

Benefits of Being a Christian

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Have you ever wanted to start over? Remember, as kids when we didn't do something quite right the first time we would say, "Do overs!". Well, God gives us that opportunity in our spiritual lives. No matter what sins we have committed or how messed up our spiritual lives are, God allows us "do overs".

When we become **Christians we are "A New Creation"**.

As we are told in **II Cor. 5:17**, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

There are many new and joyful aspects of the Christian's new life.

Let's look at a few...beginning with the Christian's... **New Gift** ...

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By becoming a Christian we are given a new gift, the forgiveness of sins. Our biggest problem is sin! Sin separates us from God. (Isaiah 59:1-2) Without God we do not have the hope of eternal life. So what is the solution? Becoming a Christian! Baptism washes away our sins.

The forgiveness of sins is **God's ultimate gift**. Even though we have rejected Him, God is still willing to forgive and forget if we will be obedient to Him. By becoming a Christian we not only have our sins forgiven but we also have:

Clear Conscience

I Peter 3:21 "There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Washing of Sins

Acts 22:16 “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

I John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Added to Church

Acts 2:47 “Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

All Spiritual Blessings

Eph. 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”

Another benefit of being a Christian is... **A New Freedom** ...

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We are either slaves to Satan or God. If we are not following God then we are automatically following Satan. As **Christians we are no longer slaves** to sin (i.e. Satan).

Romans 6:17-18, “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”

Freedom in Christ pertains to the inner man – the spiritual man. We can be bound physically yet still enjoy freedom spiritually. Such as Paul and Silas when they were praying and singing while bound in prison. (Acts 16:24-26)

Freedom from sin means that **sin (Satan) no longer controls our thoughts and actions**. Instead of doing it because “everyone else is doing it” or “it feels good” or “I am doing my own thing”, we are doing it because we love God and are keeping His commandments.

The Christians new freedom is victory over sin (Satan).

A Christian also has a... **New Outlook** ...

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Another benefit of being a Christian is we have a whole new outlook, a triumphant frame of mind. This world is no longer our priority. We now have bigger and better things to think about.

Colossians 3:1-2 says, “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

Matthew 19:26, “...with God all things are possible.”

Phil. 4:13 Paul stated it this way, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

No matter what happens to us in this life, as a Christian, we know, that we will be triumphant over death and will spend eternity with God because we have God on our side. This is the Christians new outlook.

Next we notice that the Christian as a... **New Self Image** ...

Slide 6 A Sense Of Personal Worth

Low self esteem, which brings about depression and suicide, is a common problem in our society today. But, as a Christian, we have a new way of looking at ourselves. We truly have value, not because of what we have done but because God loves us and what He has done for us!

We all have been **created in the image of God**, therefore all humans have inherent value as a person: a unique personality, rational thought, a spiritual nature and an eternal soul.

Gen. 1:26 “Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image according to Our likeness, let them have dominion over the fist of the sea. Over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

But the Christian has something more. We have been **purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ**. We are His children, His heirs.

I Peter 1:18-19 “knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

Christians are God's Possession.

I Cor. 6:20 "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

And we are God's Children.

Rom. 8:16-17 "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."

I John 3:1 "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!"

God loves us so much, values us so much, that Jesus was willing to come to earth and die on the cross, so that we can have the opportunity to live with Him forever!

You may not think your life has much value, but God does! He was willing to put His life on the line to prove it!

Also, as a Christian, we have... **New Potential** ...

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Usefulness in the Lord's Work

Everyone wants to feel that their life has meaning, that they are needed and useful. As a Christian our lives have great meaning and purpose for we have been **created for good works**.

Eph. 2:10, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

For example, we need to be a...

Good Steward – I Peter 4:10-11, "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."

Everything we have belongs to God and should be used wisely giving God the glory.

Good Influence – I Tim. 4:16, “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

By teaching, helping and being an example by living a godly life we are doing the Lord’s work.

Christians do have great potential as workers for the Lord!

Then we see that a Christian has a... **New Quality of Conduct** ...

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The Christian’s new way of life.

The word **Christian** means “**Christ Like**.” When we become Christians we are to “walk in newness of life”.

Paul states in **Romans 6:4**, “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

We enjoy a new and better way of life brought about by a “new quality of conduct.” And the key to this “new quality of conduct” is **character**. Character is often defined as “how you act when no one is watching.” It is one’s true core values or beliefs. Christians think differently and act differently than those in the world because we have been called by God to a new way of life.

II Tim. 1:9, tells us, “(God) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.”

God calls everyone to Him through the Gospel, but only those who obey His commands are saved.

Putting God First - The Christian’s way of life always puts God first. Nothing is as important as doing the will of God. Our whole attitude and priorities change when we become a Christian. God knows that we have certain physical needs such as food, clothing and shelter. Jesus said on the Sermon on the Mount that God would take care of those needs if we put Him first.

He said in **Matthew 6:33** “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

One of the Christians biggest changes is in that of **servicing others**.

We serve others by telling them the Good News! Jesus came to seek and save the lost. He also commanded us to preach the gospel to the whole world. (**Mark 16:15-16**) We are to also share with others those things that God has blessed us with.

I Tim. 6:18-19, “Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

We must learn: “The Ultimate in this life is enjoyed only when one ceases to make this life their ultimate concern!” By being a Christian we find that we have... **A New Fellowship** ...

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As a Christians we also enjoy a new relationship (communion) with God and our fellow Christians. First, we have a new relationship with God! When we were sinners we were separated from God because of our sins. (Isaiah 59:1-2) After having our sins washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ, through baptism, we become Christians and have been reconciled to God.

Romans 5:10-11, “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.”

Another **relationship we enjoy is that of fellow Christians**. All Christians now belong to the family of God, brothers and sisters in Christ.

Eph. 2:19-22, “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

As fellow citizens (Christians) we have been added to the family of God, the church, as we see in

Acts 2:42-47, “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

We are part of the Family of God! What a blessing it is knowing that as Children of God we will one day spend eternity with Him!
Then lastly, as Christians we enjoy... **A New Strength** ...

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The last benefit of being a Christian that we want to talk about today is a new strength, the Christians hope! What is Hope? It is...

Hope = Desire + Expectation

I Peter 1:3-5, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

As long as we remain faithful to God, He has promised us a **mansion in heaven.**

John 14:1-3, “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”

What a great benefit and blessing it is, that we will be able to spend eternity with God in heaven! Just think about it, no more pain, no more sorrow, no more death, no more tears, everything will be perfect!

The Christian’s Hope Helps **Keep Us Faithful.** People that are not Christians have no hope past this life. When they die they have no future to look forward to. This life is the best that it gets! How miserable that must be. But as Christian’s, no matter what happens to us in this life, we can look ahead to the hope that God has given us, and what a great blessing it is.

Romans 15:13, “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

We can also have the hope of a **Crown of Righteousness** just like the Apostle Paul.

II Timothy 4:7-8, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

Knowing that God is on our side, willing and able to fight our battles, carry our burdens and comfort our sorrows, we should also have the **“I Can Do” attitude** of the Apostle Paul...

Phil. 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

As Christians we truly are blessed. We have seen that a Christian has many benefits....

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We have learned that in a Christian’s new life we have many new and joyful aspects.

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| A New Gift | – The Forgiveness of Sins |
| A New Freedom | – Victory Over Sin |
| A New Outlook | – A Triumphant Frame of Mind |
| A New Self Image | – A Sense of Personal Worth |
| A New Potential | – Usefulness in the Lord’s Work |
| A New Quality of Conduct | – The Christian’s Way of Life |
| A New Fellowship | – Communion With God and His People |
| A New Strength | – The Christian’s Hope |

Which brings us to the question...

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Are You Enjoying The Benefits of Being A Christian?

If not, why not?