

# I'm a New Man

## Scripture:

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

### I. As a new man my heart has been softened toward God.

Ezekiel 11:19-20 "Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh,<sup>20</sup> that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God."

A. My heart is so softened that I find myself bound together with other believers.

B. God has made me able to walk in His ways instead of the way I used to walk.

Ephesians 4:21-24 "if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:<sup>22</sup> that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,<sup>23</sup> and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,<sup>24</sup> and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."

C. God has made me to know that I belong to Him.

### II. As a new man I my constantly being quickened 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."

A. Think of the power of the resurrection working in our lives.

B. We were living a life of death until Christ came into our hearts.

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

C. I am quickened to live in a heavenly dimension with Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:1-6 "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,<sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,<sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.<sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,<sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),<sup>6</sup> and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,"

1. Without that quickening we could not live a spiritual life.

Title: What a Difference a Change Makes

Once upon a time there was a prince who fell in love with a fair maiden. But his enemy captured the fair maiden and held her captive in a tower. Now the prince had a plan to rescue her, so he recruited the help of two small animals to send a message to the maiden. First there was Claude Caterpillar. Claude was a nice guy, and he didn't mind helping fair maidens in distress. But Claude was kind of a crusty old character. You might wonder, did he get up on the wrong side of the bed? Maybe he has a migraine headache or something. Anyway, the prince gave him the message, and he started inching along toward the tower. Being a fat little caterpillar, he had to work hard to get there, even sweat a bit. He thought to himself, Wouldn't you know it, the sun would have to be shining today! Just then the weather began to change. Clouds moved in and little drops started coming down all around him. He grumbled, "Rain, of all things. And I just had

this suit cleaned." But Claude wasn't a quitter. He made it to the tower and searched for a way up. A vine growing along one side was the obvious answer. Inch by inch up the vine Claude went, only to discover that it was a climbing rose bush. All the way up you could hear, "Ouch! Ouch! Ouch!" When he finally reached the window he heaved himself onto the ledge and said to the fair maiden, "Hey, lady! Come here! Are you the maiden in distress?" She nodded as she looked down at this sweaty, muddy little caterpillar. Claude gave her the once-over and said, "You're kidding. You mean I came all the way up here for the likes of you. I don't know what the prince sees in you. He sent me with a message, and you wouldn't believe how hard it was for me to get here. His message was: 'Get Ready.' He's coming to get you. Five o'clock sharp! Understand? All right! Good-bye!" And off went Claude.

Next the prince sent Barney Butterfly. Barney was not so sure of himself with the rain and wind, but he said he would try. His soft wings lifted him gracefully into the air. He struggled with all his might against the wind as it blew him back and forth. Just as he was about to reach the window, a bird swooped down and nearly ate him alive. After a frantic chase, Barney flew inside the window beyond the bird's snapping beak. He flew about the room until the maiden noticed him. She reached out her hand, and he landed softly on her finger. She brought him close as he relayed the Prince's message: "Lovely and favored maiden, the prince loves you dearly. At the sound of his voice, jump from the window and into his arms." The maiden replied, "Thank you, beautiful butterfly. You are very sweet. But tell me, why did the caterpillar bring the good news in such a nasty manner? He seemed so rude and rough."

The butterfly replied, "Oh, you mean Claude? Well, that's just Claude. I used to be that way, too, until I was transformed."

2. Without that quickening we could only try to live better by the efforts of the flesh.

### III. As a new man I am being strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 40:31 *"But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."*

- A. I do have a condition. That is to wait upon the Lord.
- B. If I ever feel weary or faint I know it is time to wait upon the Lord and He will renew me.
- C. To be renewed is a great promise from God, especially in these troublesome days.
- D. Even if I have failed God, my prayer will bring Him to my aid and bring renewal to me.

Psalms 51:10-13 *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. <sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You."*