



TCN

FOUNDATION OF FAITH

CLASS 1

THE NEW CREATION REALITIES

Class Objective:

The objective of this class is to help us gain a better understanding of God's gift of Salvation to us so we can walk consistently in our new realities in Christ Jesus.

Outline:

1. Man's Condition Before Salvation
2. Love, Mercy, Grace and Faith
3. The Benefits of the New Birth.
4. Who we are in Christ.

1. Man's Condition Before Salvation

To understand the wonderful gift of salvation, let's start by examining the condition of man before salvation.

All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. *Romans 3:23* This was a universal state of sinfulness with no exemption. Everyone inherited the sin nature from birth, became guilty of sin and was unqualified/un-worthy to partake in or show God's glory. We were by nature children of wrath.

Man was dead in trespasses and sin. Ephesians 2:1-3. This was a state of total helplessness. Just as a dead man, buried in the grave is powerless and unable to restore himself to life, man could not in any way, save himself from sin and restore himself to right standing and fellowship with God. This state of death does not imply cessation of existence, it is existence without life. Through sin, man became dead spiritually by separation from God who is the source of life. (John 1:4)

What is the origin of this sin nature?

When Adam sinned as recorded in Genesis 2:17; 3:1-7, he represented all mankind and his sin was the sin of all. Through the disobedience of Adam, sin entered the earth and disrupted man's relationship with God. Sin became the default nature of man and every person born into the earth became a sinner from birth. This is not dependent on evil or good works; it is based entirely on the inherited sin nature from Adam (Romans 5:12-14).

So, what was the role of the law?

The Bible tells us the law of God is holy, just and good (Romans 7:12). It revealed God's perfect standard and made man conscious of his sinful nature, his inability to meet up with God's standard and his need for the Saviour-Jesus Christ (Romans 3:19-20, 7:7,13).

Although the law of God is good, it was unable to change those who lived by it nor was it able to justify anyone (Romans 8:3, Hebrews 10:1; Romans 3: 20a). Through the law, the futility of man's effort to meet up with God's righteous standard became apparent (Romans 7:14-24). The law pointed us to Jesus and our need for Him. (Romans, 7:25, John 5:39, Luke 24:27).

2. Love, Mercy, Grace and Faith

God's gift of salvation is borne out His love, mercy and grace. God demonstrated His extravagant **Love** towards mankind by saving us from the bondage of sin and death. His **Mercy and Grace** speaks volume of His **love nature**. (1 John 4:8-10, Romans 5:8; John 3:16). He did not have to do it; we were unworthy of His love, yet he chose to save us at a very exorbitant price-His only begotten son. Only love personified could have done this.

Mercy is God's compassion and forgiveness that emanates from His love nature. In His mercy, God saved us from the eternal judgment, punishment and condemnation that we should have borne by sending His son to pay for our sins. (Ephesians 2:4-5, Titus 3:3-7). God's mercy translated into forgiveness, redemption and the remission of our sins. As Jeremiah says in Lamentation 3:22: "it is by His mercies that we are not consumed; His compassion fails not".

Grace is God's unmerited and undeserved favor towards us because of His **mercy and love**. By His Grace, God saved us and gave us the gift of a new life in Christ Jesus- (eternal life-God's kind of life). There is nothing we could have done in our own efforts to merit this gift of God. Not by works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:4-9, Romans 3:24). Grace is God's constant disposition towards us, His children. God chose to love and show us His unmerited favour despite our frailties and sins because, He is Love.

Faith is the demonstration of our belief in God and His finished work in Christ Jesus. It is by faith that we receive all God has provided for us by His mercy and grace. (Ephesians 2:8, Romans 5:2; 4:16, Hebrews 4:16). **“Grace Makes; Faith Takes”**.

3. The Benefits of the New Birth

By confessing Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour in faith, we received the forgiveness of our all our sins and the new life (**eternal life**-the very life of God) which God made available in Christ Jesus. (1 John 5:11, Romans 6:23). We were delivered from the kingdom of darkness and admitted into abundant life in God's own kingdom (Colossians 1:13-1). This experience was what Jesus described as being born again-**the new birth**. It is an end to the old life and the beginning of a brand-new life (John 3:3, Titus 3:5, 2 Corinthians 5:17-18).

Here are some benefits and implications of our new birth:

- **Forgiveness of sins**

God has forgiven us all our sins because Jesus paid in full for them through His sacrifice. God did not just overlook our sins; they were punished in Christ as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. The word atonement (at-one-ment) means to reconcile back to oneness. We were reconciled back to God by the sacrifice of Jesus who is the Lamb of God that took away the sins of the world. (John 1:29, 1John 2:2, 4:10; Galatians 1:42 Corinthians 5:21; *1Peter 3:18; Ephesians 1:7; 53:6-11*)

- **Deliverance from eternal judgment.**

Through Christ Jesus, we have been justified by God. Justification is a legal term that describes God's total acquittal of believers based on the sacrifice of His Son Jesus. By believing in the sacrifice of Jesus as the full and complete payment for all our sins, we were

delivered from God's wrath and eternal judgement. (*John 3:18; John 5:24; Romans 8:1,33*)

- **Adoption as God's sons**

God redeemed us by paying the price for our adoption as His own sons. No longer children of wrath, subject to the devil but children of the kingdom of His dear son subject to God. (Ephesians 1:5, Galatians 4:5, Colossians 1:13-14)

- **Partaking of the Divine Nature**

As God's adopted sons, we have access to all the benefits of sonship and partake in God's divine nature and abundant life in Christ Jesus (2 Peter 1:3-4; 1John 4:17, John 10:10; Colossians 1:12).

4. Who we are in Christ Jesus?

Now that we have received forgiveness of all our sins and the gift of a new life **in Christ Jesus**, we need to know and continually acknowledge who we are **in Christ Jesus**. (Philemon 1:6)

Getting to know and experience the realities of who we are and what is ours in Christ Jesus goes beyond mental accent. God has given us **the Helper-the Holy Spirit** who helps us to know and experience all that is ours in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit reveals who we are to us and works within us to produce it in our lives. He transforms us by renewing our mind with God's word to make us conform perfectly to what God has declared concerning us. (1 Corinthians 2:12; Ephesians 1:13-18, Romans 12:2). As we fellowship more with the Holy Spirit and allow Him to continuously renew our mind with the word of God, we start thinking and acting in conformity to our new nature which is perfectly holy in Christ Jesus.

Below are some of our realities in Christ Jesus.

- **Perfect righteousness**

Righteousness is the state of being right with God, to be at peace with Him and be without fault. God, the righteous judge, in His perfect righteousness and justice has declared us justified in Christ. This is not because of what we did (self-righteousness) but because of what God did in Christ Jesus. We are perfectly righteous because God declared us to be righteous and we received this gift by Faith alone. This is our new reality in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:9; Romans 1:17, 3:21-22, 4:3-6; 23-25, 9:30; 2Corinthians 5:21).

- **Delivered from sin and the power of sin**

Not only have we been declared righteous by God, He has also empowered us to live righteously having been delivered from the power and dominion of sin. We are dead and unresponsive to the motions of sin (Titus 2:11-12, Romans 6:1-14). This is our reality; you must embrace and affirm it continuously. Whereas you might find yourself being tempted, this doesn't change the truth God has declared concerning you. Stand firm on God's word in the face of temptation. Through your declarations of faith and the supply of God's grace, you will constantly overcome. And if sometimes you find yourself acting badly, don't let it affect your identity in Christ Jesus. Ask for forgiveness and believe you are forgiven and cleansed from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Then, continue to activate the good things that are in you in Christ, keeping them in your consciousness by spending time studying and meditating on them continuously. As you meditate on God's word, the Holy Spirit opens your eyes to see and works in you to become, who God said you are. (Philippians 2:13, 2 Corinthians 3:18).

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- **You are an overcomer and you reign in life**

In the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, He obtained a name that is higher than every other name and a position, power and authority above all of God's creation (Philippians 2:9-11, Matthew 28:18). This same authority and power have been given to us. In His name, we can pray and receive answers, cast out demons and have dominion over the affairs of life (John 14:12-14; John 16:24, Mark 16:17-18). The life He has given us is an abundant life that we may reign in life and be to the praise of His Glory (John 10:10; Romans 5:17, Ephesians 1:12). We exercise this authority by faith, believing and confessing it steadfastly. (Hebrew 10:38a, 1 John 5:4).

Summary/Conclusion

As a believer, you must keep seeking to know and keep acknowledging the good things which are in you **in Christ Jesus**. Ask the Holy Spirit for revelation as you meditate on the scriptures that tells you who you are and what you have **in Christ Jesus**. Believe His word as your reality **now**; despite your current experiences and weaknesses. Remember, you receive the reality of God's promises by belief and confession; not by feelings or reasoning. As you focus on God's word concerning you and make your confessions in faith continually, the Holy Spirit will make God's word the realities of your life (2 Corinthians 3:18). In conclusion, the following daily practices are very important for our Christian walk:

- Reading and meditating on the Word of God daily (Ps 119: 9, 11, Joshua 1:8, 2 Timothy 2:15).
- Fellowship with God in worship and prayers daily (Mark 1:35, Luke 22: 39-41).
- Regular fellowship with other Christians in a bible believing church. (Romans 12:5,

Hebrews 10:25, Proverb 27:17)

Appendix -Some "In Him" Scriptures:

Meditate on these scriptures and select a few to personalize and confess continuously with the help of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ Jesus: Romans 6:11; Romans 8:1-2; 2 Corinthians 2:14; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 1:3; Ephesians 2:6; Ephesians 2:10; Ephesians 2:13; Ephesians 5:8; Ephesians 6:10.

Through/By Christ Jesus: Philippians 4:7; Philippians 4:13; 1 Corinthians 15:57; 2 Corinthians 5:18; Galatians 4:7; Philippians 1:11; Hebrews 13:20-21

In Him/Whom; Through Him/Whom: 2 Corinthians 5:21 Ephesians 1:4; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 2:10; 1 John 4:13; Ephesians 3:12; Colossians 1:14; Romans 1:5; Romans 5:2

With Christ/Him: Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 2:5; Colossians 3:1; Colossians 3:3; Romans 8:32

Class Activity

Spend the next 15 minute to thank God for the gift of salvation and who you are in Christ Jesus. Declare Who you are in Christ as your current realities and give God the glory because you now live in these realities.

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Foundation of Faith is a refresher course of The Covenant Nation (TCN), Lagos Nigeria on the fundamentals of our Christian faith.