



“The Power to Become...”

Tim Canup

In the opening verses of the Gospel of John, we find an introduction to the “Word” who became flesh. Then John wrote, “He {Jesus the Christ} was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not” (John 1:10-11). In verse 12, John makes a contrast, “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” There are many in the world who have rejected Jesus the Christ as the Savior of the world; however, those who do not have great spiritual blessings (cf. Ephesians 1:3f).

There is an important teaching found in John 1:12 that must be properly understood. According to this verse, those who receive Jesus are those who believe in Him; believe that He is the Christ (John 8:24). The apostle John wrote that to those who believe (or have faith) would receive the power (or right) to become a child of God, or a Christian. Those who have faith have the power to become a Christian, thus indicating that they are not yet one.

According to this verse, our faith alone does not save us; it gives us the power or right to become a Christian. Faith is important. The writer of the book of Hebrews wrote, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (11:6). James said, “Even so faith, if it hath not works {of obedience}, is dead, being alone...Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (James 2:17,24). Faith is what motivates us to obey the commandments of God found in the New Testament. Obedience to all those commandments is what saves us.

It is very common in our world today to hear men teach that at the point of faith, if you pray to God, you will be saved. This is in direct contradiction to what the Bible teaches. Does popularity of a doctrine mean that it will be acceptable with God? Certainly not! Jesus Christ

“...became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Hebrews 5:9). We have already been given the commandments that we are to obey, and we cannot change them (Revelation 22:18-19). Jesus Christ will not change them for He is “the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8).

By your faith alone in Jesus Christ, you are not yet a child of God, but you have the power to become one if you are willing to act upon that faith in obedience to the commandments given by God to be saved. If you would like to know more about what to do to become a Christian, or if you would like to enroll in a correspondence course by mail (no cost or obligation to you), please return this coupon to: Back To The Bible; 221 Barnett Street; West Jefferson, NC 28694 or visit our website @ www.wjchurchofchrist.org.

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