

Insights into Fullness of Life in Christ

Unit 6 Biblical Stages of the Christian Life

Introduction

Prior to this study we have completed five studies showing insights into fullness of life with Christ. The mystery of the New Testament, which Paul said is, "Christ in you" led to a study of both an Invitation to Live and How Then Shall we Live? This made it possible to then open up Paul's idea from Galatians, of having the life of Christ formed in us. The fifth study looked at The Nature of Man and examined that in the light of man's relationship with God. If you have not yet looked at those, they were, along with this next study, building blocks in the understanding of how man can look at coming into fullness of life with Christ. So it might be useful to do those, either before proceeding with this study, or to go to them later.

This next study is an insight into fullness of life in Christ that is not often written or spoken about. When I was studying and reading about fullness of life in Christ in 2001 I was reading Norman Grubb's last book, Yes I Am, written in 1984. I noticed constant mentions of stages of development in the Christian life. These references to stages by Grubb asserted that the Bible itself outlined three stages of development, an idea I had not heard of previously. I had read of stages in the sense of second blessings and baptism of the Spirit, and similar descriptions. However, the wide range of views on those and related subjects within Christendom had left me unsatisfied as to the accuracy of some interpretations, compared to what God had intended as His full Gospel, that would enable me to live in faith and by the Spirit of God.

Using Grubb's writings on this topic and using the terminology provided, I did a long and extensive search for Biblical references for elements of these three stages and found plenty of support. What was even more encouraging to me was that these three stages were described from a variety of points of view, ten in all, these complementing each other and providing a more complete understanding of each stage. As understanding is helped when information is laid out in logical format, I began to assemble the information in a concise fashion. The chart you are about to see and hear about was constructed to demonstrate all the aspects of the Christian life and their connections. Whilst you cannot use the chart as a map to plan your route in life (that is the role performed by the Spirit), it is useful for a number of reasons that will be discussed.

Several years have passed since I wrote the original document and my understanding of it now (in 2008) is much greater. To have an understanding of the concept of the way God planned the pathway of our maturity is just so useful. For me, it has helped to understand many of the difficulties of growth and something of how God works in us, to have us grow in faith by the spiritual ways that He designed. When you begin to look at the words used, you will find that they are all scriptural terms and most of them will be quite familiar. In effect the chart provides a sort of road map for Christian maturity and growth. I am first going to give an overview of the chart so to provide the whole picture and then later, go into some detail of each of the sets of relationships. If you are listening to this study online or from a CD you will definitely need the written PDF file in front of you in order to follow the study outline.

Summary of Work of Christ in relation to Stages of the Christian Life. (short version)

The Work of Christ	First Stage	Second Stage	Third Stage
Our rescue and placement (Grubb referencespp 148, 153, 154)	The New Birth John 3:5-6 (NKJV) Galatians 1:4 (NKJV)	The Promised Rest Hebrews 4:9-11 (NKJV)	As Priests of God 1 Peter 2:5 (NKJV) 1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)
	Christ - Taking hold of us. Galatians 4:4-5 (NKJV)	Christ - Indwelling us Ephesians 3:17-18 (NKJV)	Christ - Fruiting through us. John 15:4-5 (NKJV)
Our Spiritual Formation (Grubb referencespp 150, 151)	Christ - FOR us John 1:12 (NKJV)	Christ - IN us Galatians 2:20 (NKJV) Romans 8:10 (NKJV)	Christ AS us (Christ our life) Colossians 3:3-5 (NKJV)
	God's Spirit is within us. Galatians 4:6-7 (NKJV) Titus 3:5 (NKJV)	Christ revealed and being formed in us Romans 8:11 (NKJV) Galatians 4:19 (NKJV)	We, as living sacrifices. Romans 12:1 (NKJV) 2 Corinthians 4:7 (NKJV)
Our spiritual unification and sanctification	Justification by Faith 1 Corinthians 6:11 (NKJV) Galatians 2:16 (NKJV) Romans 3:24 (NKJV)	Unification – the state of unity Ephesians 4:13 (NKJV) Ephesians 4:3 (NKJV) Romans 6:5 (NKJV) John 15:5 (NKJV)	Co-operation John 15:17 (NKJV) John 15:10 (NKJV)

<p>(Grubb references pp 146, 148)</p>	<p>Justification – By His grace</p> <p><i>Romans 4:25 (NKJV)</i> <i>Romans 5:16 (NKJV)</i></p>	<p>Sanctification</p> <p><i>John 17:17 (NKJV)</i> <i>John 15:2 (NKJV)</i> <i>2 Timothy 2:21 (NKJV)</i> <i>1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV)</i> <i>1 Peter 1:2 (NKJV)</i></p>	<p>Completion</p> <p><i>Colossians 1:19 (NKJV)</i> <i>Colossians 1:22 (NKJV)</i> <i>Corinthians 3:5 (NKJV)</i></p>
<p>Our Identification and status.</p> <p>(Grubb references pp 148)</p> <p>>>>>>>></p> <p>Primary three steps of spiritual development</p> <p>>>>>>>></p>	<p>Crucifixion</p> <p><i>Romans 6:6 (NKJV)</i> <i>Colossians 3:3 (NKJV)</i></p>	<p>Resurrection</p> <p><i>Romans 6:5-6</i> <i>Romans 6:11 (NKJV)</i> <i>Philippians 3:10</i></p>	<p>Ascension</p> <p><i>Ephesians 2:6 (NKJV)</i></p>
	<p>Identification with Him</p> <p><i>Romans 6:4 (NKJV)</i> <i>Romans 6:5 (NKJV)</i> <i>Romans 6:8 (NKJV)</i> <i>Romans 7:4 (NKJV)</i></p>	<p>Risen with Him</p> <p><i>Romans 8:11 (NKJV)</i> <i>Ephesians 2:6 (NKJV)</i></p>	<p>Seated with Him</p> <p><i>Ephesians 2:6 (NKJV)</i></p>
	<p>Children</p> <p><i>1 John 2:12 (NKJV)</i> <i>1 John 2:13 (NKJV)</i></p>	<p>Young Men</p> <p><i>1 John 2:13 (NKJV)</i> <i>1 John 2:14 (NKJV)</i></p>	<p>Fathers</p> <p><i>1 John 2:13 (NKJV)</i> <i>1 John 2:14 (NKJV)</i></p>
<p>Our suffering & self-sacrifice</p> <p>(Grubb references pp 154)</p>	<p>Suffering in our law-inspired condition</p> <p><i>Galatians 3:5 (NKJV)</i> <i>Galatians 3:3 (NKJV)</i> <i>Galatians 3:22 (NKJV)</i></p>	<p>Suffering in our more mature but still striving condition.</p> <p><i>2 Peter 2:20 (NKJV)</i> <i>1 Corinthians 12:26 (NKJV)</i></p>	<p>Suffering in our self-giving condition.</p> <p><i>1 Peter 2:21 (NKJV)</i> <i>Philippians 3:8-10 (NKJV)</i> <i>2 Corinthians 1:6-7 (NKJV)</i> <i>1 Peter 4:13-16 (NKJV)</i></p>

No.	Thematic Pt	Developmental Point	Illustrations and linkages
1	Description of chart	Horizontally, the chart above shows these three stages (columns 2, 3 and 4) taken scripture. Vertically, the left hand column shows the various aspects of the work of Christ, five of these in all – these were phrases I coined. Each of those five aspects of the work of Christ has some horizontal subdivisions, (from Our Rescue and Placement at top left, down to Our Suffering and Self Sacrifice at bottom left) the first three having two subdivisions, the fourth having three horizontal subdivisions and the last one stands alone. This makes up the ten elements shown in each of the three stages. These stages are closely related rather than being considered identical. So let's take a look at the chart above. For example - The first stage is variously described as, or includes the new birth and Christ taking hold of us.	Followed by Christ for us, God's Spirit in us, our justification, our crucifixion, our identification with Him as children and finally our suffering in our law inspired condition. The second and third stages may be followed by starting at the top and going downwards through the 10 elements.
2	Behavioral characteristics of these three stages.	Also, it should be understood that in practical life terms, the three stages most often either overlap or at least are not definitively separate, although they do represent three sequentially merging steps. Moreover, movements from one stage to another are spiritual movements brought about by the Holy Spirit, full appreciation and understanding for the believer coming from Him alone - as the believer cooperates with the Lord in this process. Also bear in mind that these characteristics are not formulas or descriptions, but because they are from scripture, would apply to all believers. Probably they are best considered as a broad view, or the suggested characteristics as to the nature of our preparation for the work that God has for all believers.	These things will be more easily understood as we proceed to look at the detail. Before we go on to look at each of the stages in detail, let us look at the main scripture verse that refers to the three stages. It comes from the book of 1 John. John sets the three stages pattern for us as he describes growth from children to spiritual fathers.
3	Three stages described by John in his first letter	The Apostle John writes in 1 John 2:12-14, "I write to you, <u>little children</u> , Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. I write to you, <u>fathers</u> , Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, <u>young men</u> , Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, <u>little children</u> , Because you have known the Father. I have written to you, <u>fathers</u> , Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, <u>young men</u> , Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one." <u>Little children</u> are spiritual infants. <u>Young men</u> are beyond being infants and are strong, having the word of God within and overcoming the wicked one. However, they do not yet fully know Him. <u>Fathers</u> (just) know Him, and are of the highest spiritual order – in other words they have the wisdom that comes from God by revelation. John is implying they are fathers in spiritual things.	These verses indicate the pattern of development for NT believers. It seems to be the only set of verses where the three stages are grouped together. However, there are at least nine other sets of three steps found in the NT. In his book, Yes I Am, Norman Grubb provided the basic clues and I was motivated to complete the picture and put it in chart form. It is most useful.

<p>4</p>	<p>Summary of Stage One</p> <p><i>(from top to bottom – these ten are not sequential as they represent a snapshot of different aspects of the whole)</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are children of God. 2. We are born again by the new birth. 3. Christ has taken hold of us. 4. Christ is for us. 5. The Spirit of God is within us. 6. We are justified by faith. 7. We are justified through His grace. 8. We have been crucified with Christ 9. Our identification is with Him. 10. We are suffering in our law inspired, still immature condition. <p>The Bible describes Stage One as being born again and having a knowledge of salvation as it applies to going to heaven. Jesus Christ is recognized as Saviour but not necessarily fully understood as Lord. The Christian at this stage may not (and some may never) realize the full import of the truth of “Christ in you” which is needed to develop a lifetime of real faith and trust in Jesus Christ. This being so, some may never develop an awareness of, or be witnessed to by the Spirit as to the full indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ may well be considered as being out there, or up there (in heaven) rather than His presence indwelling the believer, within his human soul and body. Although the first flush of salvation may produce authentic initial works of service, such service does not develop to what is possible when the Lord is able to lead the believer toward the full application of the faith in their life. Although the believer belongs to Christ, they still have that tendency towards being self oriented for self for self’s sake, being as yet unaware of the full nature of the gospel and the role of true faith.</p>	<p>All this is not so surprising given that the new believer is a babe in Christ. Even Paul allowed for it, suggesting a spiritual milk diet instead of spiritual meat. However, given true interpretations of scripture and a right attitude before God, any believer at this first stage can move on with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>But all this is just the beginning of our spiritual walk.</p> <p>There is a lot more that is now happening to extend this spiritual maturity.</p> <p>Stage Two extends our walk into a greater maturity.</p> <p>Let us look at that stage.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Summary of Stage Two</p> <p><i>(from top to bottom – these ten are not sequential as they represent a snapshot of different aspects of the whole)</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are as spiritual young men. 2. We have something of the promised rest. 3. There is more awareness of Christ indwelling us. 4. Likewise that Christ lives in us. 5. We can say that Christ is being formed in us. 6 We are more aware of our unity with Him. 7 We are more aware of our sanctification with Him 8 We are more aware of our resurrection with Christ. 9. We are beginning to be aware of being risen with Him. 10. We are suffering in our more mature but striving condition. <p>Notice how these expressions differ from those in the first stage. The</p>	<p>But I can assure you that</p>

		<p>first stage is about an initiation into the faith, but the descriptive words of this stage show spiritual growth and movement.</p> <p>The Spirit of God has now witnessed to a greater level through our human spirit that Christ does indeed dwell within us. There is a real experiential increasing awareness that the old self is dead and gone and that the believer is resurrected into the newness and fullness of the Christ life in him. There is a fuller knowledge and experience (still incomplete) that a resurrection of the Christ life has taken place within the believer. Galatians 2:20 begins to become a valid life experience.</p> <p>The promised rest spoken of by Joshua and in Hebrews begins to be experienced. However, there may still be some old self striving as though the old man is still there, with resultant suffering, because the believer has not yet fully learned his full position in Christ by not yet having learned the fullness of faith that is both necessary and possible.</p> <p>There will almost certainly be struggles and wars in our internal trenches that seem pointless and unjustified. They are however, God's way of bringing us to where He needs us to be to fully participate as a follower in service as He defines it. In the midst of the apparent hopelessness and never ending traumas of life, the believer has to stand firm in his knowledge of God and in full trust and faith in His care and godly wisdom that reigns far above anything that man could consider or devise. Having been perfected in this stage, the believer may well now be faced with God's call for true sacrificial service, which has little to do with self desired works.</p> <p>In recent years I have discovered something else about this very difficult stage of the Christian life. When I originally wrote this article in 2001, I had not yet seen that the struggle that takes place in this second stage, can be equated with what Paul says about his struggles in Romans 7:14-25. This may not be easily apparent to you the reader at this stage.</p>	<p>once time has passed and you have reached an understanding of this, not only will you never be in any doubt about what I have said (the Spirit will have to show you – I can only indicate it from experience) but you will also realize that every believer, if you are to reach the third stage of actually being used in a full way by the Lord, then you will have to go through your own Romans 7 experience – which you will find is virtually the same as the elements of this second of three stages. To be more explicit, to learn to experience the promised rest does not come without difficulty (of learning faith) Likewise to learn the experience of the indwelling life of Christ within us – our unity with Him, our resurrection, is not initiated by us but by the Spirit as He sees fit. Similarly, although we are more mature than we were, we still do not suffer perfectly without some complaint. If we persevere, the Spirit completes this process for us. When we begin to notice some of the characteristics of stage 3 occurring in our life, we will look back in wonder at the difficulties of stage two that the Lord brought us through.</p>
6	Stage Three	1. We are now considered spiritual Fathers	My experience of all this has

	<p>(from top to bottom – these ten are not sequential as they represent a snapshot of different aspects of the whole)</p>	<p>2. We are priests of God 3. Christ is now fruiting through us 4. We realize that Christ is our very life 5. Our lives are now sacrificed through Him and for Him. 6. We are in an abiding cooperation with Him 7. We are being made complete in Him. 8. In the Spirit we have ascended into heavenly places. 9. We are seated with Him 10. We are suffering but from our self giving position.</p> <p>Having reached the promised rest and fully experiencing who we are in Christ, we now reach the stage where Christ can use us more fully in His service, although we will never consider ourselves perfect. Christ can now use His witness of Himself in our lives to bring about a fuller reliance on Him for everything - for every part of our daily lives.</p> <p>Even though we still fail at times we begin to apply the sort of faith and trust in Him that pleases God and lessens or eliminates our self-striving. We become priests of God, complete in Him and cooperating with Him bearing fruit from His life in us. We fully know and utilize the fact that although we have spirit, soul and body, Christ communicates His life through our human spirit - He is Christ our life. In the spiritual realm we have ascended with Him and are seated with Him in the heavenly realms and we do His will.</p> <p>Suffering for others in our self-giving attitude becomes the normal life where we participate with Him in the fellowship of the sufferings of Christ. The Lord uses His presence in our being to use us as His vessels and branches to draw the people's of the world to Himself, using His death to our life and His life in our life to bring life to others, just as Jesus Himself did when He was on earth. Death to us but- life to others – as Paul says.</p> <p>Without the faithfulness of the Lord, we would never make it through to this stage. Likewise we will never make it here if we do not persevere.</p> <p>Someone once said that before God can make a man He has to break him.</p>	<p>been and is considerable pain and suffering as predicted by scripture. Various elements of the following scriptures I have experienced to some degree or another. But I know that stage 3 is never complete. Mention:</p> <p>2 Corinthians 1:8-9 2 Corinthians 6:3-10 Hebrews 12:5-11</p> <p>Life is a little like this poem – Pressed out of Measure.</p> <p><i>Pressed out of measure and pressed to all lengths, Pressed so intensely it seems beyond strength, Pressed in the body and pressed in the soul, Pressed in the mind till the dark surges roll, Pressed by foes and a pressure from friends, Pressure on pressure till life nearly ends, Pressed into knowing no helper but God, Pressed into loving the staff and the rod, Pressed into liberty where nothing clings, Pressed into faith for impossible things, Pressed into living a life in the Lord, Pressed into living a Christ life outpoured.</i></p>
7	Now that we	Firstly, just a word about the imperfection of charts of this type. In a	Until I found these things for

	have some knowledge of the three stages, let's take a look at the different aspects of the work of Christ within us.	<p>word, they can never be perfect, just like analogies are rarely perfect.</p> <p>So the whole chart is offered as an attempt to picture the whole reality of the spiritual life as the Bible presents it. It has in it most of the main theological terms that describe salvation and the maturation process. So long as it viewed as only a guide then it is safe and very useful to use. The only full authority on all these things is the word of God itself.</p>	<p>myself I had not full picture of structure of the Christian life that I could refer to and to help my understanding of Spiritual things.</p> <p>So now that we have some understanding the uses and limitations of the chart, let us examine it more closely.</p>
7.1	Our Rescue and Placement	<p>If you look to the left hand side of the chart, the first one to look at in the work of Christ is Our Rescue and Placement.</p> <p>In this our initiation into the faith we have the following 3 part sequences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The New Birth – The Promised Rest – (then as) Priests of God • Christ taking hold of us – Christ indwelling us – Christ fruiting through us 	<p>Notice the progression.</p> <p>From the new birth to being priests of God and bearing fruit.</p>
7.2	Our Spiritual Formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christ for us – Christ in us – Christ as us (Christ as our life) • The Spirit of God in us– Christ revealed and being formed in us – Us as living sacrifices, sharing in His sufferings. 	The progression here is from having the Spirit of God, to being living sacrifices
7.3	Our Spiritual Unification and sanctification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justification by faith – Unification – Co-operation • Justification through grace – Sanctification - Completion 	Progression from being justified to cooperation with God.
7.4	Our Identification and Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crucifixion – Resurrection – Ascension • Identification with Him – Risen with Him – Seated with Him • As Children – As Young Men – As Spiritual Fathers 	Progression from infancy to being seated with Him as a spiritual father.
7.5	Our self sacrifice and suffering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suffering in our law inspired condition – Suffering in our more mature condition – Suffering in our self –giving sacrificial position. 	From suffering in immaturity to suffering out of sacrifice.

<p>8</p>	<p>Summary</p>	<p>This is a very brief summary of what amounts to what I am now believing to be biblical teaching of the full gospel of Jesus Christ. It is meant to introduce believers to what may well amount to be new ideas to help bring about the fullness of Christ in their life.</p> <p>When I wrote this article in 2001 I was very much a learner in these things and did not profess any great degree of knowledge, wisdom or experience in these things, apart from what the Holy Spirit had granted me by His grace. It is now 2008. Since this writing, and in consequence of a continuing and growing faith, I can say that I have observed that these things now seem to be true and I am very glad I have taken the pathway I have.</p> <p>Even if these ideas do nothing else than provide an alternative to the limited Gospel as it has been taught in some churches of my experience - and perhaps yours - it will perhaps provoke deeper searches into the mysteries that have been revealed since Paul's revelations in New Testament times.</p> <p>A good start into the subject would be to meditate on the deeper meaning of three central scriptural verses, which are:</p> <p><i><u>"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 delivered Himself up for me. (Gal 2:20)</u></i></p>	<p><i>"Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Col 1:25-27</i></p> <p><i>When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.(Col 3:4)</i></p>
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<p>9</p>	<p>Finally, what are the possible uses for this understanding of scripture?</p>	<p>Of what use is the knowledge to a believer in respect of their life in Christ?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 We can know that God’s Word itself describes three stages and the characteristics of each stage, therefore providing clues as to how we may co-operate with the Lord to move through them. 2 We can analyze the various aspects of the stages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To see what is possible in the Christian life • To help see where we are in Christ • To help us explain our experience of the Christian life and any difficulties we may have. • To see what work God might be doing in us. We can use our understanding of the three stages to realistically assess where we are in our Christian walk, so as not to expect to perform in the higher stages before God has equipped us. • To see how we can better co-operate with Him to learn fullness of faith 3 We can assess an individual Christian life or the life of a church compared with its stated beliefs, teachings and quality of fellowship – and have empathy with their position, knowing that Christ is in charge. 4 We could use these understandings to plan teaching, preaching, study or any other learning to meet the needs of an individual or group. 5 We could look at what is possible at each stage of the Christian life and the fullness that is possible through Christ, so as to expect what should be true for each stage of the Christian life. 6 Finally, it could help a counsellor, bible teacher, or pastor to assess and guide a believer, who is not sure why he or she is not progressing in the Christian life. 	<p>I personally use this knowledge to encourage myself – particularly when something goes wrong I don’t understand or I make some elementary mistake.</p> <p>So for me it avoids some forms of discouragement.</p> <p>It also helps me to forgive other people, because their words, attitudes and actions give some indication of where they are at in life, or perhaps with the Lord. (without condemnation)</p> <p>It is also useful when praying for oneself or others.</p>
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This is the sixth in a series of articles to further outline and provide resources for believers to move towards Fullness of Life in Christ.

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Availability. This study is for use in one to one teaching or in small groups by those who know this experience for themselves, or by those open to the Spirit to learn together.

Ken Walker – August 2008

Appendix A – Scriptures relating to the Work of Christ in relation to Stages of the Christian Life.

The Work of Christ	First Stage	Second Stage	Third Stage
<p>Our rescue and placement</p>	<p>The New Birth</p> <p>John 3:5-6 (NKJV)</p> <p>"Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is <u>born of water and the Spirit</u>, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."</p> <p>Galatians 1:4 (NKJV)</p> <p>"who gave Himself for our sins, that He <u>might deliver us from this present evil age</u>, according to the will of our God and Father,</p>	<p>The Promised Rest</p> <p>Hebrews 4:9-11 (NKJV)</p> <p>There remains therefore <u>a rest for the people of God.</u> For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. Let us therefore <u>be diligent to enter that rest</u>, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.</p>	<p>As Priests of God</p> <p>1 Peter 2:5 (NKJV)</p> <p>"you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, <u>a holy priesthood</u>, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."</p> <p>1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)</p> <p>"But you are a chosen generation, <u>a royal priesthood</u>, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; "</p>

	<p>Christ - Taking hold of us.</p> <p>Galatians 4:4-5 (NKJV)</p> <p>"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <u>to redeem</u> those who were under the law, that we might <u>receive the adoption</u> as sons."</p>	<p>Christ - Indwelling us</p> <p>Ephesians 3:17-18 (NKJV)</p> <p>"that <u>Christ may dwell in your hearts</u> through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—</p>	<p>Christ - Fruiting through us.</p> <p>John 15:4-5 (NKJV)</p> <p>"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for <u>without Me you can do nothing.</u>"</p>
<p>Our Spiritual Formation</p>	<p>Christ - FOR us</p> <p>John 1:12 (NKJV)</p> <p>"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the <u>right to become children of God,</u> to those who believe in His name:"</p>	<p>Christ - IN us</p> <p>Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)</p> <p>I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but <u>Christ lives in me;</u> 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.</p> <p>Romans 8:10 (NKJV)</p> <p>"And if <u>Christ is in you,</u> the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. "</p>	<p>Christ AS us (Christ our life)</p> <p>Colossians 3:3-5 (NKJV)</p> <p>"For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When <u>Christ who is our life</u> appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."</p>
	<p>God's Spirit is within us.</p> <p>Galatians 4:6-7 (NKJV) "And because you are sons, <u>God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts,</u> crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir of God through Christ."Titus 3:5 (NKJV) "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through <u>the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,</u>"</p>	<p>Christ revealed and being formed in us</p> <p>Romans 8:11 (NKJV)</p> <p>"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 <u>through His Spirit who dwells in you.</u>"</p> <p>Galatians 4:19 (NKJV)</p> <p>"My little children, for whom I labor in birth again <u>until Christ is formed in you,</u> I would like to be present with you now and to change my tone; for I have doubts about you.</p>	<p>We, as living sacrifices.</p> <p>Romans 12:1 (NKJV) "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you <u>present your bodies a living sacrifice,</u> holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."</p> <p>2 Corinthians 4:7 (NKJV)"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. <u>We are hard-pressed</u> on every side, yet not crushed; we are <u>perplexed,</u> but not in despair; <u>persecuted,</u> but not forsaken; <u>struck down,</u> but not destroyed—<u>always</u></p>

			<p><u>carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then <u>death is working in us, but life in you.</u></u></p>
<p>Our spiritual unification and sanctification</p>	<p>Justification by Faith</p> <p>1 Corinthians 6:11 (NKJV)</p> <p>"And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but <u>you were justified</u> in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."</p> <p>Galatians 2:16 (NKJV)</p> <p>"knowing that a <u>man is</u> not <u>justified</u> by the works of the law but <u>by faith</u> in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified."</p> <p>Romans 3:24 (NKJV)</p> <p>"being <u>justified freely by His grace</u> through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,"</p>	<p>Unification – the state of unity</p> <p>Ephesians 4:13 (NKJV)</p> <p>"till we all come to <u>the unity of the faith</u> and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;"</p> <p>Ephesians 4:3 (NKJV)</p> <p>"endeavoring to keep <u>the unity of the Spirit</u> in the bond of peace."</p> <p>Romans 6:5 (NKJV)</p> <p>"For if <u>we have been united together in the likeness of His death</u>, certainly we also <u>shall be in the likeness of His resurrection</u>,"</p> <p>John 15:5 (NKJV)</p> <p>"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for <u>without Me you can do nothing.</u>"</p>	<p>Co-operation</p> <p>John 15:17 (NKJV)</p> <p>"These things I command you, that you love one another."</p> <p>John 15:10 (NKJV)</p> <p>"If you keep My commandments, you will <u>abide in My love</u>, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love."</p>

Justification – By His grace

Romans 4:25 (NKJV)

"who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of **our justification.**"

Romans 5:16 (NKJV)

"And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, **but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification.**"

Sanctification

John 17:17 (NKJV)

"**Sanctify them by Your truth.** Your word is truth."

John 15:2 (NKJV)

"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit **He prunes,** that it may bear more fruit."

2 Timothy 2:21 (NKJV)

"Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, **sanctified and useful** for the Master, prepared for every good work."

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV)

"Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you completely;** and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 1:2 (NKJV)

"elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, **in sanctification of the Spirit,** for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied."

Completion

Colossians 1:19 (NKJV)

"For it pleased the Father that **in Him all the fullness should dwell,**"

Colossians 1:22 (NKJV)

"in the body of His flesh through death, **to present you holy, and blameless,** and above reproach in His sight—"

2 Corinthians 3:5 (NKJV)

"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but **our sufficiency is from God,**"

<p>Our Identification and status.</p>	<p>Crucifixion</p> <p>Romans 6:6 (NKJV) <i>"knowing this, that <u>our old man was crucified with Him</u>, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin."</i></p> <p>Colossians 3:3 (NKJV) <i>"For <u>you died</u>, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."</i></p>	<p>Resurrection</p> <p>Romans 6:5-6 <i>"For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly <u>we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection</u>,⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin."</i></p> <p>Romans 6:11 (NKJV) <i>"Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but <u>alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord</u>."</i></p> <p>Philippians 3:10 <i>"that I may know Him and <u>the power of His resurrection</u>, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,"</i></p>	<p>Ascension</p> <p>Ephesians 2:6 (NKJV) <i>"and <u>raised us up together</u>, and made us <u>sit together in the heavenly places</u> in Christ Jesus,"</i></p>
	<p>Identification with Him</p> <p>Romans 6:4 (NKJV) <i>"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so <u>we also should walk in newness of life</u>."</i></p> <p>Romans 6:5 (NKJV) <i>"For if we have been united together in <u>the likeness</u> of His death, certainly we also shall be in <u>the likeness</u> of His resurrection,"</i></p> <p>Romans 6:8 (NKJV) <i>"Now if we died with Christ, we believe that <u>we shall also live with Him</u>,"</i></p>	<p>Risen with Him</p> <p>Romans 8:11 (NKJV) <i>"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, <u>He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies</u> through His Spirit who dwells in you."</i></p> <p>Ephesians 2:6 (NKJV) <i>"and <u>raised us up together</u>, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,"</i></p>	<p>Seated with Him</p> <p>Ephesians 2:6 (NKJV) ⁶<i>and raised us up together, and <u>made us sit together</u> in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,</i></p>

Children

1 John 2:12 (NKJV)

I write to you, **little children**,
Because your sins are forgiven
you for His name's sake.

1 John 2:13 (NKJV)

I write to you, fathers,
Because you have known Him
who is from the beginning.
I write to you, young men,
Because you have overcome the
wicked one.

I write to you, **little children**,
Because you have known the
Father.

Young Men

1 John 2:13 (NKJV)

I write to you, fathers,
Because you have known Him who is
from the beginning.

I write to you, **young men**,
Because you have overcome the wicked
one.

I write to you, little children,
Because you have known the Father.

1 John 2:14 (NKJV)

I have written to you, fathers,
Because you have known Him who is
from the beginning.
I have written to you, **young men**,
Because you are strong, and the word
of God abides in you,
And you have overcome the wicked
one.

Fathers

1 John 2:13 (NKJV)

I write to you, **fathers**,
Because you have known Him who is
from the beginning.

I write to you, young men,
Because you have overcome the
wicked one.

I write to you, little children,
Because you have known the Father.

1 John 2:14 (NKJV)

I have written to you, **fathers**,
Because you have known Him who is
from the beginning.
I have written to you, young men,
Because you are strong, and the word
of God abides in you,
And you have overcome the wicked
one.

<p>Our suffering & self-sacrifice</p>	<p>Suffering in our law-inspired condition</p> <p>Galatians 3:5 (NKJV)</p> <p>"Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, <u>does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?—</u>"</p> <p>Galatians 3:3 (NKJV)</p> <p>"Are you so foolish? <u>Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?</u>"</p> <p>Galatians 3:22 (NKJV)</p> <p>"But the <u>Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given</u> to those who believe."</p>	<p>Suffering in our more mature but still striving condition.</p> <p>2 Peter 2:20 (NKJV)</p> <p>"For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, <u>they are again entangled in them and overcome</u>, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning."</p> <p>1 Corinthians 12:26 (NKJV)</p> <p>"And if one member suffers, <u>all the members suffer</u> with it; or if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with it."</p>	<p>Suffering in our self-giving condition.</p> <p>1 Peter 2:21 (NKJV)</p> <p>"For to this you were called, because <u>Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example</u>, that you should follow His steps:'</p> <p>Philippians 3:8-10 (NKJV)</p> <p>"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom <u>I have suffered the loss of all things</u>, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness,; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and <u>the fellowship of His sufferings</u>, being conformed to His death,"</p> <p>2 Corinthians 1:6-7 (NKJV)</p> <p>"Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for <u>enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer</u>. And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as <u>you are partakers of the sufferings</u>, so also you will partake of the consolation."</p> <p>1 Peter 4:13-16 (NKJV) - <u>"rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings</u>, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy..... Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter."</p>
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