



5

Foundations Of A New Creation

Live life to the fullest as a
new creation in Christ.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new
creation has come: The old has gone, the new
is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

1. SALVATION

Jesus fills the longing heart and soul with his overflowing goodness. Jesus is the only thing that is meant to satisfy the deepest parts of you. He knows you better than you know yourself and he wants to be a loving father to you who will take care of you. We've all sinned and have fallen short. *Sin is direct disobedience to God and his word resulting in separation from him.* Scripture says it, like this:

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:23-25)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16-17 ESV)

Receiving salvation

Are you ready to accept Jesus into your life? I personally believe with all my heart that it's the best decision you will ever make. Jesus will be your friend, your helper, your guide, your strength, and your protector.

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is LORD,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

Prayer to pray:

“Heavenly Father, I acknowledge that I have sinned. I believe Jesus came here and lived a perfect life in my place that I cannot live. Jesus, I believe you died on the cross for my sins and I accept you as my Lord and savior. Come into my heart Jesus and have your way with me. Amen.”

If you prayed to receive Christ, I'd love for you to email me at hello@bryantwestbrook.com so I can cheer you on and be there for you!

2. IDENTITY

Your new identity as a new creation in Christ is this: Loved by God.

You are a child of God and because you are his child you hold the most value to God. You can't put a price on your value and worth to God. The way God thinks about you is different than you think about yourself. He thinks about how precious you are to him all the time.

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me! (Psalm 139:17-18 NLT)

When God thinks about you he thinks about how valuable you are. When something is precious you'll do anything to keep it safe. You think about how great it is all the time and you only want what's best for it. The same is true for how God thinks about you.

I love what the Apostle Paul writes in Romans for us:

“Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’”
(Romans 9:20)

God made you with the right qualities and the right gifts. You have everything you need to fulfill your purpose in life.

Your new identity is not based on anything you did or could ever do on your own. That identity will never change because of your position now as God's child. You are brought into a family of royalty. Nothing else gets to determine who you are. You are a child of God first. You are a son and daughter of God first.

- What do you see in your life that you place your identity in?

Prayer to pray:

Heavenly father, help me to see myself the way you see me. Loved, valued and gifted by you. Help me to see the real me, who I am in you. Help me to live out my new identity and may it reflect who I am. I love you father, thank you for making into who I am. Amen.

3. COMMUNITY

When the church was first getting started the year was around AD 64 and people were beginning to gather together under the name of Jesus Christ. When they gathered they were intentional in their reasoning for meeting together. They did not take the gift of having each other lightly. They knew they were gathering a purpose. They understood a foundational principle in living the life that Jesus was talking about.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47)

In this passage, we see a couple of things that stand out, first, we see as the scripture talks about the church, it's talking about the people. *The people were the church.*

1. They were devoted to one another while growing their faith

- To live life as a new creation requires us to have a community in our lives where we are held accountable, encouraged, prayed for, and loved. Do you have a group like this in your life?

2. They cared for others

- For us this may look like for us might look like helping someone move out of their home to a different home. It looks like buying them a meal, encouraging them, and making sure their physical needs are met. Taking the step to serve is the highlight here.

3. They loved to get together

- Attending a church worship service once a week is not enough to live life to the fullest as a new creation. To be like the people of the early church it takes being open to meeting at some point during the week.

Prayer to pray:

Jesus, help me to live this out and be a part of community. Help me to see people that are in my life who could join me in my journey with you.

4. WARRIOR

If we are going to be warriors in Christ, it's imperative we set the right standards for our lives. Without standards, we have no way to guide our decision-making to be on the right path. These are what Jesus said are to be the standards for us:

One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:35-40)

It's evident Jesus calls his followers to live as new creations by loving God first with all of our hearts, soul, and mind. Second, love others regardless of the circumstances.

- Is anything above God in my heart?
- What do you spend most of your time obsessing over?
- Are you currently spending time with God to bring refreshment to my soul?
- What do I allow my mind to think throughout the day?
- Do I love and see everyone like Jesus loves and sees them?

Don't go day by day doing whatever you want with nothing to drive your decisions. That's no way to live and it's not how new creations are called to live. Have standards that drive your choices each and every day. Whatever you do, test it, does it love God with all your heart, mind, soul and is it loving the other person like Jesus loves you?

Prayer to pray:

Jesus, help me to love you first above everything else. Help me to love you with all my heart, with all my mind and with all my soul. I pray I may live in purity and in communion with you. Lastly, help me love others as you love them. Help me to have your heart toward others. Help me to live obediently by keeping your commands as my standards. Amen.

In the book, we see other things that make us a warrior in Christ such as battling our flesh and knowing the enemy's playbook against us. For the sake of this PDF, the most important standards for us as warriors were highlighted.

5. BOLDNESS

To live in boldness is to live in confidence believing in Jesus. To be bold begins with having a daily quiet time - a time where you get alone with Jesus for prayer and to listen. That's where your confidence will start, that's where boldness begins to form.

What a quiet time is and what it isn't:

A quiet time is time set aside for you to personally connect with God. It could be anywhere from 10 minutes to 1 hour or as long as you want. It's a time that is meant to be uninterrupted time during your day where you get along and connect to God. It's when we get to spend time with our heavenly father and let him touch our heart, mind and soul.

We were made for God and a quiet time is more for us than it is for God. Colossians says this about being created from God and for God.

all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (See Colossians 1:15-17)

Your quiet time is your personal time to talk with your creator.

5 Step Prayer Guide:

1. Thank God
2. Ask God to open your heart
3. Scripture or lectionary
4. Listen
5. Life-Giving Words

These 5 elements are what I use in my quiet time to connect me to God and help me hear from him. I want the same for you! Let's break the steps down:

1. Thank God

Begin your time with God with thankfulness. Thank him for the blessings he's given you like your job, your family, your home, your cars, and maybe even your shoes! When we come with a heart of thankfulness it opens us up to hear from God.

give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

2. Ask God to open your heart

In this step, you want to ask God to help you see how he sees. Ask him to open up your heart to allow him to touch it in a way that you can't experience without him. Ask him to move in your heart and speak to you.

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
(Psalm 139:23)

3. Scripture or lectionary

Pick a scripture to meditate on. For example, if you want to use Ephesians 3:20 which says "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all I can ask or imagine according to His power at work within us" you might say,

"God I pray Ephesians 3:20 that I would see what it is you want to do in my life. God I know you will do immeasurably more in my job, in my family, and my passions." You pray the scripture to God and say it to him over and over.

You could also follow a lectionary and that is ok as well! I have a friend named Abbi who loves a book called "the common book of prayer" which guides you in daily scripture meditations. That's a way that Abbi connects to and hears from God. You can easily insert something like that into this element of your quiet time.

4. Listen

Once you've prayed the scripture and you've communicated with God how you feel now it's time to sit back and listen for God to share something with you. This may happen in two ways: in your heart or in your mind. After you pray a verse God might lay something on your heart that you need to hear such as a certain verse. He may speak the same thing to your mind as well but there's a distinct difference. When it's in the heart you feel

it as if you can feel your heart being touched by its creator and satisfying its desires. When it's your mind your thoughts will become pure and set on what God is saying.

Be patient and wait for the Lord to act; (Psalm 37:7)

5. Life-Giving Words

The words you tell yourself everyday carry so much weight and it's essential that we communicate the truth. I end my quiet time with these words "I am a loved child of God. I am a loving husband. I am a leader who produces leaders. I am creative and innovative. God's radiant love shines through me." I'm sharing the truth with myself every single day and inserting positive thoughts before I do any other activity in my day.

- Have you ever had a quiet time like the framework above?
- Have you ever found what best connects you with God?
- After you prayed using the outline above, how did you feel?