

Who on earth am I?

(Knowing our Kingdom Identity in Christ)

- Has anyone ever, by faith, believed in Jesus?
- Has anyone ever said a prayer along the lines of:
‘Dear LORD Jesus, I’m sorry for my sins ... please come into my life ... etc ... etc’?
- Have you had an experience that, in hindsight, you put down to being filled with the Holy Spirit?

Have you ever considered what ACTUALLY takes place when you believe in Jesus, receive him by faith and get filled with the Holy Spirit?

Well something happens.

A spiritual transaction takes place and we are **UTTERLY DIFFERENT.**

- Putting your faith in Jesus as Saviour connects you to something above and beyond what we could ever have access to in the natural realm.
- Putting your faith in Jesus as Saviour causes some incredible things to happen to you.

1. Something happens to you

In Christ:

You are made new

2 Corinthians 5:17 AMP

Therefore if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], *he is* a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life].

2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

You are transferred into a new kingdom

Colossians 1:13-14 NLT

¹³ For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Colossians 1:13-14 AMP

¹³ For He has rescued us *and* has drawn us to Himself from the dominion of darkness, and has transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption [because of His sacrifice, resulting in] the forgiveness of our sins [and the cancellation of sins' penalty].

You are seated in heavenly realms

Ephesians 2:1-6 (NLT)

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.² You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else.

⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!)

⁶ For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.

You have a clean slate

Colossians 1:19-22 (NLT)

¹⁹ For God in all his fullness
was pleased to live in Christ

²⁰ and through him God reconciled
everything to himself.

He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth
by means of Christ’s blood on the cross.

²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. ²² Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

Colossians 2:12-14 (NLT)

¹² For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

¹³ You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.

You are hidden with Christ in God

Colossians 3:1-3 (NLT)

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. ² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

You are adopted

Ephesians 1:3-5 (NLT)

³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.

⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Romans 8:11-16 (NLT)

¹¹ The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

¹² Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. ¹³ For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

¹⁵ So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.

Something happened to when you prayed that prayer.

You are utterly different.

These examples are just scratching the surface.

There are some sheets attached to the notes for you to read and digest which give more examples of who we are in Christ.

There is also a picture drawn by Sue Tilbey for you to enjoy.

- So, you're in a different kingdom now.
- All that we've talked about is yours. Like a birthright because you have a new father.

So to summarise, something happens **to** you.

2. Something also happens in you

You may have also noticed since you prayed that prayer and got filled with the Holy Spirit that something happens **in** you ...

You may have noticed that you begin to:

Think ...

Speak ...

Act ...

... differently

More like your new family.

Ephesians 4:17-24 (NLT)
Living as Children of Light

¹⁷ With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. ¹⁸ Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. ¹⁹ They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.

²⁰ But that isn't what you learned about Christ. ²¹ Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, ²² throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception.

²³ Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴ Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

In Christ, we **are** utterly different and we **become** utterly different.

Our authority in Christ

Let's zoom in and focus on our authority over darkness as men and women in Christ.

As believers we are transferred from being under Satan's authority to being under Christ's. We receive, in Christ, the authority and ability to live victoriously over the invisible powers of darkness.

There are 2 kingdoms, light and dark.
Jesus is the king of the Kingdom of Light.

John 10:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

Luke 4:14-22 (NLT)

¹⁴ Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. ¹⁵ He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. ¹⁷ The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the LORD is upon me,
for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released,
that the blind will see,
that the oppressed will be set free,

¹⁹ and that the time of the LORD's favor has come."

²⁰ He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. ²¹ Then he began to

speak to them. “The Scripture you’ve just heard has been fulfilled this very day!”

- These truths are for us.
- We have full access to every promise Jesus made. Including victory over darkness.

Mark 16:15-18 (NLT)

¹⁵ And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. ¹⁶ Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.

¹⁷ These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. ¹⁸ They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won’t hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.”

Ephesians 1:19-23 (NLT)

¹⁹ I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.

²¹ Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come.

²² God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. ²³ And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

Some top tips to help us walk in these truths ...

To become who we already are ...

- ◆ Know who you are. Read Colossians, Ephesians & Galatians and look for phrases that tell you who you are in Christ. Underline them, write them out in the first person.
- ◆ Believe by faith – faith is the password.
- ◆ Agree with God and what His word says about you.
- ◆ Disagree with your insecurities and the enemy's lies. Satan can lie and deceive and intimidate but we can stand in righteousness, holiness and authority in Christ.

Mephibosheth

We can learn a lesson from him! 2 Samuel 9

This is a time:

- to raise our faith
- to know who on earth we are
- to root out any dead dog thinking

Questions to consider

1. Of all the truths about who you are in Christ, which one do you treasure most personally?

Pick one truth about who you are in Christ from the first two chapters of Ephesians or Colossians, write it out in the first person, then say it out loud to the group.

2. In what ways do you/would you like to exercise authority over darkness?
3. Do you have any dead dog thoughts about yourself you need to change?