



TRUTHS CONCERNING WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST

I am accepted...

I am God's child.

John 1:12 *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name*

In the Greek, the word “right” is *exousia*. It means the power of authority (influence) and of right (privilege). In some translations it is translated “power”. The word believe, in the Greek is *pisteuo*. That is the word used often for “faith”. It means “all in”, like in Romans 10:9,10 – “If we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead we shall be saved.” When we believe, we are given the right and power to be His children. We can't earn this title, it is something we receive by grace. Jesus said in John 6 that we can only come to Him if the Father draws us. We become His children because He orchestrated it. Our relationship wasn't initiated nor is it sustained based on us. We are His children by Grace and Grace alone. I encourage you to lean into this relationship. You are His child. He initiated the relationship. He loves you much more than an earthly father can love their children. It is a powerful thing to be given the right to become a child of God.

PRAYER:

Father, thank you for giving me the right and power to be your child. I pray that I can understand more and more what that means. Help me to trust you like a child, looking to you as my source and sufficiency. Help me to lay aside the tendency to try to earn good standing with you by my performance. May I be secure in your Father's love toward me. In Jesus' Name, amen.

As a disciple, I am a friend of Jesus Christ.

John 15:15 *I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*

One of the dichotomies of the Kingdom is how we are simultaneously slaves to the Father and friends of Jesus. Paul describes this unique situation with the word *bondservant*. The willing submission of one to another. What differentiates us from a technical bondservant is the fact that Jesus desires to fill us in on the Father's plans and purposes. Even though He reveals things according to His divine timing, His desire is to illuminate aspects of His will for us as needed. We can rest assured that His desire is that we are not floundering about, aimlessly wandering in the midst of confusion. If we feel that way, the best thing we can do is move back into a place of friendship and intimacy with Him.

PRAYER:

Father, thank you for allowing me to walk in an intimate friendship with you. I pray that I won't shrink back from the friendship you desire to have with me. Help me to have the courage to become intimate with you. In Jesus' Name, amen.

I have been justified.

Romans 5:1 *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*

Often, we think peace comes from doing, saying, and thinking all the right things. It doesn't take long to realize that true, lasting peace doesn't come from the grades we receive from ourselves or others based on our performance. Deep peace can only come from something, Someone much deeper than us. When we become children of God, we are justified by Him. Justified is a legal term meaning that we stand as if we never committed whatever transgressions stand before us. It's as if we received a Presidential Pardon – our crime, technically, was never committed. Grace justifies us. When we understand the depth and breadth of Grace, we can truly be at peace. Not a cheap peace, knowing we "got away" with something, but a deep peace, knowing that we didn't get away with anything, but our crimes were paid for. For some of us, this is a hard truth to accept. We feel that since we "did the crime" we need to "do the time". When it comes to our sin, we have no ability to make it right before God. That's where faith comes in – we need to receive His very uncomfortable Grace by faith. Then we can live with peace because Jesus paid the price already. Isaiah 53:5 says that the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him.

PRAYER:

Father, thank you for the deep peace you have made available for me through Jesus. I pray that I can receive the price that Jesus paid for my sin and walk by faith in the power of

justification. May I quit trying to fix things myself or punishing myself and others for my actions. I receive, by faith, the fact that the punishment that will bring me peace was upon Him. In Jesus' Name, amen.

I am united with the Lord, and I am one with Him in Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:17 But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*.

When we become children of God, we know that it's initiated by Him. In John 15:16 Jesus said that we didn't choose Him, but He chose us. When we respond to that, we are joined with Him and the Spirit of God dwells in us. That's why over and over in the Bible He declares His presence and commitment to us. Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

As David said in Psalm 139:7-12 Where can I go from Your Spirit?

Or where can I flee from Your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there;

If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.

⁹ If I take the wings of the dawn,

If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,

¹⁰ Even there Your hand will lead me,

And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,

And the light around me will be night,"

¹² Even the darkness is not dark to You,

And the night is as bright as the day.

Darkness and light are alike *to You*.

In our darkest times, in our most unfaithful times, He has not abandoned us – He is faithful and present.

Our tendency is to run from God when we get discouraged, despondent, and/or depressed. We want to do what Adam and Eve did when they sinned – hide from God.

Just as in the garden, God seeks us out when we sin. He wants us to run to Him in the dark times.

We are one with Him in Spirit and He desires us.

PRAYER:

Thank you, Father, for being faithful when I have been unfaithful. Thank you for not denying your commitment to me when I have run from you. I pray that I can have the courage to run to you in the dark times because you are not affected by the darkness as I am. I pray that you will “lay hold of me” and lead me back to a place of security and safety in you. In Jesus’ Name, amen.

I have been bought with a price and I belong to God.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

One of the tactics of the enemy is to try to devalue us. He tries to convince us that we have no worth or value. We can start to see ourselves through those filters and the domino effect can be debilitating.

Of course, we have seen people over compensate on the “positive self-image” side of things and get out of balance on the other extreme of self-perception. In the middle of this pendulum swing is the truth that our value runs deep, but it not because of us or our “performance”, gifts, talents, etc. Our value comes from the cost that was paid for us – we were bought with a price, a very high price. The value of something is determined by the price someone is willing to pay for it. We could look at something and it may not seem that impressive to us, but we are amazed at what people are willing to pay to obtain it – like antiques, coins, stamps, art, etc.

We can look in the mirror and may not be that impressed with what we see. We can take an inventory of our life and fail to see value. But if we look at the price God was willing to pay for us, then our true value is revealed.

PRAYER:

Thank you, Father, for seeing value in me when I did not. Thank you seeing value in me when others did not. Thank you for paying the ultimate price to purchase me and make me your own. I pray that I could begin to view who I am through your filters and walk in the truth and power that I am not my own, I was bought with a price. In Jesus’ Name, amen.

I am a member of Christ’s body.

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now you are Christ’s body, and individually members of it.

The Greek word for member in this verse is *melos*. It is a biological word that was used in the Greek culture exclusively to describe limbs and parts of the human body.

As children of God, He sees us as *melos* of His Body. For a *melos* to be healthy, it has to be connected to the other *melos*. If a person was to cut off their arm, the arm would suffer, and the rest of the body would suffer. When we are cut off from the Body of Christ, we are

affected and those that the Father wants us to impact and encourage are affected. Unfortunately, many people can't distinguish the cottage industry in the Western world that we call "church" from how God defines His Church, His Body. To be who God intends us to be, we need to be connected to His Body.

PRAYER:

Thank you, Father, for making me a melos in your Body. I pray that I can look beyond the dysfunctional organization that man has turned "church" into and have the courage to connect with others who you have called to be your children. Use others to impact my life and use me to impact theirs as I live out who you created me to be, the unique melos I was designed to be. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

I have been chosen by God and adopted as His child.

Ephesians 1:3-8 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight

In John 15:16, Jesus said we did not choose Him, but He chose us and appointed us that we would go and bear fruit. In verse 5 above, it says we were adopted as His by Him according to the kind intention of His will. When children are born to their biological parents it may or may not have been intentional. When a child is adopted, that is a very intentional act. When a child is adopted, they are a part of the family and become recipients of all that the family has to offer in terms of love, support, provision, etc. As adopted children of God, we have access to His forgiveness, grace, mercy, and love. Just as children must choose to pursue an intimate relationship with their parents we must choose to pursue intimacy with God. God was very intentional in His choice of you as His children. He has lavished His love, forgiveness, and grace on you. Run to Him and not from Him and receive all that He has for you.

PRAYER:

Thank you, Father, for adopting me as your child. I know I am your child because of your kind intention. I pray that I would not buy into the lie of satan that I am cut off and disqualified for your love, forgiveness, mercy, and grace because of my frail humanity. May I have the courage to humble myself before you and confess all my sin and leave it at your feet and walk forward with the confidence that your love for me is based in your character and not mine. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.

Colossians 1:13-14 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

When we are born-again and are given the right to become children of God, we don't just adopt a new set of beliefs and embrace a new worldview. God sets us free from the power and penalty of sin and transfers our citizenship to His Kingdom. We are redeemed by God, He literally pays the price for our freedom from the domain of darkness. He paid the ransom hanging over us with the life of Jesus. The highest price that could have been paid was paid to purchase our forgiveness. We don't deserve it, but we no longer have to walk under the guilt and condemnation of our sin, we were bought with a price.

PRAYER:

Thank you, Father, for rescuing me from the domain of darkness. Thank you for paying the price so that I can walk in freedom from sin. Thank you that I am forgiven because of your great mercy and grace. May I have the courage to walk out my freedom and not allow the enemy to shackle me with condemnation. May I walk in the authority and power that you have given me when you transferred me into your Kingdom. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

I am complete in Christ.

Colossians 2:9-10 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, ¹⁰and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

When we are born of God and become His children, He doesn't just rescue us and then let us fend for ourselves. When He redeems us, we have the opportunity to partner with Him in His deep work of Grace in our lives. Through Jesus we have been made complete. We need to lean into all that means in our lives. The Greek word for complete is pleroo and it means to make full, fill up, to accomplish, to consummate. The power of our redemption is rooted in the power of pleroo. No matter where we came from or what we've done, Jesus has the "rule and authority" to accomplish His work in our lives. Our responsibility is to present ourselves to Him to allow His pleroo work to be facilitated in our lives. (Romans 12:1,2)

PRAYER:

Thank you, Father, for making me complete in Christ. Thank you that my past, my sin, and my frail humanity are not greater than your ability to work in and through my life. I present myself to you and give you all "rule and authority" over my life. I ask you to bring your completeness to those areas of my life that I've allowed to be shattered. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

I have direct access to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 4:14-16 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

One of the most powerful things about Christianity is that it is the only World Religion that is not about us trying to clamor to appease some deity and try to measure up as we perform various duties, rituals, etc. – it is all about the Creator reaching down to us, to restore relationship.

Because God initiated relationship with us, He has guaranteed everything we need to nurture relationship with Him.

He gives us direct access, at any time, to His Grace. All we need to do is draw near to Jesus. Unfortunately, our sin and shortcomings cause us to withdraw from Him because of guilt and condemnation. We feel that we are not worthy to approach Him. The truth is that we, in and of ourselves, are not worthy to approach Him in any way, shape, or form. But, because of Jesus we can approach God with confidence. Confident that the blood of Jesus is powerful enough to cleanse all of our sins. Confident that Jesus paved the way for us to have an intimate relationship with God. Confident that His Grace and Mercy are given to us based on the obedience of Jesus and nothing else.

PRAYER:

Thank you, Father, for allowing me to approach you, even approach you with confidence. Thank you that you always have Grace and Mercy available for me in my time of need. When I am in need, I don't feel confident. When I have sinned, I don't feel confident. May I always have the faith to approach you in my time of need. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

I am secure...

I am free from condemnation.

Romans 8:1-2 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

Whether or not we like it, we live under “law” while we are on this planet. We can have the illusion that we can shed the restrictions of law, but no one is exempt.

Even if a person was on a deserted Island, all alone, they are subject to law – the proverbial “law of the jungle”, the law of gravity, physics, etc.

Most cultures have many layers of law, some have fewer. If we zoom out far enough, there are ultimately 2 laws at work for all mankind. The law of sin and death was introduced in the Garden and all people since have been born under the dominion of that law. Through Jesus Christ, God made a way for His creation to be set free from the law of sin and death. Not just shielded from that law, but literally set free from it. The struggle for those who have been set free by the new law of life through Christ is that sometimes we digress into behavior and motives that were deposited along the way under the old law. When this happens, the tendency is to be paralyzed by the condemnation that dominate our thinking. The enemy loves to take advantage of the opportunity to have us focus on our failure and slip into the yoke of the old law, running from the Father in shame instead of to Him in repentance. The privilege we have to confess our sins and be 100% cleansed from the penalty and power of it is because we are now under a new law, new rules, new consequences. We can approach God with confidence, knowing we will be judged by the new law, not the old one – the Law of Life, not the Law of Death.

PRAYER:

Thank you, Father, for not only providing a new with which to judge me but setting me free from the old law that condemned me to a life of bondage and failure. I pray that I would allow the new law of life to frame my identity and not the old law of death. I pray that I can walk in the power of forgiveness and not the paralysis of condemnation. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

I am assured that God works for my good in all circumstances.

Romans 8:28 *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

This verse has been used out of context probably more than most verses. Most people think this means everything going to be just fine because God will fix everything. A more accurate meaning could be that God can use everything, even our mistakes, failures, disappointments, injustice against us, etc. to form and fashion us into who He designed us to be. As humans, we zoom way in and focus on the immediacy of everything. Of course, we need to be attentive in the moment, but we also need to zoom out and try to look at things from the Father's perspective also. If we just look "down" at our circumstances we will miss a bigger picture and we will be most likely miss out in the fullness of God's purpose. This is why Paul encourages us in Colossians 3:2 to *set our minds on things above and not things below*. The writer of Hebrews encourages us in chapter 12 verse 2 to raise our gaze and *fix our eyes on Jesus*.

Especially in those times when we feel trapped in the negative consequences of our own or other's choices – we need to look to the Father for His perspective. In Ephesians 1:11-14 it says: *In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,* ¹² *in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.* ¹³ *And you also were*

included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Paul reiterates what Jesus said in John 15:16 – *we did not choose Him, He chose us to bear fruit and fruit that will last.* When we responded to Him, we were sealed with the Holy Spirit. From that moment on, the Father is working to facilitate His good, pleasing, and perfect will in our lives – even when “all hell breaks loose”. He has the power to work out *EVERYTHING* in conformity with the purpose of His will. Sometimes we can't see how things can be redeemed or changed for the good, but we need to trust God's word and character more than we trust our feelings or perception.

PRAYER:

Thank you, Father, for working for my good regardless of the situation I end up in. Jesus said that in this world I will have trouble but to be of good cheer because He has overcome the world. I pray that I will have the humility and courage to fix my eyes on Jesus when I am in the tough sections of the journey and cooperate with you as you work out everything in conformity with the purpose of your will. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

I am free from any condemnation brought against me and I cannot be separated from the love of God.

Romans 8:31-39 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? ³³ Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; ³⁴ who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written, “For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Our lives are full of “successes” and “failures”. As humans we tend to determine value and self-worth from the accumulative scorecard of the ebb and flow of the circumstances in our lives. Some people are wired to be overly optimistic about their scorecard and others can be overly pessimistic.

Swinging to either extreme in our self-estimation can be unhealthy and ultimately unprofitable.

One challenge just about everyone has to deal with is some level of feeling they don't "measure up". For some this degrades into a discontentment and skewed sense of striving throughout life and for others it can lead to deep discouragement and condemnation. At the end of the day, everyone could have done "better" and accomplished "more", made less "mistakes", etc, etc.

As children of God, we have the advantage of being about to frame our value and self-worth in His love for us. We make plenty of mistakes and fall far short of the glory of God. One of the most amazing things about Grace is that, in the midst of our frail humanity, we always have the refuge of God's love to turn to. We have the privilege of confessing our sins to Him and walking in the power of forgiveness.

PRAYER: Thank you, Father, for your amazing Grace and limitless love for me. I ask you to help me press past the tendency to focus on my failures, shortcomings, missed opportunities, etc and fix my eyes on Jesus. Help me to see myself through your filters and embrace who you made me to be. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

I have been established, anointed and sealed by God.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, ²² who also sealed us and gave *us* the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

Often we get so caught up in the daily grind of life that we fail to zoom out and get a proper perspective of what is really going on at the foundation of our lives. When we get tunnel vision or shortsighted concerning the totality of our lives, it's easy to get sidetracked and knocked off course. How and where we set our minds determines a lot of how we experience life.

Colossians 3:2 tells us *to set our mind on things above and not things below*. Paul isn't talking about a shallow "Positive Mental Attitude", he is encouraging us to frame our lives within a "Proper Mental Attitude". It's not just semantics, it makes a big difference. Where we need to start is with the truth that God has established and anointed us, sealed us and placed the Holy Spirit in us as a sign of His commitment to us – His pledge.

The truth is that He has done that already, but if we don't recognize, accept, and embrace it then we are left to keep our minds set on "things below" and that inevitably breeds discouragement and frustration.

PRAYER: Thank you, Father, for your powerful and deep commitment in my life. Help me to learn how to raise my gaze and not be consumed with the things below. Help me to see more

and more from your perspective and lean into all that you have for me. As I have to navigate daily life here below, may I do it in a way that reflects what you have deposited in me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

I am hidden with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:1-4 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

One of the things that is very challenging to comprehend at times is the tension between the sovereignty of God and the free will of man. Nobody has the 100% right perception of it because, at the end of the day, we can't fully understand all His ways and we are definitely limited in our ability to see from an eternal perspective. This truth of our identity in Christ is a perfect example. In His sovereignty we *have been raised up with Christ*, but we are instructed to *keep seeking the things above*. With all the power and provision of the Father at our disposal, we must take steps to respond to what He has for us.

It's easy to allow our temporal circumstances to frame our thinking about eternal truth. We must have the courage to look beyond ourselves, our circumstances, our fears, our opinions, etc. and embrace the truth that we have Life in Jesus, we can hide in Him.

PRAYER:

Thank you, Father, for raising me up with Christ. Thank you for giving me Life in Christ. Please help me to raise my gaze. Help me to not get drawn down into the weeds and fixate on temporal. Give me the courage to bring the temporal to you and find refuge in the hiding place, which is Christ.

I am confident that God will complete the good work He started in me.

Philippians 1:6. *For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*

One thing that we can be confident of, the Father is committed to working in and through us to bring us to maturity in Christ. Paul says in **2 Timothy 2:13** *If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.* His commitment runs deep in our lives. When we blow it, we often run from Him. The enemy fills our minds with doubt, fear, and condemnation. Like the dad in the story of the prodigal son, God is watching and waiting for us to run to Him so that He can continue to work in our lives. The amazing thing is that He will even use the pain and consequences of our sin to work in our lives, by showing us and others the depth of His Grace and Forgiveness through us.

PRAYER: Thank you, Father, for what you have started in my life and I am confident that you desire to continue to work in and through me. I commit to run to you and from you in my time of need. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

I am a citizen of heaven.

Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

The most powerful thing about this truth is that it allows us to navigate life with the proper perspective. Larry Norman said, "This world is not my home, I'm just passing through." While the passage on this planet can have some extremely challenging times, at the end of the day it is not our permanent home. The Father has given us the Grace to navigate this earthly journey and Jesus said He'll never leave us nor forsake us. As Kingdom citizens we are given the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us. Our responsibility is to simultaneously live as Kingdom citizens while living through the ebb and flow of life on earth. It is much easier to do the latter if we embrace the former.

PRAYER:

Thank you, Father, for making me a citizen of your Kingdom. May I not throw off the power that you give me to navigate this life. Help me to overcome any fear, doubt, condemnation, etc. that would keep me from living out my destiny as an ambassador for your Kingdom. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

I have not been given a spirit of fear/timidity but of power, love and a discipline

2 Timothy 1:7. For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

The Greek word for timidity is *deilia*, which means timidity, fearfulness, and cowardice. God wants to set us free from timidity, fearfulness, and cowardice. He has given us power, love, and discipline through His Grace and the finished work of Jesus on the cross.

If you read this verse in context of verses 6-9 you see that we are encouraged to be who God has made us to be. Don't be held back from using the gifts God placed in your life because you are shackled with the timidity and fear that comes from the condemnation of the enemy because of past behavior. God made each of us for a purpose. When we stray from that, He invites us to turn to Him and allow Him to trade our sin for forgiveness and *deilia* for power, love, and discipline.

Verses 6-9 For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

PRAYER:

Thank you, Father, for making a way for me to be set free from the deilia that wants to paralyze me. Thank you that I can shed the past through your forgiveness and walk in power, love, and discipline. Teach me how to be courageous in you and “kindle afresh” those gifts you’ve placed in me to be your Ambassador to my generation. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

I am significant...

I am a branch of Jesus Christ, the true vine, and a channel of His life

John 15:5. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

This statement from Jesus really gives a very amazing snapshot of our lives in the context of the Kingdom. The true core of everything revolves around our connection to Him. All the things people strive for in their pursuit of personal well-being - peace, joy, happiness, contentment, fulfillment, value, etc. comes from Him. Apart from Him, these things are fleeting at best. This is because He created each one of us with a purpose. According to Ephesians 2:10, *we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.* At the end of the day, these are the things that matter – what He prepared for us. We can set out to accomplish all kinds of things that aren’t prepared by Him. Each culture has paradigm of what is “successful” and a measuring system for everyone’s performance. If we get sucked into that mindset we are always striving and ultimately never “arrive” at wherever it is that we were wanting to land – there’s always something more, an inbred discontentment. The accumulation of things, acquisition of titles, etc. our only temporary “fixes”. When we have the courage to abide in Him and embrace His path for us, then we will enjoy a fruitful life in those things that really matter. We may not look like a “success” to the culture around us, at some point we must decide what audience we are playing to – an ever-shifting audience of our culture or an audience of One.

PRAYER:

Thank you, Father, that you have made a way for me to abide in you. May I have the courage to walk out what you made me to be. Regardless of my vocation, may my true life be in you. Help me to look beyond my cultural paradigms and see my life from your perspective. Help me to not measure myself by what others may think of me, help me to have the confidence and courage to play to an audience of One. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

I am seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenly realm.

Ephesians 2:6 ...and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus

The power of this verse is found in the context with which it was said:

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ²in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

All of us are, by nature, were children of wrath – bound by the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind. But God offers Grace to set us free. Not only set us free but raise us up and make us new. We are His trophies of Grace. Our failed past is a shining example of the surpassing riches of His Grace that He wants to show off to display His plan and purpose in Christ. We don't boast in our past mistakes, we embrace His Grace and walk in the power of forgiveness. We are no longer bound in the dungeon of our frail humanity, we are raised with Him to serve His purpose in our generation.

Prayer:

Thank you, Father, for reaching down to me in the midst of my sin and failure. Thank you for sending Jesus to provide a way out of the bondage of disobedience. Thank you that I can be made alive in Christ. I pray that I will have the courage to fully embrace your mercy, love, and grace. I want to cooperate in your life changing process in my life so that I can serve your purpose in my generation. In Jesus' Name, Amen

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.

John 15:16 You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

The ramifications of this statement are deep and powerful. So often we look at our relationship with God based on our performance and we tend to think that His love for us is mercurial, vacillating according to our daily report card. His love for us is one of the few constant things in our lives. He loves us so much that Jesus died for us. He loves us so much that He chose us. He loves us so much that He chose us for a purpose. He loves us so much that He designed us for life-long purpose. When we see our relationship from His perspective we can walk with confidence and security. Regardless of how we feel at any given moment, we are loved by Him, appointed by Him, and given purpose in life by Him. When we feel out of sync with that truth, we need to turn to Him and ask the Father in Jesus name to give us His perspective and He promises to meet us at our time of need.

PRAYER:

Thank you, Father, that you chose me. Thank you that you chose me for a purpose, I ask you to help me see my life and existence through your filters, please give me your perspective. Show me why I'm here and I ask that I can start bearing the fruit that you created me to produce. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

I am God's temple.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

The implications of this verse are far reaching. The fact that we are God's temple reinforces the truth that He is ever present with us. To some that is frightening, because they view Him as the divine policeman, but we can look at it another way: He is present to lead, guide, support, protect, and sustain us. We are not His project, we are His temple – His dwelling place. He resides in us. As we begin to grasp this and live it out, we will be changed.

Also, the fact that we are God's temple causes us to examine how we should treat ourselves, both physically and emotionally. We should be asking ourselves how we are treating His temple, what are we allowing to enter His temple, etc.

PRAYER:

Thank you, Father, that I am your temple. Thank you that you dwell in me. Thank you that you are ever present. I pray that I can embrace your presence and lean into what you want to do in me and through me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

I am a minister of reconciliation for God.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸ Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

One of the most amazing things about how God wants to work in our lives is that He desires to do a deep work of healing and reconciliation in us, not only so we can experience an intimate relationship with Him, but that we can be able to be His hand of reconciliation to others. When the Father forgives us of our sins He chooses not to hold them against us. We often categorize and catalog them and allow them to become a paralyzing weight, preventing us to be who He created us to be. Once we turn to Him for forgiveness, He can actually redeem our experience and use us in a powerful way to speak the message of reconciliation to those who may be on the same path as we were. When we allow Him to comfort us in our afflictions, He can use us to comfort others. **2 Corinthians 1:3,4** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.* Allow God to make you new and then look for opportunities to comfort those around you who may be experiencing some of the heart pain you have experienced.

PRAYER:

Thank you, Father, for your forgiveness and comfort. Thank you for making a way that my sins are not only forgiven but not held against me. Thank you for making a way that I could be made new. I pray that I would have the courage to embrace all you have for me and help me to be a voice of reconciliation to my sphere of influence. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

I am God's workmanship.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

It's very clear through the tapestry of the Scripture that God is very intentional in His creation. This also applies to us. When Jesus said in John **15:16** that we didn't choose Him, but He chose us and chose us to bear fruit, He was speaking of this divine intentionality. When we get off track and disobey the plan of God for our lives, the enemy would like to lie to us and make us feel that it's over. We can no longer serve His purpose and walk in the fruit we were chosen to produce. **Romans 11:29** says the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. No matter how

far we stray, when we turn back to Him and receive His forgiveness, He desires to get us back on track, so we can walk out who He created us to be.

PRAYER:

Thank you, Father, for creating me with divine intentionality. Thank you for placing gifts in me so that I can bear fruit for your Kingdom. Please help me to have the courage to walk out the love, acceptance, and forgiveness that you have poured out in my life so that I can be a messenger of your Grace to others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

I may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Ephesians 3:12 In whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

Our disobedience to God has many consequences. One that is very debilitating is the erosion of our confidence and boldness. This is manifested in different way with different people. Some start trying to manufacture a surface boldness and confidence that isn't grounded in forgiveness and grace and they just come off as arrogant and cocky. Some retreat into a funk that seems to want to suffocate them with a cloak of worthlessness and despair. Same root, different ways to deal with it. When we sin, God doesn't want us to try to mask it nor run from it. He desires us to honestly come to Him and ask forgiveness, then to move forward with a balanced and biblical boldness and confidence that comes from His Grace. **Hebrews 4:15,16** says, "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

PRAYER:

Thank you, Father, for your amazing Grace. Help me to fully embrace your Grace to the point of walking in the power of your forgiveness. Help me to quit masking or running from the debilitating effects of my sin. I confidently bring it all to you and ask that you will meet me in my time of need. Fill me with the boldness and confidence that you have apportioned to me by faith. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

This verse is so often quoted out of context. Many people use it to mean they can have all they want and be all they want, not always in context of God's good, pleasing, and perfect will for their lives. When Paul said this, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, He was talking about having the ability in Christ to walk in contentment. **Philippians 4:11-13** Not that I speak from

want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. ¹² I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. ¹³ I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. In our culture, it's hard to walk in contentment. We are pressured to live a life of comparison. We have a code of measurements that makes us want to assign a ranking to our worth based on vast array of accomplishments. Paul tells the Colossians in chapter 2 verse 8 to "see to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ." When we are POWs to the ways and thinking of the world around us rather than the principles of Christ, we can't walk in contentment, we are drained of the power to walk in strength. We can walk in the power and strength of contentment, which may seem impossible at times, because we can do all things through the strength of Jesus.

Prayer:

Thank you, Father, for the finished work of Jesus on the cross. Thank you that He paid the price to set me free from the captivity of the world's thinking. Help me continually turn to Him so that I'm not taken captive again by that thinking. Help me to walk in contentment and strength. In Jesus' Name, Amen.