

Gospel Rebirth Galatians 2:17-21

Main Idea: Christ Jesus dwells in us. We are forever united to Him in His death and resurrection. The life we now live in our physical body, we live by faith in the Son of God who loves us and gave Himself for us.

Four Joyful Changes That We Experience Through Faith

Change #1: We do not stand condemned, but justified before God.

Justification: The legal act by which God declares the guilty sinner as innocent, indeed as righteous, in relationship to His holy Law. To be justified is to be accepted by God as though we have perfectly fulfilled His Law and have not broken it in even small ways.

“And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.” (Hebrews 4:13 [ESV](#))

“on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.” (Romans 2:16 [ESV](#))

“So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.” (Romans 14:12 [ESV](#))

For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Hebrews 10:30-31 [ESV](#))

Change #2: We died to the Law and become alive to God.

To be dead to the Law means that we no longer . . .
look to the Law for our validation.
look to the Law to enable us to live holy lives.
look to the Law to free us from sin’s guilt and power.
look to the Law to draw us near to God.
look to the Law to be the ground of our fellowship together.
look to the Law to grant us acceptance into God’s family.
look to the Law for our freedom from future judgment.

To be alive to God means that we . . .
do look to Jesus for our validation.

- do look to Jesus for the power to live holy lives.
- do look to Jesus to free us from sin's guilt and power.
- do look to Jesus to draw us near to God.
- do look to Jesus to be the ground and center of our fellowship together.
- do look to Jesus to grant us acceptance into God's family.
- do look to Jesus for our freedom from future judgment.

Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves . . . but our sufficiency is from God, . . . not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory." (2 Corinthians 3:4-11 [ESV](#))

Change #3: We give up control of our lives and now Christ lives in us.

Truth: When Jesus enters and takes residence within us, He does not come as a visitor. Part of the deal to having Jesus dwell within us is that Jesus comes as the owner.

*assuming that you have heard about him (the Messiah) and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, **to put off your old self**, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, . . . **and to put on the new self**, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." (Ephesians 4:21-24 [ESV](#))*

Change #4: We live by faith in Jesus and no longer by faith in the Law.

To live by faith in Jesus means that we . . .

- have stopped believing that our own efforts to obey God's Law will accomplish the results we long to experience.
- have become desperate for His gracious work.
- give our energy to abiding in Him and communing with Him.
- grow to know more and more of His love and care over our lives.
- labor less to change ourselves and we labor more to nourish our love for Jesus.
- confront our prideful notion that we know what is best for our lives.
- listen to Him and obey Him.