

The New Version

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

My friend said, “You can’t have a new and improved version of Aaron Jeffers.” Well that’s exactly what I’ve been trying to do my whole life. Striving to fix myself with prayer, Bible reading, Worship, and tuck a few good deeds in there. It just doesn’t work.

The Bible says, “Our righteous acts are like filthy rags.” You don’t want to know the literal Hebrew meaning of filthy rags in this context, but I can tell you this with the utmost assurance: You don’t ever...EVER want a new and improved version of this old material.

Jesus tells us that we’re a new creation, and if you’re like me, you’ve thought, “Where in the world is this new creation at?”

So where in the world is that new creation? It’s found in Christ. Not found in my feeble attempts to change or get it right. It’s found all and only in Him by faith. I could spend the rest of my life working to be like Jesus, or I could just make life a whole lot easier on myself and others by finding life in liking, loving, and knowing Jesus. That’s when prayer, worship, and reading the Bible work.

See the difference? Pharisees of today don’t because they’re actually obsessed with the thought that if they try hard enough for long enough, that they will “get it right”, and attain Jesus-like perfection on their own strength. Who gets the glory for that?

Praise God that Jesus doesn’t need any improvement, because Jesus has everything we need to make us perfect in God’s eyes. I am a NEW creation because I’m IN Christ, not version “I’m Gonna-try harder one, two, or three-point-five of Aaron Jeffers.” I’m new, not because what I do, but because of what’s been done for me through Jesus.