

RESCUED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

INVITATION

*Will you let us show you what it looks like to be born
into a New Life in Christ?*

In our study entitled *What's Wrong With Me?* we learned that God created every one of us with a body, soul, and spirit. He also created every person with the need for love, acceptance, worth, and security. Before salvation, we are cut off from God and look to ourselves to meet these needs that only God can fulfill. Even as Christians we sometimes feel like we have to strive to get our needs met. What is the solution that God has for us?

The answer lies in being born again. What do you think of when you hear the term “Born-again Christian”? Maybe, as a believer that is how you would identify yourself. Or maybe that term leaves a sour taste in your mouth. Perhaps the problem lies in not understanding what it really means.

Oftentimes, believers think being born again means our sins are forgiven, and the benefit of that is we get to go to heaven when we die. We think eternal life is a gift that God gives — a ticket to heaven. This is true, but there is so much more to eternal life in Christ. We need more than just forgiveness of sins, we need *new life!* What we want to study today is what it looks like to go from being born in Adam and disconnected from God to experiencing rebirth in Christ.





THE KNOT

God's original design for Adam and Eve in the garden was for them to live in spiritual union with Him. God created them in His image with a body, soul, and spirit. But when Adam ate from the tree his spirit became dead to God. He still had a spirit but he was no longer connected to God. Then all of Adam's children, including us, inherited a dead spirit from him.

When we were in Adam, God couldn't meet our needs for love, acceptance, security, and worth, so we tried to meet them in our own strength. We learned to function simply from our soul; in the strength of our mind, emotions, and the choices we make. Apart from God, we function in body and soul, but our spirits cannot relate to Him. So here we are, born in Adam, with the ultimate destination of hell. But did God leave us there? No, God did not leave us in Adam. He wanted more for us. He wanted to restore that relationship with us. He wanted that dynamic connection with us again. Even when Adam and Eve sinned, God was there. He pursued them. God has been pursuing us from the beginning. And He will always pursue us because that's His nature.



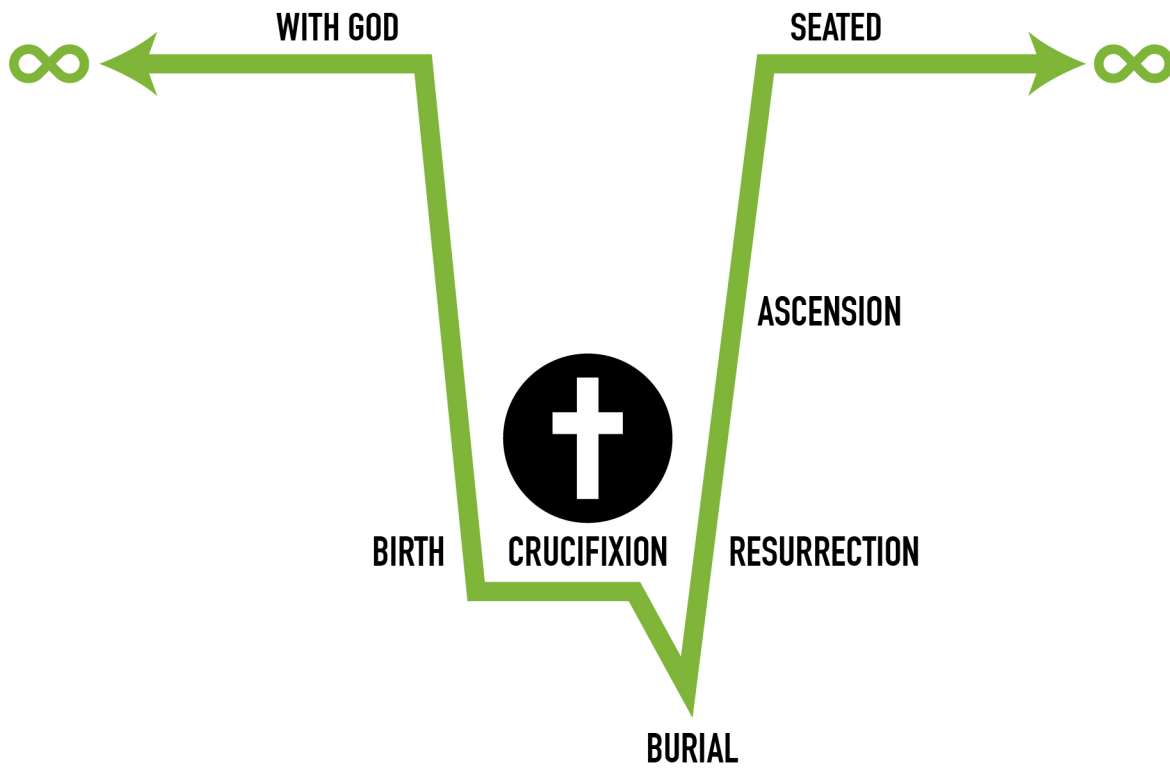


THE UNTANGLE

Being spiritually dead and separated from God, we need life and a connection with God. Therefore, God sent Jesus to give us life so we could be in union with Him.

Life of Christ

1 John 1:1-2 | 1 John 5:11-12, 20



∞ Colossians 1:16-17	✝ 1 Corinthians 15:3	ASCENSION Acts 1:9
WITH GOD John 1:1-2	BURIAL 1 Corinthians 15:4a	SEATED Ephesians 1:20-21
BIRTH John 1:14	RESURRECTION 1 Corinthians 15:4b	



“What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life – and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you **the eternal life**, which was with the Father and was manifested to us” (1 John 1:1-2).

“And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. ²⁰And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and **eternal life**” (1 John 5:11-12, 20).

Infinity

“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through Him and for Him. **He is before all things**, and in Him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:16-17).

With God

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was **with God**, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning **with God**” (John 1:1-2).

Birth

“And the Word **became flesh**, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

Crucifixion, Burial & Resurrection

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ **died** for our sins according to the Scriptures and that He was **buried** and that He was **raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

Ascension

“And after [Jesus] had said these things, He was **lifted up** while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight” (Acts 1:9).



Seated

“... which [God] brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and **seated** Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come” (Ephesians 1:20-21).

Jesus Christ is Eternal Life.

Jesus said,

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6b), and in 1 John we are told, “He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life” (1 John 5:12).

So, we see here that eternal life is not something, it is really someone. When we understand that Jesus is life, and we understand our union with Christ, we can understand eternal life. It’s not a destination — it is a person!

Salvation is being born again which places us into union with Christ. God takes us out of Adam, and puts us into Him! When Christ went to the cross, He took on our sin and He gave us His life. I’m reborn into Christ at the point of crucifixion some 2000 years ago. That means, if you have received His salvation you live in Christ now! Because we are now in Him, He has

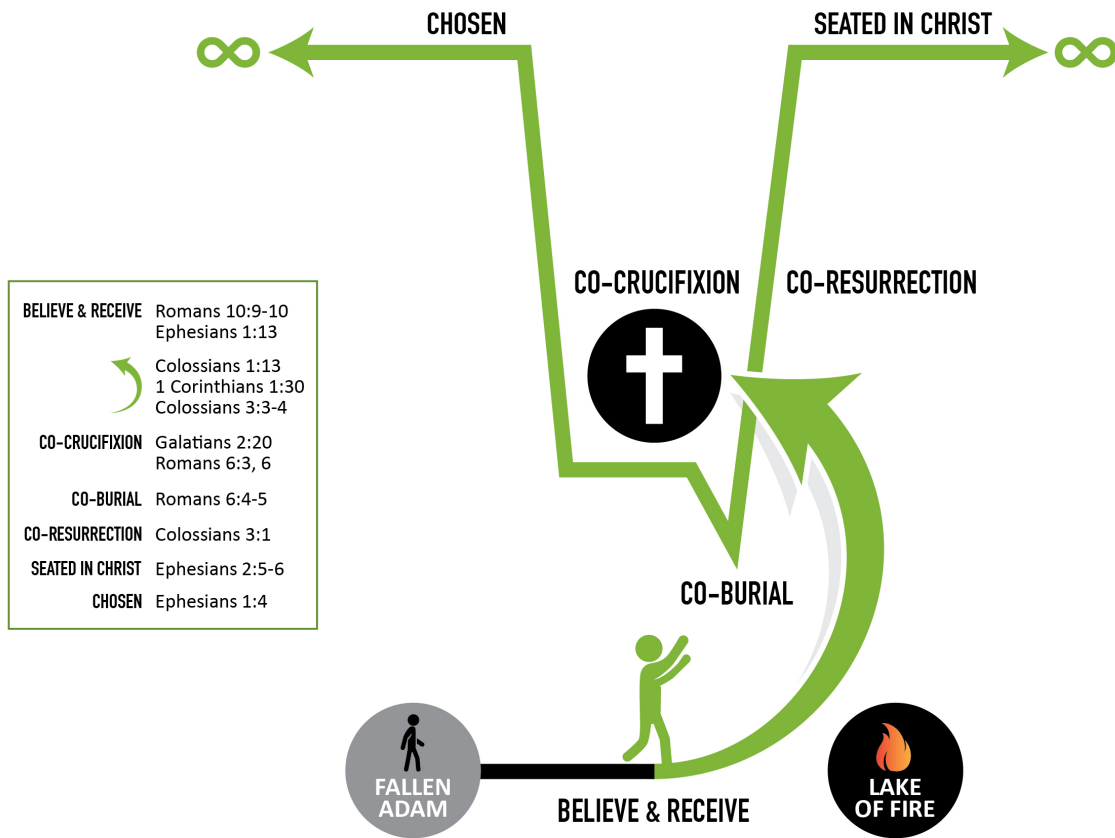
“raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6).

In Galatians, we read,

“I have been crucified with Christ; and 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 up for me” (Galatians 2:20).



Receiving Life in Christ



“For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive”
(1 Corinthians 15:22).

Believe and Receive

“If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation” (Romans 10:9-10).

“**In Him**, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed **in Him** with the Holy Spirit of promise” (Ephesians 1:13).



Rescue

“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son...” (Colossians 1:13).

“But by His doing you are **in Christ Jesus**, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption...” (1 Corinthians 1:30).

“For you have died and your life is hidden **with Christ in God**. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory” (Colossians 3:3-4).

Co-Crucifixion

“**I have been crucified with Christ**; and 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 up for me” (Galatians 2:20).

“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ...knowing this, that our **old self was crucified with Him**, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin...” (Romans 6:3, 6).

Co-Burial

“Therefore we have been **buried with Him** through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection...” (Romans 6:4-5).

Co-Resurrection

“Therefore if (since) you have been **raised up with Christ**, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God” (Colossians 3:1).



Seated

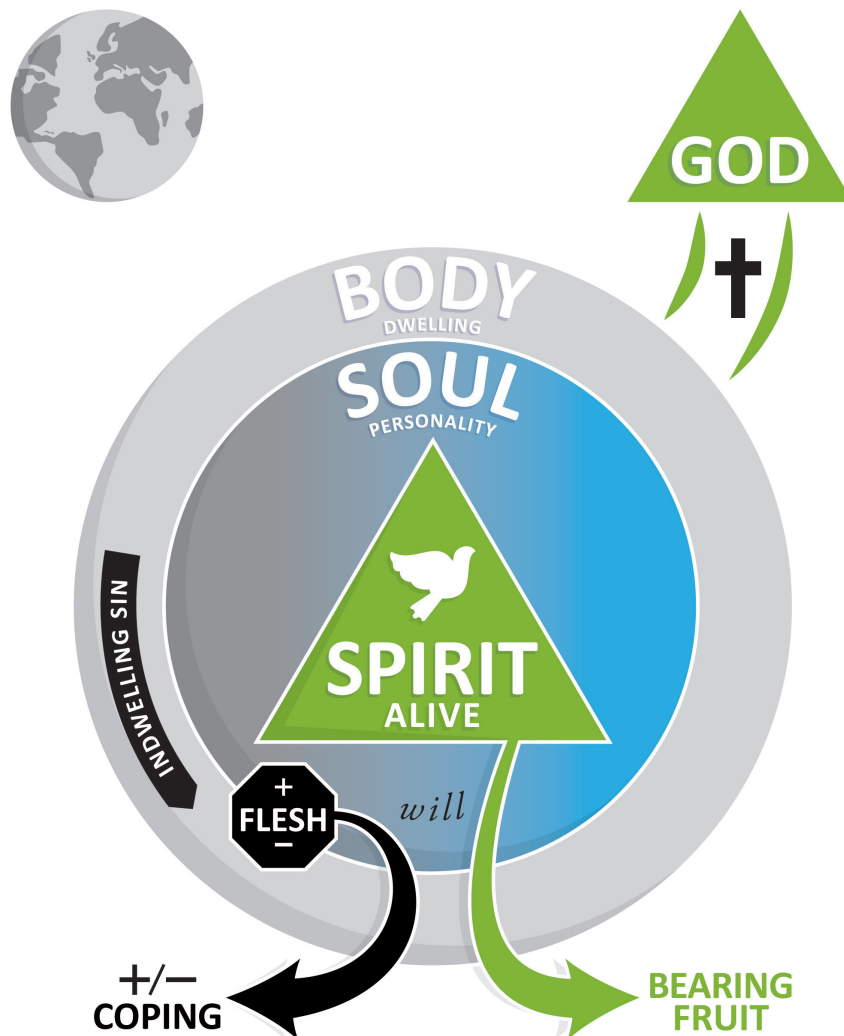
“...even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and **seated us with Him** in the heavenly places **in Christ Jesus**” (Ephesians 2:5-6).

Chosen

“...just as **He chose us in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him” (Ephesians 1:4).

New Man

2 Corinthians 5:17 | Ephesians 2:10



Cross

“When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He **made you alive** together with Him, having forgiven all our transgressions, having **canceled out the certificate of debt** consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross” (Colossians 2:13-14).

“The next day [John] saw Jesus coming to him and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God who **takes away the sin** of the world!’” (John 1:29).

New Man

“Therefore if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

“For we are His workmanship, created **in Christ** Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

Bearing Fruit

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he **bears much fruit**, for apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:4-5).

“But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23).

The Exchanged Life

At salvation our life was exchanged for Christ’s life. We now have Christ living in us and we are in Him. We have a choice to walk after the flesh or walk in the Spirit.

“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a **new spirit within you**; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put **My Spirit within you** and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances” (Ezekiel 36:25-27).



“And we know that God cause all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become **conformed to the image of His Son**, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren” (Romans 8:28-29);

“He **restores my soul**; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake” (Psalm 23:3).

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:2).

“But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts” (Romans 13:14).

“For I will not presume to speak of anything except **what Christ has accomplished through me**, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed...” (Romans 15:18).

“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to **the power that works within us...**” (Ephesians 3:20).

Most Christians get the forgiveness part, but do not always understand that we are indeed new at our core — in our spirits:

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

We now have this new life, and therefore have been made righteous. It’s not about you trying to live a righteous life, it’s about you receiving the gift of God’s righteousness and living from this truth. Living a righteous life requires a choice. Do I put my faith in the work of Christ, or do I continue on with my own plans?

In addition to having His righteousness, Scripture tells us

“we have the mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:16b), and because Christ is in us, we bear the Fruit of the Spirit: “...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things, there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23).





HEART WORK

Have you received His gift? What is God showing you about the fullness of salvation? Journal about the aspects of what it means to be “In Christ” — being forgiven, accepted, born again, made righteous and having the Holy Spirit living within you.



WRAP-UP & PRAYER

We are not rescued to *perform* righteously. We *already are* righteous! We have been given a new identity that is completely righteous in Christ. When you know and live from that truth, your whole world looks different. Everything about you is different because you've had a rebirth. There's more to this Christian life than having a ticket to heaven. It's actually a whole new existence. It's a whole new identity that He gives to us. Peter tells us that "For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4a).

Often people mistakenly think, *It's not about me, it's all about Jesus*. And this is true. But Jesus wants to express His life uniquely through *you*. Ephesians tells us that we are His masterpiece. You were designed by God, so you get to just be you! Maybe you've always thought that being yourself was a bad thing, but it's not. Rest and relax my friend, you are a masterpiece, there is no one like you, and that was on purpose. If you can't be yourself resting in Jesus, the whole world loses a masterpiece.

I pray that the eyes of your heart and mind will be enlightened to the magnitude of the gift you have in your salvation. I pray that understanding your forgiveness will leave you in a place where your guilt begins to fade as you realize that the penalty has been paid on your behalf by our Jesus. I pray that God will show you what it looks like to live from Him as your new source of life, and you will experience the peace that comes when you cease striving to accomplish what only God can.

References:

All Scripture taken from the NASB version of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.



Are you feeling bogged down and tangled up in your circumstances? It happens so easily in this world. Regardless of where you're at in your journey, Life Untangled wants to help you experience the love and power of God in a truly meaningful way. God sees you and your circumstances, and He longs to heal your wounded soul and lead you to a place of hope. If you would like to speak with someone on our team you can do so by contacting www.lifeuntangled.com/contact-us.

We offer a safe place where you can find hope and help on your journey of healing. Our experienced Christian counseling staff helps you discover God's good intentions for your life, especially when your life feels tangled. We guide men, women, and couples through understanding unwanted behaviors, difficult emotions like anxiety, depression and anger, and most importantly, to experience God's design for victory in life.

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