

Keys to Discipleship #4

What 6 Things Happen When You Become a Christian? (FHIDLS)

The new covenant is built upon a direct, intimate relationship with God where sins are not an issue nor is the Law nor is our flesh. Review “New Covenant Ministry” sheet from our second time together. In terms of what happens when you become a Christian, let’s memorize six elements using an acrostic: FHIDLS. Based on Lk. 22:20, 1 Cor. 11:25, Ezek. 36:25-27, Jer. 31:31-34, Heb. 7:18-22, 8:6-12, 2 Cor. 3:4-18 (read these passages):

FORGIVENESS of sins - I will be merciful to your iniquities and remember your sins no more! Forgiveness = to send away from, release. The price has been paid, Jesus’ blood has been shed, our sins have been forgiven. Yes, it is undeserved, but it is done and complete. It’s tragic that some Christians still think & live as if God still holds their sins against them. We accept ourselves as forgiven because this is what God Himself states! Why are sinners lost today? Not because of sins, but because they haven’t by faith turned to the forgiving Jesus as Lord. (Heb. 8:12, Jer. 31:34, Ps. 32:1-5, Lk. 24:47, Acts 2:38, 5:31, 13:38-39, 26:18, Eph. 1:7, Col. 1:14, Heb. 10:17-18, 1 Jn. 1:9, 2:12)

HEART made new - I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. A heart/spirit transplant! A new identity. God dealt with who we were IN Adam and made us His new creation IN Christ. We are now saints (holy ones) by nature. We no longer are who we used to be—sinners by nature. (Ezek. 36:26, Ezek. 11:19, Rom. 5:11-6:23, 2 Cor. 5:17, Eph. 2:10)

INTIMATE relationship with God - I will be your personal, intimate God, and you shall be My people. This has always been God’s plan, that we know Him as Father and He knows us as part of His family. As our Father, He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He chose us. He predestined us to adoption as sons. We have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” We are His children and heirs. (Heb. 8:10, Jer. 31:33, Lk. 11:2, Jn. 17:3, 20:17, Rom. 8:15-17, Eph. 1:3-5)

DIRECT access to God - You won’t need a priest or teacher to get to know Me. You will have direct access to Me and knowledge of Me. You won’t need to go to a temple or offer a certain sacrifice. Jesus is the permanent, perfect high priest. We go directly to and through Him. The indwelling Holy Spirit will teach us. (Heb. 8:11, Jer. 31:34, Mk. 15:38, Rom. 8:26-28, 1 Jn. 2:27)

LAWS of God - My laws will be on your mind and heart, not on tablets of stone. He gives His own children hearts that long to obey. We delight to do His will. We don’t follow His laws because we ‘have to’ but because we ‘want to’! It’s not external motivation but internal. We’re not under the written Law anymore. We’ve been freed from that so we can serve in newness of the Spirit. (Heb. 8:10, Jer. 31:33, Rom. 7:4-6, 8:2-4, Gal. 5:18, 2 Cor. 3:2-8)

SPIRIT of God - I will place My Spirit within you. The Holy Spirit taking up permanent residence in our physical bodies so He can live the life of Jesus through us. (Ezek. 36:27, Jn. 14:16-17, Rom. 8:11, 1 Cor. 6:19, Eph. 3:16)