

The Reborn Identity – Tools for Overcoming Flesh

TOOL #1: Choice

When Christ gives you freedom and life, you have choices that will affect the level of victory you experience.

- Your battle is with flesh.
- Christ in you gives you the power to overcome the flesh and make right choices.

God reveals His character by giving you the ability to choose Him.

- Without choice, there can be no real love.
- He chooses to love us even when we reject Him.

You can reflect the character of God as you choose to listen to and believe Him.

Choosing to believe God = walking in the Spirit.

In order to choose correctly, there are 2 things that become very important:

1. The Word of God
2. Faith

In order to choose wisely, you have to know what the Word says, about you, about God, and about life.

Once you know what the Word says, you have to have faith to believe it.

- We behave according to how we believe.

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

TOOL #2: Knowing Your Own Flesh Patterns

Manifestions of the Flesh worksheet.

- Flesh patterns are a symptom of the flesh.
- You can use your flesh patterns to identify distorted belief systems.
- It takes time to weed out lies you have believed.

- Wake up and pay attention to the things the Holy Spirit will show you.
- Identifying flesh patterns is not meant to be a “to-do” list of improvements; it is a way that you can become aware of areas in your life that need healing.
- Once you have identified a flesh pattern, you have a choice:
 - Do nothing, and live at the same level of victory in that area that you have always had.
 - Seek healing:
 - Can be just between you and the Lord;
 - Or through seeking prayer from others: We have an in-depth identity discipleship and counseling program;
 - Sunday morning prayer;
 - Other ministries such as Christian Healing Ministries

TOOL #3: Seeing Things from the Right Perspective

2 Corinthians 4:18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

- There are two realities happening simultaneously — “above the line,” the things that are not seen, and “below the line,” the things we can see.
 - **Colossians 3:1-3** If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
1. Above the line: the spiritual realm—or eternal realm
 - a. Realm of spirit, wholeness, completeness, it’s changeless and timeless
 - b. Things are invisible and eternal
 - c. Things are finished and settled
 - d. Where your state of being is alive to God”
 - e. Your ultimate reality

- f. Where “ultimate Truth,” which is God’s Truth, resides and comes from.
- 2. Below the line: the physical realm—or temporal realm
 - a. Realm of activity and need—you see good and evil at work
 - b. Things are visible and temporary
 - c. Realm of change and passing time— past, present and future
 - d. Finite—It has a beginning and it has an end.
 - e. You are being sanctified and becoming more like Christ.
 - f. Where “what is true” happens—what is physically or literally happening.
 - g. Where lies from the enemy, the flesh and the world are lived out.
- 3. Ultimate Truth isn’t a denial of what is actually happening, but rather a direct assault against any lie that you believe.
- 4. Above-the-line and below-the-line realities are not representative of walking in the Spirit vs. walking in the flesh.
 - a. Both are created by God, and we operate in both realms.
 - b. The eternal realm is our ultimate reality and the temporal realm is not.
 - c. Faith is what allows us to see past the temporal and into the eternal.
 - d. God uses the temporal realm to teach us how to operate in the eternal realm. – Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- 5. Being able to discern temporal from eternal, being able to distinguish Truth from lie, puts us in a place of seeing everything from the right perspective, God’s perspective.
 - a. Most Christians are still trying to become something they already are.
 - b. What you do doesn’t determine your standing in the kingdom of God, but what you do still matters to your quality of life and others’ lives here on earth.
 - c. **Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

6. You don't have to try to generate life within you. This is part of walking in the Spirit.

The Solution: The Cross

There are two basic questions that we all have:

- "How do I get my sins forgiven?"
 - **Ephesians 1:7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.
 - **The answer is Jesus**
- "How do I live the life? How do I live the Christian life?"
 - **John 10:10** The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.
 - **The answer is Jesus**

Most believers go through life only knowing the answer to the first question, but this is only 50% of the Gospel.

There are two sides of the cross

1. The blood side of the cross: This side of the cross saves you from your sins.
 - a. **Romans 5:9** Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.
 - b. It deals with the penalty for your sins, and Christ only needed to do it one time.
 - i. **1 Peter 3:18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,
 - ii. **Hebrews 10:12** But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,
 - c. The presenting problem: "I HAVE SINNED"

- i. **Romans 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
 - d. The presenting answer: "CHRIST DIED FOR ME."
 - i. **Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 - e. The response: "I receive forgiveness & accept the free gift of eternal life."
 - i. **John 1:12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:
 - ii. **1 John 5:11-12** And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.
 - f. Knowing how to live this life is not required to receive forgiveness.
 - i. Most churches stop here in their teaching—this results in most believers stopping there also.
 - ii. Life stays very external: produces the belief that you have access to forgiveness, but you need to perform in order to maintain it.
 - i. Behavioral modification becomes the norm.
 - g. The blood side of the cross is where the divine exchange happens: you receive your new spirit.
- 2. The body side of the cross: This side of the cross saves me from "self."
 - a. It deals with the power of sin
 - i. **Romans 5:10** For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.
 - b. The presenting problem: "I'M A FAILURE—I'M THE PROBLEM"
 - i. **Romans 6:1-2** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

- c. The presenting answer: "I DIED WITH CHRIST and CHRIST GIVES HIS LIFE TO YOU."
 - i. **Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ; 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 for me.
- d. The response: "I trust Christ to be my life."
 - i. **Colossians 3:3-4** For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

The body side of the cross teaches that, "You can't live the Christian life."

Christ died FOR you = one time.

Christ gives His life TO you = every day.

Old-Testament Parallel: the Passover

The blood side of the cross

Exodus 12:7 And they shall take *some* of the blood and put *it* on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

- The lamb died for the household.
 - The household did not physically participate in that death.
 - They applied the blood to the doorposts.
 - They escaped the wrath of God.
 - The firstborn son was spared.
- Parallel to the cross: *Christ died for us*
 - We apply the blood of Jesus by faith to our lives.
 - We escape the wrath of God.
 - Our sins are forgiven.
 - God provided a solution.

1 Peter 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

The body side of the cross

Exodus 12:8 Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it.

- They took the lamb into them for nourishment for the journey ahead.
 - The lamb gave its life *for* them.
 - And then the lamb gave its life *to* them.
 - The lamb was the *total answer* for God's plan.
 - The lamb that died for the household is the same lamb that gave them nourishment for the journey ahead.
 - **Exodus 12:11** And thus you shall eat it: *with* a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It *is* the LORD'S Passover.
- Parallel to the cross: We take Christ's life into us
 - Christ is the total answer for us.
 - He gave His life for us, and He also gives His life to us for the journey, to give us life, energy and strength to live this life.
- They killed one lamb for two purposes: for the Passover and for the walk.
 - We are saved eternally by Christ's death (He only needed to physically die the one time, we receive our new spirit at the time of salvation).
 - We are also saved in the here and now by Christ's life (this is our continual, below-the-line, sanctification).
- One cross, two purposes—it is complete and nothing else needs to added to it.

Romans 8:9-11 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰ And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.