

Beginning Hope: New Life in Christ

With all the truths of the gospel that you've learned, how do you make it practical and how does it matter for your every day life? As a follower of Jesus you are **already** freed from the penalty of sin, free from the slavery of sin, but you are **not yet** with Jesus in heaven, so you are still tempted.

Romans 6:12-14 ESV

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What temptations are the most difficult for you? Does fighting against sin seem impossible? Explain.

When Jesus returned to heaven to sit at the right hand of the throne of God, he didn't leave us alone. He sent the Holy Spirit to be our helper. If you are a follower of Jesus, he is in heaven praying for you and the Holy Spirit helps you in your suffering and helps you know how to live for God.

Romans 8:34 ESV

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

John 14:26 ESV

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Do you feel comforted to know you are not alone and that God gives you a Helper for this life? Explain.

God created the church to be the place to grow and understand him more. What concerns do you have as you think about connecting into a local church?

When you become a follower of Jesus, you are made right before God and declared “not guilty” because Jesus paid the penalty for your sin and took the wrath of God. This is called justification and there is nothing you do to earn being justified. Change happens over your entire life when you read your Bible, learn more about God and make efforts to glorify him. This is called sanctification, and living life with other believers in the church is a critical part of the Christian life.

How has your understanding of God changed? Are you more hopeful or see your life more clearly after learning more about the gospel? What questions do you have about this session?

Prepare for next steps:

- **finish reading the gospel of Matthew**
- **if you are not yet attending a gospel teaching church, look for one and attend**
- **talk with your Christian friend about the next steps to keep growing in your understanding of who Jesus is and how a relationship with him changes your life**
- **if you need help with next steps, contact Hope for Addiction (connect@hopeforaddiction.com)**

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