

The God of New Beginnings

After the fall of mankind into sin, God chose to reveal Himself to specific people. The rest of the world walked in darkness. To walk in darkness means to be subject to the lies of the ruler of this world.

These chosen people were given the opportunity to know God in a way that the rest of the world did not know Him. This knowledge of God would lead to a new way of life for those who believed and accepted His call.

These people could walk with God. When God revealed Himself to these people, it was a new beginning to their lives.

- **Enoch**
- **Noah**
- **Abraham**
- **Moses**
- **David**
- **The prophets**

The prophets of Israel in the Old Testament talked about a time in the future when a messiah would be born and all of mankind could receive the knowledge of God and walk with God.

The Spirit of God would be available to all who followed this messiah. This meant that anyone who believed in Him could have a new beginning to their lives and live a new life through Him.

Through His birth, His life, His Words, His miracles, His death, His burial, His resurrection, and His ascension, Jesus proved He was this messiah.

Jesus let it be known that whosoever believed in Him could experience a new beginning to their life and have a new life. It did not matter what they had done wrong; who they were; or how old they were.

One of the best stories in the bible that reveals how Jesus offers this to everyone is found in John 8. It is called the woman caught in adultery.

Through this story, Jesus wants everyone of us to learn what we must do to experience the new beginning and new life that God has planned for us.

Here is the story from God's Word.

John 8:1-12

1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them.

3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst,

4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act.

5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?"

6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.

7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."

8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"

11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

NKJV

Jesus offered this woman a new beginning and a new life.

To receive her new beginning and her new life....

1. She had to receive God's forgiveness. (Verse 11)

To receive God's forgiveness meant...

- She had to believe that God did not condemn her.**

She had to believe that because Jesus forgave her, her sins were forgiven.

- **She had to believe that God would take away her shame.**
- **She had to believe that God would give her a new identity.**

2. She had to go and sin no more. (Verse 11)

If she continued in her sin, her life would not change. And there was a great possibility that her life would end in tragedy. If she continued in her sin, she would not experience the new beginning and the new life God had planned for her.

3. She had to follow Jesus. (Verse 12)

If she did not follow Jesus she would walk in darkness. The only way she could escape the lies of the devil was to follow Jesus.

No matter what you have done wrong; no matter who you are; no matter how old you are; God has a new beginning and a new life planned for your life.

To receive your new beginning and new life from God...

1. You must receive God's forgiveness.

To receive God's forgiveness means...

- **You believe that God does not condemn you because of Jesus.**
- **You believe that God has taken away your shame through Jesus.**
- **You believe that God has given you a new identity in Jesus.**

Many people publicly profess that they have received God's forgiveness, but they still live under the fear of

condemnation. They still live-in shame because they still believe that they are the same person as they were before they received God's forgiveness.



They see the cross of Jesus as a lens that causes God to see them as righteous, but they believe they are still the same sinful and shameful person that they have always been.



They believe they have been clothed with the righteousness of Christ but underneath that garment, they are still the same sinful and shameful person that they have always been.



If you have received God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ, the bible says that God sees you as righteous because you are righteous. Jesus is not just a lens through which God sees you or a piece of clothing that covers your sin. Jesus is in your very being! His presence in you changes who you are!

2. You must go and sin no more.

You cannot experience the new life God has for you if you are hanging on to your old life. The key to getting rid of your old life is having faith in your new one.

3. You must follow Jesus.

You will not be able to resist the darkness unless you are following hard after Jesus. What does that look like?

- **Daily surrender to Him in prayer.**
- **Learn and meditate on His commandments.**
- **Be devoted to His church.**

We will have much more to say about new beginnings in this series, but it will not be relevant for you unless...

- **You have received God's forgiveness.**
- **You have put away your sin.**
- **You have committed your life to follow Jesus.**

Today, will you receive the new beginning and new life that God has for you through Jesus Christ?