down upon him. Milt fully expected God to start pulling him higher and higher up on the false scale of 1 to 10. He assumed God would automatically change his behavior for the better and enable him to become more like Christ.

Nobody told Milt that Christ is the only perfect 10. Milt thought he was supposed to *try* to be like Jesus through his own effort. But this thinking is the essence of religious self-life. In Milt’s misguided understanding, Jesus is always a separate entity. In this thinking, God looks in on Milt from time to time, and if Milt is doing really well and moving up higher on that scale of 1 to 10, he gives Milt an occasional bonus to help him continue improving his old life and act in better, more acceptable ways. But basically it’s still up to Milt to clean up his act, stop his addictive behaviors, and control his sin. Milt thinks the way to do this is to become church-wise by reading the Bible, hanging out with other Christians, and parroting all the right words and phrases.

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Milt’s understanding of the gospel, however, is devoid of the cross and the new blood covenant life exchange with Christ. Milt knows nothing of the indwelling, Christ-centered relationship God now requires. He thinks life in the Holy Spirit consists of developing a grim determination to hate sin and change his behavior, while striving and working harder to attain holiness.

Notice the self-centered nature of Milt’s paradigm: He thinks that becoming more like Christ is up to him. Milt thinks he must stop living for himself and start living for God. But by living this way, Milt, rather than Christ, is still doing the living. And so Milt is condemned to try to change his routine and develop a new lifestyle. According to this paradigm, Milt believes it’s up to him to stop wanting what he wants and begin hating what he loves. Milt’s paradigm says he must stop the speeding train of self-life, turn it around, stoke it up, and get it speeding in the opposite direction. Somehow, Milt believes, he must convert his old routine of sin into a non-sinful routine. But either way, it’s still *his* routine.

Here's the problem: Milt is a non-crucified person. He went through the motions of "asking Jesus into my life" while he's still hanging onto his life for all it's worth. It's still "The Milt Show," with God on accompaniment. So it's not too surprising that during the past few weeks, Milt has fallen back into sin several times.

Now Milt is filled with guilt, condemnation, and shame, and is beating himself up. "I thought I was saved," Milt says to himself. "*Now* look at what I've done. God must be really disgusted with me. If only I could do a better job of crucifying my flesh..."

Milt is now convinced God has abandoned him. So based on something he heard about "seeking after the face of God," Milt prays, "Lord, where are you? Please come back. I'm sorry. Please forgive me. I'm going to be really good and make it up to you! Honest, Lord, I'll do better. I'm crying out to you. God, where are you?"

Look at the words of Milt's well-intentioned prayer. Notice how he mentally pictures the situation. Does Milt's prayer indicate he knows what the new, eternal covenant is all about? Does Milt's prayer indicate he knows God as his eternal blood brother? Can Milt see himself as a temple of the Holy Spirit, ablaze with the presence and power of the living God? Does Milt's soul mirror the reality of Christ indwelling him and doing 100% of the work to become more like Christ? Or is Milt seeing himself separated from God, trying to do everything in his own strength?

In Milt's mind, the only power in his life is the power that sin still has over him. And if Milt hasn't joined Christ in his death, the power of sin in his life hasn't been defeated. So mixed in with Milt's religious-sounding prayer is a lot of unbelief, misguided theology, a sense of separation from God, and a weak, self-centered sense of futility. Milt feeds all this into his brain, which in turn forces him to see, feel, and live according to what this false perspective feeds into him. But that's the wrong riverbed. Such thinking leaves Milt cut off from God's power and leads to discouragement, disillusionment, and burnout.

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WHAT PICTURE DO YOU SEE?

Everyone's brain responds to pictures. This is why Jesus taught in picture-stories known as parables. When our brain gets "the picture," it follows that picture like a blueprint. Let's analyze the pictures Milt is downloading into his brain. Are they pictures of God's eternal, airtight, blood covenant faithfulness? Are they pictures of God indwelling Milt through his Holy Spirit? Are they pictures of the Holy Spirit being the empowerment that allows Milt to embody the fruit of the Spirit? Or, are they pictures of a distant God Milt can't really trust to be active and ever-present in his life? If God can't really be trusted, then Milt has no choice but to

focus on his own ability to perform and, he hopes, to live up to God's expectations.

Once those false pictures get into his brain, Milt begins following them as a pattern. He becomes just like a cow passing through the walls of a packinghouse chute. The chute leads to the killing floor and a sense of total, hopeless failure along with condemnation and feelings of abandonment. But that's *not* where a child of God is supposed to end up! Milt has arrived at a false conclusion because his mind is caught in a false reality.

The truth is that God has applied the shed blood of Jesus to Milt's past, present, and future sin. Milt was once in covenant with Adam and his independent self-life. But now his self-life has been crucified and executed forever! Christ has forgiven and redeemed Milt and, in exchange, has given him a true, God-created self. Now Christ's life is ready to live and work in Milt in all things and at all times, if only Milt will believe and receive this truth from the loving hand of his heavenly Father, as he learns to rest in God's eternal provision.

The Holy Spirit applied everything Milt would ever need the moment he believed and was saved. God literally fused his Holy Spirit into Milt the way water and tea are joined together, when a bag of tea is placed in boiling water. The two become one, and the transformation is permanent. In the same way, God's covenant blessing is applied to Milt personally, moment by moment. But Milt doesn't know this, so he's not picturing and downloading this truth into his onboard computer, his brain. Therefore this reality cannot show up in Milt's life. His onboard computer can operate only according to the information it has. It's as though Milt has 220 AC electrical power available to him, but his wiring can handle only 110 AC power. Milt has the birthright, but not the awareness of what belongs to him. He's like a spiritual billionaire who forgets he has money in the bank.

THE PROBLEM IS MILT

So what truth is Milt missing? God swore by a blood oath that he will never leave, forsake, or abandon Milt. That's why the Holy Spirit lives in Milt right now, to constantly give him whatever he needs to be restored and maintained in Christ's holiness. The Holy Spirit is ready to continue transmitting Christ-Life into him and remove the residue of the unworthiness that was crucified. But Milt is putting all his faith and expectation on his old self and his own self-improvement efforts.

In effect, Milt is telling his onboard computer—his brain—that it's all up to him to find a way to become right with God. Milt might not actually think or say such things. But through Milt's actions, the implication is that what Jesus did wasn't good enough, that Jesus didn't get the job done by dying on the cross and being resurrected. So it's up to Milt to do it. And while Milt is inadvertently doing a number on his brain, his brain is in turn doing a number on him. Here's what happens: If you sow in error, you reap in error. In other words, if you sow unbelief, you reap alienation and separation from God. If you sow self, you reap more and

more bondage to your feelings, opinions, urges, and circumstances. The solution is for Milt to focus on Christ and begin feeding on him!

Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever.” (John 6:53–58)

When the day comes that Milt begins feeding on nothing but Christ as his crucified, risen, exalted, and indwelling Lord, his brain will then allow him to enjoy his God-given freedom. Then Milt will have real cause to rejoice in the Lord, always.

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

Can you see the bondage so many people are under because of how they see and believe? What you think about all day long, and the way you think about it, determines who you will become. In the same way, your thoughts determine what

What you think about all day long, and the way you think about it, determines who you will become.

you feel about others. So what you *think* you must do, or avoid doing, reflects what you believe God has either finished on your behalf or has left undone.

Can you see why some people spend so much time, energy, money, and attention in spiritual repair shops? The problem is that you can’t operate in something you don’t believe you have! If you still see yourself and the world around you through the eyes of a victimized child-slave from Egypt, still meandering in the desert of sin, you’ll feel compelled to undergo every form of religious self-improvement under the sun. You’ll use that self-centered perspective, which you learned as a child, and will still feel and act like a beat-up old wreck, always needing to be worked on. You’ll always show up for tune-ups, adjustments, improvements, and new parts. You’ll enter do-it-yourself ministry garages and car washes as a beat-up, dirty old clunker and come out as—you guessed it, a somewhat improved, beat-up old clunker. And you’ll do this over and over until you either drop or give up altogether from sheer despair and burnout. All of this will keep bubbling up from your false, self-centered life.

For those who find themselves perpetually living in burnout and despair, it’s because of the false, self-centered, Christ-less, mental cattle chute their minds are caught in. They do not yet understand the new, eternal covenant or recognize how radically deep, thorough, and perfect the finished work of Christ within them really

is. They have no personal understanding of Christ's infinite perfection, holiness, and "good-enoughness," dwelling within them. They never realize that what belongs to Christ belongs to them as well. The truth never sinks in that through Christ, they are already complete in God's sight.

So they endlessly chase the religious "carrot-on-a-stick" of self-improvement. They cannot reckon themselves as dead to doing anything more to receive God's love and approval. They still believe the gospel alone is not good enough, not finished. So instead of learning to release what is already in them, which is Christ, they keep working and working, trying to "get it" and "make it happen." And thus they end up never actually having the freedom in Christ that has belonged to them all along. They labor under the delusion that it's up to them to finish the process and make themselves good enough, rather than allowing Christ-Life within them to meet God's standards.

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 10:39)

CHRIST ALONE IS YOUR LIFE

So many well-intentioned efforts in Christian ministry and religion lead people into deep discouragement, despair, and spiritual burnout. But the understanding of Christ-Life in you leads to freedom, joy, completion, and peace. We no longer focus on our own efforts, but rather submit to God's effort, as he works through us. The key to experiencing God's good news lies buried in the two-step instruction in Romans 12:1–2:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. (Romans 12:1)

Believe God. Repent of your radical independence. Abandon yourself into God's hands and allow him to plunge you into the blast furnace of the cross and his eternal covenant with Christ. Thus you will be truly baptized into your covenant representative. You'll have no choice but to put 100% faith and trust in him and all he has done on your behalf. Believe that the Holy Spirit is given to you to completely re-create and refashion your spirit into the perfect image and likeness of your new covenant champion. Believe that you are now part of Christ's body and that you are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Believe that the Holy Spirit is even now purifying you with the blood of Christ and filling you with his absolutely perfect, God-approved life.

We no longer focus on our own efforts, but rather submit to God's effort, as he works through us.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (Romans 12:2)

After you're spiritually regenerated, you must mentally acknowledge, accept, adjust to, and cooperate with God's incredibly perfect spiritual work. You must allow him to thoroughly wean you, mentally and emotionally, from your old, self-centered, shame-based, God-less identity and all the associated thoughts and behavior patterns. Note the following scriptures:

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. (Romans 6:11–14)

* * *

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. (Colossians 3:1–11)

PUT IT OFF—FOREVER!

How does one “put off the old self”? You do so by admitting and realizing that God has already done it. As God sees you, the old self is dead and gone, the moment your spirit is made alive in Christ. The moment you agreed to exchange lives and track records with Christ, the work was done. The exchange was complete. You put off the old self by realizing what the blast furnace of the cross has already done. The old self was melted down, totaled, annihilated. You put off the old self by realizing it's not yours anymore, and that all you can now do is put all your focus and energy on Christ, as you take on his fiery, perfect, indwelling life as your one and only

choice. Once you truly know that Christ in you is now your life, you're free of ever again having to strive to please God or of trying to live a perfect, sinless life.

Let Christ burn himself into you so vigorously that you forget all about what you used to be without him. Stop focusing on saying "no" to things you used to be and do. Instead begin to say "yes" to Christ as you focus on who he is within you. Focus on what Christ says he is doing at all times from deep within your new spirit. Because of your gloriously new spirit, there is a brand new person inside of your mind and body.

Say "yes" to the Holy Spirit. He indwells you for the purpose of revealing the glorious character, disposition, and presence of the Son of God in you. This revelation can never be achieved through human might or power. It is accomplished 100% by the power of the Holy Spirit and Christ's authority. You have 0% to do with making it happen. This is why you can afford to rest and consider it already done by the blood covenant hand of God.

Stop focusing on saying "no" to things you used to be and do. Instead begin to say "yes" to Christ as you focus on who he is within you.

Once you are in Christ, you are spiritually reshaped and reformed into his image and likeness. There is nothing of the past for you to fix or repair. There is only your new, eternally perfect Christ-Life, through which to learn and live, as you release his presence into everything you do.

Freedom from ministerial repair shops and car washes, though, will never be for those who insist on bypassing Christ to focus on themselves and their own fallen understanding. Freedom is only for those who truly believe the word of God. They see themselves as fresh from the blast furnace and assembly line! They know they are in absolute mint condition with no previous mileage, compliments of the infinite atonement of the Lamb of God. They know this because Christ himself, Christ-Life, abides within them. They know they pass God's inspection and are ready for full-blown service on the earthly highways of his choice.

SELF-LIFE SLAVE OR FREE WARRIOR!

Are you a brand new creation in Christ? Or are you still an old, unbelieving, self-centered heap, badly in need of an overhaul, using rebuilt parts and solvent baths? The paradigm you believe, accept, and identify with in your heart of hearts is utterly crucial. One paradigm forces you to obey your own understanding, sensations, history, opinions, and feelings. The other leads you to obey the blood covenant revelation of God. The paradigm you choose determines the difference between self-centered humanism and the Christ-centered gospel, that crucifies and buries the independent self, and unleashes the glory of the risen Christ.

This was the mental difference between Joshua and Caleb, the free warriors of God, compared to the millions of whipped, beaten-up slaves who left Egypt and refused to believe God. Those that couldn't make the mental transition roamed the

desert in fear, feeling discouraged and disgruntled, until finally they dropped dead. The families of Joshua and Caleb, by comparison, were transformed and took the Promised Land God gave them. (The details of this story are found in Numbers 13 & 14).

This is also the difference between Christians who truly become temples of the Holy Spirit, compared to those that bounce around looking for ministries that will help them cope with and improve what they have always been. Such Christians will cling to thought patterns they have had since childhood, living as self-centered sinners, brought up in this humanistic world.

But God's agenda is far different. As you allow the cross to strip off your old identity paradigm once and for all, as you mentally undergo death with Christ on the

As you allow the cross to strip off your old identity paradigm once and for all, as you mentally undergo death with Christ on the Cross, your old life and identity will melt away forever.

Cross, your old life and identity will melt away forever. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Old things will pass away. All things will be made brand new. And you'll have no choice but to continue pressing forward. You'll become accustomed to living out what God has given

to you in exchange, which is the new, perfect, Christ-Life identity that makes you brand new, complete, and flawless in Christ. Like the formerly burned-out wreck that was transformed into a limousine, you'll come to see yourself as you truly are—brand new, shiny, and beautifully clean throughout. This is the essence of the eternal new covenant rescue mission conceived and fulfilled in the Kingdom of Heaven before creation. And now God's eternal plan has invaded your spirit along with the rest of this fallen world.

In order for God's transforming power to be active and alive, however, you must cooperate and agree with this awesome fact of Christ-in-you. In doing this you begin to create and wire into yourself the brand new, God-given Christ-Life identity patterns you never had as a child. You will learn to steer your thought patterns in line with the spiritual reality that Christ himself now lives and operates from deep within your spirit. Look for him to appear in the workings of your soul and the activities of your body. See yourself as finished and complete in Christ.

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2)

Your brain will allow you to personally experience and feel for yourself that God's covenant promises are absolutely true and experientially real. You will actually see for yourself the obvious manifestations of Christ living within you.

Once you've been baptized into Christ, your spirit, like the shiny new limousine, is ready for the brilliant spotlights of heaven's showroom floor! You can now afford

to be there, under the glaring lights, since through Christ there are no flaws in your spiritual makeup. But you're not in this place to show yourself off. Rather you're here and present, in Christ, to transport and testify to the glory, mercy, perfection, and power of God's indwelling presence. You're here to reveal and manifest the reality of the glorious, risen Christ now living in you. Because for you to live now, is Christ.

Christ is risen, new, and absolutely clean and ready to hit the road, right now! You don't improve Christ; he doesn't need it. You learn to release him in all his Glory. He is your one and only reason to boast, and thus it's not your own glory you revel in, but the glory of Christ bestowed upon you. As the Lord said to Moses:

"Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you."
(Exodus 25:8-9)

YOU ARE GOD'S TEMPLE

God instructed Moses to build an earthly, physical tabernacle, or temple, where God's presence could dwell in a designated place between heaven and earth, and in which the meeting, bonding, and ongoing union between God and man could take place.

When God tells Moses to make the old covenant tabernacle for his presence to dwell in, he is giving Israel a preview of the new covenant temple we would become in order for Christ to indwell us through his Spirit.

Every detail of God's instructions to Moses regarding how the tabernacle should be built corresponds perfectly to some aspect of his beloved Son, Jesus, the Messiah. For example, the tabernacle is the holy dwelling place for the Holy One, Jesus. The Menorah, often called the Light of the World, represents Christ. The showbread represents Christ, the bread of life. The altar represents the sacrifice, and Christ is the sacrifice that brings us to God. The Torah, the written word placed in the Ark of the Covenant, is later to be fulfilled in the Living Word, Jesus.

God is adamant about every detail of building the tabernacle because our relationship with him depends on us knowing and responding to him as he really is. Christ will be our sanctuary in whom we meet and abide with God, and his new covenant people will become the very temple of his living, indwelling presence.

If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, (it will be because Christ himself did it from within him and) he will receive his reward. If it is burned up (that will prove it didn't originate in Christ and), he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames. Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple. (1 Corinthians 3:12-17, emphasis added)

God has always desired to live in intimate union and interaction with us. He created us to be his living image and likeness. Think about this and ponder the significance: *God wants us to see him and his holiness as living and operating from within us!* Could God be any closer than actually living *inside* each one of us? Could anything God reveals about himself and his desires toward us be any more heartwarming, endearing, hope-producing, and precious than knowing the Creator of the universe has taken up residence inside us?

Remember, however, for God to dwell among us, he must have a made-to-order, immaculate, perfect temple that meets *his* perfect standards. New covenant revelation lets us know that Christ, along with the living members of his body, is the true, eternal sanctuary, the pure and perfect meeting place between heaven and earth. Because of Christ we know that God and man can now meet, become one, and abide together in the most intimate, spirit-to-spirit oneness imaginable.

We have to move beyond immature thinking that prompts us to say we'll "give Jesus a try." Rather, we have to willingly surrender our life and become one with Christ. In the end there can be no corrupt loose ends dangling from the Body of Christ that belong to something alien, corrupt, and imperfect. There must not be even a trace of a hangover remaining of self-life. Because if anything remains of self-life, then to that same degree Christ has not yet been free to occupy and take Lordship over us.

Everything toxic and corrupt must—and will—be emptied. God's temple *will* be perfectly clean and pure. God is holy, holy, holy. Holy means *set apart*. As we are his temple, our lives must also be set apart for his use. All that pertains to the perfect life of Christ will be given to us in exchange for what we are by nature. And so whatever is not of Christ will be judged and incinerated in God's all-consuming fire of holiness and judgment. Because he loves us and knows our decisions carry eternal consequences, God is deadly serious about how we live in relation to holiness.

ONE WAY, ONE ROAD: CHRIST

When the exchange process is done—the process of surrendering our life for Christ-Life—we won't be left with a huge assembly of individuals, each with their own agenda. We will be left with only One Man with many living members: Christ in all of his fullness. He will be all in all for each of us. To that end, all independent self-life will have decreased to absolute zero so that Christ in his glorious fullness is revealed 100% through our spirits, souls, and bodies.

"Enter through the narrow (Christ-Life) gate. For wide is the (corrupt self-life) gate and broad is the (self-life) road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the (Christ-Life) gate and narrow the (Christ-Life) road that leads to life, and only a few find it!" (Matthew 7:13–14, emphasis added)

Take note of the seriousness of the Lord's warnings in Scripture. The spiritually blind, self-life world says just the opposite of what we read in God's word. All roads *do not* lead to God. He totally rejects the false "all-roads" gospel and commands us to undergo a thorough transformation, through baptism into the death of Christ, before we can abide eternally in his presence.

The question God is always asking is, "How much of my Son is in what comes out of you?" The answer to this question will become the criterion against which God will measure everything we do. All that pertains to Christ will be accepted and rewarded. But that which pertains to our own corrupt, sin-filled, independent, self-life ways will be incinerated and burned up like hay, wood, or straw.

The question God is always asking is, "How much of my Son is in what comes out of you?"

Ponder the words of Christ to so-called believers in the early church that dared mix what is worldly, corrupt, and created with the pure elements of Christ-Life that are holy and eternal:

"So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from Me Gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see." (Revelation 3:16–18)

Consider the significance of the passage of Scripture from Revelation in which Christ addresses the Church of Laodicea. In essence, the Scripture is saying that anything of value in our lives will be produced 100% by Christ through the Holy Spirit and 0% by our own self-life effort and devices. There can be no mixture of Christ-Life and self-life—not 50/50, not 80/20, and not even 99% Christ mixed with 1% self-life. This is because Christ-Life is a pure, God-originated reality—a total gift by grace. This is why we can never enjoy the fruits and blessings of Christ-Life through our own slavish efforts and corrupt initiatives and devices.

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20–21, emphasis added)

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation

with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. (Philippians 2:12–13, emphasis added)

“I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Sovereign LORD, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes. ‘For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you.’ ” (Ezekiel 36:23–29, emphasis added)

“The time is coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people... For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” (Jeremiah 31:31–34)

To Die Is To Live

We need to realize that just as for a physical heart transplant procedure, where an actual moment of death occurs as the recipient is prepared to receive a new heart, we also must die to ourselves in order to receive the new heart Christ puts in us.

Some of us want to settle for heart stints or coronary bypasses rather than a complete heart transplant. But regarding our spiritual depravity, the only solution is a total heart transplant through Christ in us.

It is interesting to note that medical science has found that heart transplant recipients often take on the tastes and thinking processes of the organ donor whose heart was transplanted. Once we have died to ourselves, consider how much more we take on the heart and life of Christ, who died for us that we might live eternally.

We’ve established that Christ indwells us as the temple of his Holy Spirit. Are you now ready to begin the process of renewing your mind to this new reality? As you do this, you will experience Christ living in you, and in so doing you will be able to possess the Promised Land God has for you. You will come to understand and believe that the Living God, Creator of the universe, truly lives inside you. He loves

you intimately and passionately and has a perfect and complete solution for every situation in your life. Christ alone is your perfect, complete solution. And he has come not only to give you life, but life more abundantly.

* * *

RETURN TO LESSON 1 IN YOUR STUDY GUIDE
AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS

P H A S E

3

S T U D Y G U I D E

PHASE 3

INTRODUCTION

I

PHASE 3 STUDY GUIDE

LESSON THEME

This section captures the theme of the lesson you read in your book to remind you of the overall message.

REVIEW POINTS

This section summarizes the main points of the lesson you read.

CONTENT QUESTIONS

Be sure to answer each of these questions for the lesson. By doing this, you will have a better comprehension of the material. In addition, your group leader will be addressing these questions in your class and you will want to be prepared to discuss with the rest of your group members.

To assist you, each of the questions are worded in such a way that you will find the same or nearly the same wording of the question in a sentence in your book. For example: Question—Instead of changing our thinking patterns, we typically try to feel better about ourselves or solve our problems by doing what?

What the Phase 3 book says: “So instead of changing our thinking patterns, we typically try to feel better about ourselves or solve our problems by trying to change other people.”

PERSONAL AFFIRMATIONS

The Personal Affirmations are found at the end of each lesson. Read them out loud each day for the accompanying lesson. You will be amazed at the power of the words as you speak them to yourself.

The more you read the affirmations, the more they are going to sink in to your heart and mind. So read them each day during the week. It may take some time for you to believe them, but they are true so keep affirming!

PERSONAL REFLECTION

You'll want to go beyond just understanding the material. It needs to make sense in your own life and experience. So, answer each of these questions. There is no right or wrong answer. You will have an opportunity to share these with your group members and hear how they are processing what they are learning as well.

NAVIGATING YOUR COURSE

At various points throughout the lesson, there will be specific checklists or other assignments which will help bring about transformation in your life. Be diligent to complete them! You need to continue to journal daily, or at least weekly, to maintain the ground you have gained throughout Phases 1 and 2 and to experience sustained growth and fruitfulness.

LESSON

1

NOW WHAT?

LESSON THEME

Now that we have signed over the rights to ourselves through the Title Deed, life as we knew it is gone. Life is no longer about self-improvement or fixing ourselves up. Christ now lives in and through us. And so life is no longer about “my” journey, but rather is about the plans and purposes of Christ in me. As stated in Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”

REVIEW POINTS

- As the Holy Spirit reveals truth to us, we must continue repenting of the radical independence that caused us to rely on ourselves rather than God.
- Revelation of your indwelling Lord is accomplished 100% by the power of the Holy Spirit and Christ’s authority in you, and 0% by you.
- The paradigm or mental picture you believe, accept, and identify with in your heart of hearts is utterly crucial to developing a proper understanding of Christ in you.
- Total dependence on the Holy Spirit within you enables the life of Christ to flow out from you in all his glory.

CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. God created you. He doesn't want to annihilate you. What is it in us that he does want to annihilate?
2. What occurs when you give up ownership of your life?
3. What do the "red wreck" and the "luxury limousine" each represent? Describe the ways people make attempts at religious self-improvement.
4. What does it mean to chase the religious "carrot on a stick"?
5. With regards to Romans 12:1, what is our spiritual act of worship?
6. Why is it so important to stop saying "no" to the things you used to be and start saying "yes" to Christ?
7. Why did God instruct Moses to build a tabernacle?
8. What does it mean for you to be the temple of the Holy Spirit?
9. Why do you need to be emptied of everything corrupt in your life?

PERSONAL AFFIRMATIONS

Read the personal affirmations out loud each day this week.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. Do you identify with the "red wreck" or the "luxury limousine"? Why?
2. Based on what you read about Milt, write a prayer regarding a sin you have been dealing with. Keep in mind who is going to be overcoming sin from within you.

NAVIGATING YOUR COURSE

Journal a letter to God telling him how do you feel about no longer focusing on fixing yourself up, but instead surrendering to his blast furnace?

LESSON 1 GROUP AFFIRMATIONS

1. Beloved child of God, in the name of the Lord Jesus, we the members of his Body, publicly acknowledge that you have exchanged lives with the Lord Jesus Christ. Testify in all things that you truly are a brand new, regenerated, Spirit-infused child and heir of the Living God!
2. You carry Christ's presence wherever you go. We commission you to join us in gathering and staying together to form the Lord's one Body. We pledge this covenant loyalty to you and commission you to extend that loyalty to every other member of the Body, for Jesus' sake.
3. Testify by your life that the former reliance on false, created gods is forever a thing of the past. Testify that your heavenly Father is everything to you and that you lack nothing. The eternal covenant supplies you with everything that the Father gives to Christ. Everything God has promised is now yours.
4. You are filled with the Spirit of God. Your days of separation from God and your former lifestyle of spiritual orphanhood are over. We commission you to demonstrate in all things that the Lord God Almighty is your Father and you are his beloved child. You do everything together with him, in the power of his Holy Spirit.
5. We release to you the ability to demonstrate that God Almighty lives in you! He has given himself to you. Realize that you are with God, and now nothing is impossible. Learn to deal with all things through Christ as one with him. You embody his wisdom, authority, power, strength, courage, and life-giving love.
6. Beloved child of God, in the name of the Lord Jesus, we the members of his Body, impart to you freedom from all remnants of past and present sin and dysfunction. You are free to replace any part of your life structure that is sinful, destructive, and harmful. Old things have passed away. Everything has become new for you.
7. Remember that the Lord Jesus is your very life. You have no other life but him. Christ is your entire source of provision and protection. We commission you to live by supernatural faith, drawing from him all that the Holy Spirit transmits into you from his covenant blessings.

LESSON 1 PERSONAL AFFIRMATIONS

1. Lord, thank you for exchanging lives with me. Thank you that there is nothing I need to do to fix or improve myself. Your perfect life lives in me. I draw from your life in me instead of my own life.
2. Lord, I carry your presence wherever I go. I am one with my brothers and sisters in Christ and I pledge covenant loyalty to them and every other member of the Body, for Jesus' sake.
3. God, I testify by my life that my former reliance on false, created gods is forever a thing of the past. Heavenly Father, you are now my life, and I lack nothing. The eternal covenant supplies everything I need through Christ. Everything you have promised is now mine.
4. God, you have filled me with your Spirit. My days of separation from you and my former lifestyle of spiritual orphanhood are over. I will demonstrate in all things that you, Lord God Almighty, are my Father and I am your beloved child. I do everything together with you in the power of your Holy Spirit.
5. God, thank you for giving yourself to me. I realize that because I am now with you, nothing is impossible. I embody your wisdom, authority, power, strength, courage, and life-giving love.
6. Thank you, God, for setting me free from all remnants of past and present sin and dysfunction. Your life has now replaced any part of my life structure that is sinful, destructive, and harmful. Old things have passed away. Everything has become new for me.
7. Jesus, you are my very life. I have no other life but you. I want no other life but you. You are my entire source of provision and protection. I want to live by supernatural faith, drawing from you all that the Holy Spirit transmits into me from your covenant blessings.