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Growing in my new identity

Sanctification: growing in grace as a result of **conversion**

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 5:23 NAS

Justification (positional sanctification through Jesus: free gift)

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In Christ: His righteousness is mine

^{3:21}But in our time something new has been added. What Moses and the prophets witnessed to all those years has happened. ²²The God-setting-things-right that we read about has become Jesus-setting-things-right for us. And not only for us, but for everyone who believes in Him. For there is no difference between us and them in this. ²³Since we've compiled this long and sorry record as sinners (both us and them) and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us, ²⁴God did it for us. Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with Himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ. (*Peterson*)

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In Christ: His righteousness is mine

Romans 3:28; 24

Justification – God's declaration that I am righteous (set right, worth, value) because I am in Christ – all possible through His Grace and Mercy as a gift by faith!

Justification is more than just the subtraction of our sins – that is forgiveness – it is the addition of the righteousness of Jesus!

2 Cor. 5:21; Phil 3:8,9

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The Results of Justification

What are the results of Justification?

1. **We have peace with God! Romans 5:1**

As a result of the peace with God in our spirit, four things follow:

1. **We lose our fear of God!**
 - **Romans 8:15; Galatians 3:26-4:7**
 - In Christ, God is no longer our judge, but is now a loving, tenderhearted, compassionate Father!
2. **We lose our fear of death!**
 - **Romans 8:2; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57**
 - In Christ, the problem of "death" has been removed

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The Results of Justification

3. **We have The Answer to attacks of doubts and fear.**

- **Colossians 3:3,4** – I am hidden in Him because I have been crucified with Him!
- **Hebrews 12:2** – He is the Author and Perfecter
- **Doubt will persist until the day we die. I am to remind myself Who's holding whom – 2 Timothy 1:12**

My standing and my acceptance by God does not depend on me – on what I do or fail to do. Even my sin does not cancel it out. The whole essence of the gospel (the Good News, remember?) is that God has made the Way to pay my sin debt, in the work of his beloved Son on my behalf.

- **Romans 8:33,34**

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The Results of Justification

4. **We have The Answer to the accusation of our own conscience when we sin.**

How can I truly be in Christ and act like this, or think like this, or ...

- **Ephesians 1:13,14** – If I am in Christ, I am sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit as a promise of my new position in Christ!
- **Romans 8:1** – **NO CONDEMNATION!**

When I completely blow it, there is no condemnation, because I am a son and I am learning how to walk in my new identity – I am a new creature because I am "in Christ" 2 Corinthians 5:17

His grace provides fully for all of my errors during my new growth!

- **John 10:27-29**

The Results of Justification

What are the results of Justification?

1. We are at peace with God! (v.1)
2. We have constant access to God – prayer! (v.2)
3. We have hope – a future! (v.2)
4. We see troubles and difficulties as opportunities for our growth (v.3-5)
5. We have a deep and growing love of God (v.5)
6. We begin to walk with Him, in the power of His Spirit (v.5)

The Results of Justification

What have we done with the free gift of His righteousness?

Is my life one of *Survival* or *Thrival*?

Romans 5:17

