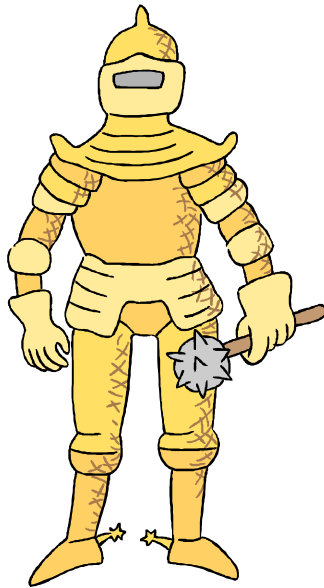


The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 40

*The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit
With Eternal Life & God's Word Put on the New Self*



Wednesday, April 13, 2011

*John 17:3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true
God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."*

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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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

We ended our last class with the comfort of knowing we have eternal life and no one...not even God...can take it away from us. Eternal life is knowing the only true God and knowing the Lord Jesus Christ. We do this through our study of the Bible...God's Word. The more you get to know Jesus through His Word, His Mind, the more you will love Him. You know that Jesus is the Word. This is getting very close to God or being intimate with Him. That is really comforting, don't you think?

The Bible also makes it clear that this intimate knowing (of God through His Word) is a two way street. If we are faithful in getting to know God, He knows us in that He knows we love Him and His Word and the plan He has for us. Knowing Him and becoming more like Christ should make us desire to obey Him and His Word. In other words don't be a slave to your sin nature. Live in the new nature that God gave you and do it most of the time. *1 Cor 8:2-3 "If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; (3) but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him."* *Gal 4:8-10 "However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. (9) But now that you have come to know (the true) God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again (by your sin nature)? (10) To know God is to love God."*



At the end of the day, eternal life means being surrounded by and hugged really tightly by the unending, unsurpassable, superabundant virtuous love of the Godhead...Father, Son & Spirit!!! Let's see this in Christ's priestly prayer for the church, He puts things this way: *John 17:22-26 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them (believers), that they may be one, just as We are one; (23) I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and LOVED them, even as You have loved Me. 24 Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. (25) O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these (believers) have known that You sent Me; (26) and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."*

This relationship between eternal life and this intimate and great love that God has for us is found in several places in the New Testament. It is found in these verses: *John 6:63-64 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. (64) But there are some of you who do not believe."* *Phil 3:10-11 "...that I may*

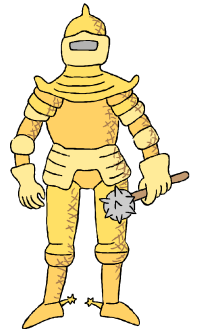
know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; (11) in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”
 1 Peter 1:22-25 “Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, (23) for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring Word of God. (24) For ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF, (25) BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER. And this is the word which was preached to you.”

And look here where you see the amazing fact that God creates something out of nothing using His word. Heb 11:3 “By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.”

Here’s knowing you have eternal life again in 1 John 5:20. “And 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.”

So now that we have been born again, we have been created a new spiritual species. The Bible tells us to put on this new man, this new self, and to put off the old man or old self. Rom 13:12-14 puts it this way: “The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. (13) Let us behave properly as in the day, not in partying and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. (14) But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.” Putting aside old clothes and putting on new clothes; taking off the old garments and putting on the new garments is what this means and the old is the sin nature and the new is the new nature or species that you received when you were “born again.”

Our old life in Adam is compared to filthy rags, and our new life in Christ is compared to armor of light. Look at the genius of God in these passages that compare living the new life to ditching an old wardrobe and putting on brand new clothes. Eph 4:22-24 “...that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, (23) and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind (from God’s Word), (24) and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.” You see you have the same kind of decision to make in your everyday life, but one with a lot more force and far greater promises.



You know what else? The Bible gives us our own list of “What not to wear”. Look at it in Col 3:8-9. “But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, nastiness, insult, and rude speech from your mouth. (9) Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices...”

The Bible also describes how the new wardrobe will look once we learn how to put it on and walk in it in Col 3:10-17. “...and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him (11) a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. (12) So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; (13) bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. (14) Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. (15) Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. (16) Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you,

with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (17) Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

This is the way the believer in Jesus should behave, right? This reflects the life of Jesus while He was here on earth. He was perfect. We are not. So God made these suggestions for our behavior as a new creature or new nature in Christ. So let's put on the new nature and draw others to our Savior and Lord.

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on Thursday, November 21, 2010
Lighthouse Bible Church

