

## Identity in Christ

The world tries to put labels on us for what our identity is... an American, a student, a son, a brother, etc. People we know may also label us according to our personality or gifts... an encourager, a helper, a singer, an artist, etc. Sadly, Satan also tries to label us... prideful, critical, unattractive, insecure, etc. These labels all serve to shape our identity of who we are. But when we accept Christ into our lives we receive a new identity. We become “born-again,” meaning that we are new in Christ.

Satan will usually try to remind us of our past and of our current struggles. Satan hates the new identity we have received and wants us to believe we are still the same struggling sinner that we were before we accepted Christ. The truth is, claiming our identity in Christ requires action. We are called to actively claim and walk in the new identity God has given us...

Ephesians 4:22-24 (ESV) – **To put off your old self**, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and **to put on the new self**, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 3:9-10 (ESV) – Do not lie to one another, seeing that you **have put off the old self** with its practices and **have put on the new self**, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator

The following are just some of the wonderful new identities we receive through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is as we verbally claim these identities in prayer and rebuke the lies and labels Satan tries to throw at us that Satan’s grip on us loosens and we are able to fully live in the way God meant for us to live.

### 1. I am a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17):

There is a reason why Jesus liked to say that we must be, “born again.” This is the foundation of the identities. As we grow in claiming our identity in Christ, Satan is going to keep trying to remind us of our past. But that is not us anymore. That was a different person. We are a new creation and no longer relate to that former self. Please declare with me, “In Christ, I am a new creation!” Amen.

### 2. I am redeemed (Ephesians 1:7):

You can add to it “justified” and “forgiven” as well. When we confess faith in God and accept Christ into our hearts, we are redeemed by His blood. All those negative traits and past failures have been covered over. Our sins have been hurled into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19). Please declare with me, “In Christ, I am redeemed!” Amen. When we pray the blood of Jesus over ourselves, we are basically stating our redemption in God. We no longer belong to the prince of this world and the king of sinners; we have been redeemed from a life of sin!

### 3. I belong to God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20):

If we no longer belong to the prince of this world, then who do we belong to? We belong to God! We are not our own. We are God’s possession. We belong to God. There is power in understanding that you are God’s possession. John 10:28-29 – “I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.” (ESV)

Sexual bondage is a common way that Satan makes us believe we belong to him. Whenever someone falls with his purity, Satan will try and convince the person that he belongs to the sin and can not escape it. Satan makes the person believe that he might as well give up to the sin. But no, we are redeemed and we are God’s possession! We might stumble or fall, but by the blood of Jesus, we receive grace. Satan can not steal from God. He knows he can not snatch us from God’s hand, yet he still tries to deceive us

into believing that we can not escape his grasp. The only power Satan can have over us is the power we give him. When we understand that we belong to God, Satan knows his time is short; it will only be a matter of time until we confess our sins, receive God's forgiveness, and claim God's promises. At that point, Satan's grip is completely lost. Please repeat after me, "I belong to God!" Amen.

#### **4. I am anointed and sealed with the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:21-22):**

We have been anointed by God to do good works. His anointing grants us the power to heal the sick, raise the dead, and cleanse the leper. 1 John 4:4 says that "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." Not only has God anointed you with the Holy Spirit, but He has also sealed the Spirit within you. Nothing outside of you can take Him from you. The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead lives within you.

Please read Romans 8:14-15. Abba means, "Daddy." It is by the Holy Spirit working through us that we are able to have powerful and intimate prayer times with God.

Please read Romans 8:26-27. If you are at a loss as to what to pray, ask the Holy Spirit to lead you and simply praise God's name. Prayer will come. If you have the gift of tongues, exercise it!

Understand that when you pray, you are anointed and sealed with the Holy Spirit. Please repeat after me, "I am anointed and sealed with the Holy Spirit." Amen!

#### **5. I am dead to sin (Romans 6:11):**

Notice the verb tense in the verse. Is it present? Future? Past? Will we die to sin? Are we dying to sin? No, we are dead to sin. This verse is repeated in different ways all throughout Paul's letters in the New Testament. What does it mean to be dead to sin?

There is a saying in English, "He or she is dead to me." When someone goes through a horrible breakup and are greatly let down or hurt by someone, they might say of that person, "He's dead to me." What do they mean? They mean that the person no longer is a part of their identity. The person no longer has an affect on them. That part of the life is now considered gone, dead, no more. They will no longer think of that person. They have moved on.

So it is with our relationship with sin. When we are "dead to sin," that means it is no longer a part of our identity. It's gone. Dead. We know longer think of sin or find identity in sin.

#### **6. I am alive in Christ (Romans 6:11):**

Our identity is now in Christ. He is the One who lifts us up. We find our life, our purpose, our pleasure all in Him. Goodbye sin. Hello Christ! Please repeat after me, "I am dead to sin. I am alive in Christ." Amen!

#### **7. I am free (Galatians 5:1):**

This trait emphasizes all the more that sin no longer has a hold on us. It's now our choice whether to submit to sin again or to walk in our freedom in Christ. We are not only free from the bondage of sin, but we are free from the guilt of sin as well. Jeremiah 31:34b – "For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." (ESV) If God no longer remembers our sins, then why should we? We are free!

Do you remember Ephesians 4:22-24 and Colossians 3:9-10? We are called to actively put off the old self and to put on the new self. Reading the Word and speaking out God's promises are a huge step in claiming your identity in Christ. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free! Please repeat after me, "I am free!!!" Amen!

### **8. I am a child of God (John 1:12):**

Child of God. Son of God. Daughter of God. Claim whichever applies to you. So now we not only belong to God, we are His family. We have greater value to Him than anything else He created.

### **9. I am God's treasured possession (Deuteronomy 14:2):**

I think all of us understand what it is to be a son or a daughter, but not all of us have been told our true value from our parents. God clears that up right here. He calls us His treasured possession. In Zechariah 2:9 we are called the apple of God's eye. The apple of the eye is the most precious and guarded area.

### **10. I am loved by the Father (1John 3:1a):**

It was God's delight to adopt us into His family. He chose us because He loves us. It was because God so loved us that He sent His son to redeem us. There is a special security in knowing that we are beloved children of God. No matter what storms may come to us in this world, we are able take solace in knowing that we are loved and treasured by our Father. God is good! Please repeat after me, "I am a child of God. I am God's treasured possession. I am loved by the Father." Amen!

### **11. I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20):**

We don't belong to this world; we are aliens to this earth. We do not live by the law of sin, but rather, we live by a law that is not of this world: the law of love. Satan is called the prince of this world because he has reign over all who are slaves to sin. But we are dead to sin. We are alive in Christ. We are citizens of heaven. Satan's rule no longer has any power over us. The truth is: we are out of this world! Not of it. We are heavenly beings. Please repeat after me, "I am a citizen of heaven." Amen!

### **12. I am royalty (1Peter 2:9):**

Declaring that you are royalty emphasizes your status as a child of God and as being seated with God in heaven. There is something different about us. We are God's people and have the blessing of God on us. We have special authority because we are royalty! Please repeat after me, "I am royalty." Amen!

### **13. I am a priest of God (1Peter 2:9):**

Declaring that you are a priest helps give understanding to how God wants you to exercise your authority. We are not meant to rule over people here on earth, but rather, we are to intercede for them, love them, and serve them as priests of God. Priests in the Old Testament were in the business of giving offerings to God as well as declaring grace and cleansing for the people. We are called to do the same: to proclaim the grace and cleansing we have received from God and to offer our bodies as a living offering to Him. Please repeat after me, "I am a priest." Amen!

### **14. I am a branch of the true vine (John 15:5):**

This is an identity that comes both with a promise and a warning. Jesus says clearly that those who abide in Him will bear much fruit, but those who do not abide in Him are in danger of judgment. By being a branch of the true vine we are plugged into the true source of love, joy, peace, and power. If we simply abide in God, the Lord transforms us.

When Jesus told us that He is the vine and we are the branches, He was making it clear to us that He is the source of our life and growth. It's as we seek Him that we are filled with every good thing. To say, "I am a branch of the true vine" means that your reliance is not on yourself or the world, but your reliance is on God. Please repeat after me, "I am a branch of the true vine." Amen!

### **15. I am part of the body of Christ (1Corinthians 12:27):**

If we are all children of God, sealed with His Spirit, and belonging to Him, then this means we are in fact one body in Christ. Satan will often attack either our insecurities or our pride and make us think that we are alone. A sheep alone is much easier prey for a wolf. But God makes it clear that no Christian is meant to be alone and that we are all one in Christ. Jesus demonstrated this by making the outcasts (the fishermen, the tax collectors, the zealots) His own disciples and sinners, lepers, and prostitutes His friends. He showed that no matter our personality, our profile, or our past, that in Christ we are accepted and we are called to fellowship together. As every part of the body works together, the body is much more effective. No body part can be effective by itself. By claiming this identity we are stating that we are not alone as Christians and that we truly are accepted and have been made for a purpose. If we feel alone then we are called to seek out Christian fellowship and find the acceptance God promises. If we see other Christians who are alone, we are called to reach out to them and bring them into the body. Please repeat after me, "I am part of the body of Christ." Amen!

### **16. I am more than a conqueror (Romans 8:37):**

Paul was writing this to Roman citizens who were very familiar with what this means. Roman soldiers weren't just victorious, they were more than victorious. They would literally parade what they had conquered. Whenever they would return to the capital they would parade captured people and animals along with produce and treasures of the land. Many people think that we are always in a battle and always fighting. Many people don't think victory will come until after we die. But the truth is that God calls us more than conquerors. He tells us we have already won. We just have to claim it. God promised Israel to Joshua and the Israelites. It was theirs. All they had to do was claim it. But not only do we claim and conquer what God has in store for us, we are also called to parade our victories. We are called to share our testimonies, proclaim God's good works, and show the world who truly reigns. We are more than conquerors. No weapon forged against us will prosper. It is finished. Amen! Please repeat after me, "I am more than a conqueror." Amen!

### **17. I am untouchable (1 John 5:18):**

We are untouchable. That does not mean we aren't prone to trials, troubles, or struggles, but what it means is that if we are walking in obedience then we are protected by God and Satan cannot get in. He can only affect our outside. He cannot touch our inside. A teenage girl who was imprisoned in China for her faith and tortured and raped later shared with a sincere smile, "My body may have been defiled, but my soul is pure." Satan could not steal her love or her joy. We are untouchable. Please repeat after me, "I am untouchable." Amen!

### **18. I am fearless (Philippians 1:27-28):**

"God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7, ESV). When you understand that you are a child of God, that you are a citizen of heaven, that you are seated with God, that you are more than a conqueror, that you are sealed with the Spirit, that you are untouchable—you will become fearless. It's just natural. "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1, ESV). As you start speaking out who you are in Christ, you are going to find your prayers going to another level. No longer do the things of this world cause you to fear. Satan and all his attacks are revealed as weak. Please repeat after me, "I am fearless." Amen!

### **19. I am a temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).**

Identity #4 states that we are sealed and anointed with the Holy Spirit. Colossians 1:27 says, "Christ in you, the hope of glory." Here in Corinthians, God says He will destroy anyone who destroys His temple. We have to understand that we represent God here on earth. We don't need to fear this world because

God is going to protect His temple. Instead, we need to fear God and put to death our lives of sin and take care of our bodies: physically, mentally, and spiritually. God shouldn't live in a sick, physically weak body. Nor should he have to live in a body that is living in sin. We are temples of the Living God! Repeat after me, "I am a temple of God." Amen!

## **20. I am seated with God in heaven (Ephesians 2:6):**

Knowing the verb tense is critical. God will not raise us up later. He isn't raising us up now. It has already happened! When we died to sin we were made alive in Christ. In the spiritual realm we came to life and we have been raised up beside God in heaven and are seated with Him.

Understanding your position is important. There is a reason a teacher usually teaches in the front behind a podium. Imagine if the teacher was trying to teach to you from the back of the room underneath a table. There is not a lot of authority or power from that position. Instead the teacher is in front of you and standing while you are seated. Some degree of authority is expected, right? Now imagine you are in a packed stadium and a person is on a huge stage teaching in front of all the top authorities of the country. Even more authority is to be expected, right? We have to understand our position. When we pray we aren't speaking amidst billions of people. We aren't far from God and hard to notice. No, we are seated with Him in the heavens. Angels are before us. We are above the demonic realm. We have authority! We are seated with God in heaven! This is the Truth! Please repeat after me, "I am seated with God in heaven." Amen!

## **21. I am a friend of God (John 15:15):**

By being a friend of God we have a special relationship with Him that enables us to know the things on His heart. God trusts in us. He confides in us. Just as God spoke to Abraham and to Moses before He did things, so will He speak to us. We can be sure that God loves us and enjoys being with us. To serve Him should never be a burden but a joy. Repeat after me, "I am a friend of God." Amen!

## **22. I am the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13):**

Throughout history, salt has been used for many things. Salt brings taste to food. Salt preserves food and keeps it from rotting quickly. Salt was so important in ancient times that it was used often in trade, leading to the phrase, "worth his salt." We are called to bring life to this world. We are called to preserve society from rotting. In God's sight, we are extremely valuable. As God's salt, we are to bring a thirst into this world for God. As people are around us, they should long for God's Living Water. We are the salt of the earth! Please repeat after me, "I am the salt of the earth." Amen!

## **23. I am the bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2):**

Jesus Christ is the bride-groom of the church. Every person who professes Christ as God has pledged themselves to Him. We are called to abstain from worshipping other gods or giving our bodies over to sin. As the bride of Christ, Jesus loves us deeply and is jealous for us. He longs to be with us and will protect us and stand for us. Please repeat after me, "I am the bride of Christ." Amen!

## **24. I am made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27):**

This is the identity that Satan perhaps detests the most. Every time he sees mankind, he sees the image of God whom he rebelled against. Satan wants us to believe we evolved from monkeys. He wants us to get so consumed by sin that we act like animals without morals. He wants us to be judged by God just as he was. But thankfully Jesus shed His blood for us so that we can claim God's forgiveness for all our sins. So when God looks upon us, He does not see filthy, sinful beings. Rather, He sees beautiful men and women covered by His grace, reflecting the image of His Son. We are truly to be admired. We don't resemble the things of this world, instead we resemble Christ. Please repeat after me, "I am made in the image of God." Amen!

## **25. I am fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14):**

If being made in the image of God isn't enough, Scripture makes it clear that we were fearfully and wonderfully made. When we look at ourselves by the world's standards, we will never be fit enough, smart enough, or attractive enough. There will always be something imperfect or something that we can't live up to. The world has a critical eye. The world always demands better. But God makes it clear that He made us fearfully and wonderfully. He was the one who knit us together. We are wonderful in His sight. God detests the labels the world tries to put on us. He wants us to be secure in Him and who He has made us to be. He wants us to know we are made in His image, fearfully and wonderfully made, and precious and honored in His sight (Isaiah 43:4). It is when we praise God for who He made us to be that we are able to see ourselves as He sees us. And that is when true beauty is revealed. Please repeat after me, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Amen!

## **26. I am the light of the world (Matthew 5:14):**

Not only do we resemble Christ by our physical image, we also reflect Christ through the Holy Spirit who lives within us. Because we are dead to sin and alive in Christ, we no longer live by the ways of darkness of this world. We live in obedience to God. There is a glow, a warmth, a love that comes from us that is unworldly. As we live in obedience to God, our lives are going to shine before all who are around us. Colossians 1:27 says, "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (ESV). Please repeat after me, "I am the light of the world." Amen!

## **27. I am created for God's glory (Isaiah 43:7):**

What is your purpose in life? Why are you here? Apart from God, life seems meant for selfish pleasure, for living up to other people's expectations, or for making your conscience feel good. But God has a higher purpose for us. God's calling is the same for all: to love Him and to love others. But within that call are specific callings for each child of God. God has given each of us different personalities, gifts, talents, experiences, and desires. It is as we seek His will for our lives that He will use these different areas to bring glory to His name. God is the only one truly worthy of our lives. It is when we set our life for His purposes and His ways that we discover what true life is. "For you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1Corinthians 6:20, ESV). Please repeat after me, "I am created for God's glory." Amen!

## **28. I am an eternal being (Romans 6:23):**

Our lifespan is not governed by our time here on earth. Our physical body may perish, but our spiritual being will never perish. We are eternal. What that means is our life is just a blink in the light of eternity. Why should we worry about the treasures and comforts of this world when we will be spending eternity in heaven? Why should we fear torture or death here on earth when we know we will be living forever in peace, comfort, and joy? We have already won! It is finished! We have eternal life! Who or what are we to fear? When you claim you are an eternal being you are claiming victory over every lie of Satan. He can't touch you because you already know the end result: he gets grabbed by an angel and thrown in Hell while you spend eternity in heaven with Jesus. Praise God! Please repeat after me, "I am an eternal being." Amen!

## **29. I am a blessing (Ezekiel 34:26):**

Ezekiel 34:26 speaks of God making a covenant with His people and reads, "I will make them and the places around my hill a blessing, and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing." This verse is easily overlooked and is actually a footnote in the NIV. But I think God intended for this to be broadcasted loud and clear. In Christ, we are BLESSINGS. We carry the aroma of Christ. His love and His grace live within us. We bring light to this dark world. We are made in God's



image and are miracles of life. We are fearfully and wonderfully made for purposes far beyond our current mind scope. God does all things for our good.

The world says, "Earn it, and then we'll call you a blessing." God says, "I have made you a blessing." Its innate. And as we walk with God and take on the identity He has freely given us, we naturally become more and more of the blessing He has made us to be. Please repeat after me, "I am a blessing." Amen!

### **30. I am a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1):**

As with every identity we have in Christ, this one is a choice. We can choose to be a light in the world. We can choose to walk in freedom. We can choose to walk in friendship with God. There is a reason why we need to claim these identities, speak them out over our lives, and walk in them.

The body that we are born into is a body that carries the consequences of sin. Since Adam and Eve, all of man have endured these consequences... sickness, sin, aging, and death. Our body, if it had its way, would only look out for itself. Like any animal, we would live only for our survival and for our pleasure. But in God we are a new creation (identity #1). And in order for us to overcome the desires of our body, or of our flesh, we have to be filled with God's power and His grace. And in order to receive this power and this grace, we need to offer ourselves over to Him.

When a sacrifice is set on the altar, flames are then set underneath it. All the fat and all the toxins are burned away. A pleasing aroma comes forth. For us, it's as we set ourselves before God and lay down our desires, our will, and our bodies, that His fire comes down on us and begins to purge us of all that is not of Him. Some people fear this process because they want to hold onto parts of themselves. What we have to understand though is that God created us and knows us through and through. His fire comes only to purge the things that the enemy and this world have put in us. As His fire burns and as we walk as living sacrifices, we are then able to be who He truly created us to be. Please repeat after me, "I am a living sacrifice." Amen!

### **31. I have the mind of Christ (1Corinthians 2:16):**

Galatians 2:20 says that we no longer live but Christ lives within us. 1Corinthians 2 is all about the differences between those who have the Holy Spirit and those who do not. This is a key identity for believers to claim for not just overcoming sin but also taking ground from the enemy and living victoriously.

Just as God is three in one (Father, Son, Spirit), so are we three in one (body, soul, spirit). Our body is in the physical realm and is led by the five senses. Our soul is in the relational realm and is led by the mind, will, and emotions. Our spirit is in the spiritual realm (the unseen). Before we accepted Christ and received His Spirit, we were led by our mind, our emotions, and the desires of our flesh. As much as we could try and rely on "will power" to overcome our weaknesses, we were still prone to sin and wrong. In Matthew 5:48 Jesus commands us to be perfect as our God is. How could this be possible for us?

If I said I wanted to become a brilliant composer like Mozart, I would have little chance because my talent and knowledge for composing are nothing compared to Mozart. But if Mozart somehow could live inside me and work through me, then I could indeed become that brilliant composer.

So it is with Christ. He lives within us now. We must learn how to give control over to Him and build up our spirit man. It is as we exercise the spiritual gifts He has given us, as we declare our identity in Him, and as we ask for more of Him in prayer and Word that our minds become fully submitted to His mind. His Spirit is already at work within us. Claim this identity. Listen for God's still, small voice. As we give ourselves over to Him the voices of our flesh and of the world will grow quieter and quieter and His still, small voice will become clearer and clearer until we are one.

### 32. I am satisfied (Jeremiah 31:14):

Most of society thrives upon materialism and the "need for more," whether it is something simple like the desire to buy the latest product, eat another good meal, or to watch another movie... or it's something deep like the need for more alcohol, drugs, or a way to fulfill sexual desires. In the moment of achieving their desires, most people would say they are satisfied. But shortly after the thrill passes, the emptiness sets back in and there is need again to satisfy oneself. Often times what once satisfied us before is no longer good enough, so we search for something bigger, better, or more intense. This is how addiction starts. Pornography, drugs, alcohol, money, and other outlets are never the answer. There might be temporary satisfaction, but there is always a need for more. They don't satisfy.

Jesus told the woman at the well, "Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again" (John 4:14). The apostle Paul, a man who had endured beatings, whippings, stoning, prison, and even ship wrecks wrote, "I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content" (Philippians 4:11). He no longer found his emotions based upon the highs and lows of life, but rather on the constant love, joy, and strength of God. In Christ, we are truly satisfied.

This identity is critical to claim when temptation tries to creep in. Everything that tempts us on earth will be absent in heaven. Why? Because they don't fully satisfy. Only a relationship with God can truly satisfy us. As we set our sights on Him and on the things of heaven, the temptations we face gradually lose their allure. Our minds become renewed and no longer find their fulfillment in the things of this world. Our satisfaction is found in God. In Christ, we are truly satisfied.

### 33. I am filled with joy (John 17:13):

Jesus makes joy a priority for His disciples and tells them, "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11). Many Christians miss or ignore Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit, who Jesus promised would bring them great joy. Their lives tend to be dry and they tend to become more self centered since they are unaware of the Spirit pointing them towards God's perfect will. Many other Christians view their life as a constant battle with Satan where there are sometimes victories and sometimes defeats and they always feel they are in a battle. Some of the most passionate Christians have this mindset, but outside of the times of clear victory, there is little joy in their lives.

But 1Thessalonians 5:16 is a command, and it reads: "Rejoice always." Of the fruit of the Spirit, the second listed right after love is "joy." Joy is to be a fruit of every Christian's life. And that joy is to be constant, no matter the circumstances. Even during the worst moment of his life, Job managed to worship and proclaim, "Blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21). Amidst all the terror around him, Job still knew God was in control and that God is good. And so Job was still able to find joy and worship. It doesn't mean that Job didn't mourn over his lost children and lost possessions, but amidst the sadness Job knew God is above all and that anything we receive here on earth is a gift from Him. **Job knew to choose thankfulness for what he once had rather than bitterness for what he lost.**

Our love is not to be dependent on our day to day circumstances. We are called to love always. And in the same way, our joy isn't to be dependent on our day to day circumstances. Both love and joy are choices, not responses or emotions. If we choose to focus on things in the physical realm and think mostly about ourselves, we will find ourselves both lacking in love and lacking in joy. But when we focus on the things of God and the things His Spirit reveals to us, we are captured by His love and we realize just how awesome God is and just how privileged we are to know Him. How could we not love? And how could we not be overjoyed?

This is another identity that we have to claim in order to truly experience in our lives. As we set our thoughts and our words upon Him, who He is, and every gift He has given us, we cannot help but express joy. And as we learn to walk according to the way of His Spirit and seek the things of God, we experience a joy incomparable (John 16:24). Please repeat after me, "In Christ, I am filled with joy!" Amen.



### **34. I am clothed with God's grace (Isaiah 61:10)**

Immediately after Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden their eyes were opened to sin and they felt shame for being naked. They attempted to clothe themselves with fig leaves but they failed, so they tried to hide from God. They knew that despite trying so hard they could not make themselves presentable before God because of their sin. And the same goes for so many today: attempting to make themselves worthy before God by all their works but always coming up short.

God knows we can't cover ourselves on our own. That is why in Isaiah 61:10 His promise is that He clothes us in garments of salvation and in robes of righteousness. The promise means we don't have to do a thing to make ourselves presentable before God. We are only presentable before Him by His grace, and He is the one who covers us with it.

Leviticus 8 is an awkward chapter marking the consecration and anointing of Aaron to become the great high priest of Israel and his sons to become top level priests as well. What is awkward about the process is that Aaron and his sons are not allowed to do anything during the whole consecration process. Instead, Moses is the one to wash them, clothe them, anoint them, make the sacrifices for them. He does everything for them! But what stands out is the washing and the clothing... that had to be the most humiliating part for Aaron and his sons. But it was meant to emphasize to them that they had not earned their position on their own works but rather by the grace of God. It was God's grace that enabled them.

God loves us. Our relationship with Him is not merited upon the works we do or don't do, but it is merited upon His grace. It is only by His grace that we can approach Him, and Hebrews 4:16 encourages us to boldly approach God because of the grace He has clothed us with. We no longer have to strive to be accepted. We are secure before Him.

### **35. I bring God joy (Psalm 149:4):**

Have you ever delighted in someone? Something about seeing the person, whether they are a child or a loved one, brings a warmth and a joy to the heart. And the more you delight in them, the more you want to see them and be with them.

Throughout the Bible God tells us He delights in us (for example: Psalm 18:19, Psalm 147:11, Psalm 149:4, Isaiah 62:4, Zephaniah 3:17). In fact, the end of Zephaniah 3:17 reads like this, "He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you with his love, He will rejoice over you with singing" (NKJV). But the Hebrew for "with singing" is actually more literally translated as, "with shouts of joy." So not only do we bring God enough joy for Him to sing over us, He actually desires to shout or give a resounding cry of joy over us. We mean that much to Him! It's almost humorous to think of God loving us so much that He shouts for joy and sings over us. He can't hold it in! We are His treasure!

And a beautiful part about a number of these verses is that they follow verses of promise of God's redemption and restoration after His people have fallen away in sin. In other words, God's joy for us isn't dependent upon how "good" or "not good" we perform, but is based on His innate love for who we are and who He made us to be. He made us in His image, each with a unique set of fingerprints and unique personalities, talents, and callings. And the sight of us, each set apart from one another, each clothed in His grace and reflecting His image, brings Him great joy! He loves us so much that He sent His own Son to die for us. This is how much He delights in us.

You bring God great joy! He delights in you! Amen!

### **36. I Have All Things (1Corinthians 3:21-23)**

To be called a child of God, His friend, royalty, a citizen of heaven, and so many other amazing identities clearly lead to this revelation: We lack nothing and instead have everything.

1Corinthians 3:21-23 - So let no one boast in men. **For all things are yours**, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future--**all are yours**, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

It can be easy to try and find one's worth through other people and to desire the gifts/honor of other people more than God (to "boast in men"). But the wild thing is that we already have everything. Even death. Yes, even death! It is as we grow so deep in our identity in Christ that we realize that because of who we are before Him, we literally have everything and that nothing is outside of us. Healing, miracles, provision, and anything else... all for us and for our welfare. This is the liberty we have in Christ.

But the passage ends with a reminder that while we have everything, we still belong to Christ. And that brings responsibility in what we claim.

This is clearly an identity that must be claimed, like identities such as, "I am satisfied" or "I am dead to sin." Each identity is taken from the Word of God and is the truth, so the more we claim them the more the truth becomes us and we not just experience it but feel it being lived out through us.