

## Foundation of the Christian Life

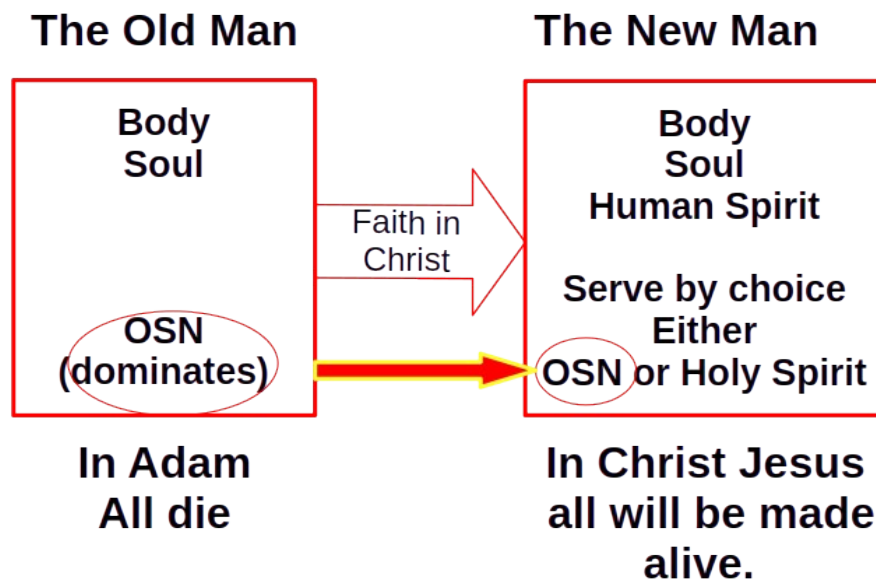
**From sin to righteousness**

**From death to life**

### Foundation of the Christian Life

Romans chapter 6 explains the foundation of the Christian life.

One of the things that happens at the point of faith in Christ is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We are placed in union with Jesus retroactively to share in His death and resurrection. The Old Man dies. The New Man is born.



The Old Man died as a result of faith in Christ. The sin nature of the Old Man dominates the unbeliever's life. The only escape is faith in Christ. At the point of faith, the Old Man dies and the New Man is born. The sin nature remains. But, God adds the human spirit (regeneration) along with the indwelling Holy Spirit.

**Foundation of the Christian Life**  
**Romans 6:5-10**

What we will learn today is that at the point of faith, we “died” with Christ, “retroactive positional truth.” But retroactively we are also resurrected with Christ. Christ lives to God sitting at the Father’s right hand. By the Baptism of the Holy Spirit we are “in Christ.” As such we acquire Christ’s possessions. And we are to live to God.

**The Believer Shares Christ’s<sup>1</sup>:**

Righteousness.	2 Corinthians 5:21
Eternal Life.	1 John 5:11-12
Sonship.	John 1:12; Galatians 3:26
Heirship.	Romans 8:16-17; 1 Peter 1:4
Royalty.	Colossians 1:13; 2 Timothy 2:11-12
Priesthood.	1 Peter 2:5, 9
Election.	Ephesians 1:4
Destiny.	Ephesians 1:5
Sanctification.	1 Corinthians 1:2, 30; Ephesians 1:4

We are also “higher than angels,” positionally. We look forward to our physical resurrection at the time of the Rapture. But prior to that we have been resurrected to a new life in Christ. This is what Paul is trying to convince us of. Because we have a New Man with a new life “in Christ” and because the domination of the sin nature has been broken, we have a mandate to live to God.

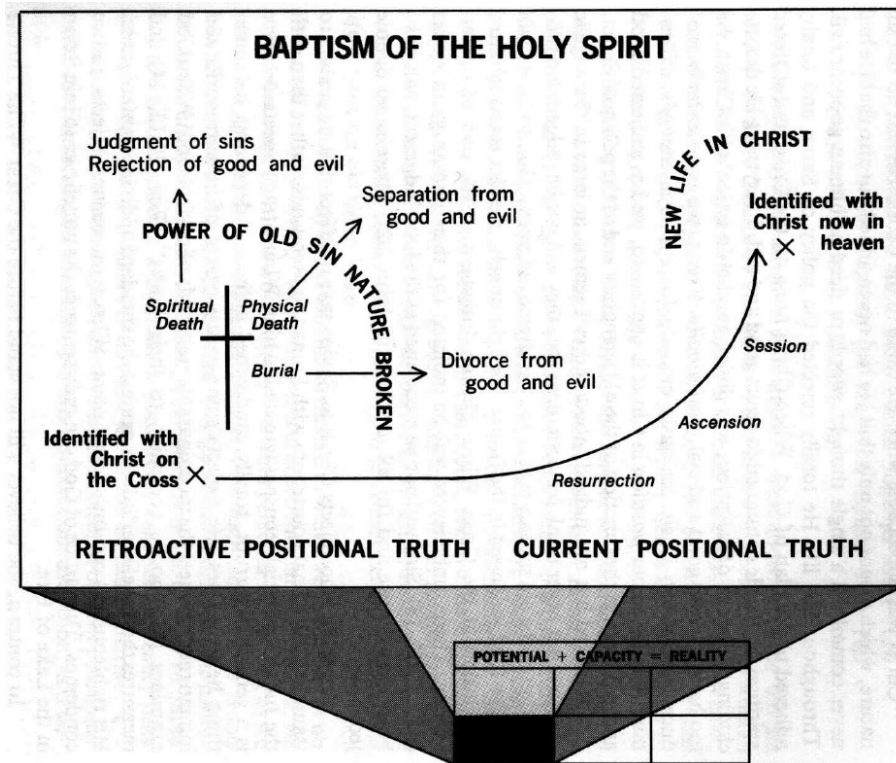
There is an illustration by R. B. Thieme Jr on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.rbthieme.org/PDF/Illustrations.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> R. B. Thieme, Jr. The Integrity of God. Houston: Berachah Tapes and Publications. 1979. page109.

## Foundation of the Christian Life Romans 6:5-10



**Romans 6:5** For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection,

**Romans 6:6** knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

**Romans 6:7** for he who has died is freed from sin.

**Romans 6:8** Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

Foundation of the Christian Life  
Romans 6:5-10

**Romans 6:9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.**

**Romans 6:10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.**

Robby Dean made a chart showing that Romans 6:5-7 is parallel to Romans 6:8-10.

<p>Rom. 6:5, “For <b>if</b> we have been united together in the likeness of <b>His death</b>, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His <b>resurrection</b>,</p>	<p>Rom. 6:8, “Now <b>if</b> we <b>died</b> with Christ, we believe that we shall also <b>live</b> with Him, (resurrection identity truth)</p>
<p>Rom. 6:6, “<b>knowing</b> this, that our old man was <b>crucified with Him</b>, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should <b>no longer be slaves of sin</b>.</p>	<p>Rom. 6:9, “<b>knowing</b> that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. <b>Death no longer has dominion over Him</b>.</p>
<p>Rom. 6:7, “<b>For</b> he who has <b>died has been freed</b> [declared righteous] from sin.</p>	<p>Rom. 6:10, “<b>For</b> the death that <b>He died</b>, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.”</p>

Note the repetition of concepts between the two sets of three verses. There are important concepts that are emphasized in Romans chapter 6. You see in these verses we go from death (in Adam & Old Man) to life (in Christ & New Man). Let me reiterate some points from a previous lesson.

**Foundation of the Christian Life**  
**Romans 6:5-10**

1. **Foundation.** The Baptism of the Holy Spirit places us “in Christ Jesus.” The result is that we share not just benefits leading into eternity but we share in Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection with implications for our lives here and now. We are alive “in Christ.”
2. **Mandate.** Because we are “in Christ Jesus” we have a mandate to live in newness of life. Paul in Romans chapter 6 says it is imperative that we do this.
3. **Ability.** Because the Old Man is dead, because the complete domination of the sin nature has been broken and the because we have a New Man with a human spirit, the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the option of being empowered by the Holy Spirit we can live in newness of life. It is possible.
4. **Instruction.** Paul in Romans 6-8 shows us how to live. Paul uses two words for knowing in these six verses. Romans 6:6 uses *ginosko*. Romans 6:9 uses *eidotes*. Paul is teaching, exhorting imploring us to learn and apply the lessons he is teaching. We have a mandate to live to God. We have the ability to do so. Paul teaches us how to do that. There is no excuse of the Christian not living the Christian life.
5. **Angelic Conflict.** Not stated here but implicit in our understanding of the New Testament is the fact that we are in the midst of the Angelic Conflict. Living in newness of life “in Christ” moves us forward in the conflict. It also protects us from aiding and abetting the enemy. As a Christian we are on the front lines. We should not be “AWOL” (Absent Without Leave). Living out of fellowship is like working for the other team. As Christians living the Christian life, we become witnesses in Satan’s Appeal Trial and part of the solution to the Angelic Conflict. We receive awards/commendations for walking in faith dependence on the Holy Spirit.

Foundation of the Christian Life  
Romans 6:5-10

**Romans 6:5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,**

**Have become united.** United is a word that can mean “grafted” as in grafting a branch onto a tree. The idea is that we are in union with Christ. Have become is a *perfect active indicative*. *Perfect* would indicate a past action with on-going results. *Indicative* means it is real. We are not just “in Christ” but we have become part of the body of Christ.

Time for God is more fluid that it is with man since He is not bound by time. The idea that at the point of our salvation we are united with Christ in His death and resurrection may be difficult to understand. If the timing is difficult for you, concentrate on the logic of what God did. Our destinies and Christ’s destiny have been fused together. We saw the list of items we share with Jesus.

John uses Jesus’ Upper Room prayer to explain this unity we have. Jesus is praying to the Father in what some call the High Priestly Prayer.

**John 17:20 “I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;**

**John 17:21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.**

**Foundation of the Christian Life**  
**Romans 6:5-10**

**John 17:22 The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one;**

**John 17:23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.**

**Likeness.** We did not physically die on the cross with Jesus. But our sin was placed on Jesus and judged. Jesus died spiritually because of our sins. Our Old Man died and we were resurrected as the New Man with a human spirit and the indwelling Holy Spirit and many other things. We now have a new life. Newness of life. Remember, this “newness” is more intense, more emphatic than just “new” life. Our newness of life has a dynamic to it.

**Resurrection.** Something I learned as I studied Romans 6 is that resurrection is not just something that will happen to the believer in the future. There is a current, right here and now result of our resurrection “in Christ.” At the point of salvation we were placed “in Christ.” He is living to God. He is not waiting for the future to arrive. Right now He lives to God. So too we should live to God as a result of a resurrection that took place at the point of our salvation.

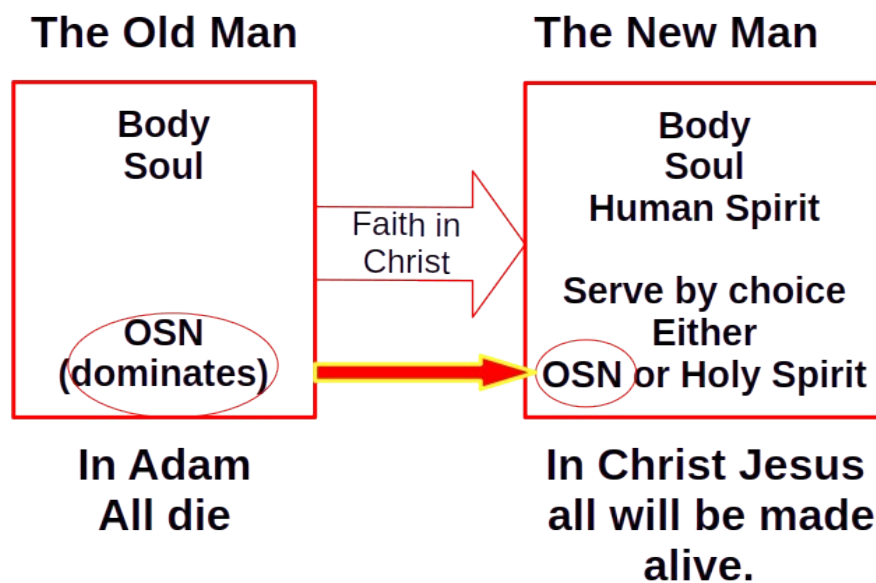
Interesting to note that in the resurrection at the point of salvation we changed into a new spiritual body, the New Man. At the final resurrection we are changed into a new body without a sin nature.

Foundation of the Christian Life  
Romans 6:5-10

**Romans 6:6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;**

**Knowing.** Paul uses a variety of words for knowing and knowledge. Here is the basic word for experiential knowledge, *ginosko*. It is important for Paul that his audience not be ignorant of the glorious truths associated with Jesus Christ. More than just knowing is the application of those truths to our lives.

**Old Self/Man was crucified.** The NASB & NIV translate anthropos as “self.” It means “man.” The KJV & NET versions use “man.” This has been dealt with previously. The Old Man is dead. We studied Colossians 3 in this light. We addressed the issue of Greek grammar in Ephesians 4:22. The issue is that the Old Man is dead but we now have a new man which is not free from the sin nature. The decision we have to constantly make is to walk by faith or not.



**1 Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.**



**Foundation of the Christian Life**  
**Romans 6:5-10**

**No longer slaves to sin.** This is the negative side. You are either a slave to sin or slave to righteousness. Your decision moment by moment.

**Romans 6:7 for he who has died is freed from sin.**

**Freed from.** Not the word in the Greek that I was expecting. This is the word for justification. Literally, “for he who has died is justified from sin.” Justification is the declaration of our imputed righteousness. So we are not just “righteous from sin.” No. We have been “declared righteous from sin.” Righteousness and sin are opposites.

**Romans 6:8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,**

**Live with Him.** “Live with” is a single compound word. Here is the positive. The negative is that we should no longer be slaves to the sin nature. The positive is that we should “live with Him/Jesus Christ” who now lives to God. It is in the future tense. But the future includes the next few minutes all the way into eternity. We are now living with Christ because we are “in Christ.”

**Romans 6:9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.**

**Knowing.** Again Paul stresses knowing. But this word is different than the one used in verse 6. The previous word is one for experiential knowledge. This word is more intense. Perhaps we could translate it as “understanding” this. Interesting that Paul uses the simple knowledge of the crucifixion of the Old Man and here the more intense word for Christ’s resurrection.

**Foundation of the Christian Life**  
**Romans 6:5-10**

**Never to die again.** Christ is done with death. We however have to deal with our daily decision to walk by faith, to walk in newness of life. Or to go back to the sin nature and live under its domination. That leads to one of the seven deaths. Remember, sin produces death. So the death we die in sin is the separation from fellowship with God.

**Romans 6:10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.**

He lives to God. Jesus Christ, as the Son of God, is subordinate to the Father. They are both deity and in that respect are equal. But the Father tasks the Son. The Son lives to the Father. Since we are in the Son, we too should live to the Father.

**Foundation of the Christian Life**  
**Romans 6:5-10**

Let us review and then read chapter 6.

Romans chapter 6 contains the foundation of the Christian life: the Baptism of the Holy Spirit which places us in union with Jesus Christ, “in Christ.” This location provides the mandate to live the Christian life. This location provides the ability to live the Christian life. Understanding our position in Christ provides the knowledge to live the Christian life.

Romans chapter 7 contains Paul’s frustration with trying to live according to the Mosaic Law through the efforts of the “flesh.”

Romans chapter 8 contains the “secret” of the Christian life: walk according to the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 8:3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,**

**Romans 8:4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but (walk) according to the Spirit.**