

## Are You Wondering...

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5:40). To receive this new life, open your heart and your mouth and say:

*“Lord Jesus Christ,  
I want a new start with You as my life.  
Thank You that this life is a wonderful law that will  
spontaneously operate in me.  
Lord Jesus, I open now  
to receive You as my life.”*

# Will It Work This Year?

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A monkey can be dressed as a human being and taught to walk on two feet, to dance, and to ride a bicycle. The performance may be excellent, but after the music stops and the show ends the monkey is still a monkey. Our situation is similar. We can change our outward habits for a little while, but we cannot change our inward nature. Maybe we try to develop a strong will to control our desires or resist temptations, but regardless of our attempts we do not fully succeed and fundamentally we remain the same.

In the Bible, in Romans 7, we see the personal experience of a man called Paul who struggled to be a good person. He tried very hard, but kept failing in a particular matter. Observing his behaviour, he came to the conclusion that no matter how much he willed to do good by his own effort, he could not do it. Eventually he said in despair, “Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from the body of this death?” (Rom. 7:24)

Fortunately, that is not the end of the story. Paul discovered the secret that would set him free from this frustrating struggle (Phil. 4:12-13; Gal. 2:20). He realised that no amount of resolving would cause him to succeed and that what he needed was a new life. This life is Christ (Col. 3:4). This does not mean that we live by the power of Christ, but rather, Christ is our life and He is living in us. Romans 8:2 tells us that this life is a law, which makes it spontaneous. Just as the force of gravity is a law that causes objects to fall to the ground, so the Christian life is a law that accomplishes everything in us automatically. God has given us His Son Jesus Christ to be our life (John 3:16), and with Christ as our life, there is no need to rely on our self-effort but simply allow the law of the Spirit of life to operate in us.

Like Paul, we simply need to accept Christ’s invitation to come to Him that we may have life (John 10:10b; John