

Grace is not a blue-eyed blond

The beginning of the new life

The Bible says we are:*

1. Resurrected

Rom 6:1-6 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 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, 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;

2. Made Alive

Eph 2:5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

3. Regenerated

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

4. Renewed

Eph 4:23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

5. New Creation

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

6. Reborn

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Pet 1:22-23 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, 23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God.

7. Circumcision

Acts 7:51 "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.

Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

Phil 3:3 for we are the *true* circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,

Col 2:11-13 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; 12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the

* All Scripture is from the *New American Standard Bible*.

dead. *13* When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

All of these are different ways of dealing with the change within us, who are beginning again the mind of God, due to His grace. It begins at baptism. We will not be perfect at sinless living. But we **MUST** grow.

Cottrell, "Even after we have been born again through the Holy Spirit at baptism, we must continue to use God's Law as a searchlight for our lives, to show us where we need to change. We are now alive, and a living organism must change and grow or it will die." p. 62

Rom 7:7-13 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET." *8* But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin *is* dead. *9* I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died; *10* and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; *11* for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. *12* So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. *13* Therefore did that which is good become *a cause of* death for me? May it never be! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, so that through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful.

Grow in knowledge:

Heb 5:11-6:3 Concerning him we have much to say, and *it is* hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. *12* For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. *13* For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. *14* But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. *1* Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, *2* of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. *3* And this we will do, if God permits.

2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

Grow in Attitudes

Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, *23* gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

2 Pet 1:5-8 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, *6* and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, *7* and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. *8* For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Grow in Good Works

Eph 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; *9* not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. *10* For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Grow in the Holy Spirit, i.e., allow Him to grow you

2 Cor 3:15-18 But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; *16* but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. *17* Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty. *18* But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.