

When I'm "in Christ" what things have gone, what things are new?

2 Cor 5:17-18 (written to Christians) **If anyone is** (currently living) "in Christ" they are a **new creation** (they possess and are living in an entirely new nature) **old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new, and all things are from God...**

What does it mean to be living "in Christ"; does it just mean I've been born again? No.

I am born again when I believe the first words of the gospel, not with my head but with my heart. Words which tell me that Christ died for my sins on the cross and rose again from the dead, and based on this alone, that God has forgiven me of all my past sins.

1 Cor 15:1-4 **I declare to you the gospel...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures** (that foretold He would), **and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures**, So that:

Acts 26:18 (Based on Christ bearing them) **they may receive forgiveness of sins...**

This new birth is the beginning of Christ living in me. Because Christ is the living word of God and by the first words of the gospel that I truly believe, Christ begins to live in me. But I'm not yet living in Him. My soul or will starts to be influenced by the presence of Christ in my born again heart but my will or soul still remains largely under the influence and control of my human nature, my flesh, where nothing good only sin exists.

1 Pet 1:23 **Being born again...by the word of God** (believed and entering my heart);

Rom 7:18 **I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good exists; for to will is present with me, but the power to perform what is good I do not find.**

1 Cor 3:1 **My brothers, I could not talk to you as people who have the Spirit; but as people of the flesh, as infants in the Christian faith.** TEV/ESV

To be born again is essential, but it isn't enough. While Christ, God's word, has begun to live in my heart, I'm not yet living where He is, in my spirit. My will or soul is not yet under His full and ongoing control. My will is still largely under the control of my human nature or flesh. To begin living in Christ I must receive the Holy Spirit and my will or soul must submit to and come under the lordship, control and leading of God's Spirit.

Rom 8:9 **You do not live as your human nature tells you to; instead, you live as the Spirit tells you to, if, in fact, God's Spirit lives in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ** (yet born again) **does not belong to Him.** TEV

Rom 8:1 **...Those who are in Christ Jesus, who live and walk not after the dictates of their flesh, but after the dictates of the Holy Spirit.** AMP

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When now by the Holy Spirit I start living in Christ, what old things are passing away?

These things – the characteristics of my human nature in which I no longer live:

- 1 Pe 2:1-2 **Laying aside all malice** (ill will toward others), **all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking** (bad mouthing) **as newly born again Christians...**
- All offence, resentment and un-forgiveness toward others Psa 119:165
Great peace have those who love Your words, and nothing offends them.
Eph 4:32 **Forgiving one another, as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.**
- Looking like the rest of the world (worldliness) in its lusts (must haves) and pride:
Gal 5:16 **Walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lusts of your flesh.**
- Self righteousness, self goodness by being law abiding, morally upright, religious:
Matt 5:20 (Jesus) **...Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the...Pharisees** (law keepers), **you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.**
2 Cor 5:21 **For God made Christ who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God** (when we are living) **in Him.**
- Discontent, unthankful, joyless, restless, guilt ridden, self justifying, incomplete:
2 Tim 3:2-5 **...Lovers of themselves, of money, proud...unthankful, unholy, unforgiving, without self-control, lovers of pleasure rather than God, having a form of godliness but denying its power** (His Spirit ruling over them).
- Unknowingly living under the influence of the Devil through his thoughts entering my thought life. Thoughts that include all of the above as well as thoughts of fear or worry, independence, unbelief, self-absorption, self trust, self praise or self-pity.
Eph 2:2 **Obeying Satan...the spirit at work in those who refuse to obey God.**
2 Cor 2:11 **Satan taking advantage of us; we being ignorant of his thoughts.**
- Angry, impatient, diligent naturally but spiritually lazy, deceived, dead to God, not able to see Him, hear Him or know Him, unaware of how great my need is for Him.
Rev 3:17 (Jesus) **You say, 'I am rich...and have need of nothing' — and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked** (in spirit).

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When now by the Holy Spirit I start living in Christ, what are all the new things from God?

These things: - all parts of God's own nature, as I live in and grow in knowing Him:

- The Love of God Ro 5:5 **The love of God** (His word) **is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit...** 1 John 2:5 **Whoever keeps** (retains) **God's word, truly the love of God is perfected in them. By this we know that we are in Him.**

- The Joy of God John 15:11 (Jesus)... **These things I have spoken to you (God's words) that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.**
- The peace of God: Ro 14:17 **The kingdom of God is...peace in the Holy Spirit.**
- The faith of God: 2 Cor 3:4 **We have such trust, in and by Christ, toward God.**
- God's goodness: Rom 11:22 **...Goodness to you, if you stay in His goodness;**
- The power of God: 1 Co 1:24 **...Christ the power of God (and knowledge of God)**
- Victory over sin, disobeying God, and the tempting thoughts to sin from the Devil: 2 Cor 2:14 **Thanks be unto God, who always causes us to triumph in Christ...**
- The desire and the ability to do God's will: Heb 13:20-21 **God...make you...to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, in and by Christ**
Ezek 36:27 **I will put My Spirit in you and cause you to keep and do My words**
- Satisfied and freed from evil: Pro 19:23 **The fear of the LORD is (God's own) life; (in us), those that have it will live satisfied; they will not be visited with evil.**
- Assured of my Salvation: Eph 1:13-14 **In Christ you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise (God's seal of His lordship, meaning ownership) who is the guarantee of our (eternal) inheritance**
- Anointed to preach Christ: Acts 1:8 (Jesus) **When the Holy Spirit comes on you (as already born again Christians); you will be a witness for Me, in and by Me; Col 1:28 **Christ we preach, warning every person and teaching every person in all wisdom, that we may present every person perfect in Christ Jesus.****
- Inspired to pray God's will for others: Eph 6:18 **Praying always with all prayer... in the (Holy) Spirit (leading us to pray, for we don't know how) for all the saints;**
- Led to give God thanks: Heb 13:15 **By Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.**
- All of my needs now met: Phil 4:19 **My God will supply all your needs (spirit, soul and body) according to His glorious riches (as we live) in Christ Jesus.**
- Permanently dead to me and alive to God: Rom 6:11 **...Believe yourselves to be dead in fact to sin (and self), but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
- Holiness and eternity: Ro 6:22 **Having been made free from sin, and become slaves of God, you have your reward in holiness, and its end is eternal life.**

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