

GOING ALL IN

INVITATION

Will you let Him show you how to walk in this newness of life?

We've covered a lot of ground during the last seven lessons, so let's do a little recap of all we've talked about and journeyed through together.

Life is tangled and messy and it's easy to get lost and disoriented when we don't have a firm understanding of who God is. We first considered how we look at ourselves and how God sees us. Our concept of God and our concept of ourselves are the most important things we need to understand. If you're still struggling with these topics, you may want to consider revisiting them and asking God to root His truth deep inside you. Ask Him to show you if He really is who He says He is and take some time to seek His revelation of who He says you are.

Next, we discovered that something was wrong with us before salvation, but that God had a solution for us — He made us new! Thankfully, when He made us new it wasn't just a ticket to heaven, He gave us His life and we were rescued for righteousness. We don't need to produce good behavior in order to become righteous, rather good behavior follows as our soul learns to express the new life of the spirit within.

Our journey then led us to the fact that although we are no longer sinners, we sometimes still act like sinners because it takes our soul a while to catch up with the truth of our new identity. What we believe and feel dictates our behavior, but our beliefs don't always line up with the truth. Then we asked ourselves, *Why don't we always feel the things we know?* Feelings are normal



to have, but they don't always tell us the truth. Feelings reflect what we believe, and God wants to renew our minds!

In the end, all of these things can leave us feeling like it's up to us to figure everything out. We think, if God doesn't do something, then we must have to. But the truth is that we can trust Him because He knows the outcome and has the best for us in mind. Trusting Him is impossible when we have expectations of what the results should be. But with expectancy placed in the character of God, we can choose to experience Him moment by moment in life and trust the outcome to Him, allowing Him to decide what's best for us.

In order to experience all that we've just talked about, we must place ourselves in His hands — safely in His control. We know that we can trust Him with the outcome because we can trust His character and His love for us. Today as we wrap up, we're going to look at what it looks like to live all of this out.



THE KNOT

Now what? With all this truth we have learned, the temptation is to start asking for the steps to follow or the instruction book in order to get it right. But instead, it starts with receiving and believing all that God has given us. Our first job is not to *do*, but instead, to *receive* — we're human beings, not human doings. This can be hard when we feel like we already know the answers to all that we need to do in order to live the Christian life. It can wind up being really taxing and based all on our own performance.

So how do we walk this new life out? There is no formula. Romans says:

“Those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ”
(Romans 5:17b).

It says you will reign in life, meaning, although life might be chaotic, you can live free and untangled from the chaos of life. You can't control the world around you, but you can be free if you have the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness. It's surrendering everything to Him and letting Christ live through you — that's grace. The abundance of the gift of righteousness is the identity we've been talking about. That means you are at peace within and with God, so you can rest. Life might be chaotic, but you don't have to feel tangled in it.





THE UNTANGLE

Let's backtrack a little bit — our concept of God is oftentimes skewed because it is based on all the messages we receive from our childhood. Not that our parents meant to give us these messages, but children are great observers and not very good interpreters. We end up forming opinions and beliefs when we're young, and we need to stop and ask ourselves if what we are believing is true or if we are believing lies. God is for me, God is love, God is patient and kind — *Does what I'm believing line up with that?*

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are” (1 John 3:1a, NIV).

He's the One who has forgiven us. He's the One who has given us a new identity. There's no condemnation when we are in Christ. He's not mad at us and He's there to guide and direct us. He has given us everything we need for the living of life. We live from a new identity now. And even though we may not feel like saints, we know that we are. In 2 Corinthians it says:

“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).

But if you back up one verse to verse 16, it says:

“Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh” (2 Corinthians 5:16).

And then it says if any man is in Christ, they're a new creature. If we can understand and rest in this truth, it changes the way we live our lives. It changes how we interact with our spouse, our friends, our kids, and everyone!

But it all starts with receiving this truth for yourself. You cannot give away what you have not received. The more self-acceptance you have, the more you are able to accept others. The more self-love you have, the more you are able to love the people around you. The reason God can love us is because He is love:

“We love, because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19).



Remember guilt and shame? It's hard to forget. Guilt is focused on something *we have done*. It can be godly guilt when God puts His finger on something we have done. On the other hand, shame tells us that *we are bad*. If you are believing that you are bad, that's not from God. What has God done to help us with our guilt? He died on the cross for all of the sins past, present, and future. What has He done about our shame? He gave us a whole new identity when we were born again united with Christ. He gave us His righteousness, and now there is no condemnation. There is no need for shame.

You can live free from shame. You don't have to carry guilt on your shoulders all the time. What if you could actually hold your head up? Not in a haughty, proud way, but in a healthy way; with the knowledge of the value that has been placed inside you. You didn't earn it or manufacture it. You just received a gift because of God:

“Has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3).

Sometimes we think if we do good, God's going to bless us more. But that's not how God operates nor is it what this life is about.

His power and grace are sufficient for everything. We sometimes talk about the struggles in life and compare them to Paul's thorn in his flesh. Three times he asked God to remove it, and the third time God answered Him and said:

“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

When we find ourselves in this tangled, chaotic, messed up life, we can try to control, or we can choose to trust God right in the middle of it all. God wants to be our strength, power, and grace in the middle of our struggles. Through faith, we can let these struggles trigger us to trust Him as our source of life.

We see this in our relationships too. Maybe we hold onto a false sense of control in our marriage or with our children. Recognizing that God is already holding them, we can begin to trust Him, one small step at a time. It's been said that the best way to be at peace about the future is to trust God in the present moment. As we trust Him in each moment, we will be in that trust relationship when the “future” comes. We can trust our loved ones into His care.

So if you are really trusting Christ in your daily walk, what would it look like?



Well, you would be walking in the freedom of your new identity. You would remember that you can't achieve anything on your own but only through God in you — the Holy Spirit is in you and He's your power. Therefore, you can walk into any situation that God has called you to, knowing that He's in you, even if you fall flat on your face.

You are His child of honor and He has blessed you with every spiritual blessing. He gave you talents and strengths and abilities — all that He is and has is yours, every minute of every day. If you ever experience anxiety or worry and think, *What am I going to do? Where am I going to go?* Again, the best way to prepare for the future is to experience Him in the moment. He didn't give you grace ahead of time for the future or for the regrets of your past — He has given you grace for right now at this very moment. The great I AM is present now. We can make plans, but God directs our steps. Experiencing Christ's life is a moment by moment journey.



Write a letter to God, expressing your tangled up mess and how you see Him working out the tangles. Then listen, and write a reply *from* God to yourself. What is He saying to you? Listen to His voice and reflect on Scripture He brings to mind.

A letter to God:



WRAP-UP & PRAYER

As you have been working through these lessons, it is our hope that you are learning to trust God in the middle of the chaos in your life. We would love to hear from you! We invite you to send us an email, introduce yourself, and let us know how you're doing. We are hoping that you will continue your journey with Christ and it's our prayer that you would experience intimacy with God, know His love for you at a deeper level, and learn to rest in Christ and your new identity in Him.

Papa, thank You for everyone who has participated in this study. Thank You that You have given them a new heart and their desire is for You and to live from You. You are the giver of life and all things needed for life. Please continue to show Yourself strong in all of our lives. We stand on what Jesus said in John 14:26, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful." I pray that we can all embrace Your truth that truly sets us free to live, love, work, laugh, and play!

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.

You are not alone.

