

POWER ACADEMY

Switching On Your Faith

Module 1: The Basics

Lesson 3: Meet the Real
You

Power Academy Module 1

Lesson 3 – Meet the Real You

1. When you don't understand your true identity, you will feel like you aren't a good enough Christian.
 - a. We get stuck in a cycle: go to church, read the Bible, have quiet time with the Lord, pray, and then mess up, ask for forgiveness and start the cycle again.
 - b. When we live like this, our prayer life becomes just asking for forgiveness, over and over again.
 - c. The reason we struggle with sin is because we need to renew our minds to our true identity in Christ.
 - d. Seeing the Word reflect who we truly are, who we feel like we should be, yet still struggling in our behavior, can be really frustrating for a Christian.
 - e. If we don't understand our identity, we will constantly be trying to measure up to the image that we see in the scriptures, and be disappointed because we can't ever quite make it.

2. 1 Corinthians 15:56 – *“The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.”*
 - a. The law gives life to sin! The law is a mirror to show us that we need Jesus, not to keep us out of sin.

3. 2 Corinthians 5:17 – *“¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*
 - a. When you were born again, you weren't *physically* born again. Your body is the same, but you were *spiritually* born again (John 3:1-8).
 - b. The side of us that became new is the spiritual part of us that cannot be seen with the natural eye. There's more to you than meets the eye!
 - c. Your mind, will and emotions (your soul) and your physical body were not changed, but your spirit changed.

4. Galatians 5:22-23 – *“²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”*
 - a. When your spirit became brand-new, God took up residence inside of you. And with that power, the Kingdom of God, God's nature, came a whole new set of gifts and abilities.
 - b. We still have a human nature and personality—those things haven't changed. But our spirit was born with God's nature. It's like having a superpower!

- c. Now that we have the root, because we are spiritually alive, we produce fruit, this fruit of the spirit.
 - d. Now that we are born again, no matter what happens in our everyday lives, we have the opportunity to respond out of either our human nature or God's nature in us.
 - e. As believers, we want to learn to respond to and interact with the world out of the God-kind of nature we have in us because we will see the fruit of that in our everyday lives.
 - f. We can choose to respond in love, joy and peace, no matter what is going on. When we tap into these things, we are tapping into the supernatural life-force of God that is inside of us!
 - g. However, this does not happen automatically. When we were born again, God didn't suck out our brains and change our personalities! But we have a choice to make that we were unable to make before.
 - h. Unbelievers don't have any choice but to respond according to their human nature: their feelings and emotions. But we have been given self-control, so we no longer have to be driven by our senses and emotions.
 - i. If we are struggling in our emotions, it's because we are not tapping into the life of God that is present on the inside of us. We are operating out of our human nature.
 - j. In order to begin to live this way, we have to renew our minds to what the Word of God says.
5. Galatians 5:24-25 – *"²⁴ And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."*
- a. Living and walking out of the spirit is talking about tapping into this nature of God we have on the inside of us.
 - b. We all fail to act in love sometimes, but if we make a conscious decision to take a moment to tap into what is in our spirits, we can begin to walk in the spirit. We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us do this.
 - c. The enemy will try to get you into condemnation over this, so you must understand that it is a process.
6. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 – *"²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it."*
- a. God is helping us in this! Even if we aren't faithful, He is faithful.
 - b. He is the answer to this quandary of our human nature wanting to do something different from our born again nature: we have a spirit, soul & body.

- c. If we don't understand that we are a 3-part being, we will never understand who we really are. The real you is your born-again spirit, not your soul (mind, will & emotions) and body.
 - Hebrews 12:23 – *“To the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect.”*
 - The spirit part of you is the eternal part of you that was God had in mind from the foundation of the world.
 - Ephesians 1:4 – *“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.”*
 - d. This concept that you are a 3-part being explains why your soul can act contrary to your spirit.
7. 1 John 4:17 – *“¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.”*
- a. Is your soul just like Jesus? Is your body? No, the part that was made perfect when you were born again—your spirit—is exactly like Jesus.
 - b. The Greek word for “soul” in 1 Thessalonians 5:23 is the word *psuché*, which is where we get the word “psyche” from. It means heart, mind, will, emotions; the seat of your passions and desires; your life; your emotions.
 - c. The body part of you is the flesh. Your flesh doesn't think. The part that does your thinking is your soul, and that's the part of you that gets you into trouble because it is not yet renewed.
 - d. Your spirit is always full of love, joy, peace, faith and self-control because that is the God part of you. It is full to the brim with the power of God and never has a bad day!
 - e. But the soul part of us must get into agreement with the spirit part of us in order to allow the power in our spirit to move through our soul and into our bodies (flesh). Our soul acts as a bridge between the spirit and the body, the spirit realm and the natural realm.
 - f. Many of us live more out of our soul, our thinking, than out of our spirit, which results in us making choices that we don't want to make that are contrary to our new nature.
8. Your sin does not separate you from God.
- a. Jesus already paid the price for your sin.
 - b. God is not afraid of your mistakes!
 - c. If we really believe that our sin separates us from God, then we have not read the book of Genesis! Even after the fall of mankind, God still fellowshiped with Adam and Eve. After Cain killed Abel, God placed a seal of protection on him.

- d. The charges against us have been wiped out by Jesus! Every sin has been covered by Jesus. (We will teach more on this in a future lesson.)
9. Ephesians 4:17-24 – *“¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. ²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”*
- a. Verses 17-19 is talking about how people are before being born again. Before people are born again, all they can do is act out of their sin nature.
- b. However, when you received God, you received the nature of God that made you righteous and holy! That is the real you.
- c. This doesn't mean that everything you do is righteous and holy. But it means that THE REAL YOU is righteous and holy!
- d. 2 Corinthians 5:21 – *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*
- e. The spirit part of you took on Jesus' righteousness. He took your sin and He gave us His righteousness. We have been “en-Christed”! When you really understand this, you will begin to relate more to your righteous nature.
- f. Even when you sin, it doesn't change who you are in your spirit. If we don't understand that we are a 3-part being, and that when we sin it does not affect our standing with God, we will put a separation between ourselves and God every time we mess up. When this happens, your relationship with God becomes based on your performance rather than on what Jesus did for you at the cross!
- g. When we think that our sin disqualifies us for having relationship with God, as though we are unworthy, we are saying that Jesus' sacrifice wasn't enough for our sin. But Jesus' payment was more than enough to cover our sin!
10. Ephesians 4:23 – *“and be renewed in the spirit of your mind”*
- a. Greek word for “mind” is *nous*, and it regarding our intellect.
- b. This is the gate, the valve, between the spirit and the flesh, that needs to be renewed to the Word of God.
- c. Living the Christian life isn't difficult, it's impossible! It is impossible if you try to do it yourself: you have to let Jesus live His life through you.

11. Romans 12:1-2 – *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*
- If we are conformed to the world, we will be thinking, acting, and responding to things in the same way the world does.
 - So how are we transformed? It is through the renewing of our minds.
 - Spiritually speaking, when we were born again we were instantly translated from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God (Colossians 1:13). But your soul needs to be transformed.
 - Now it is all about renewing our minds to the truth in the Word of God regarding who we really are in Christ.
 - If you want to see what you look like in the flesh, you look in the mirror. If you want to see what your soul is like, you check in with your thoughts, your feelings and your emotions. But if you want to know THE REAL YOU, you must look into the mirror of the Word of God (James 1:23-24).
 - We aren’t going to understand who we are in the spirit just by thinking about it. We have to let the Holy Spirit reveal it to us, by the Word of God, through relationship with Him.
12. Romans 12:2 – *“...transformed by the renewing of your mind...”*
- This word “transformed” is the Greek word *metamorphoó*, which is where the word “metamorphosis” comes from. The process of metamorphosis is one thing changing into something completely different!
 - When you transform your mind, you realize that you aren’t just a wriggly worm anymore: you are a butterfly, with the ability to fly. You have a new life, complete with new abilities!
13. How is it that we can sin and still be holy and righteous at the same time?
- Sin is not who you really are. It might be an action that you are doing because you are walking according to the flesh, rather than the spirit. But it doesn’t change the fact of who you are.
 - Ephesians 1:11 – *“In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.”*
 - You are the fulfillment of God’s will. In fact, Ephesians 1:4 says that He chose you before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless!
 - Ephesians 1:11-14 – *“¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His*

glory. ¹³ *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*”

- The word for “salvation” is the Greek word *soteria*, which means health, deliverance, safety and salvation.
- Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17), so you heard the Word of God and believed the truth, and then you were *sealed* by the Holy Spirit!
- So, your spirit was *sealed*, which means it cannot be contaminated. No matter what your flesh does, what mistakes you might make, your spirit remains holy and righteous. Just as Jesus is, so are you in this world.
- The word *sealed* is the Greek word *sphragizó*, which means to stamp or seal with a signet ring, to preserve, to keep secure from satan, to be authenticated.
- You ARE who the Word says you are! You aren’t trying to “fake it ‘til you make it.” The real you is who God says you are, and nothing you ever do is going to change who you are in the spirit.
- This frees you from the bondage of sin and performance, to always be a perfect Christian. You can never be the perfect Christian in the flesh, only in the spirit.
- 1 John 4:17 (emphasis added) – *“Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because **as He is, so are we in this world.**”*

14. This is not giving a “license to sin”, it is freedom *from* sin.
- a. Sin is a symptom of an unrenewed mind, and it is dumb because we are opening ourselves up to the influence of the enemy in our lives.
 - b. Sin will result in natural consequences.
 - c. If I rob a bank, it’s not going to rob me of going to Heaven, but it is going to result in me going to jail!
 - d. As believers, we don’t *want* to walk in the flesh. We won’t *want* to sin.
 - e. The more your mind is renewed to your true identity in Christ, it will empower you to be *free from sin* in your life. (We will teach more on this in a future lesson.)
15. Condemnation and Guilt vs. Conviction
- a. The devil will try to bring guilt and condemnation when you sin because he knows it will separate you from the Father. He wants you to focus on your sin, rather than the true righteous identity you have in Jesus.
 - b. Reject those accusations with the truth that you are not alone, that the Lord said He will never leave you nor forsake you, and that you are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

- c. The Holy Spirit will show you your sin to convict you so that He can lead you out of it into truth and healing.
- d. Guilt is not from God, but conviction is from the Holy Spirit.
- e. Conviction is that you will see your errors, and it may not feel nice, but it will lead you into truth and healing.
- f. Some people go too far to the extreme and say you shouldn't even feel badly at all when you sin, but that's not accurate. It's right to realize that you did wrong, that you may have hurt someone and that you need to do things differently. However, you run to the throne of grace, repent, ask for forgiveness and help! Then you move forward, and don't wallow and dwell in guilt and condemnation.
- g. You don't claim sin as your identity. Don't say, "I'm a liar" or "I'm a failure." Maybe you lied, and maybe you failed, but you *are* the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus!

Module 1 Lesson 3 Scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:56 – *“The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.”*

2 Corinthians 5:17 – *“¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*

John 3:1-8 – *“There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’ ³ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ ⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ ⁵ Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*

Galatians 5:22-23 – *“²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”*

Galatians 5:24-25 – *“²⁴ And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 – *“²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.”*

Hebrews 12:23 – *“To the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect.”*

Ephesians 1:4 – *“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.”*

1 John 4:17 – *“¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.”*

Ephesians 4:17-24 – *“¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. ²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful*

lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

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

Romans 12:1-2 – *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

Colossians 1:13 – *“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.”*

James 1:23-24 – *“²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.”*

Ephesians 1:11-14 – *“¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. ¹³ In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”*

Romans 10:17 – *“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*