

Fanning it into Flame
Sunday, April 03, 2011
A New Creation

Matthew 11:28-30 ²⁸ *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."* ²⁹ *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* ³⁰ *For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* I preached a message years ago and said that if you feel that your burden is not light then you may not be yoked to the Lord. He makes our burdens light and gives us rest. I believe the reason many Christians continue to be burdened is that they fail to recognize the fact that we are a **new creation** in Christ. The apostle Paul says in **2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!* It means we become a new species. When we receive Christ in our heart an amazing thing takes place. First, let me tell you what it's not. It is not God just dusting off the old model, cleaning us up, and telling us to start over only this time using Christ as our example. Many people think that's what takes place. That's why things can seem so hard. We don't have the ability to mimic Jesus in our own strength and yet the memory of that old operating system is still very much available. We were created to live forever as entities created in the image of God. When sin entered the world through Adam, and death through sin, man lost his God given nature and was in a state of death. We were able to function as human beings with God's image in us, but not his Spirit. Our ability to think, act, will, and do were all at our disposal. However, God's original intention for us was lost. (Thank God for our precious Savior!) God always intended us to have his life in us through his Son who is the exact representation of who he is. The new birth requires a death to self and a resurrection with our union to Christ, our Lord. We are not a cleaned up version of who we were. We are a brand new creation, that new species. **Galatians 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Where I believe the problem enters in for us is in the fact that our memories of how we always operated on our own are not eradicated in the new birth. Therefore when circumstances come our way we must make the choice to yield to the new man in us. We still have the capacity to choose our old way of thinking when we were in charge. Now that we are born again, we are to give Jesus the reigns of our life and obey him just like he did with the Father. He only did what Father showed him to do. God wants our participation in all things. He does not force his will on us because that would violate our being created in his image. We must choose. We must act. Our life now is his life in us, the two becoming one. **Colossians 3:1-14** *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.* ² *Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.* ³ ***For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.*** ⁴ *When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.* ⁵ ***Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.*** ⁶ *Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.* ⁷ ***You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.*** ⁸ *But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.* ⁹ ***Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices*** ¹⁰ ***and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*** ¹¹ *Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.* ¹² ***Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*** ¹³ ***Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*** ¹⁴ ***And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.***

When we are trying to do the will of God out of our old nature and not out of our union with Christ we will feel the burden. The closer we are to him in intimate fellowship, the more we'll find that place of rest. Miracles can become part of our lifestyle because he is the miracle worker and he is our life.