<u>Philippians 4:13</u>



Words to Find: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Came to Scoff, but Remained to Pray

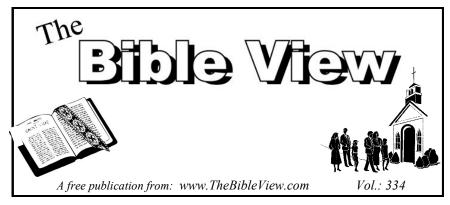
C. H. Spurgeon

When John Wesley was preaching in a barn, several villagers conspired to break into the meeting and disrupt the service. A man hid himself in a sack inside the barn before the service began and planned to get out of his hiding place after the meeting had started, and let his fellow trouble-makers in so they could help him stop the service.

As he lay concealed in the sack, the Methodists began to

sing. He liked the tune so well that he would not get out of the sack until he had heard it through. Then followed a prayer, and during that prayer God worked on the man's heart inside the sack so much that he began to cry for mercy. The good people looked around, and were astonished to find a sinner in a sack seeking the Savior. The door was never opened to let the mob in, as the man was converted and only longed to hear more from the Word of God.

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New Things

Bill Brinkworth

Living a biblical lifestyle is certainly the old way—
the way much of mankind has lived for over 6,000 years. Living that way may be old-fashioned to some; but there are many new things that obeying and living for the Lord can offer. Here are some of the new things God still offers and desires all to have and experience:

A new birth. When one becomes a child of God, he has a new spiritual birth. He is a new, different creature.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3: 3

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 5:17 Also: I Peter 1:23

A new joy, happiness, and purpose. Being born again is

wonderful. It comes with new chances in life with great joy and happiness.

"O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth. Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods" Psalms 96: 96:1-3 Also: Psalms 40:3, 98:1

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A New Captain

Edited from an article by C. H. Spurgeon

There was a poor 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.

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New Things

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A new heart. God gives, along with salvation, a new heart that has new desires, purposes, and hopes.

"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:26 These verses were written about the people of Israel, but the principle can be applied to us. Also: Ex. 11:17-20

A new outlook; life is seen differently. When one is saved, educated from the Word of God, and obedient to it, life looks much different. Activities and actions of the past now may appear contrary to God's commands and harmful rather than "fun". The "old, dead" Bible now becomes alive and helpful. "Thou hast heard, see all this; and will not ye declare it? I have shewed thee new things from this time, even hidden things, and thou didst not know them."

Isaiah 46: 6

A new life (a new mind). Along with other new blessings comes the "mind of Christ", that thinks much differently than it did before the new birth. "That ye put off concerning the

former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that **ye put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil." Ephesians 4:22-27 Also: Colossians 3:10

A new day filled with second chances and other opportunities. Just as a new day brings fresh opportunities and expectations, God gives the bornagain soul a second chance in life.

"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are **new every morning:** great is thy faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22-23

A new testament; a new covenant. A "testament" is a document declaring the will and desires of a person. The New Testament that God gave man is not only part of the Bible; but it is His will, and the new covenant (commitments or promises) He made with man. It tells of

"Conversion is a change from one state to another. Saving conversion is the renovation of the heart and life and turning from the power of sin and Satan unto God (Acts 26:18). It is only produced by the influence of Divine grace on a soul!" — C. Buck

God's will for man in this church age.

"And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Mat. 26:27-28 Also: Mark 14:24

A new world. One day God will destroy this world, and a new one will descend.

"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered." Isaiah 65:7

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." Rev. 21:1

Also: Isaiah 65:7, II

A New Captain

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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

"Conversion is separating ourselves from the course and customs of this world, and devoting ourselves to the conduct as described in the Word of God." — Henry

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.

Keep Out the Light

John Bate

People wishing to sleep in the light of day, many times throw something over their eyes to keep the light from disturbing their sleep. Likewise, people wishing to keep out the illumination of the Word of God also try to block His conviction; preventing them from turning to God. They use such devises as prejudice, unbelief, pride, and the imperfections of others as excuses to keep the Truth from altering their life.

"We are born with our backs turned from God and our faces looking to sin and hell.

When God's grace intervenes, it changes the direction we face and look to!"

— P. Henry