



BECOME THE PERSON
GOD CREATED YOU TO BE

DAVID LEE MARTIN

IN CHRIST

BECOME THE PERSON GOD CREATED YOU TO BE!

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Be blessed as you remember what an awesome creation of Almighty God you really are!

INTRODUCTION

Let me begin with a statement of absolute truth:

“ **YOU are an awesome, uniquely created masterpiece of Almighty God. You have a purpose here in time and a glorious eternal future. And all of this is made possible through the love and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

THE SEARCH FOR IDENTITY

People everywhere today are grappling for self-identity. Many are gripped with a terrifying insecurity.

Advertisements blare assurances that this or that product will miraculously remove this empty

vacuum in our ego, lavishing our eyes and ears with hollow promises of sex, riches, honor, and popularity.

It's incredible to me that we are so prone to the siren call of the world, telling us that this brand shampoo will make us sexy, or the right car or cool-show will elevate us to worthy status.

The truth is that no new outfit, no flashy car, one more shallow romantic relationship, will ever satisfy in the long term (if at all).

The root of our human dilemma lies much deeper than any created thing can solve.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

In the beginning man was so intimately connected to His Creator, His heavenly Father, that he knew nothing of fear, insecurity, lack or low self-esteem. Created in the very image of the One who loved Him and placed in the Garden of Delight (the literal meaning of Eden), mankind (both male and female) knew only abundance, acceptance, worth and esteem, love, and victorious, unhindered living.

All this changed when Adam swapped allegiances and chose to follow the deceiver – that old serpent, satan.

From that point on a horrible self-awareness swept across the hitherto innocent couple's souls.

Naked and fearful they sought to hide from the only One who could resolve their awful plight.

This first son, now cowering behind a bush, unwilling to be seen by others, felt the painful sting of shame sear his mind and heart.

He looked for a way, any way, to blame someone else for his error, to shove his guilty burden upon another...

AND ANOTHER CAME TO TAKE THE
BLAME...

Disguised in the frailty of humanity, the Son of God Himself, born of a virgin and wrapped in swaddling clothes, arrived at the set time to undo all the tangled mess of sin.

The first man failed, and all who were yet in his loins failed with Him.

Generation after generation, bound in the
unrelenting grip of sin...

In Adam.

The Second Man, although wrestled to the ground
by death, arose victorious and free, extending an
invite to all who would follow in His victory train...

In Christ.

I

YOUR NEW IDENTITY

YOU ARE NO LONGER WHO YOU
ONCE WERE

IF YOU HAVE ACCEPTED Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior a radical transformation has taken place. You are no longer the person you once were.

Jesus did not just come to clean up the old you, make you respectable and religious, and sweep your mess under a carpet.

God forbid!

His heavenly mission was not to make a group of nice Christians – He came to create something completely new.

Jesus likened it to be being born again, a brand new life:

“ Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

— JOHN 3:7

Paul described it as a New Creation:

“ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

— 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

This was not just a fresh lick of paint – it’s a whole new house. You have become a dwelling place for God’s Spirit.

You are no longer bound to the old self, no longer subject to the old ways.

You are free from the old habits, unfettered from the old limitations, delivered from old fears, and far above and beyond any insecurities. Need I go on?

YOU ARE A MASTERPIECE OF GOD'S
MAKING

“ For **we are God's masterpiece.** He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

— EPHESIANS 2:10

God does not do things in half measures. When the Bible speaks of a masterpiece, it is talking about a work of utmost excellence – a creation of exquisite beauty and potential.

A magnum opus of inestimable value and worth.

That's You – in Christ Jesus.

LOOK IN THE MIRROR

IN THE SCRIPTURES we are encouraged to remember who we are, not lament over what we once were.

The Bible says that we were once without God and without hope. It was not a nice picture:

“Once you were dead, doomed forever because of your many sins. You used to live just like the rest of the world, full of sin, obeying Satan, the mighty prince of the power of the air. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

All of us used to live that way, following the passions and desires of our evil nature. We were born with an evil nature,

and we were under God's anger just like everyone else..."

— EPHESIANS 2:1-3

"But God..." (don't you just love those words!)

“**But God** is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so very much, that even while we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's special favor that you have been saved!)

For he raised us from the dead along with Christ, and we are seated with him in the heavenly realms—all because we are one with Christ Jesus.”

— EPHESIANS 2:4-6

James speaks about this reality and urges us to not forget these amazing truths.

He likens it to a man or woman looking in the mirror. When we look in the Scriptures we

recognize who we really are. No longer sinners but saints. No longer condemned, but the very righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

“ “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

— JAMES 1:22-25

Don't forget what manner of man (or woman) you now are.

As you accept and embrace your new your identity and discover the depth and significance of what it means to be *in Christ Jesus*, your confident actions will spring from that place of acceptance.

You are not *trying* to be righteous. **You *are* righteous!**

By virtue of your faith in Jesus Christ His right standing with God has been credited to your account.

And believe me, Jesus' account was not lacking. There is more than enough for whosoever comes to Him!

TAKE YOUR SEAT

““(God) raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus.”

— EPHESIANS 2:6

REGARDING the practical application of these truths a primary place is in our prayer life.

Some struggle terribly thinking that they are somehow trying to reach God who is far, far away.

Read the Scripture above. Is this true?

If it is truth (and it is) where are you sitting?

You are “in Christ Jesus” and the Bible tells me that He is sat beside the Father, right there next to Him.

He doesn't have to shout and scream and cry to get the Father's attention. He just leans over and makes His request known, and His loving and generous Daddy responds.

So it is with us.

We are encouraged to make all of our desires and requests known to God. To ask whatever we want, in His name.

“And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.”

— JOHN 16:23

Why not just lean over right now, and ask your Papa for some of those things you so desire and long for. He has promised to answer.

Remember, you are “in Christ” – it is as He Himself were asking the Father.

Do you think God would deny His own Son?

Whose child are you?

““ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”

— GALATIANS 3:26

Without wanting to sound too familiar, but at the same time eager to emphasize the intimate reality of your new relationship let me remind you...

Your Daddy loves you!

He is not withholding. Not standing at a distance. Not pushing you away or waiting for you to measure up.

And all of this flows from your identity in Christ.

That, dear friend, is where the authority and the peace will be found.

SEE IT, SAY IT, DO IT

SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES ARE FOUND throughout the Scriptures. Like physical laws in the natural realm, there are laws and principles at work in the spiritual realm that we can harness and put to beneficial use.

One of these laws is the law of confession.

Not confession of sin, although that too is a powerful law that unharnesses us from eternal consequences of transgression.

The other form of confession taught in the Bible essentially means nothing more than the words you allow to spill from your lips.

I could (and probably will) write an entire book just about the power of words, but let's keep this short and sweet.

Proverbs 18:21 teaches that the words we speak carry the power of life and death, and that we will always eat the fruit of the words we speak.

Words are spiritual seeds. Speaking is planting.

As with any seed, a spoken word may seem small and insignificant when first said, but seeds have a habit of growing up!

One of the most powerful activities you will ever engage in is intentional confession of God's Word. Deliberately taking what the Bible says, and making it personal.

God's words sown in the heart, and then spoken in faith from the mouth, are creative. They bring forth what is spoken.

Here are just a few Scriptures that shine a light on this life changing truth:

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

— ROMANS 10:9 KJV

“We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;”

— 2 CORINTHIANS 4:13 KJV

“out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.”

— MATTHEW 12:34–35 KJV

Interestingly, the word *confession* (or *profession* as used in the KJV) literally means, “to speak after” or “to say the same thing as”.

This is the key point we need to emphasize.

Faith believes the Word of God, then speaks, saying “the same thing” that the Word proclaims.

Those creative words of agreement then go to work on behalf of the one who spoke them.

The most powerful application of this principle is the words we speak about ourselves.

In the next section of this short book, I have collected for you many of the Scriptures that relate to your new identity in Christ.

Your part in this process is now to internalise them through prayer and meditation on what they say, and then to speak them boldly from your own lips, and loud enough and long enough for your ears to hear!

II

IN CHRIST REALITIES AND
SCRIPTURES

“IN CHRIST”

Paul’s Revelation of the reality of our redemption hangs on one phrase:

“In Christ”.

*“Therefore if any man be **in Christ**, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

— 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

The new creation is a reality we all need to grasp. We are citizens of a Kingdom where old things have passed away and all things have been made new.

In Him we have redemption, healing and peace.

In Christ we have all our needs supplied and a future filled with hope and joy.

One way to use these declarations is to print them out and speak them out.

Let's face it, sometimes we need to remind ourselves of the truth!

Over the page are listed just some of these awesome realities,

personalized to strengthen your heart and energize your faith.

Your creative life of faith will be determined by how real and true these marvellous truths become to you. Speaking them out on a daily basis is a practice that will transform your life!

GOD TELLS ME IN HIS WORD...

God tells me in His word that...

I AM God's child for I am born again of the incorruptible

seed of the Word of God which lives and abides forever. 1Pet 1:23

I AM forgiven of all my sins. 1Jn 2:12 1Jn 1:9

I AM a new creation. 2 Cor 5:17

I AM the temple of the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor 6:19

I AM delivered from the power of darkness and translated into God's Kingdom. Col 1:13

I AM Redeemed from the curse of the law. 1 Pet
1:18,19; Gal 3:13

I AM blessed! Deut 28:2; Gal 3:9

I AM the head and not the tail. Above only and not
beneath. Deut 28:13

I AM holy and without blame before Him in love.
Eph 1:4

I AM established to the end. 1 Cor 1:8

I AM made near by the blood of Jesus. Eph 2:13

I AM victorious. 1 Cor 15: 57

I AM set free. Jn 8:36

I AM Strong in the Lord. Eph 6:10

I AM dead to sin and alive to God. Rom 6:11

I AM more than a conqueror. Rom 8:37

I AM joint heir with Christ. Rom 8:17

I AM sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise. Eph
1:13

I AM a son of God. Gal 4:7

I AM in Christ Jesus, by His doing. 1 Cor 1:30

I AM accepted in the Beloved. Eph 1:6

I AM Complete in Him. Col 2:10

I AM crucified with Christ. Gal 2:20

I AM alive with Christ. Eph 2:4,5

I AM free from condemnation. Rom 8:1

I AM reconciled to God. 2 Cor 5:18

I AM qualified to share in His inheritance. Col 1:12

I AM firmly rooted, built up, established in my faith
and overflowing with gratitude. Col 2:7

I AM a fellow citizen with the saints and of the
household of God. Eph 2:19

I AM built upon the foundation of the apostles & prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Corner Stone. Eph 2:20

I AM born of God and the evil one does not touch me. 1Jn 5:18

I AM His faithful follower. Eph 5:1

I AM raised up with Christ and seated in heavenly places. Eph 2:6

I AM beloved of God. Col 3:12

I AM one in Christ. Jn 17:21

I AM overtaken with blessings. Eph 1:3

I AM His disciple because I have love for others. Jn 13:34,35

I AM the light of the world. Mat 5:14

I AM the salt of the earth. Mat 5:13

I AM the righteousness of God. 2 Cor 5:21

I AM a partaker of His divine nature. 2 Pet 1:4

I AM called of God. 2 Tim 1:9

I AM the firstfruits among His creation. James 1:18

I AM chosen. Eph 1:4

I AM an ambassador for Christ. 2 Cor 5:20

I AM God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works. Eph 2:10

I AM the apple of my Father's eye. Ps 17:8

I AM healed by the stripes of Jesus. 1 Pet 2:24

I AM being changed into His image. 2 Cor 3:18

I AM a true worshiper who worships the Father in Spirit and in Truth. John 4:24

I AM one of a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that I should show forth the praises of him who has called me out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9

I AM free from fear because the perfect love of God within me casts out all fear! 1 John 4:18

I AM without sin. 1John 3:9

I AM changed into the exact image of Jesus. 2Cor 3:18

I AM as Jesus is right now and forever! 1 John 4:17

I AM the redeemed of the Lord, whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy. Psalm 107:2

I HAVE the mind of Christ. 1 Cor 2:16

I HAVE obtained an inheritance. Eph 1:11

I HAVE access by one Spirit to the Father. Eph 2:18

I HAVE overcome the world. 1 Jn 5:4

I HAVE everlasting life and will not be condemned. Jn 5:24

I HAVE God as my heavenly Father. 2 Cor 6:18

I HAVE the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. Eph 1:17

I HAVE the peace of God which passes understanding. Phil 4:7

I HAVE received power, the power of the Holy Spirit; power to lay hands on the sick and see them recover; power to cast out demons. Mk 16:17,18

I HAVE authority over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt me. Luke 10:19

I LIVE by and in the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. Rom 8:2

I WALK in Christ Jesus. Col 2:6

I CAN do all things in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:13

I CAN come boldly to the throne of grace. Hebrews 4:16

MY LIFE is hidden with Christ in God. Col 3:3

I SHALL do even greater works than Christ Jesus. Jn 14:12

I HAVE the Greater One in me because greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world. 1Jn 4:4

I always triumph in Christ. 2 Cor 2:14

I proclaim and show forth His praise. 1 Pet 2:9

I overcome evil with good. Rom 12:21

I put my faith in the power of God. 1 Cor 2:5

I PRESS toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God. Phil 3:14

GOD is directing my paths. Prov 3:5,6