

2 - After the Beginning

- - much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. Rom. 5:17b nasb

The Consequences

As God had warned in [Gen. 2:17](#), something inside of man died¹ when they disobeyed Him.

They were driven out of the Garden where communion with God and living in harmony with Him were natural. It was the place where the Father's Life had flowed into them through their spirit in the normal course of their day. Through Him they were complete in every way.

However, man's spirit was now disabled¹ and his soul (mind, will and emotions) took over to instruct him.

Satan's influence was heard through man's soulish desires ([Eph. 2:3](#)), and he became the default, or "natural" spirit source for man to satisfy his compulsive soul-hunger.

Man was created as the highest form in all of creation, but he could now be the vilest part. He was crazed with soul-hunger because he was cut off from constant fellowship with God the Father.

All evil in the world, and the horror and pain that follow, reveals man's desperation to find the wholeness he was created to have.

Every act of sin represents another futile attempt to *get* something to fill our emptiness, and that often happens by *taking* another's life, purity, property, reputation, happiness, freedom, rights or suchlike. It represents man's attempts to fill the cavernous vacuum inside of himself by robbing others.

Man's brokenness began when he listened to Satan and followed him in rebelling against God the Father. He wanted to be his own god, but it didn't work out as Satan had promised. It never does.

The consequences were earth-shattering but Sovereign God had a plan, and it would take place in His way and His time.

God's Plan

The Father would send His Only Son, Jesus, to take our sins upon Himself. Jesus would accept the punishment that we deserved ([1 Peter 2:24](#)). Even more, He would deliver us from our sinfulness by breaking our bondage to Satan ([Col. 2:15](#)).

We would be "born again" ([John 3:3-7](#)) and our spirit made "alive." He would restore the spirit-to-spirit relationship that we were created for, which would again satisfy our soul-hunger. In a way that few Christians understand, the most essential aspect of Life in the Garden was restored to man!

The Father would impart a new nature to us, one that loves what He loves and is inclined to obey Him. THAT is LIFE!

When we are born again, we are transferred from one spirit-kingdom to the other. Paul writes, "For He rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son" ([Col. 1:13](#), nasb, also [Acts 26:18](#).) PRAISE HIS NAME!

We can now love others as He loves us ([John 13:34-35](#)). To love is to give, and we can now give because His Life flows into us to make us complete - and then flows through us to others! ([John 7:38](#)) This new nature is so radical that it will convince others that we are followers of Jesus.

Our new life begins when He becomes "Savior," as we confess our sins and receive His forgiveness. He becomes "Lord," when we repent of trying to be our own god.

It would revolutionize the Church today if we viewed the two as being inseparable - as God views them.

The Kingdom of God

In the original sin event, the dominion over the earth that God had entrusted to man was forfeited to Satan.

He became prince, ruler and god of this world ([John 14:30](#), [II Cor. 4:4](#), [Eph. 2:2](#), [I John 5:19](#)). Such is the spirit environment we are born into, and as long as we are earthlings our soul and body are in his sphere and subject to his influence.

When we are born again, we find ourselves “in the world but not of the world” ([John 17:13-19](#)). We no longer “fit” here, so The Father has a new place for us called “the Kingdom of God.” The culture of His kingdom portrays our new nature in Christ.

Before we were born again, we tried to satisfy our soul-hunger from Satan’s world. We developed attitudes and habits that are contrary to righteousness, and we must now actively replace them with the ways of the Kingdom of God. That involves the [II Cor. 3:18](#) transformational process of becoming more like Christ.

We can learn more about this transformation, which includes a renewed mind, in [Rom. 12:2](#). “Transformed” comes from the Greek word that we translate as *metamorphosis* - the process and degree of change that happens when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly.

“Renewed” comes from the Greek word that we translate as *renovate* - tearing out the old and replacing it with the new. It is a life-long process of restoration into wholeness as our love for Jesus increasingly replaces our love for the world, and the Fruit of the Spirit replaces the works of the flesh. Praise God!

This transforming and renewing process requires active confession and repentance. We release more and more control of our lives to Him and He moves deeper into our hearts. Abandoning the altar in our churches is not a good sign for us.

A Fresh Start

Please take time now to read [Rom. 5:6-21](#). Think about how far Adam and Eve “fell,” from life in the Garden to the darkness of Satan’s world, and note the four times that “much more than” describes Jesus’ work as compared to that.

Wow, could we dare to believe that the effect of our redemption in Christ is “much more than” the effect of their fall? I suspect that few of us do.

Jesus did not do just enough to help us “squeak by” so we could escape hell when we die. His work was enough to defeat Satan’s power over us and to fully satisfy our soul-hunger in communion with the Father in the life of His Kingdom.

Paul writes, “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” ([I Cor. 2:9](#) kjv) And the life that he prays for in [Col. 1:9-14](#) is for today, for those who believe!

Read [Rom. 5:17](#) again. “Receive” there is in the Greek sense that means “to lay hold by aggressively (actively) accepting what is available (offered).” [Strong’s 2983](#). God doesn’t just dump it on us when we confess our sins. We must repent, releasing our grip on the world and reaching out in humble faith to take hold of this new life. But first we must believe.

This is consistent with the God-man relationship in general. Sovereign God offers Eternal Life to all, but receiving it and entering into the abundance of His Kingdom through the narrow gate is our choice.

I fear we know so little of it because of ignorance, unbelief or apathy and our satisfaction with what the world offers.

FOR HIS GLORY is about Father God’s provision for us and how we can experience it as citizens of His Kingdom. In the next chapter we will dive deeper into “Life, in the Kingdom of God.”

¹Actually, two things happened. First, they were condemned to die physically because if they had eaten of “the tree of life” they would have lived forever on the earth in their fallen state.

Secondly, the Greek for “dead” in [Eph. 2:5](#) and [Col. 2:13](#), *nekros* ([Strong’s G3498](#)), is used both literally and metaphorically. Here it is metaphorical and speaks of “destitute of a life that recognizes and is devoted to God; destitute of power” (Strong’s, edited).