

POSITION - CONDITION

POSITION- The new birth provides the believer with a new Position, a new Standing in God the Father. When one is born again, he is born into Christ, Who is his Life; he is brought all the way from death, to life eternal. "And you hath He quickened (enlived), who were dead in trespasses and sins;Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:" (Eph. 2:1, 5, 6).

It is primarily because of our new Position in the Lord Jesus that our heavenly Father is free to accept and love us, just as we are. His basic consideration of us is founded upon our Position in His beloved Son. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved." (Eph. 1:3-6). (See chapter on Acceptance, in **The Green Letters**)

As to our Position in Christ Jesus, our judicial Standing with God our Father, we are made one with Him by nature (II Pet. 1:3, 4); justified and sanctified (I Cor. 6:11); forever indwelt by the Holy Spirit (John 14:16; Rom. 8:9); baptized by the Holy Spirit into His Body, The Church (I Cor. 12:13); the indwelling Spirit the Seal of His eternal ownership (Eph. 1:13, 14); and, we are complete in Him (Col. 2:10). This is but to touch the vast and wonderful subject!

CONDITION- All that is included in our Position and Standing in Christ is not received by experience; it is all included in our new birth. But when we move into the realm of Condition, State, then we have to do with experience. Christian growth consists of our Positional treasures in the Lord Jesus processively and progressively becoming an integral part of our daily Condition, **experientially** through the ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The Spirit-fostered hunger within the heart of the growing believer is that his State, his Condition, become more and more comparable to his Standing and Position. Through prayerful study of the Word, the believer

comes to know what is his in Christ, and confidently trusts the Holy Spirit to make it all ever more fully experienced in his daily walk — his Condition. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.” (Eph. 2:10; Phil. 2:13).

EXAMPLE- “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things have passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (II Cor. 5:17). Here is Positional truth: one is born into Christ Jesus, partaker of the divine nature, and thereby made a new creation in Christ. He has been taken out of sinful Adam, and engrafted into the Lord Jesus Christ: “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” (I Cor. 15:22). Therefore, **positionally**, old things (Adamic old nature) have passed away, and all things (in Christ) are become new.

Sooner or later the believer should come to realize that this is not Conditional truth, since one’s life and walk does not measure up — **all** the old has not passed away, and **everything** within is not new. But the Condition should be progressively improving, as one slowly, through the years, approaches one’s Position in Christ experientially. (See chapter on Time, in **The Green Letters**)

The all-too-prevalent error with which we are seeking to deal springs from mixing Position and Condition. This is often termed “holiness error.” Many believe and forcibly teach that in order to be saved, and stay that way, one must maintain in Condition that which is Positional. It is also asserted by well-meaning holiness folk that these and other conditions are necessary for acceptance with God, and effectiveness in His service.

But Position is the foundational source and regulation of Condition. Condition is fostered by Position. Sanctification, for instance: “The Greek word for ‘sanctify’ means to separate unto God’s exclusive use. It also means to cleanse what is separated and to impart the character of God. A study of all the Bible passages where the words ‘sanctify,’ ‘holy,’ and ‘sanctification’ are found shows that all believers are sanctified positionally in Christ, are being sanctified progressively by Christ via the Holy Spirit, and will in the last day be sanctified perfectly with Christ (I Cor. 1:1, 2;

Heb. 12:14; I Thess. 5:23).” —J. B.

We have sought to share the following material with as little comment as possible. Our intention has been to utilize direct statements from the more conservative leaders who have contributed quite throughly to specific holiness error. We trust the facts will speak for themselves. And now we must begin at the beginning of the error — the false step of endeavoring to “receive” the Holy Spirit subsequent to the new birth; and this concerning the very Person Who non-experientially enters the spirit to dwell eternally at the moment of regeneration. “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (I Cor. 3:16)