

# MY FATHER'S HOUSE

An exciting Bible study course for new Christians....



"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." (*Psalms 122:1*)

# Lesson 1

## YOUR NEW LIFE

### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to a brand new life! You are a new creature in Christ and have embarked upon the greatest adventure any human being can experience. You have joined millions all over the world who have been supernaturally born into God's eternal kingdom. Your faith in the lordship of Jesus Christ, the commitment of your life to Him, and your obedience to His Word has brought about this wonderful event in your life.

#### I. YOUR FATHER'S KINGDOM

The following will help you understand just exactly what has happened to you since you have been born again of the water and the Spirit:

##### A. Born Into a New Realm

This is how Jesus first explained this miraculous birth to a ruler of the Jews:

"...Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

*John 3:3-7*

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. ...ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."

*Romans 8:14-16*

Thus we have become God's children through faith.

## II. YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE

### A. What It Is

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

*Ephesians 2:19-22*

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

*I Peter 2:5*

The above scriptures teach us that we are members of God's household. We are lively stones, builded together with God's people for "an habitation of God through the Spirit." This spiritual house is called "God's building" (I Corinthians 3:9). Our Father's house is none other than...THE CHURCH:

"...The house of God,...is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

*I Timothy 3:15*

and wrong ideas. Our spiritual adoption may be closely associated with the physical adoption of a child in this same sense. Both will undergo great changes of environment, develop new habits, ideas and new experiences.

As the carnal mind is continually stripped of its lawless freedom to indulge in fleshly passions, it will fight the source of opposition. Romans 8:7 says, "...the carnal mind (which is that mind we brought with us to our new home) is enmity against God..." (I Corinthians 3:1). Or, in other words, the mind which is set on gratifying the passions of the flesh, is hostile toward God. It has no desire for this new home or this new relationship because it means the end of a lawless life of self-indulgence. It is in direct opposition to the spiritual minded man which feeds on truth and love. It's influence will prove to be destructive to spiritual understanding. It likes the old home better. The things of God are revealed to us by His Spirit, not by the natural calculations of a corrupted mind. We must embrace the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, to slay the lies and suggestions of the natural man. God's Word will put to silence any illogical, unreasonable and untrue ideas about your Father and His care for you.

#### B. Learning To Eat

Each of us must start with the milk of God's Word. (I Peter 2:2.) It is pure and full of all the nutrition a young child will need. However, if you try to digest too much too soon, it will only lead to spiritual indigestion and frustration. Enjoy your meals as God gives them to you. He will feed you as you are able to bear it. Depend on Him and He will help you, "...grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..." (II Peter 3:18).

#### C. Learning To Walk

There has never been an infant that was able to stand up on its weak little legs and immediately begin to walk. First a baby will crawl, stand, stagger, stumble and even fall down a few times before it is finally able to walk. Likewise, you will encounter similar experiences in your spiritual life. If you get overconfident and try to go faster than your legs will carry you, you are headed for a tumble! On the other hand, underconfidence will keep you from even trying to take a few steps. Do not expect your spiritual legs to develop overnight. Do not become discouraged over the first few mistakes you make.

No parent would give up on a small tot who did not get up and walk the first few months after it was born! Remember that the loving response of an earthly parent is only a shadow of the love and concern your heavenly Father has for you. Be patient with yourself and allow Jesus to lead you one step at a time.

It is very important for every new Christian to realize that their maturity in the Lord will take many days, weeks, months and years. This is only the beginning of an exciting new adventure for you. It is God's will and our desire...

"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;  
that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,  
May be able to comprehend with all saints what  
is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;  
And to know the love of Christ, which passeth  
knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the  
fulness of God."

*Ephesians 3:17-19*

Welcome to a brand new life!

## B. What Is In It

As you discover the "rooms" in your Father's house, you will be thrilled at the great treasures that are found in each of them. Behind every door is a precious spiritual truth that will be of benefit to you both now and forever. In time, as you become acquainted with God's house, you will begin to feel very much at home. In the church you will find.

### 1. Fellowship:

Sharing joys and sorrows with the family of God; encouragement and support from those who really care.

### 2. Food:

Wholesome, spiritual nourishment through the teaching and preaching of the Bible.

### 3. Fortification:

Strength to overcome spiritual enemies and power to live victoriously in an ungodly world.

## III. GROWING UP IN HIS HOUSE

Maturing in a spiritual realm is much like our development in the natural realm. We must realize that no matter what our natural age may be, we have been born babes into God's kingdom.

### A. Learning To Understand

As a babe grows into a child and on into maturity, it grows in its ability to understand. You, too, are a babe--in the Spirit. Your life is just beginning. You will gain a deeper understanding of your heavenly Father and your Father's house as you age in the Spirit. Unlike the natural, your maturity is not determined solely by days, months and years, but is affected primarily by your diligence in seeking to know your heavenly Father and His plans for your life. He will reward your heart's search by opening your understanding. This, in turn, will build your confidence and security in your Father's love. These are absolutely essential elements in any good home--confidence and security. As you learn of Him, you will become more at home in your Father's House.

The insecurities of an adopted child can be compared to the insecurities we often have as a new-comer to God's family. Although we are God's children, because we have entered into new and unfamiliar surroundings, there is much adjusting to do. We have brought with us a collection of haunting memories, sinful experience, bad habits

Later, our Lord gave Peter the keys that would open the door to this same kingdom (Matthew 16:19). Under Christ's authority, this specially appointed apostle proclaimed the first New Testament salvation message on the Day of Pentecost:

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."  
*Acts 2:38*

If we compare the above scriptures, we will be able to understand the nature of our new birth: when we are baptized in Jesus name, we are born of water. When we receive the Holy Ghost, with the evidence of speaking in other tongues, we are born of the Spirit. Thus we have been born into the kingdom of God according to His eternal Word. (I Peter 1:23.)

#### B. Begotten of the Father

We have received the Father's name in baptism and we have taken on the Father's nature when we received His Spirit. God has now become our father and we have become His children. It was John, the apostle, who said:

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"  
*John 1:12*

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:...."  
*I John 3:1*

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God,...."  
*I John 3:2*

Paul explained to the Romans their new relationship with their heavenly father this way: