

## Sealed!

### Lesson 8 – Teacher's Guide

1. What God does in the spirit always remains constant and unchanging regardless of fluctuations in our performance.

A newly born-again believer will often become vulnerable to discouragement, doubt, and unbelief because they don't understand that the change took place in their spirit and that the rest of the Christian life is renewing their mind to believe and release what God has already put inside them. Looking only in the physical realm, it's easy for them to conclude, "It didn't work. The Word isn't true. God didn't change me, because everything's still the same." The devil wants to stop our witness, so he'll often throw everything he has against us as soon as we're born again.

2. Jesus became sin so we could become righteous (2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus became what we were so we could become what He is. He took our sin and gave us His righteousness. If we believe the first half of 2 Corinthians 5:21, then we ought to believe the second half too. God sees us as righteous and truly holy because He's looking at our spirits.
3. God is pleased with us (Eph. 1:5-6). "Accepted" in Ephesians 1:6 is the same Greek word translated "highly favored" in Luke 1:28. As the woman who bore Christ was accepted, so we are highly favored of the Lord.

1. A. Do fluctuations in our performance change what God has done in the spirit? (No)  
B. Why are newly born-again believers vulnerable to discouragement, doubt, and unbelief? (They don't understand that the change took place in their spirits and that the rest of the Christian life is renewing their minds to believe and release what God has already put inside them)
2. A. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. What did Jesus become? (Sin)  
B. What did we become? (The righteousness of God)  
C. What part of our beings is righteous? (Our spirits)
3. A. Read Ephesians 1:5-6. Substitute "highly favored" in place of "accepted."  
B. Read Luke 1:28. Substitute "accepted" in place of "highly favored."

4. Once we believed, we were sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13). All the righteousness, holiness, and goodness our born-again spirits were recreated with were immediately sealed tight with the Holy Spirit. When we were born again, our spirits were immediately encased—vacuum packed—by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of preservation. When we fail in any area of our lives after being saved, the rottenness, uncleanness, and defilement that comes to our bodies and souls doesn't penetrate our spirits. This Holy Spirit seal keeps the good in and the bad out.
5. Sin isn't only doing something wrong by violating a command; it's also not doing something right that we should have done (James 4:17). According to God's definition of sin, everyone constantly falls short. If we don't understand that the Holy Spirit encased our born-again spirits, our conscience will eventually give us the impression that we've lost the righteousness and true holiness our spirits were created in.
6. When we sin, our spirits do not participate (1 John 3:9). We are as righteous and holy now—in our spirits—as we will ever be. No matter how we're performing in our bodies and souls, we can always approach God through who we are in our born-again spirits.

4. A. According to Ephesians 1:13, when were we sealed with the Holy Spirit? (Once we believed)  
B. When we sin, does the rottenness, uncleanness, and defilement that comes to our bodies and souls penetrate our spirits? (No)
5. Read James 4:17. In addition to violating His commands, what else does God consider sin? (Not doing the good we know to do)
6. A. According to 1 John 3:9, can someone who is born of God sin? (No)  
B. When can we approach God through who we are in our born-again spirits? (Anytime)

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## Lesson 8 – Outline

1. What God does in the spirit always remains constant and unchanging regardless of fluctuations in your performance.
2. A newly born-again believer will often become vulnerable to discouragement, doubt, and unbelief because they don't understand that the change took place in their spirit and that the rest of the Christian life is renewing their mind to believe and release what God has already put inside them.
  - A. Looking only in the physical realm, it's easy for them to conclude, "It didn't work. The Word isn't true. God didn't change me, because everything's still the same."
  - B. The devil wants to stop your witness, so he'll often throw everything he has against you as soon as you're born again.
3. Jesus became sin so you could become righteous.

**"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Cor. 5:21).**

- A. Jesus became what you were so you could become what He is.
  - B. He took your sin and gave you His righteousness.
  - C. If you believe the first half of 2 Corinthians 5:21, then you ought to believe the second half too.
  - D. God sees you as righteous and truly holy because He's looking at your spirit.
4. God is pleased with you.

**"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. 1:5-6).**

- A. "Accepted" is the same Greek word as "highly favored."

**"And the angel [Gabriel] came in unto her [Mary], and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women" (Luke 1:28, brackets mine).**

- B. As the woman who bore Christ was accepted, so are you highly favored of the Lord.
5. Once you believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit.



**“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise” (Eph. 1:13).**

- A. All the righteousness, holiness, and goodness your born-again spirit was recreated with was immediately sealed tight with the Holy Spirit.
  - B. When you were born again, your spirit was immediately encased—vacuum packed—by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of preservation.
  - C. When you fail in any area of your life after being saved, the rottenness, uncleanness, and defilement that comes to your body and soul doesn't penetrate your spirit.
  - D. This Holy Spirit seal keeps the good in and the bad out.
6. Sin isn't only doing something wrong by violating a command; it's also not doing something right that you should have done.

**“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17).**

- A. According to God's definition of sin, everyone constantly falls short.
  - B. If you don't understand that the Holy Spirit encased your born-again spirit, your conscience will eventually give you the impression that you've lost the righteousness and true holiness your spirit was created in.
7. When you sin, your spirit doesn't participate.

**“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God” (1 John 3:9).**

- A. You are as righteous and holy now—in your spirit—as you will ever be.
- B. No matter how you're performing in your body and soul, you can always approach God through who you are in your born-again spirit.

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## *Lesson 8 – Additional Information*

Many people struggle to understand 1 John 3:9 because its context clearly shows that Christians do sin:

**“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us”**  
(1 John 1:8).

**“If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us”**  
(1 John 1:10).

**“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous”**  
(1 John 2:1).

These are three instances from the same letter where the writer, the Apostle John, talks about sinning. The first two communicate, “If you say you haven’t sinned, you’re a liar.” He adds, “I’m writing to you so that you will not (future tense) sin. But if you do sin, you have an advocate with the Father.” Then, in 3:9 he declares, “If you’re born of God, you cannot sin.” That sounds very contradictory!

Both Scripture and experience reveal that Christians can sin. The context of 1 John shows that 3:9 isn’t saying that it’s impossible for a born-again believer to do something that’s sin. Yet, it also clearly says that if you’re born of God, you cannot sin. How can this be?

### ***Big & Little Sins?***

Some people take 1 John 3:9 to mean you can’t “habitually” sin. Several Bible translations now even render it this way. People who think along this line preach: “If you were a drunk before you were saved, you might get drunk once or twice, but if you’re truly saved, you won’t habitually sin. Eventually, you’ll see victory in that area, or you weren’t truly born again.”

In order to embrace this view, you have to categorize sin—which God doesn’t. To Him, there are no “big” sins and “little” sins. By His definition, we all habitually sin. We all habitually fail to study God’s Word as much as we should. We all habitually fail to love others the way we should. We all habitually fail to be as considerate as we should. We habitually get into self-centeredness, and God has to habitually deal with us about it.

Sometimes we also pass over things that God calls sin. For instance, the Lord views gluttony the same as drunkenness, adultery, and murder (Deut. 21:20). Gluttony is a sin that can only happen habitually. You can’t become overweight by eating just one large meal. Even if you gorged yourself, it would only make a pound or two of difference. In order to gain an extra fifty to a hundred pounds, you’d have to do it again and again and again. Being overweight is a habitual sin. This isn’t to condemn anyone but to put things in perspective.

If you interpret 1 John 3:9 to mean that you cannot habitually sin if you're truly born of God, then nobody would qualify, because we all habitually sin! The only way this can be preached is to say, "Well, you can't habitually do the 'big' sins, but the 'little' ones—yes, you can habitually sin." That's not what this verse is saying.

If you understand spirit, soul, and body, the interpretation of 1 John 3:9 is obvious. Your spirit is the only part of you that's been born of God. Your soul and body have been purchased, but not yet redeemed. Therefore, your spirit cannot sin even though your body and soul can. This means your performance doesn't affect the purity and holiness of your born-again spirit!

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### *Lesson 8 – Discipleship Questions*

1. Who is 2 Corinthians 5:17 speaking of?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. Who was made sin for us?
3. Had He known any sin before that?
4. Why was He made sin for us?
5. Until now, have you only believed the first half of 2 Corinthians 5:21?
6. Use Ephesians 1:5-6 and Luke 1:28 to create a personalized Scripture confession. Then read it out loud, declaring God's Word over your life.
7. According to Ephesians 1:13, in whom did you trust?
8. What kind of "word" did you hear?
9. How is the Gospel described in this verse?
10. What happened once we believed?
11. According to James 4:17, what is sin if you don't do it?
12. First John 3:9 says that \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ does not commit sin.
13. What remains in them?
14. Therefore, can they sin?



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## *Lesson 8 – Answer Key*

1. Anyone who is in Christ.
2. Jesus.
3. No.
4. That we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.
5. Explain.
6. Example: **“God predestinated me to be adopted as His child by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He has made me accepted in the Beloved. I am blessed and highly favored because the Lord is with me. Hallelujah!”**
7. Jesus Christ.
8. The word of truth.
9. The gospel of salvation.
10. We were sealed with the Holy Spirit.
11. The good you know to do.
12. Whosoever, born, God.
13. His seed.
14. No.



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## *Lesson 8 – Scriptures*

**“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17).**

**“And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” (Eph. 4:24).**

**“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21).**

**“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. 1:5-6).**

**“And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women” (Luke 1:28).**

**“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise” (Eph. 1:13).**

**“Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world” (1 John 4:17).**

**“But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit” (1 Cor. 6:17).**

**“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17).**

**“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God” (1 John 3:9).**

**“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8).**

**“If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 John 1:10).**

**“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1).**

**“And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard” (Deut. 21:20).**