

After the Exodus

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and build up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” “For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. In Him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your sins and in the un-circumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the written code, with the regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.” (Colossians 2:6-7, 9-15)

He came out from the prison but in his life, what is next? After the door of his prison was opened by the Saviour who has the key, he received his freedom. He is now outside the jail, out of the darkness and now in the light. In his first few hours outside the prison he looked up toward heaven and found a list of new life’s regulations:

Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord,

- 1) **Continue to live in Him:** Yes, by Christ you got the freedom from the prison of sin and death. But, you have to continue to live a life similar to the righteous life of Jesus because He freed you and saved you, and He wants you to live and walk with Him. **So then,**
- 2) **Be rooted and build up in Him:** You have to build your foundation and set erect the new pillars of your new life in Him. As the life of the tree depends on how much it roots grasp the clay to get the food and the water to survive, you have to follow the same principle! Be rooted in His words.
- 3) **Be strengthened in faith as you were taught:** You are outside the prison because you received the new faith in Jesus that you were taught. And now be **overflowing with thankfulness to God through Jesus** because he saved you from the old prison, and in addition to that, offer your thankfulness to the coming blessing and victories in Christ. And what is more? Strengthen that faith in Him. Jesus has not only brought you out of the prison but He will also be with you always, making you an over comer of the coming obstacles and hurdles.

So, having a new life, build up your confidence in Christ and courage upon yourself because:

1) You have been given fullness in Christ: You are not only body and soul as you were before, but another organ or segment has been added to you by Christ, and this is the Spirit of God. The Deity or the Divine nature of Jesus will be added to you as you continue to know and obey Him. As the apostle Paul said, **“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.”** Christ Divine nature and Deity made Him the head over every power and authority that is around you. Consequently, you can overcome them all if you properly clothe yourself with the cloak of Christ.

2) You were also circumcised: What is the value of circumcision in Christ? Physical circumcision is of no value in the life of Christ, and let me explain this to you. **“In Him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ ...”** Man, to stand upright in front of God, he must get rid of all his sins and his sinful nature (i.e. the flesh or the body must be removed). In the Old Testament time, circumcision was symbolically achieving a covenant entailed by cutting a part of the body representing the human sinful nature. The act of circumcision made the body of that person differ from others around him. But, this ritual circumcision that is done and followed by many religions or traditions is never been a way of holiness. Why? Because when you were dead in your sins and in the un-circumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins. The forgiveness of our sins through Christ replaced the ineffective value of the ritual or the traditional circumcision. The true circumcision of the Christian is the internal changes that come through the acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Saviour. Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, circumcise your hearts. (Jeremiah 4:4a)

3) Your sins are forgiven: Our sins are recorded and has its own code, but what God did? **He cancelled the written code, with the regulations, that was against us and stood opposed to us.** How did He erase? **He took it away and nailed it on the cross!** All our debts that we should pay, and the punishment that we should receive for our sins were put on a single innocent person who is Christ. Jesus was crucified, in a public shame, and was under the curse for sins He did not do. On the cross, Jesus has paid all the authorities and powers the debts you owe. By this way those authorities and powers cannot come to you and tell you, ‘pay us your debts or be obedient to us’, because Jesus has already freed you from them. Jesus has disarmed them from practicing their powers on you, and the public shame of a naked crucified Jesus who was under the curse was converted into a triumph over those authorities in a public battle field. This is the power of the cross!

4) You have been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him: The word baptism has several meanings like immersion, conversion, change, etc. But what is the meaning of it here? Jesus died on the cross and He was buried in a tomb and that is equal to the immersion in the ground. He died but after three days He raised up and that is the change. So immersion is followed by a change or conversion. Jesus was buried in the body form, but He was raised up by the power of the Spirit of God, and this is the conversion. When you believed in Him and have faith in the power of God that raised Him from the dead you will have the same experiences like as if you died with Him on the cross. And as you repent and get rid of the sinful nature of your body, you are raised from the dead not in the body form but by the Spirit of God. These stages you will pass through, not in a physical state but in the spiritual unseen form. Water Baptism is a physical manifestation of the spiritual changes that occur in your life after your repentance and receiving Christ as Saviour and Lord over your life. By your faith in Christ, you have passed from death to life, and that is why it is written, **“God made you alive with Christ.”**

My dearest and beloved one: In your new life with Christ, I do believe, you have many questions and you want answers. You may say I want to understand, but at this point I want to tell you this: *“The cross is difficult to understand but when you apply the above and the coming principles in your life, you can see yourself better and alright with Christ.”*

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I give my life unto you. Lead me and guide me and teach me more of your ways and help me to understand more of your will. This is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*