

Ephesians 2:8-10 AMPC For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through [your] faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [of your own doing, it came not through your own striving], but it is the gift of God; (9) Not because of works [not the fulfillment of the Law's demands], lest any man should boast. [It is not the result of what anyone can possibly do, so no one can pride himself in it or take glory to himself.] (10) For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

God has a good life that He has prearranged and made ready for us to live.

No matter how good our lives may be, there is always more for us to become.

When did He prepare those things for us to walk in?

Ephesians 1:4 NKJV just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

There is just one problem in all of this.

Have you ever seen the movie called "I Am Legend" that stars Will Smith?

He is a scientist that is living in a post-apocalyptic world and there are hoards of people that have been affected with a "virus" and are trying to attack and eat any living creatures that remain. If you are bitten, you become infected and there is a transformation that begins to take place. Because of this "virus", they have been turned into something they were never meant to be. The infected people became these monster-like creatures.

We have been told that many things such as education is the answer to this virus.

There were more advances made in technology during the 20th century than at any other time in history but yet the condition of humanity sunk lower than any other time before.

We have been told that wealth is the answer to this virus.

However, we have seen over the last few decades people with untold amounts of wealth that could not get enough and turned into different people as their greed drove them to pursue more money.

- ✓ The truth is that we and people all around us have been **infected** and affected by the “virus”.

That is exactly what happened to humanity when the “virus” of sin was introduced into the world through Adam and his sin. Humanity became infected and in almost an instant transformation took place and changed humanity forever.

Adam’s first sons Cain and Abel were affected by the virus of sin. Within one generation, the first murder took place.

- ✓ When sin entered into the world, it brought its companion called **death**.

Romans 5:12 NKJV (12) Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned--

Death manifests itself in many shapes and forms. It does not just mean an eternity separated from God in Hell nor does it mean just the death of the physical body.

All of us have been affected by sin to some level or another!

- ✓ Sin will never let you **become** who you were meant to be.

Romans 7:18-20 NKJV For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. (19) For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. (20) Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

- ✓ Sin has this way of making you into something you were **never** meant to be.

Sin will take you farther than you want to go, it will keep you longer than you want to stay, and it will cost you more than you want to pay.

We are all damaged goods.

- ✓ Christ came to this earth, died on a cross, and rose from the dead so that you could **become** who you were meant to be.

A relationship with Jesus Christ is the doorway the first step to becoming who you were meant to be. This is where we must all begin.

But there is a danger in this once we have been saved for a while to begin to think that just because our eternal condition is secure that “we are good” and we are just going to ride this thing out until I go to Heaven or Jesus comes back; one or the other.

- ✓ God’s plan for your life is that you become the you that He always **planned** you to be.

Even the Apostle Paul knew that he could not “coast” but rather he needed to change.

We see this in the life of the Apostle Paul. As we read about Paul in the Book of Acts we see all that God did in his life and how he was brought into one of the greatest ministries known to humanity perhaps second only to Jesus Christ Himself.

Paul wrote the following verses in the Bible:

2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV (17) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV (21) For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 Timothy 1:15-16 TPT I can testify that the Word is true and deserves to be received by all, for Jesus Christ came into the world to bring sinners back to life—even me, the worst sinner of all! (16) Yet I was captured by grace, so that Jesus Christ could display through me the outpouring of his Spirit as a pattern to be seen for all those who would believe in him for eternal life.

Paul knew that God needed to work in his life if he was going to become who God wanted him to be.

Philippians 3:12-15 AMPC Not that I have now attained [this ideal], or have already been made perfect, but I press on to lay hold of (grasp) and make my own, that for which Christ Jesus (the Messiah) has laid hold of me and made me His own. (13) I do not consider, brethren, that I have captured and made it my own [yet]; but one thing I do [it is my one aspiration]: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (14) I press on toward the goal to win the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward. (15) So let those [of us] who are spiritually mature and full-grown have this mind and hold these convictions; and if in any respect you have a different attitude of mind, God will make that clear to you also.

✓ Sin will make you an **opposite**.

Jesus wants to release from within you who you were meant to be and make you an opposite.

When Jesus came into my life I became an opposite.

If you are a critic, God wants to make you a helper.

If you are a downer, God wants to make you an encourager.

If you are filled with bitterness and anger, God wants to make you someone who can love others unconditionally.

- ✓ For you to become who you were meant to be, life-change must be an ongoing, daily **process**.

We read in the Scriptures about the wonderful man of God that Paul became but what we fail to realize is that even though we can read about it in a couple of hours, the process took over 30 years in Paul's life.

Becoming who you were meant to be is a process.

We need to let the process begin.

Jesus took a man that was fervently and publicly persecuting Christians and turned him into one of the greatest Apostles that has ever lived.

Ephesians 2:10 NLT (10) For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.

“I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free.” (Michelangelo)

God knows what is simply on the inside of every one of us that needs to be unlocked so you can become who you were meant to be.

- ✓ The good news is this: you were made for **more!**