

Lesson 2: How to Grow Spiritually

Upon completion of this lesson you will be able to answer the following questions:

- What does “walking in the Spirit” really mean?
- How can we live in victory over sin?
- What are the four pieces of the believer’s armor?
- What is God’s goal for our lives as Christians?

KEY SCRIPTURE

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 Thessalonians 5:23

KEY TRUTH

“The world has yet to see what God will do and can do through a believer who is totally yielded to Him.” —D.L. Moody

BASICS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

2 Peter 3:18 Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Once we are born again and have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ, it is essential that we grow spiritually. Applying the following basic principles and making them a part of our daily lives will ensure our successful spiritual growth and bring peace, victory, joy, fruitfulness, direction, and the blessings of God into our lives.

1. **We must make Jesus Christ Lord over every part of our lives, so that we have totally surrendered our lives to Him.**

1 Samuel 12:24 “Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.”

2. **We must reject and abandon every association with groups that do not confess Jesus as Lord and the Bible as the word of God.**

1 Thessalonians 1:9 You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God

Acts 19:18-19 And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.

3. **We must receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues (Acts 2:1-4, 38-39).**
4. **We must obey Christ’s command and be baptized in water, giving public testimony of our new life in Christ.**

Matthew 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 2:38 ”Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Making Jesus Christ the lord of our lives produces an inward change in our hearts. Being baptized in water is an outward act of obedience by which we publicly testify of the change that has taken place inwardly. **By following Jesus in water baptism, we are identifying with His death, burial, and glorious resurrection, and we make a public confession of our faith in Him.**

Baptism in water is our testimony of the spiritual reality of salvation. Our life of sin and defeat is crucified and buried with Him and we emerge from the water in His resurrection power to lead a new life of righteousness and victory in Christ.

5. We must read and study the Bible every day.

1 Peter 2:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”

Reading the Bible consistently (begin with fifteen minutes a day) will renew our mind, feed our spirit, and build our faith. New Christians find it helpful to begin reading the Bible in a translation such as the New King James Version, New International Version, or the Living Bible. Later, they can read the Amplified or the New American Standard Bible. Many Bibles include systematic plans to read through the entire Scriptures in one year.

As a new Christian, in your daily Bible reading it is important to:

- *Establish* a set time and place every day to read.
- *Ask* the Holy Spirit to lead, guide, and teach you through God’s word.
- *Follow* a systematic plan of reading; don’t just pick a page at random. Begin by reading these books: John, Acts, Romans, Mark, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and James. Also, read one Proverb and one Psalm a day. This reading plan will supply both wisdom and encouragement.
- *Underline* or highlight meaningful verses, especially God’s promises. Write them in a notebook or journal.
- *Join* and participate in a Bible study group.

6. We must spend time in prayer every day, talking to our heavenly Father.

John 16:23 “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Matthew 7:7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

James 5:16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

“Effective” and “fervent” New Testament prayer involves:

- Praising God for who He is
- Thanking God for what He has done in our lives
- Praying for our own needs and for other people (make a list)
- Praying in tongues to edify our spirit man
- Listening to God. As we wait silently in His presence, He will speak to us.

7. We must get rid of and stay free from all unforgiveness, resentment, and bitterness, toward anyone.

Mark 11:25 And whenever you stand praying, if you find that you carry something in your heart against another person, release him and forgive him so that your Father in heaven will also release you and forgive you of your faults. 26 But if you will not release

forgiveness, don't expect your Father in heaven to release you from your misdeeds.

To be forgiven, we must forgive. Unforgiven opens the door to self-pity, hatred, anger, resentment, bitterness, depression, and many other problems that have a damaging effect on our lives spiritually, mentally, and physically.

We must remember that Jesus was wounded for our transgressions bruised for our iniquities. In other words, Jesus who did no wrong received punishment for our misdeeds. So, how could we hold unforgiveness towards anyone in light of this?

Forgiveness is not an emotion; it is a decision. God never said we had to feel like forgiving. He has commanded us to forgive. We simply choose to forgive, release all bitterness, and by faith walk in love.

In the context of forgiving other people since Jesus had spoken about prayer. We can move mountains through our faith and prayer. But unforgiveness can cause our prayer to be utterly ineffective.

8. We must join a New Testament church that preaches God's word and honors the Holy Spirit. We must fellowship with Christians regularly.

Hebrews 10:25 This is not the time to pull away and neglect meeting together, as some have formed the habit of doing, because we need each other! In fact, we should come together even more frequently, eager to encourage and urge each other onward as we anticipate that day dawning.

Psalms 63:2 I'm energized every time I enter your heavenly sanctuary to seek more of your power and drink in more of your glory

Psalms 122:1 I was overjoyed when they said, "Let's go up to the house of the Lord."

Acts 2:42 Every believer was faithfully devoted to following the teachings of the apostles. Their hearts were mutually linked to one another, sharing communion and coming together regularly for prayer.

As new Christians, it is crucial to find a strong local church that exalts Jesus Christ, teaches the word of God, and moves in the gifts of the Spirit. We should attend church services every week, worshipping the Lord, and taking notes from the pastor's messages. It is vitally important to submit to our pastor and church leadership, developing good friendships with God's people in the local church.

9. We must terminate wrong friendships and ungodly associations that hinder us, and we must form right relationships in the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:33 So stop fooling yourselves! Evil companions will corrupt good morals and character.

Proverbs 13:20 If you want to grow in wisdom, spend time with the wise. Walk with the wicked and you'll eventually become just like them.

2 Corinthians 6:14 Don't continue to team up with unbelievers in mismatched alliances, for what partnership is there between righteousness and rebellion? Who could mingle light with darkness?

James 4:4 You have become spiritual adulterers who are having an affair, an unholy relationship with the world. Don't you know that flirting with the world's values places you at odds with God? Whoever chooses to be the world's friend makes himself God's enemy!

As Christians and children of God, **we cannot afford to spend time with old friends who seek to draw us back into a life of sin.** We must cut out any friendship, relationship, or association that hinders our spiritual life and progress in the kingdom of God. There is a temptation to put off severing these relationships, but it is important to do it as soon as possible.

10. We must put on the whole armor of God and resist temptation with the word of God and the blood of Jesus (Ephesians 6:10-18).

1 Corinthians 10:13 We all experience times of testing, which is normal for every human being. But God will be faithful to you. He will screen and filter the severity, nature, and timing of every test or trial you face so that you can bear it. And each test is an opportunity to trust him more, for along with every trial God has provided for you a way of escape that will bring you out of it victoriously.

James 4:7 So then, surrender to God. Stand up to the devil and resist him and he will turn and run away from you.

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Temptation itself is not a sin; yielding to the temptation is sin.

Temptation always begins in our thoughts, so the key to victory is to resist it right there. We must discipline our thought life with God's word and refuse to entertain sinful thoughts.

To successfully overcome temptation, we must guard ourselves from and avoid harmful, ungodly influences:

- We must stay off the devil's territory and not go to the places that he controls.
- We must keep our spiritual life strong through the word and prayer.
- We must overcome and defeat every sinful thought with God's word.
- We must protect ourselves from everything that would adversely affect us, including being selective with music, television, movies, books, and magazine.

11. We must honor the Lord with our finances by giving the time (ten percent of our income) to our local church, and by giving offerings to anointed ministries that preach and teach the word of God uncompromisingly.

Malachi 3:10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.

Proverbs 3:9-10 Glorify God with all your wealth, honoring him with your very best, with every increase that comes to you. Then

every dimension of your life will overflow with blessings from an uncontainable source of inner joy!

Luke 6:38 Give generously and generous gifts will be given back to you, shaken down to make room for more. Abundant gifts will pour out upon you with such an overflowing measure that it will run over the top! Your measurement of generosity becomes the measurement of your return.”

Galatians 6:6 And those who are taught the Word must share all good things with their teacher; a sharing of wealth takes place between them.

It is our God-given responsibility to support and sow finances back into ministries that have sown spiritually into our lives, that have helped us, taught us, and fed us (1 Corinthians 9:11-14).

12. We must share our testimony, be a bold witness for Christ, and win souls.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.

Proverbs 14:25 A true witness delivers souls, but a deceitful witness speaks lies.

James 5:20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

Matthew 4:19 Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

God’s plan is that every born-again believer be filled with the Holy Spirit and then draw upon the power of God to witness to others about Jesus Christ. We should reach the unreached and tell the untold the good news message of the Gospel of abundant life in Christ!

We should remember the eternal value of human souls and be faithful in witnessing. When we get to heaven, Christ Himself will reward us (1 Peter 5:4)—and, we will have the joy of seeing the people whom we won through our testimony!

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

Acts 17:28 “For in Him we live and move and have our being.”

Jesus, who is our example in all things, was a man who walked in the Spirit. We can learn a lot about how to walk in the Spirit by looking at Jesus.

Everything Jesus did:

- He was led by the Spirit.
- He was full of the Spirit.
- He was controlled by the Spirit.
- He was anointed by the Spirit.
- He ministered in the power of the Spirit.

Jesus is the source of life; He is our life source (John 10:10). In Him, we live. In Him, we move. In Him, we have our being.

We are born again into the Kingdom of God as a child of God by confessing the lordship of Jesus (Romans 10:9-10). We are now children of God, sons and daughters of God—but we are not yet fully grown and mature. There is a process of growing up and developing that takes us from the position of babyhood (infancy) to the place of maturity.

God gives us a specific diet and program to follow so that we will grow up. But we have to determine whether or not we're going to follow it—and whether or not we want to grow up spiritually. We have to hunger and thirst after God. God is seeking believers who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. It takes an exercise of our will to worship God!

The Bible tells us that we are spirit, soul, and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Our soul has three components: our mind, our will, and our emotions. Although we are born again in our spirit, our soul (our carnal, unrenewed mind, our emotions, and our will) can still give us problems! Many people who get saved and born again continue to live on a “soulish emotional” plane in their spirit. That is why the Bible instructs us to have a prosperous soul.

IS YOUR SOUL PROSPEROUS?

3 John 2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

A prosperous soul:

- Thinks like God thinks
- Meditates on the things that are found in the word (Philippians 4:8)
- Has a mind that is renewed, converted, revived, and healed by the word of God
- Has a will that is conformed to God's will
- Has emotions that are controlled by and brought under subjection to the word of God

We must develop and cultivate an intimate walk with God and a closer friendship with our Father. We must go beyond being born again, being filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues, attending church on Sunday, and giving tithes and offerings.

When we have a prosperous soul, we will have a daily awareness and intimate friendship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible tells us:

- Adam walked with God.
- Enoch walked with God.
- Abraham was called the friend of God.
- Elijah knew the intimate presence of the Lord.

When our souls are prospering and we are daily walking close to God, then we will be aware of God's presence, know His voice, and walk in His perfect will.

WALKING WITH GOD

When we walk with God, we must walk:

- In humility (Ephesians 4:1)
- In love (Ephesians 5:1-2)
- In the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
- In faith (2 Corinthians 5:7)
- In honesty before all men (Proverbs 11:3)
- In forgiveness with all men (Mark 11:25)
- In obedience (Isaiah 1:19)
- In the wisdom of God (James 1:5)
- In victory (1 Corinthians 15:57)
- In the fear of the Lord (2 Corinthians 7:1)
- Free from the lusts of the flesh (Galatians 5:16)
- As children of light (Ephesians 5:8)
- Full of and controlled by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)

These qualities describe our daily behavior, lifestyle, conduct, and character as Christians. They are compasses that let us know where we are spiritually—either in infancy or in maturity!

Ephesians 4:17-32

Ephesians 5:1-21

1 Peter 3:7-12

James 3:13-18

1 Corinthians 2:15 But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.

Galatians 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

Galatians 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

If we walk in the Spirit, then:

- We will not walk after the flesh.
- We will not obey the lusts of the flesh.
- We will not do the works of the flesh.
- We will not commit adultery or fornication.
- We will not be carnal, “baby” Christians.

If we walk in the Spirit, we will grow up!

IDENTIFYING THE WORKS OF THE FLESH

Galatians 5:19-21 Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear—obvious: they are immorality, impurity, indecency: idolatry; sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger (ill temper), selfishness, divisions (dissensions), party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies), envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God (AMP).

Crucifying the flesh means submitting our flesh to the word of God, and submitting our flesh to our recreated spirit. Knowing the truth of God's word and acting upon it will free us from the lusts of the flesh.

According to the words of Jesus in John 8:31-32, He did not say that the truth sets you free; Jesus said only the truth you know will set you free.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

The word of God:

- Reprograms us
- Retrains us
- Reeducates us
- Cleanses our mind
- Washes all the "junk" out of our thought life
- Purges and purifies our thinking
- Changes our attitudes
- Removes our bad attitudes and replaces them with good attitudes
- Pulls down strongholds (bad attitudes, negative thoughts) in our minds
- Transforms our mind

We cannot live a fruitful, victorious, and effective Christian life without renewing our minds in God's word and without abiding in God's word (John 15:1-7).

Galatians 5:24-25 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 6:8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

What happens when we sow to the flesh? The works of the flesh are reproduced in our life, and this ends in corruption and self-destruction.

THE WORKS OF THE FLESH DEFINED AND EXPOSED

Immorality Acts of uncleanness, fornication, sexual sins

Impurity Impure or dirty, the opposite of purity

Indecency Lust (intense desires), sexual fantasy, homosexuality, lesbianism, adultery, incest, pornography, rape, and all sexual uncleanness

Idolatry Making something else god instead of God Himself. Physical idolatry involves worship of things such as cars, house, job, business, clothes, even family. Mind idolatry involves intellectualism, humanism, self-righteousness, pride, ego, vanity, arrogance

Sorcery The use of power gained from the control or assistance of evil spirits such as ouija boards, palm reading, fortune telling, tarot cards, E.S.P., hypnotism, horoscopes, astrology, levitation, witchcraft, handwriting analysis, black magic, white magic, charms, and fetishes

Enmity Hatred (which can be open or concealed), bitterness, unforgiveness, resentment, anger, temper, violent rage, retaliation, holding grudges to get back at people

Strife Bickering, quarreling, fighting, bitterness, arguments, conflict, and contentions for superiority

Jealousy Disposed to suspect unfaithfulness, suspicion, distrust, fear, displeasure

Anger Ill-tempered, an emotional state of extreme bitterness or displeasure

Selfishness Concerned only with one's self, self will, preoccupied with satisfying self, rebellion, stubbornness, self-centered

Divisions Being divided, causing dissensions

Disagreements Strife, arguing, dissensions, factions, having a party or partisan spirit

Envy Desiring something that is not ours, someone else's home, career, ministry, or spouse; a type of idolatry

Drunkeness Indifference, escape, sleepiness, drugs, alcohol, tobacco; living life without aim or purpose

Carousing Wild living, wandering around, always going to parties

Our minds have to be constantly renewed to God's truth.

- Sow a thought—reap an act.
- Sow an act—reap a habit.
- Sow a habit—reap a lifestyle.
- Sow a lifestyle—reap a destiny.

VICTORY OVER SIN

As children of God, we can live above sin!

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

There is a false doctrine that says Christians—children of God—are sinners saved by grace. This is a lie and a false doctrine, because in Christ we are born again, redeemed, righteous new creations!

A Christian is not a sinner saved by grace. Of course, a Christian can sin, but a true Christian won't stay in sin or live in sin!

1 Thessalonians 5:23 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.

It is the will of God for our lives that we are to be blameless and live holy before God in spirit, soul, and body.

James 4:17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Sin is falling short, missing the mark, failing to do what God has told us to do. All sin involves a matter of the will and a matter of choice! All sin starts in the mind and then manifests in the flesh.

James 1:14-15 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

HOW TO OVERCOME SIN AND LIVE ABOVE SIN

- 1. We must remember that God has specifically promised us and provided us a way of escape in every temptation.**

Jude 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

2. We must read our Bible habitually every single day, letting God's word live in us by consistently feeding on it (John 15:7).

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

3. We must stay off the devil's territory and not compromise with the world. If we play with fire, we will be burned (1 John 2:15-17).

- We must guard our thought life. TV programs, movies, videos, and magazines can influence our mind and cause us to sin.
- We must be selective with our friendships and the people with whom we associate. We must avoid ungodly relationships.
- We must avoid places that negatively affect our spiritual life or that dishonor the Gospel of Christ. Remember, the Bible says, "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:22). We should not go any place that dishonors the Gospel of Christ.

4. We must have a consistent prayer life and build up our inward man by praying in tongues (Jude 20).

Matthew 26:41 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

5. We must resist the devil with the weapons of God: the word, the blood, and the name of Jesus.

James 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

The devil will come at us with lies and suggestions. We must not listen to him! We must resist him, every one of his evil thoughts, and every one of his attacks. We must take the authority that Christ has given us and enforce Satan's defeat.

As children of God, we can live above sin!

THE ARMOR OF GOD

God's word reveals that we are:

- Spiritual soldiers in God's spiritual army with the assignment of reaching the world for Jesus (2 Timothy 2:3-4)
- In spiritual army training, learning how to be overcomers in this life (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- Equipped with spiritual armor and spiritual weapons to fight the good fight of faith and defeat our enemies in spiritual warfare (2 Corinthians 10:4-5; Ephesians 6:10-18)

Remember, the armor of God does not protect us automatically. We have to put it on! There are three reasons for putting on the whole armor of God:

1. We can fulfill Ephesians 6:10 and be strong in the Lord. We walk in the ability of God by wearing the armor of God.
2. We can successfully resist, defeat, and overcome all of Satan's flaming arrows aimed at us (Ephesians 6:11, 13, 16).
3. We can stand, praying effectively. (For example, how can we pray effectively if we're not wearing the breastplate of righteousness?)

THE BELIEVER'S SPIRITUAL ARMOR AND WEAPONS

Ephesians 6:10-18 lists the spiritual armor that God has given us:

- 1. Belt of truth**
- 2. Breastplate of righteousness**
- 3. Gospel shoes of peace**
- 4. Shield of faith**
- 5. Helmet of salvation**
- 6. Sword of the Spirit**
- 7. Prayer**

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 instructs us to use the spiritual weapons that God has given us:

- 1. The blood of Jesus**
- 2. The spoken word**
- 3. The name of Jesus**
- 4. The indwelling Holy Spirit as protector. He builds a protective shield around us at salvation (1 John 4:4).**
- 5. The weapon of praise**
- 6. Prayer and intercession in the Spirit**
- 7. The nine supernatural gifts of the Spirit**

PRAYER: THE SOLDIER'S SECRET WEAPON

If we read Ephesians 6:18 in different translations, we begin to get the full revelation of how important prayer is as our secret weapon.

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

Ephesians 6:18 Pray at all times—on every occasion in every season—in the Spirit with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty (AMP).

Ephesians 6:18 In all your petitions pray at all times with every kind of spiritual prayer, keeping alert and persistent as you pray for all Christians everywhere (JBP).

Ephesians 6:18 On every occasion pray with all kinds of prayer and at all times pray in the power of the Holy Spirit (GNT).

Just as there are different rules that govern different types of sports or other activities, **there are different kinds of prayer for different situations.** The New Testament lists different kinds of prayer:

- Prayer of petition
- Prayer of faith
- Prayer of agreement
- Prayer of binding and loosing
- Prayer of intercession
- Prayer of commitment and consecration
- Praying in the spirit for personal edification

GOD'S GOAL FOR OUR LIVES AS CHRISTIANS

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us, (taking paths which He prepared ahead of time) that we should walk in them—living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live (AMP).

Romans 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

The goal of the Christian life is that every child of God be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. Our entire lifestyle and our whole being must reflect Jesus. We are to walk, talk, and act just like Jesus!

Genesis 1:26-28 **outlines God's original plan for man:**

- Man was created in God's image and likeness.
- Man was given divine authority to be God's ruler on the earth.

When man disobeyed God in the garden of Eden, God's plan was spoiled:

- God's image in man was marred by sin.
- Man, who was destined to be a ruler, became a slave—the slave of sin and Satan.

Jesus Christ came to the earth to fulfill and restore God's plan for man. When we are born again as new creations in Christ, we receive:

- Restoration to God's image and God's likeness
- Divine authority to rule and reign on earth as kings and priests unto God

As born-again new creations in Christ, we are to:

- Show God to the world
- Exercise God's authority in the earth and walk in dominion

SPEAK WORDS OF VICTORY

Our Lord Jesus Christ, when He walked this earth, always watched His words and maintained a positive confession of faith. Jesus always spoke faith-filled words. He used the spoken word of God to overcome Satan and walk in victory (Luke 4:1-13).

If we are to successfully grow spiritually and see victory in every area of our lives, that victory must begin with our speech. That is

because life and death are in the power of our tongue (Proverbs 18:21). **Begin to speak the right words. There is a law of increase or decrease in our tongue.** Speak life not death; speak words of victory and faith, not fear, failure, or defeat.

These are some statements we can boldly make based on what God's word says about us:

- *“I’ve got the mind of Christ.”*
- *“Jesus has been made unto me wisdom.”*
- *“The greater one lives on the inside of me.”*
- *“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things.”*
- *“The steps of a righteous man are ordered by the Lord. My steps are ordered by the Lord.”*
- *“The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not live in lack.”*
- *“The Lord is my shepherd. He guides me, He protects me, and He provides for me.”*
- *“My God supplies all of my needs in Jesus’ name—every one of them!”*
- *“Through the blood of Jesus I am forgiven, redeemed, and in right standing with God.”*
- *“God’s grace and favor are upon my life and make me a blessing everywhere I go.”*
- *“No weapon of the devil formed against me will prosper, because I am an overcomer in Christ.”*
- *“The Holy Spirit is my teacher, my guide, my helper, and my constant companion and comforter.”*
- *“By the stripes of Jesus Christ, I am healed and walk in divine health.”*
- *“The angels of God daily surround me, protect me, and make my way prosperous.”*