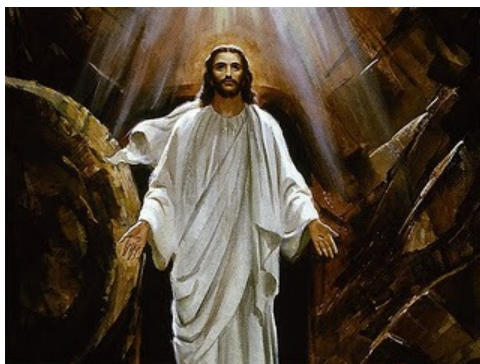


The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 58

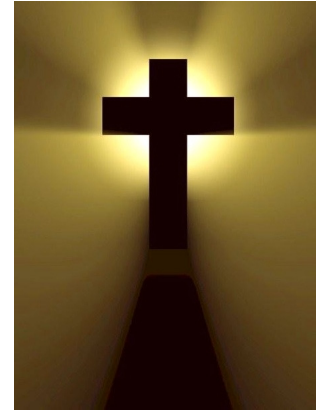
The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit
The Baptism of God the Holy Spirit
Part 9

Retroactive Positional Truth
Believers Reign in Life through Union with Jesus Christ



2012

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. [\(Acts 16:31\)](#) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." [\(John 3:16\)](#) "God loved the world so much that He gave us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."



Lesson



Hey kids, do you realize that you can reign or rule in your life? Yes, you can! You can actually do this. It's a matter of fact and the Bible teaches that you can do this. All of Adam's descendants...mankind...even though we expect to die physically, as believers in Christ, we have much more reason to expect to reign in life through our union with Jesus Christ. That's a GREAT thing! Let that fact sink into your cute heads!

Okay, what does this mean? The Baptism of the Holy Spirit places us in union with the Lord Jesus Christ, right? You all know this for sure since we've been studying it for months now. Well, the fact that we are all going to die physically...a sure thing for the human race...but what is much more real is the fact that you will reign in life because you are a believer in Christ and you have everything HE has because of this union!!!!

But you may think, "so why then do I sometimes go around feeling depressed, tired, worried about my problems, unsure of things that are happening around me, that I lack confidence, weighed down by the routine things of school and life, afraid, and so on?" Well, here's the deal: you are a believer in Christ. You received Him, so walk in Him by means of the Holy Spirit!!! Are you doing that? How much believing have you been doing lately? How much faith do you have in the promises and in the plan God has for you that you learn about in His Word? How much have you relied on God for ALL the solutions to your problems? Not enough, right? You FORGET!!!! Then how do you expect to have peace and freedom in your life...to take reign over it? You see in the same way that you haven't died physically yet, maybe you haven't really lived yet...freely in Christ that is. Some people live like they're already dead (this is mostly with adults). Death has a power over them, as [Hebrews 2](#) teaches.

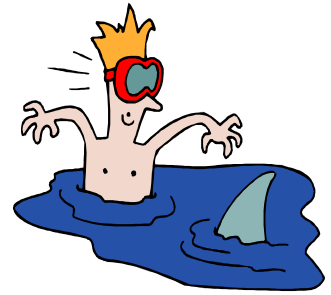
Before we look at [Hebrews 2](#), first, look at this quote from Mark Twain: "I have been through some terrible things in my life, some of which actually happened." Do you get what Mark Twain is saying here? He's saying sometimes we worry about things that will never happen to us. When we do that, we miss out on the blessings that God is waiting to rain down on us. This is because we lack FAITH or belief in what God can provide for us. And besides that worrying puts us out of fellowship with God. That delays our blessings.



To be human and free is to have this amazing ability to make or break our lives by the things we think are real. [Heb 2:14-16](#) "Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He (Jesus) Himself likewise also shared the same, that through death He might make powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, (15) and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives." [Hebrews 2:14](#) by the way, is another key to understanding what we are studying about...retroactive positional truth. Here's your comfort: the death of Christ destroyed the power of death in believers (us) and that is what [Heb 2:14](#) tells us. What an amazing mystery. When Christ died on the Cross we were in Him and the power of the old sin nature was destroyed by His spiritual death. Therefore, we are free from slavery to our sin nature because of Christ and our union with Him.

Here's another quote by Mark Twain: "*The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time.*" This means that if you have peace through Jesus and His Word and BELIEVE and have FAITH in His promises and stay in fellowship, you will live a life that has no fear and therefore, you are ready to die at any time to be with Him. You're FEARLESS!!!!

What is it about death that subjects people to slavery while they live? FEAR. What is fear? Is fear a thing? Is fear a part of the body? Is fear an object, or an event? NO Fear is a THOUGHT. And more so, fear is a belief. Fear is the expectation of harm to come. That harm could be real...or imagined. Fear is a mental attitude sin and an emotional sin that causes panic when in a dangerous situation. It is a painful emotional form of distress which happens when you expect pain, danger, disaster, evil or by imaginary ideas about such things. Fear is also an active feeling of dread, of which fright and terror are the more intense sensations. We all know this thing called fear. It's awful and we cannot live very peacefully with it, can we? NO!



The Bible has many commands "not to fear." Fear is a lack of thinking under pressure. For the believer in Christ, fear is the failure to learn and apply God's Word in our souls...Bible doctrine to the problems of life. It is a lack of faith in God and His promises. God is perfect, kids. **You can count on Him.** There is another Bible verse that says "Perfect love casts out fear" in 1 John 4:16-19. "We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him. (17) By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have **confidence** in the Day of Judgment (evaluation seat of Christ); because as He is, so also are we in this world. (18) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment (divine discipline), and the one who fears is not perfected in love."

What is love? Love is the desire to put all that you have available for the well-being of another. That's what God does for the believer...us!!! And He does it PERFECTLY. When you understand how much God loves you, and that He is putting Himself out there ALL THE WAY to make sure that nothing will ever harm you...then what is there to fear, kids? If God is for us, who can be against us? God NEVER allows us to suffer more than we can stand and with the suffering He gives us an escape. This is grace. 1 Cor 10:13 "No temptation (test or trial of suffering) has overtaken you that is not common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way of escape so that you will be able to stand up under it."

Now, did what we just talk about in the last few minutes of our study make you more at peace? Ok, for some of you, maybe, one or two of you. Did it CHANGE things for you? If so...why? Here's why! Because you BELIEVED what the Bible has to say, and THAT is what makes you change the way you THINK! It's faith in the Word of God and His promises. And that changes YOU! Instead of your fearful thoughts robbing you of life, these new thoughts from God's Word give you life and peace. Try it!!

Rom 5:17 "For if by the sin of the one (Adam), death reigned through the one (Adam), much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness (+R) will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ."

Notice that this verse 17 shows us two kingdoms...the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of His Light. Are these kingdoms registered at the United Nations? Do you need your passport to visit them? No, of course not! You only have to choose which kingdom you will live in.

Death has surely reigned as king through Adam. The unbeliever is a slave to his sin nature, fear and death. But much more shall those who receive the abundance of God's grace and the gift of His righteousness (+R) (believers) reign as kings in life in total peace...NO FEAR!!!!



This reign has already started for those who are in Christ Jesus...believers...us! There are three powerful facts that the kingdom of darkness does not want believers to understand or grasp:

- 1) You stand in the abundance of God's grace. That is, you rely on it everyday.
- 2) You have received the gift of righteousness (+R) when you believed in Jesus as your Savior. You are perfect in God's eyes because of it.
- 3) You are on the edge of reigning, all set up to rule, as a king in your life now and forever through the One, Jesus Christ.

YOU CHOOSE! God desires to see us reigning in our lives, and yet so many of us are stuck under a weight of distractions, worries, fears, and lies from the kingdom of darkness. This happens when we neglect our daily study of God's Word and the fellowship we share with Him through the filling of God the Holy Spirit.

Satan can't stand the fact that you, as a member of the body of Christ, get to have the position he desired more than anything...equality with Jesus!!!! YOU HAVE IT!!!! He doesn't!!!! God placed believers in Christ at God's right hand, positionally higher than the angels!!!!!! What a joke for Satan!!! He can't deal with that. He is so jealous and envious and pathetic that you can't even imagine! So, guess what? He's working overtime, giving it all he has, to blind you to your present position in union with Jesus, your royalty, your ability to reign as royalty IN THIS LIFE. NOW! He wants to postpone his fate as long as possible.

He hates Jesus Christ, he hates grace, he hates anything to do with Christ or the grace of God...and there you are...dumb and unhappy with life!!!! LISTEN!!! You are the beneficiary....an heir...of Jesus Christ!!!! Love it!!!! LIVE like it!!!!!!!!!!!!

Satan's saying, "If I can just prevent these believers from finding out all they are to receive...I won't have to deal with ANOTHER one of them!" Imagine the shock of all these Christians when they learn at the Rapture that instead of the life of doubt, discouragement and defeat, they could have had a life of faith, hope, peace, and love...reigning as king in Christ.

God does not play favorites you know. Every believer in Christ has equal privilege and equal opportunity to fulfill the plan He has for each of us. That means that each one who is in Christ has ALL of Christ. The issue though is this: how are you going to live your life in time? What kind of life are you going to have...today...tomorrow...next week? Why be satisfied with living in any way that falls short of matching this statement: "They reigned in life through Jesus Christ."



SATAN

Then you can say:

- 1) Sin didn't master me.
- 2) Guilt didn't overtake me.
- 3) The world did not hold me back.
- 4) I overcame the world because of my FAITH and God's power and grace.
- 5) The kingdom of darkness did not eat me alive.
- 6) Problems and difficulties did not destroy me.
- 7) I REIGNED in this life, and now i go on to my eternal destiny and reward because of who and what God is.

Rom 5:18 "So then, as through one sin there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification (+R imputed or credited to all believers) of life to all men." Pretty cool for us. "All men" emphasizes the whole picture of the application of the principle of the One (Jesus) acting on behalf of the many for salvation. All human beings who ever were or will be born were condemned when Adam sinned. This plan is AMAZING in its magnitude as well as its simplicity. This is huge but it is simple!!!

God knew of course that any one of us would have failed just like Adam did if we were in his shoes. (Well he didn't have shoes, he was naked, but you get the drift...). His desire was to bring Christ on the scene and make believers secure forever on the basis of Christ's work. This is GRACE and HE did it for LOVE of mankind. He condemned us right then and there...when Adam sinned because of His great love and understanding of mankind. He judged us and condemned us in our federal head Adam SO THAT He, God, could turn around and justify us in the work and Person of the OTHER federal Head -CHRIST! This is God's genius plan. He accomplished this in a neat, clean, complete, and compassionate way...this is POWERFUL, kids.



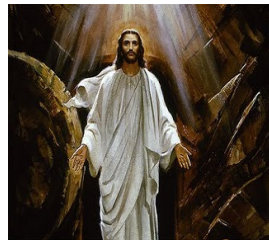
Look again at Rom 5:18. "So then, as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men." Notice here that word justification is joined by the word "life." This is one great word. This is a justification

that is life-giving. This is a righteous position that leads to life. God made us perfect in Christ so we can enter into heaven to live with Him happily ever after! This is no fairy tale! This is TRUE!!!

This is so important that Paul repeats the message again in [Rom 5:21](#). "So that, as sin reigned in (spiritual) death, even so grace would reign through righteousness (+R) to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." So because of our righteous (+R) position in Christ, God imputes or credits eternal life to our human spirit, which we also received the moment we believed in Jesus as our personal Savior. Remember this is our ticket into heaven, paid for by Christ. This phrase "justification of life" is completely opposite to the condemnation and spiritual and physical death that came by Adam's sin. Through Christ's righteous act on the cross, all men are offered not only release from the penalty of sin but also eternal life in the Resurrected Christ. WHAT A GIFT, kids!



Since the sin of Adam, there was only spiritual death in the human race. When Christ came it was said of Him in [John 1:4](#), "In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men." When He came, He brought eternal life with Him. This life was something new to the fallen human race in Adam. In fact, this is the only source of life and light for man. Justified believers (+R) in Christ are taken out of our place of spiritual death and darkness in Adam, and given a place of eternal life and light in Christ. [1 Cor 15:21-22](#) "For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive." [John 5:24](#) "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into (eternal) life."



So not only have we had the guilt of our sins cancelled out, but now we have a place IN the Risen Christ Himself. This is our current position in Christ. [Romans chapter 4](#) tells us the resurrection of Christ is the statement from the Father as it were that believers are justified (perfect in the eyes of God). [Rom 4:24-25](#) "...but for our sake also, to whom it (+R or righteousness) will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, (25) He who was delivered over because of our sins, and was raised because of our justification." This means that because we sinned, He suffered and died and because we were justified in Him, therefore He rose from the dead. His resurrection is the proof of our justification. His resurrection was necessary to defeat death. It is the resurrected Christ who is made our position in Him. We are in the Risen Christ through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. That is our current position spiritually in Christ.

We are justified, credited with God's righteousness, as those who believe in the God who raised Jesus from the dead. The apostle Paul teaches us in these verses all about this so great gift from Jesus. [Gal 2:19-21](#) "For through the Law I died to the Law (of the sin nature), so that I might live to God. (20) 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. (21) I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly." Paul connects his having been crucified with Christ with righteousness! We can say it another way: as believers, our history in Adam was ended at the cross. We were ungodly. We believed in Jesus and then we were justified and taken out of our ungodly spiritual death and from being totally evil.

Once we believed, we were placed in union with Christ in His death through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and then in His resurrection, ascension and session. This is our retroactive and current positional truth. As believers we are then shown how our history in Adam actually ended at the cross. God is dealing with the human according to two Federal heads...Adam's and Christ's! God's ways are not our ways. [2 Peter 3:8-9](#) "But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. (9) The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance (a change of mind about believing in Christ)."

Thank God for His genius plan and our deliverance by Jesus into His wonderful LIGHT!

Psa 90:1-6 "Oh Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. (2) Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. (3) You turn man back into dust and say, 'Return, O children of men.' (4) For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it passes by, or as a watch in the night. (5) You have swept them away like a flood, they fall asleep; in the morning they are like grass which sprouts anew. (6) In the morning it flourishes and sprouts anew; toward evening it fades and withers away."

As Martin Luther said, "*I preach as though Christ was crucified yesterday, rose from the dead today, and is coming back tomorrow.*"

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on March 30, 2011
Lighthouse Bible Church

