



I AM A NEW CREATION!

In September of 1993, a man named Kim Carpenter stood before his family and friends as he exchanged a vow with the love of his life and his best friend, Krickitt. They promised to love each other all the days of their lives, no matter what. And with an “I do,” they became a *new* union. They were no longer separate individuals. The two truly became one. Less than 10 weeks later, though, *everything* came under attack. A nearly fatal car accident left Krickitt with brain injuries that completely erased several years of short-term memories, including meeting, dating and marrying her now husband, Kim. She was a wife, but her memories were blocked from *feeling* it. Miraculously, the Carpenters decided to honor the promise they’d made. They began to “date” again and in getting to know her husband, she fell deeply in love with him a second time. They renewed their vows three years later and as of this writing, have spent the last two decades bringing hope to marriages everywhere!

When you came to Christ, *you came into a new union, too*. Your old nature died, and you became a totally *new* creation, raised and seated with him! You are now part of the Bride of Christ, and he stands as your husband. Maybe you’ve faced days where something is blocking you from remembering or *feeling* it. Your enemy would love to convince you that you are still defeated and weak — that nothing changed when you came to Jesus. But you *are* new. Maybe it is time for you to enter into renewed intimacy of going on “dates” with Jesus to fall in love with him all over again. As you do, rest securely in this: your old life is forever gone. You are no longer under the bondage of sin. You are no longer defeated. You are no longer alone. You are married to him. You are new...and he will *never* break his vow to keep washing over you until you experience this reality in all its fullness!

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation! The old has passed away; behold the *new* has come! All this is from God!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) – Emphasis added.

“You were taught, with regard to your *former* way of life, to *put off your old self*, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be *made new* in the attitude of your minds; and to *put on the new self*, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness” Ephesians 4:22-24 – Emphasis added.

“You have taken off your old self with its practices and have *put on the new self*, which is being *renewed* in knowledge in the image of its Creator” Colossians 3:9b-10 – Emphasis added.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. What lies from the enemy try to convince you that you are *not* a new creation?

I am a bad/dirty person.

I’m not worthy of love.

I will always struggle with this specific sin.

Bad things will always happen to me.

Everything that goes wrong is my fault.

I don’t love God enough.

I should never have been born.

Other _____

2. What are some practical ideas for “dates” with Jesus to get to know and trust him deeper?

WORSHIP RESOURCE:

“You saw me in my brokenness. You poured hope over my hopelessness!”

Listen to “Unfailing Love” by Ruth Spiegel. Find more info about Ruth’s album at the back of the devotional.

PRAYER:

Abba, I thank you that my old identity is gone and that you have made all things new. I now carry your DNA and know that one day, I will see you face to face. What a glorious day that will be! I bow before you in gratitude and praise! Teach me who I really am today. When I cannot see clearly or I seem to forget, I invite the voice of the Holy Spirit to teach me and to remind me all things about who I am and who you are. Silence the voice of my enemy and lead me to walk in greater intimacy with you!

LISTENING TIME:

Stop for a few minutes and ask the Lord what he wants to say to you. He might bring to mind a picture, a word, a song, an encouragement, a Scripture or an answer to a burden in your heart. Don’t rush or feel pressure to figure out the meaning of your impressions. Just invite him to speak and draw or write down what you sense. Afterward, ask God to help you discern and understand what he is saying to you. You might want to ask other trusted friends in the Kingdom for their input as well.

USE THE FOLLOWING SPACE TO RECORD WHAT GOD IS SAYING



TOOLS FOR FAMILY DEVOTIONS:

Talk about what takes place on home renovation TV shows when an old house is gutted and made entirely new. Practically speaking, what does it mean that Jesus made us “new” in him?

TOOLS FOR PRAYING FOR OTHERS:

Pray for a specific person to recognize that their worth, talent and gifts are from God. Optional Activity: Read the book, “The Vow,” by Kim and Krickitt Carpenter or watch the movie.