

## Introduction

Spiritually speaking, if you are a born-again believer, you are already rich beyond imagination. Before you go to heaven. Right now. "You are rich" (Rev. 2:9).

Paul echoed this same thought, telling the Ephesians, "God . . . has blessed us with every spiritual blessing" (Eph. 1:3).

Whether you know it or not, you are rich. Whether you live from the treasure within, you have untold spiritual wealth.

Tragically, if you are ignorant of Christ dwelling in you and how He has transformed your spirit, you will continue living in spiritual poverty.

This reminds me of the story of Ira Yates, a West Texas landowner who became a millionaire overnight, striking oil on his property in 1926.

## An Overnight Millionaire

Yates became an orphan at 12, forcing him to earn a living by hard manual labor. At nineteen, Ira started raising cattle, living frugally while saving money for the future.

In 1913, Yates traded over 200 cattle heads for a failing dry-goods store in Rankin, Texas. Though the business thrived under his leadership, Ira was a rancher at heart and wanted out of the business.

Two years later, a West Texas landowner offered him thousands of acres in exchange for his dry-goods store. Ira jumped on this opportunity, eager to ranch again. But he quickly encountered economic challenges.

By 1926, droughts, falling cattle prices, hefty taxes, and a steep mortgage placed Yates on the brink of bankruptcy.

Struggling to provide food and clothing for his family, Yates made a decision that would change his life forever. He invited an oil company to drill an exploratory well on his ranch. To his amazement, it produced a gusher.

Yates became an instant millionaire. His land, known today as Yates Oil field, has produced more than a billion barrels of oil since 1926.

## You Are Rich

Think about this story for a second and apply it to your life.

Underneath Yates' feet resided untold wealth yet he lived in poverty for eleven long, hard years. Why? Ignorance.

Yates didn't know the treasure that was buried deep in the ground.

Yates was a multimillionaire who lived in poverty because he didn't know the treasure he already had. The eleven years he struggled to provide food, clothing, and pay the bills were unnecessary. He already had a vast treasure but didn't know it.

In my 25-plus-year pursuit of Christ, one revelation has changed me more than any other—the revelation of the Spirit of Christ residing in my spirit.

When it comes to the Christian experience, I've been there, done that, and bought the t-shirt. In all that I have seen and experienced, nothing compares to the revelation of the uncreated Christ dwelling within me and how He transformed my spirit at the new birth.

When I knew that Christ dwelled within me—not Scripture quoting, talking point knowledge—but revelation knowledge given by the Holy Spirit, it completely changed my life from the inside out.

It was similar to Ira Yates. I went from living in spiritual poverty—struggling with guilt, shame, condemnation, and defeat—to living in victory. Like an oil rig that goes deep into the ground, I began drawing from the treasure of Christ within. I exchanged spiritual poverty for spiritual wealth and started living from my spirit by Christ's indwelling life.

This doesn't mean I never struggle or sin. Just ask my wife and daughter. I still have to apologize *a lot*. But I can honestly say nothing has accelerated my spiritual progress like the revelation of the indwelling Spirit and how He has transformed my spirit at the new birth.

I've discovered this is the key to an overcoming life.

## Two Reasons for Spiritual Poverty

So, why do many believers struggle, live in defeat, succumb to various lusts, and remain immature for years? Why are many believers selfish, powerless, anxious, and proud, even decades after they were born again?

There are two main reasons. First, like Ira Yates, they don't know how spiritually wealthy they are. The result: They continue living in spiritual poverty, drawing from the self-life in their soul rather than Christ's life in their spirit.

Second, they don't meditate regularly on the indwelling Spirit and the transformation He has accomplished in their regenerated spirit.

## Activate Your Faith by Meditation

Paul wanted our faith to "become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake" (Phm. 1:6).

The word *effective* means *powerful in action*. Wouldn't you like to have *powerful in action* faith? How do we have this kind of faith? It's "through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you."

Knowing and then meditating on "every good thing which is in you" is how your faith becomes powerful in action.

Unfortunately, the opposite is also true. If you lack this knowledge or fail to meditate on the good things Christ has already accomplished in your spirit, your faith lies dormant, inactive, suppressed, and unutilized. This keeps your spirit suppressed and your self-life in your soul as the leader of your life.

The key to living an overcoming life is knowing who dwells in you and what He has done to your spirit.

Meditating on "every good thing which is in you" causes your faith to be stirred, activated, and energized to action, leading to victorious living and transforming you into an overcomer.

## Meditation Is How to Walk by the Spirit

Meditation is how we transition from living in the flesh to living in the spirit by the power of the Spirit. Paul said, "Those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace" (Rom. 8:5-7).

If you struggle with doubt, depression, fear, anxiety, pride, jealousy, or lust, examine what you are thinking about. Take inventory of what you are meditating on. If you are meditating on the flesh and the things of the flesh—the *external*—you will live in spiritual poverty. You will be like Ira Yates, a multimillionaire living as a pauper.

If you want to live from your spirit by the Spirit, drawing from the treasure within you, meditation on the *internal* Spirit is the key.

Meditate on the indwelling Spirit and the work He has done in your spirit. Think deeply about how He has transformed your spirit.

## The Word Is A Mirror

All of us are familiar with our bodies. We can look in the mirror and see ourselves. We can touch our arms or legs and immediately feel it. When we are hungry and eat, we know what it feels like to be satisfied. We also know what it's like to feel pain, have sore muscles, and grow tired.

We are also familiar with our soul. We know how anger, sadness, excitement, or happiness moves us. We know how reasoning directs us. And we know how our wants become the motivation for our actions.

But our spirits are different. Because we can't see our spirits or easily discern our spirits, we often ignore our spirits to our own peril.

Because our spirits are invisible, we must rely upon God's Word to know what our spirits are truly like. God's Word is like a mirror that shows us what our spirits look like (James 1:23-24). Meditating on the Scriptures are like taking an MRI of our spirits. This shows us the glory of what Christ has already accomplished deep within us.

## See Your Spirit as He Sees It

The more I look at my spirit through the mirror of God's Word, the more I like what I see (James 1:23-24). This is Christ-exalting and instrumental to walking in holiness, righteousness, and purity.

If you have never spent long hours looking at the glory of your born-again spirit in the mirror, I want to invite you to give it a try. Since you are quarantined and need something to do, how about learning to meditate on the glorious truth of Christ dwelling in you?

See your transformed spirit as He sees it—already alive, righteous, holy, and complete. See the glory of your new spirit because of Christ—already just like Him in this world. Gaze at Christ dwelling in your spirit and stand amazed.

If you want to live as a spiritual multimillionaire rather than a spiritual beggar, there's nine truths about your transformed spirit you need to meditate on. This will radically transform your life. Let's look at three now and we will look at the others in a future message.

### 1. Your Spirit Is Born Again and Regenerated.

Jesus told Nicodemus, "You must be born again" (John 3:7). What, exactly, does this mean? As Jesus explained, "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6).

The new birth, when God the Holy Spirit came to dwell within us, affected our spirits. It did not initially affect our souls or bodies. Knowing this pinpoints the part of us the indwelling Spirit has transformed.

Before you were born again, your spirit was dead in sin, cold toward Christ, and hostile to God (Eph. 2:1-5). Your spirit was dark, dead, and alienated from God's uncreated, indestructible life (Eph. 4:18). Your self-life in your soul was the only life source you could live by. This meant you were controlled by the lusts in your body and the dictates of your soul.

But now, because Christ came to dwell within you, your spirit has been born again. You are a new creation. You now have a choice whether to live in the lusts of your flesh. You now have a choice whether to be led by human reasoning, fickle emotions, or stubborn self-will.

Paul said, "He saved us . . . by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit" (Tit. 3:5). When you put your faith in Christ and His finished work on the cross, your spirit was regenerated. Your spirit was completely renewed.

## 2. You Spirit Is Resurrected and Alive.

Paul said, "We have become united with Him . . . in the likeness of His resurrection" (Rom. 6:5).

The word *united* means "born together with, of joint origin; innate, implanted by birth or nature; grown together, united with." I love the richness of this Greek word. It sheds light on our spiritual union with Christ.

When you were born again, your spirit was born together with the Spirit of Christ. As a result, your spirit has been united to Christ and to His resurrection. Your spirit has literally been raised from the dead.

This is why Paul said emphatically, "Consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:11). The word *consider* means *to reckon, count, compute, calculate, count over*. Simply put, it means to think deeply about the spiritual reality of Christ infusing your spirit with His uncreated, indestructible, resurrection life.

Leonard Ravenhill said, "Jesus did not come into the world to make bad men good. He came into the world to make dead men live."

Meditate on this life-changing reality often: Your spirit was dead but now it's alive.

## 3. You Spirit Is Righteous, Holy, and Complete.

Notice carefully how Paul described your spirit: "Put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness" (Eph. 4:24). The *new self* is the new part of you. It's your new spirit—born again, regenerated, resurrected, and alive.

Did you catch the life-transforming truth about your new spirit in this verse? Your new self—your *new spirit*—has been created in righteousness. Your new spirit has been created in holiness. This is in the past tense. The work in your spirit is complete. Your spirit is already holy and righteous now. You don't have to wait until you die and go to heaven to receive a holy and righteous spirit.

Paul said humans are body, soul, and spirit (1 Thes. 5:23). Scholars refer to this as the tripart nature of man. Putting this together with Ephesians 4:24, one third of you is already righteous and holy. One third of you is already like Jesus Christ.

When you see how the Word describes your born-again spirit, it changes everything. When you look in the spiritual mirror, you should love what you see. You are not merely a struggling sinner saved by grace. You are a saint—a holy one—whose spirit is righteous.

Pay special attention to the phrase *has been created*. The word *created* means *to make habitable*.

Catch this. God, when He regenerated your spirit and raised your spirit from the dead, created your spirit specifically for His habitation. Your spirit was divinely designed to be the dwelling place of the Spirit. When God recreated your spirit, He made it righteous and holy. One third of you is already righteous and holy.

This revelation alone has completely transformed my life.

Let this truth sink into your heart and mind: "If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness" (Rom. 8:10). Your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

Some protest the idea of our spirits already being righteous and holy. But consider this. Why would God recreate our spirits unrighteous and unholy? Furthermore, how could a holy and righteous God, by His Spirit, dwell in an unrighteous and unholy place?

To me, it's pretty simple. When God recreated our spirits, He fashioned our spirits righteous and holy so His Spirit could dwell there. He specifically made our spirits habitable for Himself.

Hebrews 12:23 states, "The spirits of the righteous are made perfect" (emphasis mine). The word *perfect* means *complete*. God's work in your spirit is complete.

When you were born again, the Holy Spirit instantly transformed your spirit and completed one-third of His work in you. Now His focus is on transforming and sanctifying your soul and body.

## Meditate on Every Good Thing in You

When you meditate on every good thing within you because of Christ, your faith will be energized, activated, and powerful in action. This results in Christ's indwelling life in your spirit becoming the life-source you live by.

No longer does your self-life in your soul remain the life-source you live by. No longer are the lusts in your body and the reasonings, emotions, and self-willed desires in your soul allowed to lead you. Rather, the faith of Christ in your spirit is activated. Your spirit is strengthened as the leader. And Christ's indwelling life begins to flow outward into your soul and body.

In my next message, I will list six more truths about your born-again spirit.