

## 11 Corinthians 5:17



**Words to Find:**  
 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

### Earthly Changes Are Not the New Birth


*John Bate*

A man may pass from the lowest ignorance unto the highest intelligence. He may exchange the most degraded poverty for the most exalted riches. He may come out of the greatest obscurity into the largest publicity. He may rise from the narrowest circle of influence into the widest sphere of power. He may pass from one

extreme to another in all things: moral, intellectual, political, social, and civil. However, through all those changes he may still retain his innate bias to do evil, still have his aversion to do good, and still continue to be a stranger to the new-birth as it exists in the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. No earthly change whatsoever can be a substitute for the change which only comes from above.

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### Godly Sight

*Bill Brinkworth*

It had been a long time since the older woman had been considered "legally blind". Many years ago the sight had totally gone in her left eye, and slowly the right eye's vision deteriorated. In the last few years, all she could see out of the right were some shadows and outlines.



When a doctor told her that surgery might improve what she saw out of the right eye, she hesitated. She remembered how previous medical attempts removed the left eye's sight completely. Still, she pondered the surgery and soon gave her approval. The day of the operation found her being wheeled down to surgery.

After the surgeon's work was complete, and she awoke from the anesthesia, the bandages were slowly removed. It was not long until she opened her eyes to see color; then as her right eye came into focus, she could see details.

She saw what the doctor looked like as he explained what had just occurred. She saw the decor of the room, the chairs, her daughter, and the papers that were clipped to the doctor's clipboard.

The one eye could once again see. Her world was much different than it had been a short time previously.  
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### The Most Wonderful Plant

*Edited from an article by C. H. Spurgeon*

A man had a garden that produced nothing but weeds. One day he obtained some seeds from a rare plant that he had heard wonderful stories about.



He sowed a handful of the seed in his overgrown garden, and left it to work its own way. He slept and rose, and knew not how the seed was growing until one day he opened the gate and saw a sight which astounded him.

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## Godly Sight

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As she continued to scan the room, she saw one thing that she did not like. In the room's mirror the senior saw her own image, and the wrinkles time had put on her face. When she had last been able to see her reflection, all she had seen then was youthful, smooth skin. Now, her observation was different. She saw the real her, not what only her hands felt and were able to "show" her.

Likewise, a person's spiritual understanding is different when they get saved (John 3:16). Many of the things they were involved in previously, now appear different. What was then "normal" and done by many is now seen as the Saviour sees it: "sinful"; and guilt is felt when this activity is even considered.

Lies that used to be a quick defense from getting into trouble, now bring a guilty feeling when they are uttered. Watching many programs on television now bring that same shame to one's heart as those shows are now realized to be obscene, and ungodly. The obscenities uttered on the same programs are no longer funny, but perceived as "filthy"; and some even realized as mocking or blaspheming the Saviour. Habits

and other activities that were performed for many years are now felt as "inappropriate", and certainly not exhibiting good Christian behavior. Much of what was done, said, and seen are now frowned upon after one is "born again".

This new vision and understanding come with the "new birth" (John 3:3). It is part of the attitude and inward change that happens when one is saved: "*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new*" II Cor. 5:17. The "new creature" in a saved child of God has a new mind that perceives their condition differently. It is the mind that thinks similarly to Christ: "*For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ*" I Cor. 2:16 (Also: I Cor 1:10, Philippians 1:27).

Although many claim to be Christians, few see any changes in their thinking processes or behavior. They see no change in their lives after profession of being saved. That is not what the Bible tells us happens to a person when they get saved. They should think differently, and their lives should change.

Perhaps, they have profession without possession.

If you claim to be saved, has there ever been a time in your life where your "vision" was changed? Do you see your life and the world around you differently? After being born-again, did you see the "wrinkles" of your own sin's depravity? Did the sight of how you were thinking and living shock you enough that you wanted to change your life-style and follow God's direction? Is your spiritual life different than it ever was? Are you saved?

*If you are not sure you are saved, and have no one to talk to about this matter, please e-mail me at: [brinkworth@frontier.com](mailto:brinkworth@frontier.com).*

## The Most Wonderful Plant

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He knew that the seed would produce a dainty flower and he looked for it; but he had little dreamed that the plant would cover the whole garden as it did. The flower had exterminated every weed. As he looked from one end to the other, from wall to wall, he could see nothing but the fair colors of that rare plant, and smell nothing but its delicious perfume.

Christ is like that plant of renown. If He be sown in the soil of your soul, He will gradually eat out the roots of all ill weeds and poisonous plants, till over all your nature all that will be seen is Christ in you.

## A New Captain

*Edited from an article by C. H.*

*Spurgeon*

There was a man about sixty years old. He had been a rough sailor; one of the worst men in the village. It was his custom to drink, and he seemed to be delighted when he was cursing and swearing. He came into a church, however, one Sunday and heard preaching about Jesus weeping over Jerusalem.

The man thought, "Why did Jesus Christ ever weep over such a wretch as I am?" He thought he was too bad for Christ to care for him.

At last he came to the preacher, and said, "Sir, sixty years have I been sailing under the standard of the devil. It is time I should have a new owner. I want to scuttle the old ship and sink her altogether! Then I shall have a new owner, and I shall sail under the colors of Prince Jesus."

Ever since that moment, that man has been a praying man and has walked before God in all sincerity. Yet, he was the very last man you would have thought would be saved and converted. Somehow God does not choose just the "best" men. He will also take the filthiest and the vilest, and fashion them into glorious beings; making them saints. Whereas they were sinners; He then sanctifies them, and makes them holy.



*"Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now am found.  
Was blind, but now, I see!"*

*— From "Amazing Grace" by John Newton (1725-1807)*