

# OUR IDENTITY - KNOWING WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

Pastor Katy Reeves

## PART I

Christianity is not a religion. It is not a system of ethics. It is not a set of rules to guide man's conduct, but it is UNION with Deity.

John 4:24 says, Verily, verily I say unto you, He that hears My Word, and BELIEVES Him that sent Me, has Eternal Life.

What is Eternal Life? It is the Nature of God. Wherefore if any man is in Christ, there is a new species--a new kind of man. A new kind of man has come on the scene. He is a partaker of God's Nature!

Colossians 1:13,14 "Who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love; in whom we have our redemption, the remission of our sins."

This New Creation has been delivered out of the authority of Satan by the New Birth, has been translated into the Kingdom of the Son of God's love. He has a perfect redemption from the hand of the enemy. Satan's dominion over him has been broken! You remember that Satan is eternally defeated. He is eternally conquered, and that the New Creation has dominion over him. Believers are that New Creation.

Mark 16:17-21. "In My Name they shall cast out demons...they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover."

The Believer has passed out of the realm of Satan into the realm of God. We are superior to Satan and the inhabitants of the dark kingdom.

Philippians 4:11 in the Way's Translation says that we become 'independent of circumstances'. We live above want; we live where affluence cannot sway us. In all things and in everything we are the master. We are partakers of the Divine Nature.

II Peter 1:4.

By His glorious power we have been given precious promises that will enable us to act like God acts! These promises give us a like precious faith, righteousness, grace and peace, all things that pertain to life and godliness, glory and virtue, the divine nature and escape from corruption and lust.

I John 5:13, "These things have I written unto you, that you may know that you have eternal life, even unto you that BELIEVE on the Name of the Son of God--Jesus."

By your acting on that Word you pass out of the realm of Satan, out of weakness, into the realm of God." God's life becomes your life. The Believer shall lay hands on the sick and see them recover. They shall cast out demons. They shall pray and receive the answers to their prayers.

Romans 5:17, "For if, by the trespass of the one, death reigned through the one; much more shall they that receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, even Christ Jesus."

We reign as kings right here in the earth surrounded as we are with the work of the adversary, within the influence of the adversary. We are victors.

Can you understand what it would mean for a group of men and women to be 'independent of circumstances', to know their Father God so intimately that they never thought of the need of faith, or the need of ability, or the need of power? Can you conceive of a people to whom the Word is a living reality? Then you conceive of a people who are masters, who are dominant.

Jesus told His disciples to tarry in Jerusalem until you receive power from on high. (Acts 1:8; Luke 24:49) The word, 'power', is 'dunimas', and means 'ability'. This is thrilling. Jesus said "I want you to tarry in Jerusalem until you receive God's ability."

God's ability comes to man through the New Birth. You receive God's Nature, His very life. It sets you free from the dominion of Satan. Jesus Christ becomes your wisdom. Wisdom is God's ability to utilize circumstances, to utilize knowledge, to take advantage of opportunities, to see the mind of God where others can only see impossibilities.

II Corinthians 3:4,5 “And such confidence have we through Christ to Godward: not that we are sufficient of ourselves, to account anything as from ourselves; but our sufficiency is from God; who also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant; not of the letter, but of the Spirit.”

God becomes your sufficiency. He renews your mind after you receive Eternal Life so that you can grasp the significance of His Revelation in the Word. You can see yourself as a New Creation, a new species with the ability of God, with the great and mighty Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead actually living in YOU! (Romans 8:11). You can see yourself utilizing the authority that is invested in the Name of Jesus.

Matthew 28:18 tells us that all authority has been given to Jesus, in heaven and on earth. Then He gives to us the power of attorney to use His Name. John 14:13, 14 and 16:23, 24 show us the power of attorney to use the Name that has back of it all authority in heaven and on earth.

That Name heals diseases, breaks the dominion of Satan, conquers the very forces of the devil, makes the believer more than a conqueror in every field, takes him out of the realm of doubt and fear and gives him the courage of the faith of God. It takes him out of the realm of inefficiency and gives him the efficiency of God. Can you begin to see now that the New Creation is no common being?

However, if he has no instruction to show him what he is in Christ, and what his rights and privileges are, he lives as a common man.

I Corinthians 3:1 gives us a pathetic picture: “and I, brethren, could not speak to you as unto spiritual, but as to carnal, or sense-ruled, as unto babes in Christ.

I fed you with milk, not with meat; for you were not yet able to bear it; nay, not even now are you able; for you are yet ruled by your senses: for whereas there is among you jealousy and strife, are you not ruled by your senses and do you not walk as mere natural men?”

Paul was saying, “Because you are the sons of God, you could be masters of circumstances, and here you act like slaves!” Jesus was the Master of the laws of nature. He intended that the believers should be the masters of the laws of nature as well. An effective prayer masters circumstances and

all it takes is the faith of one individual to change the very course of history.

Once more let us consider **Romans 8:11**, “But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He that raised up Christ Jesus from the dead shall give life also to your mortal bodies through His Spirit that dwells in you.”

Do you know who the Holy Spirit is? He raised Jesus from the dead. He is Omnipotence. You have Omnipotence abiding in you when the Holy Spirit is living in you. What He did in the dead body of Jesus, He can do in your life. He can take your lips with God’s Words filling them, and lead men to Christ, heal the sick, cast out demons, break the dominion of sin and fear over the minds of men and women. His Words in your lips make you a master of all the forces of hell!

Hear Him whisper to you, “If God is for you, who can be against you? You can do all things through Christ Who strengthens you. Lo, I am with you always and nothing shall be impossible to you. God is the strength of your life. Who can condemn you? You are reigning with Him as the master of the laws of nature. Jesus has made you more than a conqueror--you are a ruler.” This is our identity. This is who we are in Christ Jesus.

## **PART II**

Did you know that if you are born again, you are part of a royal family? It doesn’t matter what your background is, the color of your skin, or which side of the tracks you grew up on. Jesus has leveled the playing field for each and every person who chooses to accept Him as Lord and Savior.

When we become followers of Christ, something supernatural takes place in our spirits; we are re-created spiritually and have access to everything heaven has to offer. Our job is to renew our minds to the new identity we have received through Christ.

The Bible is a book of promises, or covenants, between God and His people. All He wants us to do is believe His Word and lay hold of the good things He has for us, by faith. But we have to know that we have a right to these things because of who we are in Christ.

**II Corinthians 5:17** says, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new

creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” The literal translation says it like this: “so that if anyone is in Christ--he is a new creature; the old things did pass away, lo, become new have the all things”.

When we accept Jesus, our spirits are literally recreated; we are not who we used to be, from a spiritual perspective. After the salvation experience, we must enter into the process of renewing our minds so our thinking will begin to line up with the conversion we have experienced.

As our thoughts about ourselves change through continual study and application of God’s Word, we will begin to see ourselves differently, and consequently, we will begin to act differently. The things we used to do, we just won’t be able to do any more.

Have you ever heard of a king cussing someone out when others made him angry? No. Kings understand what comes with their position, and they carry themselves accordingly. They have a higher standard of behavior because they know who they are. A king doesn’t waste time cussing out his enemies; he simply makes decrees concerning the areas and people who are under his authority. A king’s decree holds power and is final; it will come to pass because it was uttered from the mouth of the highest level of authority.

As Believers, we have been changed into another spiritual species that is no longer connected to the world system and the laws that govern it. **Ephesians 2:1-7** shows us who we used to be before Christ and who we are now: Also you--being dead in the trespasses and the sins in which once ye did walk according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all did walk once in the desires of our flesh, doing the wishes of the flesh and of the thoughts, and were by nature children of wrath--as also the others, and God, being rich in kindness, because of His great love with which He loved us, even being dead in the trespasses, did make us to live together with the Christ, (by grace ye are having been saved). And did raise us up together, and did seat us together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus that He might show, in the ages that are coming, the exceeding riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” Our new identity is in Christ, and just like a king on earth, we are seated in a spiritual position with Him that surpasses the forces of

darkness.

2 Peter 1:3,4 tells us “As all things to us His divine power (the things pertaining unto life and piety) hath given, through the acknowledgement of Him who did call us through glory and worthiness, through which to us the most great and precious promises have been given, that through these ye may become partakers of a divine nature, having escaped from the corruption in the world in desires”.

We have access to the very nature of God, and all of His promises.

In order to align our lives with this new identity, we must renew our minds. Romans 12:1,2 says, “I call upon you, therefore, brethren, through the compassions of God, to present your bodies a sacrifice--living, sanctified, acceptable to God--your intelligent service; and be not conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, for your proving what is the will of God--the good, and acceptable and perfect.

We must look into the Word of God like we look in the mirror in the morning because the Word will reflect back to us who we really are as born again people. By allowing the Scriptures to transform our thinking about who we are, and declaring what God has said about us, we can begin to experience what abundant living is all about.

Often, people have a hard time identifying with God because they relate to their physical, natural identities and the things they can perceive with their senses more than they do with Him. God made us in His image, and when we accept Jesus as our Lord and personal Savior, we become one with Him. This means that, from a spiritual perspective we are just like Him! Knowing who we are in Christ is the catalyst for walking in the power of God and demonstrating that power to the world.

Because the knowledge of who we are in Christ is so vital to our confidence as sons of God, it is the area in which Satan will consistently attack us. In fact, he attacked Jesus in the area of identity when He was fasting in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights.

Matthew 4:1-4 says, “Then was Jesus led up to the wilderness by the Spirit, to be tempted by the devil, and having fasted forty days and forty nights, afterwards He did hunger. And the Tempter having come to Him said, ‘If

Son thou art of God--speak that these stones may become loaves'. But He answering said, 'It hath been written, Not upon bread alone doth man live, but upon every word coming forth from the mouth of God.'

When Satan tried to question Jesus' identity in the wilderness, Jesus responded with the Word of God. He didn't have to prove anything because He knew who He was! That is the same way we should respond to the devil when He comes to attack our identity in Christ. We should always remind him of what God has said about us and about him. Jesus said to him again, 'It hath been written, 'Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.' (v.7) When Satan realized that Jesus was not moved by his attack, and that He knew who He was, the Bible says he left Him alone.

Jesus wasn't the first one Satan attacked in the area of identity. In the garden of Eden, he also attacked Adam and Eve. He made a statement that suggested to them that they weren't who God had made them to be. In **Genesis 3:1-5**: And the serpent hath been subtle above every beast of the field which Jehovah God hath made, and he saith unto the woman, 'Is it true that God hath said, 'Ye do not eat of every tree of the garden?' And the woman saith unto the serpent, 'Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we do eat, and of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden God hath said, 'Ye do not eat of it, nor touch it, lest ye die'. And the serpent saith unto the woman, 'Dying, ye do not die, for God doth know that in the day of your eating of it--your eyes have been opened, and ye have been as God, knowing good and evil.'

Satan deceived Eve into thinking that she wasn't like God, which was the opposite of the truth. God had created Adam and Eve in His image, which meant that they already were like Him. They allowed the voice of the enemy to get them to doubt who they really were. As a result, they took the bait and fell into his trap.

By constantly looking into the mirror of God's Word, we are able to maintain a consistent consciousness of our true identity in Christ. The Word will tell us exactly who we are, what we look like from God's perspective, and how we are to act as sons of God. It will also reveal to us any areas of our lives that may not line up with God's Word.

God is a spiritual Being, and He has made us in His image. When we become born again, we carry the very nature of God on the inside of us, we become smaller extensions of Himself.

Therefore, we should identify with the identity that God has given us.

**Philippians 2:5-11** shows us the attitude we should have as Believers: For let this mind be in you that is also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal to God, but did empty Himself; the form of a servant having taken, in the likeness of men having been made, and in fashion having been found as a man, He humbled Himself, having become obedient unto death--death even of a cross. Wherefore, also, God did highly exalt Him and gave to Him a name that is above every name, that in the name of Jesus every knee may bow--of heavenlies, and earthlies, and what are under the earth--and every tongue may confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Even though we possess the power of God on the inside of us, if we don't embrace the same mind-set that Jesus had about His identity, for our own lives, we will never be confident enough to walk in that identity. From now on, begin to see yourself as Jesus saw Himself--a spiritual being who possessed the same ability as His Father. Renew your mind to who you really are and declare it every day. You will send the devil running in the opposite direction!

### **PART III**

When we, as Christians do not know who we are in Christ, we do not identify with the promises in God's Word. In order to reap from the Kingdom of God, we must begin to see ourselves as He does. We are spiritual beings who have been created in His image.

**Genesis 1:26-27:** The Amplified version reads: God said, Let Us [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] make mankind in Our image, [tselem-tseh' lem] after Our likeness, [demuwth-dem uth'] and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the [tame] beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth. So God created man in His Own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him: male and female He created them.

The Young's Literal Translation reads this way: And God saith, 'Let Us

make man in Our image, [tselem] according to Our likeness, [demuwth] and let them rule over fish of the sea, and over fowl of the heavens, and over cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that is creeping on the earth. And God prepareth the man in His image; in the image of God He prepared him, a male and a female He prepared them.

The original Hebrew word tselem is a masculine noun meaning image; likeness of resemblance; semblance. The Hebrew word demuwth is an adverb-feminine noun meaning likeness; similitude; in the likeness of; like as.

Webster's Dictionary defines image as: a likeness or imitation of a person or thing; a person strikingly like another person; a carbon copy, counterpart, double, duplicate, facsimile, likeness, match, picture, replica, ringer, and portrayal. Resemblance means: the quality or state of resembling (to be like or similar to); a point of likeness. Semblance means: image or likeness. Likeness means: a pictorial representation of a person; one that resembles or corresponds to another; the quality or state of being like. Similitude means: correspondence in kind or quality; a point of comparison; counterpart.

So, Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit are having this conversation and they decide to make a spirit-being that would imitate Themselves. This spirit-being would be strikingly like Them--a carbon copy, a duplicate of Themselves. This spirit-being would be a replica of Themselves--a 'dead-ringer'--look like Them, think like Them, talk like Them, act like Them. This spirit-being would be Their counterpart. This spirit-being would be able to correspond with Them because they would have the quality of being like God.

**Genesis 3:1-3:** and the serpent [nachash] hath been subtle above every beast of the field which Jehovah God hath made, and he saith unto the woman, 'Is it true that God hath said, 'Ye do not eat of every tree of the garden?' And the woman saith unto the serpent, 'Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we do eat, and of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden God hath said, 'Ye do not eat of it, nor touch it, lest ye die.'

In the underlined sentence above we have the first occurrence of the Law of Double Reference. In this and many other passages a visible creature is addressed but certain statements also refer to an invisible person WHO IS

USING THE VISIBLE creature as a tool. Thus two persons are involved in the same passage. The same Hebrew word [nachash] used of the serpent here is used of literal snakes throughout Scripture. Nowhere in Scripture does it say that Satan took the form of the serpent to tempt Eve. No, he used the creature called serpent as a tool to deceive and lead astray.

I point this out so that we can always remember that his tactics never change. He is still using creatures, whether they be demonic or human to deceive and lead astray from God. Satan has no power to change himself into a snake. He was created an angel and he will always be an angel, though now he is a fallen angel. A literal serpent was involved as a tool of Satan; otherwise it would be unjust of God to curse it.

Man's spiritual identity began to decay when Adam and Eve yielded to sin after Satan used the serpent to deceive and tempt Eve. The serpent is described as subtle, which means sly or cunning or crafty-in a bad sense. The character of the temptation illustrates craftiness. The method was no doubt agreed upon by Satan and the serpent, as the best to cause the fall of man. There was nothing said at first to awaken suspicion, or to shock the moral sense; merely a sly insinuation calculated to excite a natural curiosity. Then there was a direct lie, combined with just enough truth to give it plausibility.

The fall brought a loss of God-consciousness and mankind gained a self-consciousness. They lost the power to do good, and gained the power to do evil. Thus, instead of becoming like God, they became unlike Him, in that He has the power to do only good. It is morally impossible for Him to sin. Adam lost that glorious sinlessness and innocent-looking countenance comparable to that of God.

Do you see how Satan used the serpent to distort the image that Eve had of herself? She was already like God--made in His image; His counterpart! She didn't understand that reality and so, was able to be deceived into believing a lie. When we have a distorted concept of who we are, we act accordingly. This is why we must regularly read and study the Word, which will give us understanding about God's original intent for us. When we understand our original purpose, we will not be deceived into seeing ourselves the wrong way.

1 Corinthians 11:7: For a man ought not to wear anything on his head [in

church], for he is the image and [reflected] glory of God [his function of government reflects the majesty of the divine Rule]; but woman is [the expression of] man's glory [majesty, preeminence].

The literal translation reads: ...for a man, indeed, ought not to cover the head, being the image and glory of God, and a woman is the glory of a man... God wants us to fellowship and identify with Him. We are the image and reflected glory of God. We are like God.

This is what the first man, Adam was like. This was the original plan of God--to have a race of spirit-beings that He could fellowship with. Someone who could understand what it is like to have dominion and rule over a kingdom.

An adult doesn't have the same fellowship with a child as they do with someone on the same level of maturity as they are. This is what God desires from mankind--fellowship with someone on the same level as He is. He had that with Adam and Eve until they disobeyed Him. That's why Jesus had to come--He restored mankind to the original position they enjoyed with God before Adam sinned.

Jesus died once, for all--all mankind, but it is only the individual who receives the redemption provided by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross who will enjoy the original, intended level of fellowship with God. That level of fellowship is the ability to rule and reign in this life and in the ages to come.

Ephesians 4:24: And put on the new nature [the regenerate self] created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 3:10: And having clothed yourselves with the new [spiritual self], which is [ever in the process of being] renewed and remolded into fuller and more perfect knowledge upon knowledge after the image [the likeness] of Him Who created it.

When we receive Jesus as our Lord, we put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of God. We clothe ourselves with our new spiritual nature, which has been renewed after the image of Him that created us. How do we do this? By renewing our mind to the Word of God. This is how we gain knowledge of who God is--what does He look like [what does His image look like]? How do we do this? By reading and

studying the Bible; by memorizing the Scriptures; by meditating on the Scriptures until a light bulb goes off in our head and we “see it”. We understand. That’s when the Word drops from our head into our heart. That’s when we begin to speak the Word from our heart and we begin to see the Word manifested in our lives.

The Word of God is compared to a mirror because we can see our true identity when we read it.

Our God, who created the heavens and the earth, has us on His mind.

Psalm 8:3-6: For I see Thy heavens, a work of Thy fingers, Moon and stars that Thou didst establish. What is man that Thou remembers him? The son of man that Thou inspects him? And causes him to lack a little of Godhead, And with honor and majesty compasses him. Thou doest cause him to rule over the works of Thy hands. All Thou hast placed under his feet.

The psalmist marveled at the concept that God has each one of us on His mind, though He created the entire universe. He made us a little lower than Himself and gave us dominion and authority.

Identification means ‘to cause to become the same, or made the same’. We must begin to change our thoughts and become aware of the fact that we are made in the image of the almighty God. We must come to the understanding that we have an enemy who will stop at nothing to keep us from believing that we are, indeed, made in the image of God.

Recognize his tactics and schemes:

- \* Satan has accused mankind since the fall of man.
- \* He wants us to believe that we have no rights.
- \* He wants us to believe that we are worthless.

However, God would not have sent His Son to die for us if we were worthless. Jesus came so that we would no longer be subject to our sin nature. Jesus sacrificed Himself and gave us the opportunity to choose eternal life instead of eternal damnation.

Romans 8:29: For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the beginning [foreordaining them] to be molded into the image of His Son and share inwardly His

likeness. The literal translation reads: because whom He did foreknow, He also did fore-appoint, conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be first-born among many brethren...

Foreknow--a perceiving beforehand. God saw ahead that He would have to send a Savior to redeem man from the fall. It is God's plan that He has foreknown and predestinated, and not the individual conformity of free wills to the plan. He has called all men and all are free to accept or reject the call. All who do accept, He has foreknown and predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son that His Son might be the first-born among many brethren. Those who reject the plan, He has foreknown and predestinated to be consigned to eternal hell as an everlasting monument of His wrath on rebels.

No single individual is chosen, elected, foreknown, or predestined to be saved or lost without his personal choice and responsibility in the matter. It would be a cruel respect of persons--an unjust regard for one and unjust disregard for another and not divine justice for one to be chosen by God to be saved and another to be damned. God offers grace to all alike. His invitations, His promises, His provision, and His warnings of punishment are general. All men are invited to choose life and are warned of eternal punishment if they do not do so. It is inconsistent with man's probation for God to choose and elect some to be saved and some to be lost.

Man was created in union with God and in God's grace and favor. He fell from this position and has to be born AGAIN to get back into God's grace. After one is born AGAIN he is warned not to build AGAIN the things he once destroyed ([Galatians 4:9](#)); not to be entangled AGAIN with the yoke of bondage ([Galatians 5:1](#)); not to be overcome with the pollutions of the world ([2 Peter 2:20-22](#)); and not to lay AGAIN the foundation of repentance and service to God ([Hebrews 6:1](#)). God expects His children to grow up and not fall back. We are to be changing every day more and more into His image. Jesus, when He walked the earth, was the express image of God. He was the character of God in action. He is our pattern.

Taking into consideration all that God has created, it is amazing that He cherishes and treasures mankind above all else. When we begin to truly understand God's thoughts towards us, we can never again accept defeat in our lives or think of ourselves as people unworthy of His goodness.

## Our Identity According to **Romans 1-7**

I am called of Jesus Christ to live by faith. I have a right standing with God through the faith of Jesus Christ. I have been declared righteous freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. I have peace with God through Jesus. I have access by faith to His grace. I am saved from wrath. I have received reconciliation and I am freed from sin to become servant to righteousness. I belong to Him Who was raised from the dead in order that I may bear fruit for God. Having died to what once restrained and held me captive, I now serve under obedience to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in newness of life.

### **PART IV**

Most people know who they are in the natural realm in the sense that they know who their parents are, where they grew up, etc.; however, they don't know who they are in Christ. Many people have a hard time identifying with God, but He made us in His image, and He wants us to identify with Him. If we do not know our God-given identities, we will not know how to operate within His Kingdom.

When we constantly look into the mirror of the Word, we will always know who we are. So, just who are we in Christ? God is a spiritual being; He made us in His image. So we are spiritual beings in physical bodies. God breathed into us a part of Himself. In the Hebrew, the word 'breath' is translated as 'spirit'.

God sees us as little 'gods', or smaller extensions of Himself. [**Psalm 82:1-8 AMP**]. Jesus is called the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Therefore, we should identify with the identity that God has given us.

When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we also accept unlimited and unmerited grace and favor. We are spirits at the core, and when we are born again, we obtain a new identity in Christ. With that identity, we have the power within us to do anything. We are also cleansed of all sin--past, present, and future. Our recreated spirits are mature, perfect, holy, and empowered by God.

God chose us before the foundation of the world was formed. He chose us to become His children. Through the blood of Jesus, and the richness of

His grace, we have been forgiven of all our sins--past, present, and future. We are accepted and loved by our heavenly Father despite our behavior.

However, sin does produce negative consequences in our lives, but God doesn't stop loving us when we sin. Holy Spirit within us is always leading us to walk in God's ways.

He's always there to help us do right and lead us away from wrong. If we do not sense His nudging when we sin, we have not had the born-again experience. The Holy Spirit's conviction is evidence that we have become born-again Christians.

God forgives us because He loves us. When we make a decision to stop intentionally sinning, we show God that we love Him.

We have been empowered to have success in every arena of life--that power lies within our recreated spirits. Our spirits have been redeemed from poverty, sickness, and spiritual death. When we acknowledge, accept, and admit that we have been blessed with all spiritual blessings, we are making the blessing a reality in our lives. How do we do this?

Our faith is like a bridge between the physical realm and the spiritual realm. Our faith connects us to the blessings God has placed within our recreated spirits.

Faith is what we believe. Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. You could say it like this: What you believe is the substance of the things you hope for and what you believe is the evidence of the things you can't see.

Who's word do you believe? Who's report do you believe? Do you believe only what you can see with your natural eyes? Do you only believe what you can hear with your natural hears? Who's word are you listening to? That's where your faith is. Faith is what you believe.

**BELIEVE GOD'S WORD!**

Believe what He sees, not what you see. How do we do this? By constantly looking into the mirror--His Word is the mirror--it will tell you what to believe.

Christianity is called the great confession, but most Christians who are defeated in life are defeated because they believe and confess the wrong things. They have spoken the words of the enemy. And those words hold them in bondage. **Proverbs 6:1-2** says...Thou are snared with the words of your mouth.

Faith filled words will put you over. Fear filled words will defeat you. Words are the most powerful thing in the universe.

Remember, man is a spirit being, made in the image of God and we are very capable of operating on the same level of faith as God. We read in **Mark 9:23**, 'Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes.'

**Matthew 17:20** says, And Jesus said to them, because of your unbelief: for verily I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

**Mark 11:23** says, For verily I say to you, that whosoever shall say to this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he says shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he says.

This is not theory. It is fact. It is spiritual law. It works every time it is applied correctly. THIS IS A SPIRITUAL LAW: God never does anything without saying it first. God is a faith God. God released His faith in WORDS! And Jesus answering says to them, Have faith in God. [**Mark 11:22**] A more literal translation reads, 'Have the God kind of faith, or faith of God.'

**Ephesians 5:1** literally tells us to be imitators of God as children imitate their parents. To imitate God, you must talk like Him and act like Him. He would not ask you to do something you are not capable of doing!

Jesus operated in the faith principles of **Mark 11:23** and **Matthew 17:20** while He walked this earth. He spoke to the wind and sea. He spoke to demons. He spoke to the fig tree. He even spoke to dead men. The wind, sea, tree, demons and even the dead were obedient to what He said. Why?

Because He operated in the God kind of faith.

God is a faith God and He releases His faith through words.

John 14:12 Jesus said, ...he that believes on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater...

These principles of faith are based on spiritual laws and they work for whoever will apply these laws. You set them in motion by the words that are coming out of your mouth.

Do we really want all the negative things we have been saying to come to pass? Are we believing for those things? If Jesus came to us personally and said, from this day forward it will come to pass, that everything we say will happen exactly as we say it; would that change our vocabulary? The fact is, Jesus has said that very thing. We will have whatsoever we say.

In Matthew 16:19 Jesus told us that He has given us the keys of the Kingdom, and that whatever we bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever we loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Psalms 119:89 tells us that God's Word is forever settled in heaven. What God says is already established.

Now it's up to us. What are we going to say?

God will not alter what He has said. My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of My lips. [Psalm 89:34] Whose words will we establish in the earth?

Spoken words program our spirits either to success or defeat. Words are containers. They carry faith or fear; and they produce after their kind. So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. [Romans 10:17] Faith comes more quickly when you hear yourself saying the things God says.

We must begin to live in the authority of the Word. For God's Word is creative power. That creative power is produced by the heart, formed by the tongue, and released out of the mouth in word form.

If we would just believe Abba, really believe Him, then long prayers would not be necessary. Just speaking the Word will bring what is desired. His creative power is given to us in Word form. See, Father has ceased, for a time, from His work and has given us the Book of His creative power--the Bible--His Words. His power is in His Word, but for it to be effective, we must speak it in faith.

Jesus spoke it when He was on earth and it worked then, so shall it work now. We must rise up and have dominion over the power of evil by His Words. It is Father's greatest desire that His people create a better life by the spoken Word. But for His Word to be effective, we must speak it, and that creative power will come forth performing that which is spoken in faith.

His Word is not void of power. His people are void of speech. They hear the world and speak as the world speaks. By observing circumstances they have lost sight of His Word. They even speak that which the enemy says, and they destroy their own inheritance by corrupt communication of fear and unbelief.

No word of the Lord is void of power, only powerless when it is unspoken.

As there is creative power in His spoken Word, so there is evil power present in the words of the enemy to affect and oppress everyone that speaks them. Be not conformed, but be transformed into the body of faith, knowing that His Words are alive evermore. Believe, speak and obtain that our joy may be full. These truths can change our lives and we will never be the same.

Confess victory in the face of apparent defeat. Confess abundance in the face of apparent lack. Don't pay attention to what we see or hear, but keep looking into the mirror of the Word. That's our evidence. Our God is a faith God and we are just like Him. We are faith people. Faith talks. When faith talks, it talks faith; not fear and unbelief.

We can have what we say. Begin calling those things that be not as though they were. Stop saying what you have, for as long as you say what you have, you will have what you say. Do you see it? Your words will produce no more than what you say. You can see that you have set a spiritual law in motion that will confine you to the very position or circumstance you are in when you set the law in motion. It is an age old problem of not looking

beyond what you can see with the physical eye.

A correct application of this spiritual law will change even the most impossible situation. But, to incorrectly apply these laws will hold you in bondage and cause the circumstance to grow worse. Every faith principle, every spiritual law that God set forth in His Word was for our benefit. It was designed to put us over in life.

We can have what we say if we learn to release faith from the heart through our Words. Jesus said, 'as you have believed, so be it done to you.' [Matthew 8:13] He didn't say it would only work if you believed right. Whether you believe right or wrong, it is still the law. God is not mocked, whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap. [Galatians 6:7]

The spiritual law is based on the same basic principle of seed-time harvest. The words you speak are seeds that produce after their kind. Just as sure as they are planted, you can be equally sure a harvest will follow. The treasures of the heart cannot be hidden, but are manifest through words.

The enemy has so programmed the minds of people until instead of resisting him, they have just sort of buddied up with him and begun to talk his language. Let us train ourselves to speak God's Words. Let's be followers and imitators of God, as dear children.

In other words, just like a child longs to be like his Daddy, we should desire to pattern our every move after Him.

When we study the life of Jesus we find several important facts that caused Him to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil. A few are:

- He spent much time in prayer, but He never prayed the problem, He prayed the answer--what God said is the answer.
- He spoke accurately, never crooked speech. His conversation always consisted of what God said.
- He always spoke the end results, not the problem. Never--did He confess present circumstances. He spoke the desired results.

- He used the written Word to defeat Satan.

The Word of God conceived in the heart, formed by the tongue, and spoken out of the mouth is creative power. We will walk in the level of life where we release the ability of God by the words of our mouth. We can release the ability of God within ourselves by the words of our mouth and cause His Word and His power to become available to us. God created the universe by this method--He released His faith through words. Man is created in the image of God--we identify with Him--therefore we release our faith through our words, as well.

### This is our identity in Christ. The Good Confession

I am the body of Christ and Satan has no power over me; for I overcome evil with good. I am of God and have overcome Satan; for greater is He that is in me than he that is in this world. I will fear no evil for God is with me and Your Word and Your Spirit comfort me. I am far from oppression, and fear does not come near me!

No weapon formed against me shall prosper, for my righteousness is of the Lord; but whatever I do will prosper for I am like a tree that's planted by the rivers of waters. I am delivered from the evils of this present world for it is the will of God. No evil will befall me neither shall any plague come near my dwelling. For the Lord has given His angels charge over me and they keep me in all my ways, and in my pathway is life and there is no death. I am a doer of the Word of God and am blessed in my deeds. I take the shield of faith and I quench every fiery dart that the wicked one brings against me.

Christ has redeemed me from the curse of the law. Therefore, I forbid any sickness or disease to come upon this body. Every disease germ and every virus that touches this body dies instantly in the Name of Jesus. Every organ and every tissue of this body functions in the perfection to which God created it to function, and I forbid any malfunction in this body, in the Name of Jesus.

I am an overcomer and I overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of my testimony. I am submitted to God and the devil flees from me because I resist him in the Name of Jesus. The Word of God is forever settled in heaven; therefore, I establish His Word upon this earth and in my life. Great is the peace of my children for they are taught of the Lord. Christ

has redeemed me from the curse of the law.

Christ has redeemed me from poverty, Christ has redeemed me from sickness, Christ has redeemed me from spiritual death. For poverty He has given me wealth; for sickness He has given me health; for death He has given me eternal life. And I, having received the gift of righteousness do reign as a king in life--by Christ Jesus.

The Spirit of Truth abides in me and teaches me all things, and He guides me into all truths. Therefore I confess I have perfect knowledge of every situation and every circumstance that I come up against. For I have the wisdom of God. I trust in the Lord with all my heart, and I lean not to my own understanding. In all my ways I acknowledge Him and He directs my path.

The Lord will perfect that which concerns me. I let the Word of God dwell in me richly in all wisdom. I do follow the good Shepherd and I know His voice and the voice of a stranger I will not follow. I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. I am born of God and I have world overcoming faith residing on the inside of me; for greater is He that is in me, than he that is in this world.

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. I let the peace of God rule in my heart and I refuse to worry about anything. God is on my side. God is in me now, who can be against me? He has given to me all things that pertain to life and godliness. I am a believer and these signs shall follow me: in the Name of Jesus I cast out demons, I speak with new languages, I lay my hands on the sick and see them recover.

Jesus gave me the authority to use His Name; therefore in the Name of Jesus I bind the principalities, the powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world. I bind and cast down spiritual wickedness in high places and render them harmless and ineffective against me in the Name of Jesus.

