



## NEW CREATURES

Becky Combee

My daddy was a church musician, and I often traveled with him when he was leading the music at a revival meeting. When we were together, he would tell me, "Becky, one day you will accept Jesus as your Savior." He planted that seed in my heart, and I knew that one day I would be a Christian. When I was nine years old, I asked Jesus to be my Savior.

Beginning at a young age, our church schooled us in the great plan of salvation, helping us to memorize scriptures from the book of Romans.

*We are a New Creature  
with a New Nature  
in a New Kingdom.*

These verses were called the *Roman Road to Salvation*. We were rewarded for quoting those scriptures with badges, similar to Girl Scouts. It was a great training process. Yet, in later years as I grew and matured in God, I discovered that there was a lot of facts relative to God's redemptive plan that I did not know.

The first pinnacle of truth that set me free was learning that man was a spirit being, living in a physical body. It is the spirit of man that is born again, not the body. Jesus declared this to Nicodemus in John 3:6 when He said, "That which

## GOD'S GARDEN

Suzanne D. Williams

*"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath TRANSLATED us into the kingdom of his dear Son." (Colossians 1:13)*

I saw a picture of this verse during my devotions. Every year Black-eyed Susan flowers spring up in the lawn, outside the flowerbed. If I ignore them, they get mowed. This year, I dug them up and put them in 4" pots. They have blossomed and provided happiness for me and the bees.

The word "translated" here is "to transpose, transfer, remove from one place to another, change of situation or place"<sup>8</sup> We are taken FROM darkness; we are tenderly dug up out of hard, stony soil and from amongst the weeds and replanted into God's garden where the soil is perfect for our optimal growth. There, the light of the Word shines upon us and we are connected to the water of life.

But it is not only a fertile place, it is a safe one. Here, we are close to the Gardener, who can see to our needs.

Jesus described this as the branches of a vine, saying, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."<sup>9</sup>

The word ABIDE has a trifold meaning.<sup>10</sup> It

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*is born of the Spirit is spirit.*" It is important to note that the first word Spirit is capitalized, and the second word is not. It is the Holy Spirit that recreates us, giving birth to a new spirit. The words of Paul confirm this. He said, *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature."*<sup>1</sup>

Because many churches teach that you need to accept Jesus in your heart, I pictured a small part of my physical body that needed God. I did not know that I was a spirit being that needed to be completely recreated. When we confess Jesus as Lord, we are recreated. Our body remains the same and our soul (which is the mind, will, and emotions) is unchanged, but we are new on the inside.

The soul is changed as we digest the Word of God and allow the water of the Word to influence our choices and decisions. As the soul or mind is renewed, it looks to God's Word for answers. It no longer honors the body's demands which contradict God's plan.<sup>2</sup>

When the spirit becomes a NEW CREATURE, it receives a NEW NATURE. The apostle Peter writes that we have received the precious promises of God so that we *"might be partakers of the divine nature."*<sup>3</sup> The divine nature is the nature of God. In the Gospels, the nature of God is called eternal life. Every NEW CREATURE has received eternal life or the life of the eternal one, God Himself. We are now God's children with His life and nature.<sup>4</sup>

Because we are a NEW CREATURE with a NEW NATURE, we are in a NEW KINGDOM, the Kingdom of God. In Matthew 12:26, it states that Satan has a kingdom. A kingdom is where a king reigns and rules. When we were sinners, we lived in Satan's kingdom and were ruled and influenced by his nature. He reigned over us.<sup>5</sup> But, when we accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord, we were translated (Note the definition in Suzanne's article) from Satan's kingdom into the Kingdom of God! What a glorious day!

As a NEW CREATURE in God's kingdom, we have a NEW LAW. In James 2:8, it is called the *"royal law."* Here James states this law as, *"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."* The apostle Paul concurs and further declares, *"He that loveth another hath fulfilled the law."*<sup>6</sup> Oh, how simple

this makes our life. We are a NEW CREATURE with a NEW NATURE in a NEW KINGDOM. The law of God's kingdom is love one another. Because God's love is a part of our NEW NATURE, every day we can represent our NEW KINGDOM by walking in love. The royal law of love will constantly manifest in our lives.

Now think about it. Meditate on it. We are a NEW CREATURE! We have a NEW NATURE, and we live in a NEW KINGDOM! This kingdom is ruled by a NEW LAW, the law of love. How did that happen? When did this new life begin? It began the day we declared JESUS AS LORD and SAVIOR. On that day, *"Old things passed away."* AMEN!<sup>7</sup>



(Continued from "God's Garden")

references the PLACE that we abide. We abide or dwell WHERE He is. He was victorious over death, hell, and the grave, and through our unity with Him, because we draw life from Him, we are given that same victory.<sup>11</sup>

The word ABIDE references the TIME or timing in which we abide. As He is patient, enduring, and longsuffering, so are we. Jesus was obedient to the Father's will in His life, His death, and in His Resurrection. As the Father was with Him in all circumstances, so the Father is with us. He never leaves our side.<sup>12</sup>

Third, the word ABIDE references the STATE or CONDITION in which we dwell. God is love. His mercies are new every morning. He has great faithfulness. We are commissioned to walk in this same love and mercy.<sup>13</sup>

We ABIDE with Him and He ABIDES with us, and drawing from the life flowing in Him, we bear much fruit.<sup>14</sup> Just as those flowers cannot help but blossom with my tender care, in God's garden, we can't help but produce with abundance. This is who He is. A generous God with loving hands who nurtures us to become our very best.

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<sup>1</sup>2Co 5:17 <sup>2</sup>Rm 12:1-2 <sup>3</sup>Pe 1:4 <sup>4</sup>Rm 8:16 <sup>5</sup>Jn 8:44 <sup>6</sup>Rm 13:8 <sup>7</sup>2Co 5:17 <sup>8</sup>G3179, Strong's <sup>9</sup>Jn 15:4 <sup>10</sup>G3306, Thayer's Word Studies <sup>11</sup>2Co 2:14 <sup>12</sup>Act 10:38; Php 2:8; Heb 13:5 <sup>13</sup>1Jn 4:8; Ps 136:1; Ps 36:5; 1Co 13:4-8 <sup>14</sup>Jn 15:5