



ADVENTURE WITH GOD SERIES

The
Cool of the Day

7 THOUGHTS ON HOW AND WHY YOU SHOULD CONSIDER
REBOOTING OUR WALK AND WORK TO LOOK LIKE REST.

By John Fairrington

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For more information on rebooting your walk, simplifying your faith, understanding your story, or restoring hope. Contact us on our website below for more writings, books, and encouragement. John is available for gatherings such as camps, retreats, speaking engagements for faith based organizations.

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Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away. Genesis 5:24.

Prologue

What follows is a simple pattern of what I can only described as a walk in the cool of the day.

Genesis 5:24. Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

This book looks into the characteristics of an intimate relationship with our Father in Heaven that foster transformation on a supernaturally natural level. How it translates is unique to the story of every individual and puts us in touch with the author and finisher of everything that pertains to life as we know it. The principles below are based on relational theology for you bible buffs and are not intended to drive you into spiritual calisthenics rather, they are intended to assist you into the natural flow of what God has provided abundantly towards us. It is not intended to provoke a religious position or opinion rather an experience that will translate into something you have never personally seen in your walk before. The discovery points embedded in this brief passage of this scripture set a precedent in relational theology. That is to say that when the Spirit breathed this passage of scripture, He was engaging us and even daring us to embark on an adventure of discovery with the one true God. If you choose to explore these things for yourself I will personally guarantee that it will not only simplify your walk, but provide much needed rest, the renewing of your mind, the refreshing of your soul, and it will change the way you look at life as you see it through the lens of Jesus.



Chapter 1

Chillin in the Cool

Chilln' - To be in a state of prolonged satisfactory peace. A positive state for rebooting, not regarded as being bored but a posture of stillness that allows one to receive or recharge.

“John’s Urban Dictionary”

The things shared in this brief commentary are the foundational starting points for total transformation in any individual. We hope that it will help you to determine whether you are looking for restoration or retreat, renewal or recreation, restoration or just another vacation. As the author and having documented my personal journey, I can only say that at one point in my

walk I was suffocating in my religiosity, hiding my sin, and sinking in the quicksand of spiritual pride. My life was in need of a total reboot. The following is what the Lord did in me as I began to really discover who he is and how he feels about me. He does it for all his kids, the men, women, and children that He loves so very much! He takes great pride in people who are shipwrecked, at the end of a rope, and who have lost hope!

When I first began to work through this process it was not a natural outflow of an intimate relationship with Jesus but, what I can say today is that it has become my daily walk in the cool of the day.

Here are 7 thoughts on how and why you should consider rebooting your walk they are vital to experiencing restoration, reconciliation, refreshment, and a reboot in your walk. They are explained in the most simplistic ways we know how. The absence of any of these characteristics would in my opinion constitute a reboot!

PAUSE

This is where you learn the experience and discipline of neutral. The great thing about “neutral” can be defined simplistically in this way; No matter how hard you try to drive something that is in neutral and no matter how hard you try to gain momentum there will never be movement. Too often, our mindset on moving forward in life is that If we do our part then God will do His part. This is not in keeping with the New Covenant of Christ that we have been

provided with. So, hit the pause button today! Everything goes into neutral. No phone, no responsibility, no agenda, schedules, deadlines, and absolutely no plans. The work is done!

1 Samuel 12:16 Now then, stand still and see this great thing the LORD is about to do before your eyes!

You can't experience what He is doing if you are doing your own thing. You will miss out on the great things the Lord is doing every time. Today it is up to you to practice "Chillin in the Cool" the discipline of pause and to find neutral. After all, you are here because you have been stuck in some other gear!

Pause Assignment

Learn what neutral looks like. Remember that the beauty of neutral is that when the Lord begins to nudge something it will always roll without your help! This is the supernaturally natural movement you have been longing for as opposed to being stuck in park and feeling like you are going nowhere or peg in high gear where you have been accustomed to missing everything that goes by.



Chapter 2

The Cool Breeze

“When the lungs and nervous system are functioning properly, the breath reflex occurs spontaneously”

BREATHE

Losing perspective in life whether through suffering, busyness, guilt, sin, stress or work can pile up and become stifling; it is like forgetting to breathe. More particularly, we as Christians can forget that we are never alone, no matter what we are undergoing, because God is with us, just as he was with those saints who have been in similar straits before. Sometimes we are especially prone to forget the natural ways and basic simplicities that are foundational to our walk of faith. It is in

those times when we find ourselves in isolation, or loneliness, and we feel like we can't go on, or that there is no end in sight. We need then, especially, to be reminded to breathe in the word that God has breathed out for us.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

The Scriptures record a lot of suffering because God's people have never been free of it, not even from the kinds and degrees that can overwhelm God's most stalwart saints. Indeed, when Job's suffering seemed to him to be never ending, he actually accused God of keeping him from catching his breath (see Job 9:18, NLT). Yet his story finally conveys that, as awful as his situation was, much of what he needed to hear was something like this: "Breathe! Don't panic! Slow yourself down! Don't take everything to be as it seems. And don't irrationally conclude that things will never get better." In other words, even one of the Old Testament's greatest believers needed to learn the discipline of breathing in the Lord.

Breathing Assignment

Air breathed of God is Free! This thought intends to be less about trying to find an oxygen bottle and all about grasping the natural reflex of breathing in the Lord.

When the lungs and nervous system are functioning properly, the breath reflex occurs spontaneously or can be stimulated or "triggered" for profound full body relaxation

and recovery from activity. It is the physical, temporal side of normal body function and reflex however, there is an even more natural spiritual reflex that will govern life in terms of the health and well being of any individual. It is the natural reflex of breathing in the Lord. Here are 10 scriptures or what I call 1st breaths to think and pray through an inhale. As you read through them ask yourself a few questions like; Have I been holding my breath? Has the enemy been standing on my air-hose? Am I in the Tunnel? When we were kids it was customary to travel through tunnels with the horn blasting while holding our breath. In Christianity today, too often our adventure gets noisy and dark, then we stop breathing like it's going to bring bad circumstances if we do! It's time to start breathing even when it's dark and no end is in sight. It's time to exit your tunnels!

After contemplating these scriptures ask yourself "How's the air in the room now?" You'll know how to experience God's breath of life from here on out!

This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! -Ezekiel 37:5

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. - 1 Peter 5:7

Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. - Psalm 62:1

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds

***them. Are you not much more valuable than they? -
Matthew 6:26***

***Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. -
Philippians 4:4-9***

***The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace. - Psalm 29:11
Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” - Matthew 11:28-30***

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” - John 16:33

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. - Psalm 150:6

The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” - Exodus 33:14.

After breathing in these words Is the wind of His Spirit putting fresh air back into your room?



Chapter 3

Conversations from the Park Bench

“There is a Park Bench on my walk in the cool of the day. I climb into my Father’s lap and have His undivided attention for as long as I want.”
-Anonymous.

PRAYER

Praying is easy, right? Well it wasn’t for me even as a pastor. I had been schooled in every posture, method and process. I had never experienced the kind of heartfelt conversations that I began to have as I intentionally walked with Him in the cool of the day. It

didn't take long to get right to the heart of my issues and realized very quickly that my Father was not put off by my complaints and whining. I also quickly realized that the Holy Spirit could cut through all of my issues of pride and that any attempts of candy coating my sin, bitterness, jealousy, and failures were a waist of precious time. You see my communion with the Lord dealt with the veil that I had constructed. He ripped it right down the the middle granting access to the full on presence of God. No prequalification, and no performance based access, Just the weakest and worst version of me allowed to walk into the cool refreshing presence of God himself. I had been the only one making it hard my whole life!

Prayer is simply a heartfelt conversation between God and his child. Resist the urge to complicate it. Don't take pride in well-crafted prayers. Don't apologize for incoherent ones. Just be honest—honest to God. Climb into His lap, tell him everything that is going on, and have a conversation from the Park Bench.

Prayer Assignment

Have a talk with your Father. Enjoy the opportunity and invitation to experience a new and different kind of conversation with Him. You speak with your family and friends, your spouse, even your pets! I haven't found my conversations to be much different with God after I learned how to be transparent, honest and devoid of ulterior motives and manipulation. This is where you develop your personal communication skills with the Lord and your acute hearing loss is restored!

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 1 John 5:14

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. Jeremiah 33:3

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Psalm 32:8



Chapter 4

A Cool Directional Change

*The Little River Band sang a song called
“Time for a Cool Change”
If only someone could have told them that true
repentance would spark the coolest life change ever!*

REPENTANCE

If repentance is not part of your normal daily routine in the Cool of the Day... You definitely are in need of a reboot!

Psalm 51:1-19 KJV

[1] ... Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. [2] Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. [3] For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. [4] Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. [5] Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. [6] Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. [7] Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. [8] Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. [9] Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. [10] Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. [11] Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. [12] Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. [13] Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. [14] Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. [15] O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. [16] For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it : thou delights not in burnt offering. [17] The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. [18] Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem. [19] Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt

offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar....

Repentance Assignment

Ask yourself these questions and wrestle with where you are at on matters of true repentance.

Do you postpone confession and repentance until you have been caught or confronted?

Do you conceal your struggles with sin?

Is your sacrifice a broken Spirit before God (Are you broken hearted about your sin?)

Can you give definition to anything that your heart has been contrite over today?

Is repentance a daily function of your walk in the cool of the day?

Repentance brings a directional change in our lives. It this how it looks for you or are you just saying sorry for staying the way you are?

If Repentance is not part of your normal daily routine in the Cool of the Day... You definitely are in need of a reboot!

In religion our only hope is to live a life good enough to require God to bless us, so every instance of sin and repentance is therefore traumatic, unnatural and threatening. Only under great duress do religious people admit they have sinned, because their only hope is their moral goodness.

In the Gospel the knowledge of our acceptance in Christ makes it easier to admit that we are flawed, because we know we won't be cast off if we confess the true depths of our sinfulness. Our hope is in Christ's righteousness, not our own, so it is not as traumatic to admit our weaknesses and lapses

- Tim Keller



Chapter 5

Light your Path!

DELIGHT IN THE WORD

A fresh approach to the Word is a must! We all love the feel good passages that bolster a free pass theology around grace but how do you feel when the word tells you not to think on another mans wife? Does the phrase, “wives submit yourselves to your husbands”

conjure tension in your marriage? Where are the warm fuzzies when scripture looks you in the heart and summarizes all of your hard work with “depart from me I never knew you?” If you are squirming right now then that is good! The Holy Spirit still desires to work into you the full on grace that teaches us to live righteously. Today will be a little bit like spring cleaning and getting new glasses. Seeing the actual truth of scripture and making application will set you free if you let it!

Word Assignment

It is easy to prepare sermons for the flock, easier yet to pontificate our spiritual prowess. It seems there is an attraction to becoming a Wordsmith of the scriptures to validate our knowledge while in the presence of others but; When is the last time you heard the Word tell you to sit down and shut up for a second?

Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

We get so hung up on having a word for someone else that we never come away having applied it to ourselves. The whole reason I can discern the things I have from this passage of scripture is because I sat down and asked the Lord to give me something profound that I could use and then began to pray through this simple passage. I asked the Lord questions like What do you mean be still? I admitted to the Father that I have a hard time patiently waiting for answers. In the time I spent working through these questions and more in conversation with the Lord about this small passage, I realized that the Word of God has the

ability to turn on the lights for me. It became clear that the Lord was telling me to sit down and shut up long enough for Him to reveal himself to me so that I could know Him more intimately and that He would be exalted for it. I was experiencing what it meant to delight in the transformational power of God's Word. I knew that He could speak to me on my level and that He truly did desire to infuse me with the truth of His Word while in simple conversation, meditation, and prayer through the Scriptures. This is what a Walk in the Cool of the Day looks like so delight!

Psalms 37:31 - The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.

Psalms 40:8 - I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Psalms 1:2 - But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 119:97 - O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.



Chapter 6

No wonder He wants to hang out with You.

THE LENS OF JESUS

I have experienced every type of people who are bitter, cynical, and untrusting towards Christianity or the church. Many of these folks are in some sort of leadership as pastors or laypersons. In many cases, talk about restoration is met with kickback like you've just added the ingredients for the perfect storm. In many cases folks respond this way because of a collapse or failure in their personal lives as was the case with me when approached on issues of my own sin. Sometimes it is associated with a mindset that hasn't allowed for the messy

aspects of restoration in our culturally sterile religious forums. There are a plethora of folks who have been met with a list of requirements to receive any kind of mercy or grace and have been left alone to muster a worthy performance when they were stuck in a deep rut and no one wanted to get muddy. I personally think that it is a lot of both! All I know is that I have found myself intrinsically linked to the ranks of those misfits who have felt stuck, erased, abandoned, hopeless, and even orphaned.

I am so thankful that God never gives up on us. After a year and a half of sitting still, keeping my mouth shut, and going through a period of mental, emotional, and spiritual detoxification. Christ provided Himself for the rehabilitation and restoration of my life that I so desperately needed. The Lord began to do new things in my life and they looked so different than they did before. Things much simpler now and my previously misplaced dependency on self and performance has been totally re-centered on the only One who could bring restoration to my life again.

Once I began to see my story through the lens of Jesus, being painfully transparent, brutally honest, and when I stopped glossing over the side of me that had been hidden, ignored, and kept at bay by the old me, that is when things began to change in my life.

What became immediately clear through this season is that this world is packed with people just like me. People who live with guilt, shame, regret, and sadness because of what they have done or failed to do; people who would do anything to go back in time and make different choices but

are presently plagued by the realization that they can't; people who live in fear that they will never hope again; people who have lost everything and wonder whether they will ever experience joy and peace like they used to; people who battle suicidal thoughts because they'll never outrun or outlive the consequences of their sinful decisions and the people they have hurt; people who endure the painful, inescapable void of broken relationships; people who struggle with believing that anybody (even God) could love them because they have done so many bad, destructive, and hurtful things.

That season, my story, and the stories of so many others that I have met, has opened my eyes to a world populated by pain. It has shown me that we are in an epic battle for our faith and the hope of heaven. I find that I can deeply relate to every person I talk to who feels desperately at the end of their rope and is therefore starving for a reason to keep going. And I am much more cognizant that the folks who seem the most put together on the outside are potentially going through the same thing I was going through.

God's purpose and usefulness has found me even though I was emphatically not looking for it. It is just what He does. He qualifies the disqualified and uses them in the most unconventional ways to impact a culture and gather His followers. I am a misfit and I belong to other misfits; I am an outcast who belongs to the other outcasts who have at one time been stuck in their story and lost hope. I love them deeply in ways that I never did before and in ways I cannot articulate. I belong to them and we belong to each other. We are people who are placed together by the God

who seeks out the lost and the guilty and the fearful and the hurting and then fashions a bride.

You make think you have gone through the Hell of brokenness and shame but God has a passport for you that is stamped with new places, full of adventure, full of hope, and full of wholeness. Welcome to a new frontier fellow misfits! It is time to see yourself through the lens of Jesus and understand how your heavenly father see's you.

Assignment Looking through your new Lens

We are not advocating positive speech or even rewriting the narrative of your story, Your life has already been hardwired for greatness and life in abundantly. We are however suggesting that you adopt the narrative of the Author and Finisher of our faith and begin to see your story, life, circumstances, and who you really are, through the lens of Jesus. Your assignment will be to correct the narrative of you story. The enemy of your soul has backed you into a corner with lies about how your Heavenly Father feels about you. He is ever subtlety undermining the finished work of the cross by telling you that your performance is not worthy of reconciliation. Time to get your story straight, get your life back and send the enemy packing! Start by reading a small portion of your story below! This will be a good day!

I am a child of God.

But to all who have received him--those who believe in his name--he has given the right to become God's children ...

(John 1:12).

I am a branch of the true vine, and a conduit of Christ's life.

I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener. I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me-- and I in him--bears much fruit, because apart from me you can accomplish nothing (John 15:1, 5).

I am a friend of Jesus.

I no longer call you slaves, because the slave does not understand what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because I have revealed to you everything I heard from my Father (John 15:15).

I have been justified and redeemed.

But they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Romans 3:24).

My old self was crucified with Christ, and I am no longer a slave to sin.

We know that our old man was crucified with him so that the body of sin would no longer dominate us, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin (Romans 6:6).

I will not be condemned by God.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1).

I have been set free from the law of sin and death.

For the law of the life-giving Spirit in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2).

As a child of God, I am a fellow heir with Christ.

And if children, then heirs (namely, heirs of God and also fellow heirs with Christ)--if indeed we suffer with him so we may also be glorified with him (Romans 8:17).

***I have been accepted by Christ.
Receive one another, then, just as Christ also received you, to God's glory (Romans 15:7).***

***I have been called to be a saint.
... To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, and called to be saints, with all those in every place who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours (1 Corinthians 1:2). (See also Ephesians 1:1, Philippians 1:1, and Colossians 1:2.)***

***In Christ Jesus, I have wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.
He is the reason you have a relationship with Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption ... (1 Corinthians 1:30).***

***My body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who dwells in me.
Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you (1 Corinthians 6:19)?***

***I am joined to the Lord and am one spirit with Him.
But the one united with the Lord is one spirit with him (1 Corinthians 6:17).***

***God leads me in the triumph and knowledge of Christ.
But thanks be to God who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and who makes known through us***

the fragrance that consists of the knowledge of him in every place (2 Corinthians 2:14).

The hardening of my mind has been removed in Christ. But their minds were closed. For to this very day, the same veil remains when they hear the old covenant read. It has not been removed because only in Christ is it taken away (2 Corinthians 3:14).

I am a new creature in Christ. So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away--look, what is new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17)!

I have become the righteousness of God in Christ. God made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we would become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).

I have been made one with all who are in Christ Jesus. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female--for all of you are one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28).

I am no longer a slave, but a child and an heir. So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if you are a son, then you are also an heir through God (Galatians 4:7).

I have been set free in Christ. For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not be subject again to the yoke of slavery (Galatians 5:1).

I have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).

I am chosen, holy, and blameless before God.

For he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world that we may be holy and unblemished in his sight in love (Ephesians 1:4).

I am redeemed and forgiven by the grace of Christ.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace (Ephesians 1:7).

I have been predestined by God to obtain an inheritance.

In Christ we too have been claimed as God's own possession, since we were predestined according to the one purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will (Ephesians 1:11).

I have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

And when you heard the word of truth (the gospel of your salvation)--when you believed in Christ--you were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13).

Because of God's mercy and love, I have been made alive with Christ.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, even though we were dead in

***transgressions, made us alive together with Christ--by
grace you are saved (Ephesians 2:4-5)!***

***I am seated in the heavenly places with Christ.
... And he raised us up with him and seated us with him in
the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus ... (Ephesians 2:6).***

***I am God's workmanship created to produce good works.
For we are his workmanship, having been created in
Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared
beforehand so we may do them (Ephesians 2:10).***

***I have been brought near to God by the blood of Christ.
But now in Christ Jesus you who used to be far away have
been brought near by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13).***

***I am a member of Christ's body and a partaker of His
promise.
... The Gentiles are fellow heirs, fellow members of the
body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus
(Ephesians 3:6). (See also Ephesians 5:30.)***

***I have boldness and confident access to God through faith
in Christ.***

***... In whom we have boldness and confident access to God
because of Christ's faithfulness (Ephesians 3:12).***

My new self is righteous and holy.

***... Put on the new man who has been created in God's
image--in righteousness and holiness that comes from
truth (Ephesians 4:24).***

I was formerly darkness, but now I am light in the Lord.

... For you were at one time darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of the light (Ephesians 5:8).

I am a citizen of heaven.

But our citizenship is in heaven--and we also await a savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ ... (Philippians 3:20).

The peace of God guards my heart and mind. And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

God supplies all my needs. And my God will supply your every need according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

I have been made complete in Christ. ... You have been filled in him, who is the head over every ruler and authority (Colossians 2:10).

I have been raised up with Christ. Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God (Colossians 3:1).

My life is hidden with Christ in God. ... For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3).

Christ is my life, and I will be revealed with Him in glory.

When Christ (who is your life) appears, then you too will be revealed in glory with him (Colossians 3:4).

I have been chosen of God, and I am holy and beloved. Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience ... (Colossians 3:12).

God loves me and has chosen me. We know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you ... (1 Thessalonians 1:4).

No wonder He likes to hang out with you!



Chapter 7

Jesus is the New Me!

SUBSTITUTING OUR IDENTITY FOR HIS.

Who do you think you are? I know my own road to failure and every stop I made along the way. I know it so well I can drive it in the dark, backwards, with my eyes closed. Some folks provide perpetual reminders of the roads I've traveled and where I have made wrong turns. It's like they have hacked the location services of my phone or GPS and think they know where I'm going next.

Im so glad Jesus sacrificed His Identity for mine. He who knew no sin became my sin in order that I might enjoy the freedom of his full payment for all sin and a new identity.

In His economy, I am bankrupt. I am every label that has been attached to me: idolater, liar, adulterer, coveter, thief. The collateral I have collected is worthless against my debt. I have boldly labored as the sole proprietor in my own corrupt marketing business. I write checks as if I have endless resources. But in reality, even when I think I'm in the green I am completely in the red—broke and working a dead-end job selling a worthless product. And because of my bankruptcy, God sent Jesus as my substitute, not only to pay my debt in full but to make a deposit of righteousness that will never run out. All the titles we spend a lifetime trying to make or break, Jesus says “charge them all to me.” He announces his one job in Luke 4: to set the captives free. Free from our foolish attempts to fool ourselves and others. Free from the bondage of business gone bad. Free from the mishaps of mistaken identity. Free from the rise and fall of our stock. Free from the terrible titles we achieve in public or private. Free. He then provided permanent labels of identity for us like; forgiven, righteous, accepted, beautiful, and beloved forever—no matter what. For me, being given His identity also gives me mine and declares exactly just what I think about who I am and how I live!

Identity Assignment

Who do you think you are! Discover your true identity in Christ! See yourself though the lens of Jesus. If you are seeing yourself through the lens of Christ then you should

be able to say with confidence. “Jesus is the new me!” I know this is hard to wrap our brains around and I must confess that it took many walks with Him in the cool of the day but the discovery of just how excited He is to walk with me and talk with me has truly translated into something simple and at the same time powerful.

This is what a walk in the cool of the day looks like. Will you take the walk with Him? Will you discover what it looks like for yourself? You won't be disappointed!

About the Author



God Justifies the Ungodly!

Romans 3:20-4:5 God justifies the ungodly who trust in him. God acquits the guilty!

While I have frequently stumbled in life, God has been gracious! This understanding is crucial to the success of folks who desire to walk closely with the Lord and are wanting to enjoy the freedom to be who God created them to be. This is for those who struggle with depression, isolation, their own sins, hearing from the Lord, and moving past the mistakes of their past. It is a small part of my walk with the Lord in the cool of the day.

My work is now my rest!

