

Who I Am

Not I

But

Christ

31 Day

Devotional

Richard W. LaFountain

What God Says I Am

It is good to study each of God's statements about you in the privacy of your own home, but another way to study these truths is with other people. This is because all of us struggle with feelings in inferiority before God. Sharing your struggles, doubts and fears can encourage your mutual faith. Meet together with other believers for five weeks and explore your thoughts and feelings together. Each time look at seven of God's truths and discuss them.

WEEK 1

- Day 1 – God says you are His...Precious Possession – 1 Corinthians 6:20
- Day 2 – God says you are His...Crown of Beauty – Isaiah 62:3
- Day 3 – God says you are His... Priceless Treasure – Deuteronomy 7:6
- Day 4 – God says you are His...Precious Child – 1 Peter 2:9
- Day 5 – God says you are His...Masterpiece – Ephesians 2:10
- Day 6 – God says you are His...Clean Vessel – 2 Timothy 2:20-21
- Day 7 – God says you are the...Apple of His Eye – Deuteronomy 32:10

WEEK 2

- Day 8 – God says you are His...Victor, not a Victim – 1 John 5:4
- Day 9 – God says you are His...Chosen One – Ephesians 1:4
- Day 10 – God says you are His...Able Minister – 1 Timothy 4:6
- Day 11 – God says you are...Forever Forgiven – Colossians 2:13
- Day 12 – God says you are...Loved Eternally – Jeremiah 31:3
- Day 13 – God says you are...Shielded by God – 1 Peter 1:5
- Day 14 – God says you are...Kept in His Hand – John 10:29

WEEK 3

- Day 15 – God says you are...Kept from Falling – Jude 1:24
- Day 16 – God says you are...Healed by His Stripes – Isaiah 53:5
- Day 17 – God says you are...A Super Conqueror – Romans 8:35-39
- Day 18 – God says you are...Complete in Him – Colossians 2:10
- Day 19 – God says you are...Seated with Him in Heavenly Places – Eph. 2:6
- Day 20 – God says you are...Hidden with Christ – Colossians 3:3
- Day 21 – God says you are...Protected from the Evil One – 1 John 5:18

WEEK 4

- Day 22 – God says you are...Secure in Christ – John 10:28-29
- Day 23 – God says you are a...A New Creation – 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Day 24 – God says you are...Chosen by God – Ephesians 1:4
- Day 25 – God says you are...Set Free from Sin's Bondage – Romans 6:18
- Day 26 – God says you have been...Born Again – 1 Peter 1:23
- Day 27 – God says you have been given a...Sound Mind – 2 Timothy 1:7
- Day 28 – God says you have been given...Authority Over Satan – Luke 10:19

WEEK 5

- Day 29 – God says you have been...Sealed by the Holy Spirit – 2 Cor. 1:22
- Day 30 – God says you can never be...Separated from His Love – Romans 8:38
- Day 31 – God says you can never...Be Lost – John 10:28

WEEK 1

My Value

Day 1

God Says I Am His...

Precious Possession

“You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.” (1 Corinthians 6:20)

“After a period of glory, the LORD Almighty sent me against the nations who oppressed you. For he said, ‘Anyone who harms you harms my most precious possession’ (Zechariah 2:8 New Living Translation).

“The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.” (Deuteronomy 7:6)

God says He chose Israel not because they were more in number than any other people. In fact, they were “the fewest of all peoples.” They were not smarter than other people. They were not wealthier. They were not more skilled, and certainly not more righteous than other nations. God chose them for one reason only, He chose to love them. They didn’t merit Him. He decided to count them as precious. He also chose them to be his *“treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”*

pre·cious – It’s an adjective (of an object, substance, or resource) something of great value because of being rare, expensive, irreplaceable, and important; not to be wasted or treated carelessly.

I am sure we can all think of things that are precious to us. Christopher Columbus battled for the promises given to him by Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain. Today we have copies of Christopher Columbus’ most prized possession. It was a written contract he received verbally from the monarch before setting out to discover a trade route to India.

“On January 5, 1502, prior to his fourth and final voyage to America, Columbus gathered several judges and notaries in his home in Seville. The purpose? To have them authorize copies of his archival collection of original

documents through which Ferdinand and Isabella had granted titles, revenues, powers and privileges to Columbus and his descendants. These 36 documents are popularly called "Columbus' Book of Privileges." Four copies of his "Book" existed in 1502, three written on vellum and one on paper. The Library's copy, one of the three on vellum, has a unique paper copy of the Papal Bull Dudum siquidem of September 26, 1493, which extended the Spanish claim for future explorations."

Source: <https://www.loc.gov/item/myloc3/>

These documents were precious to Columbus because they were signed promises. The documents today are so rare, fragile and precious that when they are moved from one room to another in the Library of Congress they are accompanied by an armed guard.

We have a document that predates Columbus by thousands of years. It is the word of God, full of God's promises to you and me as His precious possession. It is a Book of Privileges signed by the King of the Universe, and it's written to you. You are precious to God because He created you and loves you. He holds you close as His most precious possession. Don't ever call or think of yourself as common or unclean. You are His.

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD'S THOUGHTS.

Tell God your own thoughts, doubts and struggles.

Can you think of other promises that would help you believe this?

Day 2

God Says I Am His...

Crown of Beauty

“You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.” (Isaiah 62:3)

I have a mental picture I took of my wife on our wedding day. It is the picture of her as she appeared at the back of the sanctuary arrayed in her glorious gown. She was a crown of beauty.

In the Hebrew culture there were two types of crowns. One was the crown worn by brides and grooms. These crowns were temporary made of leaves that encircled their heads. The other crowns were permanent crowns worn by kings and priests. They were crowns that were rewards for position and service. The crown referred to here in this passage is the wedding crown. It is not a reward. It is a statement of the value God places on you.

Note, it says, *“in the hand of the Lord.”* He is placing a crown of beauty on your head. He wants the world to see how beautiful you are in His hand. In Hebrew poetry the first phrase is stated, then repeated as an echo in the second phrase. So, the crown of beauty in his one hand and a royal diadem are one and the same.

In Malachi 3:17 God says,
“They shall be mine,” says the LORD of hosts, “on the day that I make them my jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.”

Two things to remember: You are in his hand, and he is proud to display you as his own just as I was proud of my bride on our wedding day. God holds you in the palm of His hand. He won't let you go. He is proud of you and calls you His bride. In his right hand is the royal diadem. That is a permanent crown of glory composed of many precious gems and placed on the head of one chosen by Him. One day we will be given *“the Crown of Life that the Lord has prepared for them that love him.”* (James 1:12) But until then the Lord proudly displays you as his pride and joy, his glorious bride adorned by the king for the king.

You are precious to God because He created you and loves you and holds you in the palm of His hand. Therefore don't think of yourself as common or unclean. You are a crown of beauty because He bought you with the precious blood of Jesus.

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**Can you think of other promises
that would help you believe this?**

Day 3

God Says I Am His...

Priceless Treasure

“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”

(Deuteronomy 7:6)

priceless – an adjective meaning it is so precious that its value cannot be determined. You can't really get away from the theme that you are precious to God. It is all through the Bible. God loved you so much he sent His one and only Son to die on the cross to rescue you from Satan's power so that you can be with Him forever. You aren't cheap. You cost God the life of His only Son. You're worth dying for. God says you were bought with the precious blood of Jesus. To God you are the treasure hidden in the field. He spent all He had to dig you up, clean you up and show you off to the world. You are His treasure.

On October 12, 1216 the English King John, with his baggage train, attempted to flee from the threat of some of his nobles. He, however, misjudged the tides while leading his baggage train to cross the river Wellester, (a tidal estuary which contained quicksands and tidal whirlpools). The crossing where John lost his riches was known as The Wash. The land is flat, low-lying and marshy, filled with deposits of sediment and is ever-changing.

According to a contemporary historian and chronicler, Roger of Wendover, he lost all his carts, wagons, baggage horses, together with his money, costly vessels, and everything of value he had with him. The waters advanced and swamped a number of wagons. One of those wagons contained the Crown Jewels of England. The king himself narrowly escaped the calamity. Within days the careless and unfortunate king contracted dysentery as he headed north. He grew steadily weaker before finally dying at Newark castle on October 18. He was 49 years old. The jewels have never been found.

Too often we are tempted to think we are worthless or not worth much because we have been damaged by sin. But God says we are not worthless. We are priceless to Him. He created us and God doesn't make junk. He is the Potter and we are the clay. Yes, sometimes the vessel is marred in the hands of the Potter. There may be some flaw of imperfection in the clay. But the Master Potter knows how to remake and mold that clay into the priceless jar only He can perfect. Unlike ill-fated and careless King John, God will never let go of his precious treasure.

“You are priceless to me. I love you and honor you. I will give up other nations to save your lives.” (Isaiah 43:4)

*“We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”
(2 Corinthians 4:6-7)*

The next time you are tempted to think of yourself as worthless junk or ruined just remember, “God doesn't make junk.” What God has cleansed don't you dare call it common or unclean. Respect God's treasure.

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Day 4

God Says I Am His...

Beloved Child

“Behold what manner of love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called the children of God, and that is just what we are. Dear friends now we are the children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known.” (1 John 3:1-2)

Years ago I was counseling a dear middle aged member of our church family who felt unloved and unworthy. She knew she had done things that were wrong and could not forgive herself. She felt unworthy to be loved and that God could not possibly love her. She hated herself for being a sinner.

As we discussed these feelings I asked her to describe her children when they were newborn babies. She began to tell me of the feeling of cradling a newborn baby in her arms, and of caring for that beautiful child, of feedings and changing their diapers and putting them to bed. Her whole demeanor was different when she spoke of her babies.

I asked her if her babies ever spit up or soiled their diapers. Did they ever scream or cry, or say, “No!”? She replied of course they did, all babies do. I asked her if she ever wanted to throw her baby away when it acted up or dirtied its diaper. Indignantly she replied, “No, why would I do that? That’s my baby. I’d never throw her away.”

I then asked “Why do you think your heavenly Father would ever throw you away for getting soiled? You are His child. You’ll always be His baby. You will always be cherished by the One who created you. He knows you’ll get soiled. He knows you disobey, but He loves you the same. He still loves you like his little newborn baby.

She got the message, but she still struggled to love herself as God loves her. She couldn’t forgive herself for not being perfect.

Babies are wonderful gifts from God. They are so innocent, soft, cuddly, helpless, cute, and needy. Every baby is a precious thing. I've never heard anyone look at a newborn baby and say, "What an ugly baby!" No, the most common expression is to "Oooo and Ah" over the precious bundle of joy.

Yes, babies can be messy. They spit up, they soil themselves and they have to be bathed and cleaned up, but they are still precious to their parents.

"He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart." (Isaiah 40:11)

"The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are His everlasting arms." (Deuteronomy 33:27)

God still loves to cuddle and cradle you in his arms. Regardless of your age you will always be his beloved child.

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Can you think of other promises that would help you believe this?

Day 5

God says I Am His...

Masterpiece

“For we are God’s masterpiece (handiwork). He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” (Ephesians 2:10)

We are God’s workmanship, his handiwork, and his masterpiece. He’s still working on you.

Michelangelo was a consummate artist whether as a sculptor or painter or architect he excelled in all he did. He is known for such masterful works as the Statue of David, and the floor-to-ceiling frescos of the Sistine Chapel. He was not a speed artist. He took his time and great pains to complete his works. The Statue of David took him three years to finish. The Sistine Chapel took four years of painstaking work to complete.

Few people realize the pain and sacrifice that went into his painting of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel as day after day he hung upside down to paint the ceiling. He even wrote a poem to lament his arduous task and constant backache.

*I've already grown a goiter from this torture,
hunched up here like a cat in Lombardy
My stomach's squashed under my chin,
my beard's pointing at heaven,
my brain's crushed in a casket,
my breast twists like a harpy's.
My brush, above me all the time, dribbles paint
so my face makes a fine floor for droppings!*

*My haunches are grinding into my guts,
my poor ass strains to work as a counterweight,
every gesture I make is blind and aimless.
My skin hangs loose below me,
my spine's all knotted from folding over itself.
I'm bent taut as a Syrian bow.
My painting is dead.*

I am not in the right place—I am not a painter.

Michelangelo was once asked how it was that he could create such beautiful works. "It's very simple," he answered. "When I look at a block of marble, I see the sculpture inside it. All I have to do is remove what doesn't belong."

We often get in a hurry for God to complete his work in us. He sees in our rough marble exterior what He wants and plans for us to be. He takes His time. He chips away what doesn't belong. He is patient. He's not finished yet. The finishing touches will be added as we walk through the pearly gates and are transformed into the image of His Son.

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Day 6

God Says I Am His...

Clean Vessel

“In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.” (2 Timothy 2:20-21)

In the Old Testament all the vessels for use in the temple were made of gold or bronze but still they needed to be purified to be of any use to God. So too, in the New Testament era we are God's vessels. God can't and won't use dirty vessels. His vessels had to be purged and thoroughly cleansed to be used in God's work. We can try cleaning ourselves up but the taint of sin is still on us. It requires us to bring our vessel to God for His thorough cleansing in His refining fire.

When I was growing up my parents moved to my grandmother's old farm house for a year or so. It was an old house without indoor plumbing. They had a hand pump for a sink indoors and a larger outdoor hand pump outside. They had no bathroom either, just an outhouse. One of the things I remember about those pumps was the sound of the gurgling water as you primed the pump to get it to start pumping up fresh water. Grandma had an old long-handled metal cup hanging from the pump. We would always take it and check for dirt, spiders or ants before using that to drink from. We were always careful to wipe it clean before each use.

While serving as a missionary in Brazil we planted a church in a little village far out in the countryside. There we bought one of the lots in the community and put up a huge tent to hold meetings in while we prepared to build a wooden church. We invited another missionary to be our weeklong evangelist. He would preach each night then he and I would camp out in our own little tent behind the big circus tent. We too had no running water and no outhouse. Our first night there we realized there were houses on either side of us and a little store across the street, but no privacy to take

care of our call of nature. Not knowing what else to do, and not wanting to urinate on the lawn, we scrounged through our camping equipment for some receptacle to hold our waste until we could dump it somewhere in the morning. The only thing we found large enough for the purpose was one of our camping pots. The next day we dumped it. Later that day we had to cook our meal by our tent, so we scrubbed the pan thoroughly and thought no one would be the wiser. But when time to cook came, neither of us wanted to use that pan for cooking our meal. As far as we were concerned that pan was ruined for cooking. I can honestly say we never again used that pan for cooking.

God alone can make us clean and useful no matter what our past. We became clean by confessing our sins, then *“He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1:9) Only then can we be vessels sanctified and ready for the Master’s use.

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Day 7

God Says I Am the...

Apple of His Eye

“In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye.” (Deuteronomy 32:10)

Did you ever wonder where the “apple of my eye” comes from? The expression didn’t have anything to do with apples. It was a phrase meaning the pupil of the eye, or the center of the eye. It was meant to express something “centered” in your eye, the focus of your attention and therefore of great importance to you.

As an English idiom “apple of one’s eye” is an ancient expression. It meant “your favorite.” It first appeared in print in the writings of King Aelfred the Great back in the ninth century. Shakespeare used the phrase in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, 1600: “Flower of this purple dye, Hit with Cupid’s archery, Sink in apple of his eye.”

When God speaks of the apple of his eye he is referring to his cherished child, usually the youngest child was the favorite. In the Bible it means, “cherished favorite above all others” or an extremely important person. David was most notable in the use of this expression. He saw himself as the “apple of God’s eye.” He was God’s favorite, His chosen servant whom He loved.

- *“He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.” (Deuteronomy 32:10)*
- *“Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of your wings...” (Psalm 17:8)*
- *“Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of your eye.” (Proverbs 7:2)*
- *“For thus says the LORD of hosts; After the glory has he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that touches you touches the apple of his eye.” (Zechariah 2:8)*
- *“Let tears run down like a river day and night: give yourself no rest; let not the apple of your eye cease.” (Lamentations 2:18)*

Zephaniah 3:17 contains a hint to the meaning without using the phrase. He expresses God's love for us in poetic terms,

“The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”

God takes delight in you. If anyone touches you they will be in big trouble. God protects and defends the apple of His eye. In Christ you are the apple of His eye. He watches over you like his favorite child. You are special to your Heavenly Father.

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Can you think of other promises that would help you believe this?

WEEK 2

My Position

Day 8

God Says I Am...

Chosen in Him

“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.” (Ephesians 1:4)

We all like to be chosen. It is human nature to want to be special. When someone chooses you over someone else it makes you feel good. You feel significant.

When I was a little boy we would play backyard baseball with our friends. To pick teams we would do the ritual throwing an upright bat to the other captain. He would catch it somewhere in the middle. Then each captain would put a fist on top of the first guy's fist and alternately they would climb the bat until they reached the top. The top of the bat had a lip. The final effort was to hold the bat by that lip while the other captain would kick the bat trying to loosen his grip. Whoever won got first pick of players for his team. Then the captains would alternate picking up players. No one wanted to be picked last: that would prove you were not a very good player.

When I was about 13 or 14 my brothers and I decided to try out for our town's little league. Each of us thought himself to be a pretty good baseball player so we were confident we would get picked by some team. We arrived at the playing field and all the would-be baseball players got a chance to show their skill at bat and fielding the ball. The coaches would write the names down of their top choices. The three of us tried out. David, the oldest, tried out for the outfield. Mike, the youngest, tried out for catcher. Then I told them I was trying out for pitcher. My brothers all laughed, “Fat chance they'd pick you to be a pitcher.”

I was one of the last players to try out on the pitchers mound. The coaches watched me pitch. I had a wicked fast ball, a pretty good curve ball, and a slider and sinker as well. I was striking out most of the batters. Suddenly, I had several coaches run out to the mound to find out my name and ask me a few questions. It made me feel good that someone noticed my skill.

At school the next Monday one of my friends, whose dad was the head of the little league, said there was a big argument over who would get to have Dick LaFountain assigned to their team. In the end I was chosen to be the lead-off pitcher for my team. I felt special being chosen.

It is a good feeling to be chosen. But God did not choose us because he saw something good in us. No, in fact Ephesians 1:4 says, “He chose us in him before the foundation of the world.” He chose us before we could do right or wrong. We did nothing to impress him. He chose us because he wanted to show his amazing grace and love to unworthy sinners like us.

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD’S THOUGHTS.

Tell God your own thoughts, doubts and struggles.

Can you think of other promises that would help you believe this?

Day 9

God Says I Am...

Forever Forgiven

“And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive with Him and forgave us all our trespasses.” (Colossians 2:13)

Sometimes we as Christians can take for granted the fact that we are forgiven. Jesus told Peter to forgive a brother 70 times 7 in a day. That's 490 times every day. That shows us the willingness of God to forgive every time we ask. It is important to know that His love and forgiveness never fails us, never gives up, and never runs out on us. I love the expression by Adrian Rogers, “We are forgiven, freely, fully, and forever.” Here is what God has done with our sin.

They were paid in full – *“He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.” (Colossians 2:13-14)*

They were pardoned – *“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him, for he will abundantly pardon.” (Isaiah 55:3)*

They were laid on Jesus – *“All we, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6)*

They were washed whiter than snow – *“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.” (Isaiah 1:18)*

They were covered – *“Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.” (Psalm 32:1)*

They were cleansed by blood of Jesus – *“In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”* (Heb 9:22)

They were blotted out – *“I have blotted out your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist.”* (Isaiah 44:22)

They were removed as far as east from west – *“As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.”* (Psalm 103:12)

They were cast in depths of sea – *“You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.”* (Micah 7:19)

They were forever forgotten – *“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”* (Jeremiah 31:34)

Let us remember the words of the fourth verse of It Is Well With My Soul:

“My sin, O the bliss of this glorious thought, My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord O my soul!”

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD’S THOUGHTS.

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Day 10

God Says I Am...

Loved Eternally

“I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.” (Jeremiah 31:3)

Everlasting is a staggering concept. We don't know anything that is everlasting. Even the world had a beginning and will have an end. Then where do we get the idea of eternity? Ecclesiastes 3:11 gives us the answer. *“He set eternity in their hearts.”* We conceive of eternity because there is the residual echo of the Garden of Eden in our hearts. John Milton called it Paradise Lost.

Can you describe forever? Someone described forever this way.

Mount Everest is 29,032 feet above sea level, that's nearly 5.5 miles high. Let's suppose that every year a bird would fly by and take one small pebble away from the mountain, how long would it take for the mountain to be removed? How many grains of sand would make up a mountain that big? How many years would it take to remove it all? That's a staggering number, but it's not eternal.

The known universe is huge, beyond our comprehension really. Astronomers estimate that the universe is expanding all the time. The furthest our telescopes can fathom is 46.5 billion light years away. That's really only guessing since no one can measure to the end of the universe, if there even is an end to it.

Now let's apply that to Eternity. How long is eternity? It is never ending. It's even beyond time. So, God's love is even more everlasting than the universe. His love is limitless. It is beyond time and space. In the words of Buzz Lightyear in the animated film *Toy Story*, it's “to infinity and beyond!”

One Thing Remains
(Your Love Never Fails)

1. *Higher than the mountains that I face
Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant in the trial and the change
This one thing remains (2x)*

[Chorus]

*Your love never fails, never gives up
It never runs out on me (x3)*

2. *And on and on and on and on it goes
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I'll never, ever, have to be afraid
Cause this one thing remains (2x)*

[Chorus]

Your love never fails, never gives up

(Lyrics (Jesus Culture))

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Day 11

God Says I Am...

Shielded by God

“This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:4-5)

On March 23, 1983, President Ronald Reagan announced the Strategic Defense Initiative, nicknamed the "Star Wars program." It proposed a missile defense system intended to protect the United States from attack by ballistic strategic nuclear weapons. He envisioned a *Star Trek* type invisible shield that would protect earth from missiles from space.

Like most technologies in the *Star Trek* fictional universe, the exact operation of shield technology is never precisely described. Characters discussed its existence, while only superficially describing its exact physics. Its effect was to put a protective bubble around the ship to deflect projectiles and laser weapons. But *Star Trek* and the *Star Wars* programs are all theatrics, smoke and mirrors, and manmade illusions. Such shields don't exist. Not even Ronald Reagan's.

There is a shield for the believer that does exist. God spoke of it in both the Old and New Testaments. Psalm 91:1-11 is all about God's strategic defense initiative for his children. It involves God Himself putting Himself between us and the enemy of our souls. When we take refuge under His wings He shields us from all evil the devil will throw at us.

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.’ Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that

walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you. Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways."

God's shield is better than manmade shields. All we need to do is to take our place under His wing. He will shield you from the fiery darts of the wicked one. He will protect you from all evil. Isaiah 54:12 promised us, "No weapon formed against you will prosper."

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD'S THOUGHTS.

Tell God your own thoughts, doubts and struggles.

Can you think of other promises that would help you believe this?

Day 12

God Says I Am...

Kept in His Hand

“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.” (John 10:28-29)

I love this expression that Jesus used. I suppose when Jesus was a little boy he had a clever uncle as I did. My uncle was always pulling tricks on us and challenging us to outsmart him.

I remember one day he came to visit and told us kids he had \$10 in his hand and if any of us could wrestle it out of his hand, it would be ours. We tried. We pulled. We tugged. We squeezed. We pried. But we just weren’t strong enough to open his hand, so we never got his ten dollars.

I can picture Jesus using a coin to illustrate this truth. He first holds the coin in his left hand, the hand that did all his mighty miracles. Then he covered his left hand with his right hand (perhaps it was even bigger and stronger than his left hand.) I picture Jesus saying to his disciples, “Go ahead, try to take this coin out of my hand!” I also picture impetuous Peter being the first to try, unsuccessfully, of course.

Jesus used this expression to help us understand how secure we are in the hand of God our Father. First of all he says, *“I GIVE UNTO YOU ETERNAL LIFE.”* Eternal life is a great treasure, but there is only one who gives it. So, according to Jesus, He gives us eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

Later in life the Apostle John wrote of this eternal life and assures us the Son of God holds the secret to everlasting life.

“He that has the Son has life, and he that has not the Son of God has not life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (1 John 5:12)

Jesus assured his disciples that they were doubly secure. They are in his hand, and in the mighty hand of the Heavenly Father. Now that’s a hand no man can pry open.

When you are feeling unsure of your salvation, when you feel insecure and start to doubt, and when the devil makes you feel unworthy, remember Jesus’ illustration, remember the Father’s hand. No man can pluck you out of the Father’s hand. His hands are the biggest of all.

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD’S THOUGHTS.

Tell God your own thoughts, doubts and struggles.

**Can you think of other promises
that would help you believe this?**

Day 13

God Says I Am...

Seated With Him

“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:6)

Being seated with Christ at the right hand of the Father is certainly a privileged position. It is not a position reserved for you alone. All God’s children who put their faith in Jesus Christ are invited to take their seat with him in heavenly places. That does not mean that we will literally sit on Jesus’ lap. It does mean that all of us share in His authority and position with the Father in heaven. Our privileged position is given to us in Christ. We cannot earn it. We don’t merit it. It is part of the gift of everlasting life. It is the privilege of being with Christ in his kingdom. We are his guests at the Father’s table.

In high school I was a shy student. I didn’t make many friends, although I had a few close friends. I was a business major so one year I took a course in printing. That was back before computers and word processors when all printing was done on printing presses. The classes were hands-on work of learning to identify the letters in the movable type that was used in letterpress printing.

All the letters were tiny lead sticks with the letter on the top. The letters were held in a wooden case with compartments for each letter. Every letter had to be picked out from the case and put into a handheld composing stick where we would laboriously put each letter of a sentence into the stick row by row, but the letters would be reversed so that when printed it would read correctly. To add to the difficulty the *jobcase* (the box that held the letters) was not laid out alphabetically, but organized according to frequency of use. I found it interesting and soon became proficient in setting print.

The teacher of our class happened to be a member of my church and a friend of our family. Once it was apparent that I could set type quickly he decided it was time to give me a privileged position of running the presses in the back room. I was the only student in

that class who was allowed in the press room and to run the presses. It was fun for me and got me the moniker of “teacher’s pet.” Other students wanted to know what I did to gain such a privileged position. Really I wasn’t special at all except that the teacher knew me and trusted me, thus, the privileged position at his right hand.

Don’t you love it when you go to church or a concert in a crowded auditorium and though you are coming late, there is a friend there who thought of you and saved you a seat? Jesus has saved you a seat at his table. One day we will sit at that great banquet table in heaven with people of every people, language, tribe and nation. What a day that will be and what a table that will be! People will be lined up as far as the eye can see, all seated at the table of the Lord. He’s saving you a seat.

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD’S THOUGHTS.

Tell God your own thoughts, doubts and struggles.

**Can you think of other promises
that would help you believe this?**

Day 14

God Says I Am...

Hidden with Christ

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” (Colossians 3:2-4)

My brothers and I loved playing army as little children. We watched a lot of WWII movies and shows on TV so we got into playing war with each other and with neighborhood friends. Sometimes when mom and dad were out we would shut off all the lights in the house and play war. A couple of us were sent out to hide from the enemy then we would count to one hundred and start our stealthy search for the hidden enemy. I loved being the enemy who had to hide hoping not to be killed by the other *GI Joes*. I was pretty good at finding hiding places. My brothers would crawl around the house trying not to make any noise while they searched for me. I would often hear them slithering across the floor trying to be quiet, then when they passed my hiding place I would jump out and mow them down with my machine gun or jump them with my rubber knife.

Hiding places: They are secret spots where no one can find you. God loves to put his children in hiding places safe from the enemy. Corrie ten Boom, in her book *The Hiding Place*, told of how she and her sister were involved in hiding Jews from the Nazi Gestapo, who sought to arrest them, place them in concentration camps and eventually kill them. Corrie and her sister made secret rooms in the walls of their house to hide frightened Jews. It was a sad day when their hiding places were uncovered by the Gestapo and their guests arrested. Much later Corrie and her sister were put into a concentration camp under deplorable conditions. Fleas multiplied in their filthy accommodations. They complained bitterly to the Lord until they realized the guards no longer came into their barracks because of the fleas. God gave them a hiding place.

God loves hiding places. It is mentioned often in scripture.

“You are my hiding place, you protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.” (Psalm 32:7) “You are my hiding place and my shield.” (Psalm 119:114) “He will hide you in his shelter in the day of trouble.” (Psalm 27:5) “Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a shelter in the time of storm.” (Isaiah 32:2) “In the cover of your presence you hide them from the plots of men.” (Psalm 31:20) “Hide me in the shadow of your wings.” (Psalm 17:8) And of course, my favorite, Psalm 91:1, “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”

Do you get the idea? God loves hiding places and He is the best one to find places of shelter from the enemy, storms, or trouble. Is it any wonder that so many song writers wrote concerning hiding places?

Hiding in Thee

*O safe to the Rock that is higher than I,
My soul in its conflicts and sorrows would fly.
So sinful, so weary, Thine, Thine would I be;
Thou blest Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee.*

Chorus:

*Hiding in Thee, Hiding in Thee,
Thou blest Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee.*

William O. Cushing, 1876. Copyright status is Public Domain

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD’S THOUGHTS.

Tell God your own thoughts, doubts and struggles.

**Can you think of other promises
that would help you believe this?**

WEEK 3

My Victory

Day 15

God Says I Am an...

Able Minister

“If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed.” (1 Timothy 4:5)

Sometimes when you are serving the Lord you don't feel very able. You feel deflated and out of gas. Pastors often feel inadequate for the task they are called to do.

I was serving as a missionary in Brazil and had been asked to preach a week of revival meetings in a large church. During that week the pastor kept me busy doing a lot of visitation. I knew that I needed time alone to pray and study the word for the messages God had laid on my heart. I usually spend many hours pouring over the scriptures praying and getting my mind and heart ready for preaching. That day the pastor kept me so busy we barely made it back to church in time to preach. I felt rushed and totally unprepared. Not only was I preaching in Portuguese, a language fairly new to me, but I also had inadequate preparation. I struggled finding the right words and putting my thoughts in order. About half way through the sermon I wanted to run away. The message was a total flop. It was horrible. I remember thinking, “I'll never do this again. I need time to soak in the presence of the Lord before preaching.” After the service a young teenager came to me and said, “Pastor Dick, I know you were struggling tonight with saying the right words, but I want you to know that God spoke to my heart through your preaching and I made things right with God. Thank you for being faithful.”

If you are not a pastor you probably never think of yourself as a minister. But the word that the Apostle Paul uses here in Greek is not pastor, but *diaconos*, which means deacon or servant. We are all servants of Jesus Christ. Paul often referred to himself in Greek as a *doulos* of Christ, a bond slave of Jesus Christ. His recurring theme was that he was a bond slave of Jesus Christ, and he

applied that to all God's people; "You are not your own, you are bought with a price." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

The Apostle Paul coached young Timothy to be a good steward of God. (Titus 1:6) He used the Greek word *oikonomos*, a steward, or a household manager. The Lord says, "It is required of a steward that a man be found faithful." (1 Corinthians 4:2) We are told to be encouraged in the Lord because we know, or we should know, that our labor is not in vain in the Lord. *"Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."* (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Whether you are a pastor minister, lay minister, or a Sunday School teacher, we all serve the Lord with the gifts he has given. *"Whatever you do in word or in deed we should do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."* (Colossians 3:17)

Too often we think it is our words that convince and convict people, but the Lord says, "Preach the word!" (2 Timothy 2:4) It is the WORD that does the work. He works through his word even when yours aren't the best. He works even when we don't.

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD'S THOUGHTS.

Tell God your own thoughts, doubts and struggles.

Can you think of other promises that would help you believe this?

Day 16

God Says I Am a...

Victor, not a Victim

“For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.” (1 John 5:4)

As Christians we come with baggage from our past. Often, even after being saved, that baggage still follows us and hounds us. Your baggage may be a poor upbringing. Perhaps you were rarely encouraged, or people put you down or made you feel unworthy, unloved, and unsuccessful. You may have been beaten up verbally or even physically. You may have been made fun of for your looks, your grades, your abilities, or intelligence. All this has left you feeling like a loser. Perhaps you were even told repetitively that you were a loser and would never amount to anything. You may feel inside like there is a big “L” on your forehead indicating, “LOSER!” Even though you are a born again Christian those feelings of insecurity and inferiority are constant companions.

There is a wonderful visualization of this kind of defeatist attitude in the comic strip, *Lil' Abner*, by Al Capp. It is the picture of the character called *Joe Btfsplk*. This character was the world's worst jinx. He had a perpetually dark rain cloud over his head. Every where he went bad luck followed. Instantaneous bad luck befell anyone unfortunate enough to be in his vicinity. Though well-meaning and friendly, his reputation inevitably preceded him. Joe's personal black rain cloud became one of the most memorable images in the *Lil' Abner* cartoon strip. Perhaps you sometimes feel like a Joe Btfsplk. It seems nothing goes right for you. You might even start to believe *Murphy's Law*, that “anything that can go wrong, will go wrong for you at the worst possible moment.” You feel like a loser.

God wants to change all that. He says, “*Everyone born of God overcomes the world.*” He has made you to be an overcomer (champion, victor, a survivor). You are a victor. You are not a victim. In Christ you are not a loser. In Christ you are not a failure,

and you're not a basket case. As a born again believer you have God with you, not against you. *"If God be for us, who can be against us?"* (Romans 8:) *"For it is God who is at work in you both to will and do his good pleasure."* (Philippians 2:13) *"Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world."* (1 John 4:4) *"He who began a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."* (Philippians 1:6)

I love the story in Numbers 22-24 where Balaam, a false prophet and a charlatan, was hired by Balak to curse Israel, but three times God overrode the mind and heart of Balaam and he could not curse Israel.

It is God's purpose and promise to BLESS and not CURSE His people. As a believer you are not under a curse. No curse can stick to you. You are not under a dark cloud like Joe Btfspk. You are under God's protective umbrella. You are under the spout where the blessings come out. Stay there and you will be blessed.

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD'S THOUGHTS.

Tell God your own thoughts, doubts and struggles.

Can you think of other promises that would help you believe this?

Day 17

God Says I Am a...

Super Conqueror

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” (Romans 8:37)

This title for the believer goes right along with the previous title, victor, not a victim. God has made you to be a conqueror. In fact, Paul uses the Greek word *hupernikeo*, which literally means super (*huper*) and winner (*nikeo*). Translators struggle to find the right words to translate it into English. You are more-than-a-conqueror. You are a super conqueror. That promise from Romans 8:37 is not for a few special Christians. It is for all born again believers. God has made you a new creation. He has put you in the winner's circle. You are his pride and joy, not because you are special, but because Jesus who lives in you is the super conqueror.

The whole Bible is filled with stories of super heroes that were nothing in themselves, but when God called them, anointed them, and empowered them, they became super heroes. Here are a few: Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Samson, David, and Daniel. These were just normal guys, and in many cases these were subnormal guys. There was nothing special about them in themselves, but God! But God changed them. When they surrendered their lives to God he made them mighty warriors and super conquerors.

Not only are there wonderful examples of this but God also has given us many precious promises by which we can be super conquerors. For starters read 2 Samuel 23:8-39 and 1 Chronicles 11:10-47 where God lists David's mighty men.

- Josheb-Basshebeth – raised his spear against 800 men, whom he killed in one encounter.

- Eliazar – he stood his ground and struck down Philistines until his hand grew tired and froze to the sword.
- Schammah – took his stand in a field of barley and defended it alone after his men fled.
- Abishai – raised his spear against 300 men and killed them all.
- Benaiah – performed great exploits, struck down Moab’s best men, and went into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion. He struck down a huge Egyptian of seven and a half feet tall, with only a club. He snatched the spear away and killed him with his own spear.

God has given us great and precious promises whereby we can be all that he intends us to be. Try these promises on for size:

- I can Walk Through the Fire – Isaiah 43:2
- I can Do All things through Christ – Philippians 4:13
- I am a Polished Arrow – Isaiah 49:2
- I am Clothed in Armor – Ephesians 6:10
- I have the Sword of the Spirit – Ephesians 6:17
- I can Demolish Strongholds – 2 Corinthians 10:4
- I can Take Thoughts Captive – 2 Corinthians 10:5
- I have Heavenly Weapons– 2 Corinthians 10:4
- I have Authority Over the Enemy – Luke 10:19
- I can Overcome the Enemy – Revelation 12:11
- I can Declare Liberty to Captives – Isaiah 61:1
- I can Crush Satan Under My Feet – Romans 16:20
- I can Quench Satan’s Fiery Darts – Ephesians 6:16
- I can Tread on the Lion & Serpent – Luke 10:19
- I have Authority to Tread on Serpents – Luke 10:19
- I can Crush an Army – 2 Samuel 22:30
- I can Scale a Wall – 2 Samuel 22:30
- I can Run and not be weary – Isaiah 40:31

Which ones do you struggle with?

Can you think of other promises that would help you believe this?

Day 18

God Says I Am...

Kept from Falling

***“To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy.”
(Jude 1:24)***

Many of us have had bad dreams. One of the recurring bad dreams I have had is that of falling. It is terrible feeling yourself falling with nothing to hang on to. I often see pictures of people visiting the Grand Canyon or other rocky outcrops where a person is standing or sitting on the very edge of a cliff with a huge drop off in front of them. There is something in all of us that warns us off of high places lest we fall. The fear of falling is not a false fear. It is very real. In the spiritual realm God wants to keep us from falling.

Many people have fallen from such precarious perches when they thought they were safe. There was the story of a 13-year old boy from North Dakota who survived a 100-foot fall from the Grand Canyon's North Rim. His was an unusual case because he survived. Scientists who study such falls say that any fall of 80 feet or more is always fatal.

Then there is the very unusual and incredible fall of Vesna Vulovic, a flight attendant, who survived a fall from Yugoslav Airline Flight 367. An explosion rocked the plane and she lived to tell the story. A terrorist bomb exploded and split the aircraft in three pieces, falling 33,333 feet (6.31 miles up). Everyone perished except Vesna. She was pinned down by a food service cart in the tail end of the plane. The tail split off from the rest of the fuselage and tumbled six miles crashing in a wooded area. Fortunately it landed in at an odd angle in deep snow. She was found screaming inside the wreckage by a local villager who was able to administer first aid. Miraculously Vesna survived. She had a fractured skull, two broken legs, three broken vertebrae, a fractured pelvis, several broken ribs and temporary paralysis below the waist. After 10 months she was able to walk again, albeit with a permanent limp due to her spinal injuries. Also fortunately, she has no memory of the fall.

The bible promises us that the Lord Himself will keep us from falling. Not only so, but He is able to present us faultless in his glorious presence. That is an amazing truth.

It Is No Secret

*The chimes of time ring out the news
Another day is through,
Someone slipped and fell,
Was that someone you?
You may have longed for added strength
Your courage to renew.
Do not be disheartened,
for I have news for you.*

*It is no secret, what God can do.
What He's done for others,
He'll do for you.
With arms wide open,
He'll pardon you.
It is no secret,
What God can do.*

Songwriters: Stuart Hamblen , It Is No Secret © Music Corp. Of America, Inc.,

You can give thanks today that the Lord is able to keep you from falling.

***“The eternal God is your refuge, and
underneath are the everlasting arms.”
(Deuteronomy. 33:27)***

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD'S THOUGHTS.

**Can you think of other promises
that would help you believe this?**

Day 19

God Says I Am...

Protected from the Evil One

“We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them.” (1 John 5:18)

One of my favorite adventure movies is J.R.R. Tolkien’s trilogy, “The Fellowship of the Ring” from *The Lord of the Rings*. The stories are full of shadow hints of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who will save us from all evil. As the story goes, an ancient Ring thought lost for centuries had been found, and through a strange twist of fate had been given to a small Hobbit named Frodo. The Ring was evil and brought curses to whomever had it. It could only be destroyed by throwing it into the lava fires of Mount Doom, where it was forged. Little Frodo had to make an epic journey to the Mount of Doom in order to destroy it. Along the way he met eight unusual friends who decide to accompany and help him in this dangerous journey. They set out on a journey to destroy the powerful Ring. They encountered many dangers and perils along the way.

In one scene they had to go through a mountain rather than around it. They had to travel through the dark Mines of Moria to escape their pursuers. There they encountered horrible creatures living beneath the earth. The worst of the creatures was Galrog, a fire breathing dragon that attacked them while crossing a stone bridge over a huge chasm. Gandalf the Grey, the story’s magical hero, sent the friends over the bridge ahead of him. Then he stood his ground in the middle and shouted at the dragon as he raised his staff and with awesome authority cried, “YOU SHALL NOT PASS!” As he brought down his staff in a dramatic emphasis, the bridge collapsed and he was dragged down to the abyss with the fiery dragon in pursuit. His friends were saved and were able to escape through the mountain.

It is a very dramatic portrayal of the battle of good against evil. The evil dragon reminds us of the devil and his attempts to devour us. Yet, the man of God, Jesus, stands between us and certain

destruction. Gandalf (representing Jesus) stood in the gap and cried “YOU SHALL NOT PASS.” He supposedly dies in the act of standing in the gap for his friends. It is an allegory portraying what Jesus did on the cross for us. (Spoiler alert! Gandalf does not die, but defeats the evil dragon and returns later on a white horse to save the day.) I’m sure you see the parallels with Jesus.

The Word of God is clear that we are in a spiritual battle with evil. The devil, Lucifer, Satan, the dragon, seeks to destroy the children of God. But Jesus stands in the way and dares to say, “YOU SHALL NOT PASS!” He gave his life for his sheep, *“to destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in bondage by their fear of death.”* (Hebrews 2:14-15)

There are many promises of the Word of God of His protection from all the powers of the enemy. Download our PDF file of [365 Promises of God](#) and learn His promises. (see the end of this book)

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD’S THOUGHTS.

Tell God your own thoughts, doubts and struggles.

Can you think of other promises that would help you believe this?

Day 20

God Says I Am...

Freed from Sin's Bondage

"You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness." (Romans 6:18)

One of the most powerful and influential Christian books has been John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. It is an allegorical story of a character by the name of Christian and his journey to the Celestial City. Along the way he meets many characters who represent different aspects of the Christian's life journey.

One of the most potent illustrations of the book is when Christian and his friend Hopeful are taken captive by the Giant of Despair and are locked away in the dungeon of Doubting Castle. The dungeon is described as dark, nasty and stinking. Each day the Giant came to threaten and intimidate them even trying to frighten them into taking their own lives. When he gets up in the morning he takes a terrible cudgel and goes down into the dungeon. First he rails on them berating them as though they were dogs. Then he falls on them with all his brute strength and beats them so brutally they can hardly move a muscle.

The giant's wife discovers the boys still alive. She counsels him to threaten them with a death so horrible that it would be better for them to take their own lives. He does so the next day but just as he is about to beat them to death he falls into a fit and loses the use of his hand, so he withdraws for them to consider suicide.

The boys then enter into a long discussion of what to do. Then they begin to pray and continue in prayer till just before dawn. Christian suddenly remembers that he has a key that was given him at the beginning of his journey. He says, "What a fool am I, thus to lie in a stinking dungeon, when I may as well walk at liberty! I have a key in my bosom called Promise; that will, I am persuaded, open any lock in Doubting Castle."

As they come to the outer door they find the key opens every door as well the outer iron gate. The gate makes a terrible noise and

wakens the giant who pursues them, but he falls into another fit as he is prone to do when the sun shines, and the boys make it to freedom.

The moral of the story is that we are free from our bondage to sin. Satan cannot keep us locked up in the dungeon of despair. God has given us a key. His Promises open every door. Sins are cancelled, burdens fall away and “We are free, free, thank God we are free.”

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD’S THOUGHTS.

Tell God your own thoughts, doubts and struggles.

**Can you think of other promises
that would help you believe this?**

Day 21

God Says I Have...

Authority over Satan

“I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.” (Luke 10:19)

It is incredibly hard for the believer to grasp the truth that he has authority over Satan. We feel inadequate to the task of confronting the enemy of our souls. We know the devil is strong. We know he is out to get us and as a roaring lion he is out there seeking to devour and destroy us. (1 Peter 5:8) We tremble because of him. He scares us. He gives us the creeps. We often feel like the sons of Sceva in Acts 19:11-20 who attempted to cast out demons in Jesus' name, but the demons laughed at them and said, “Jesus we know, and Paul we know, but who are you?” The demons then overpowered them and tore them to shreds.

Yet, the Bible makes it clear that believers have authority over all the power of the enemy just as Jesus did. *“He called unto him his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of disease and all manner of sickness.”* (Luke 9:1 & Matthew 10:1) *“I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.”* (Luke 10:19) *“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”* (James 4:7)

We are like Frodo in *The Lord of the Rings* and Christian in *Pilgrim's Progress*, we tremble to confront the enemy. But we are to be strong in the Lord and the power of his might. We have the sword of the Spirit, the shield of faith and the armor of God covering us. (Ephesians 6:10-18) What we lack is courage to confront him.

I learned this lesson while serving in Brazil. A team of college students had joined us in our evangelistic outreach. We were given four girls and two guys to work with us. Our mission one day was to go to a far off village to pass out Gospels of John door to door. I was assigned to accompany two frail young ladies in a bad

part of town. There were wild dogs that roamed the dirt streets and at times they could be very threatening. As we left one house to go to the next we were suddenly attacked by three vicious dogs, snarling and barking at us, showing their teeth and aggressively moving in for the kill. The girls were screaming for help. I stood there immobilized for a second because I have a history of being bitten by mean dogs. But knowing the girls were at risk I stood my ground and turned toward the dogs and in my loudest most threatening voice shouted at the three dogs while running toward them. That was all it took. They ran away with their tails between their legs. They just needed to know who was boss.

God has given us authority over Satan. God promised, “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7) A policeman’s authority is not his physical strength but in the authority given to him. He has the right, the uniform, the badge, and the weapon to back it up. So do we! Learn to use it.

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD’S THOUGHTS.

Tell God your own thoughts, doubts and struggles.

Can you think of other promises that would help you believe this?

WEEK 4

My Assurance

Day 22

God Says I Am...

Secure In Christ

“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.” (John 10:28-29)

When we put money into a bank we want to be sure it is in a safe place. Years ago banks each had their own vaults in which they kept cash for their investors. It was fairly easy in the old west for some outlaws to enter, and hold up the bank and take those deposits.

Today gold is still an important medium of exchange and large banks need to be extra secure against theft. Some of the largest banks in the world have elaborate security precautions to protect their assets. Let me name a few.

Fort Knox is surrounded by a solid granite wall perimeter and squadrons of machine gun wielding guards and armed military. Then there is the 22-ton vault door. That blast door is held shut by a lock so intricate that it requires a 10 person team to unlock it.

The New York Federal Reserve Vault is the world’s biggest gold depository. Beneath the streets of Manhattan sits a vault so impenetrable that it’s entrusted with more U.S. gold bullion than the famous Fort Knox. Their vault security is so tight that men aren’t allowed to enter the vault, instead pallets are moved around by a team of robots.

The Bank of England Gold Vault has more than 4,600 tons of gold in its gold vault. When the vault doors do need to be opened, they can only be accessed by an elaborate system consisting of voice recognition, three foot keys and other unpublished security measures.

In the Teikoku Bank of Hiroshima, Japan has the two bank vaults so secure that they remained undamaged despite the atomic explosion that ended World War II.

“I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I’ve committed unto him against that day.” (2 Timothy 1:12)

When God says we are secure in Christ it is better and more secure than any bank vault. Jesus said we are kept in his hand, and his hand is secured in the Father’s hand. Now that is a vault you can bank on.

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD’S THOUGHTS.

Tell God your own thoughts, doubts and struggles.

Can you think of other promises that would help you believe this?

Day 23

God Says I Am a...

New Creation

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

Can electricity create life?

In 1780 Luigi Galvani demonstrated that the severed legs of a frog will twitch when electricity is applied to them. Alessandro Volta invented the voltaic pile, an early electric battery that produced reliable direct current. However, at this time no one could produce much electrical energy. Electricity was cutting edge technology. Many scientists theorized that electricity could impart life. Based on that theory many quack treatments were developed using this magical thing called electricity, including electrical shock treatments for mental illnesses. It's easy to see why people thought that a really big jolt of electricity would be enough to impart life to a corpse.

In 1818 novelist Mary Shelley penned the frightening tale of Doctor Frankenstein. Victor Frankenstein used his sophisticated laboratory to piece together various body parts to create his own artificial human. In 1780 it was discovered that electricity could jolt the severed legs of frogs and cause them to twitch. Based on these experiments Dr. Frankenstein theorized that by applying enough electricity to his monster he could create life.

In the movie he taps into the electricity of a lightning strike to give enough juice to bring his creation to life. In this fictitious story the good doctor is frightened by his 8-foot tall monster that he can't control. The rest of the story is the sad result of an uncontrollable monster that kills all the people Dr. Frankenstein loved.

Today with the development of artificial intelligence and robots, once again man thinks he may be on the cusp of creating a life form. Some think sophisticated AI robots may become self-aware and become a new life form. But even the imaginative *Star Trek*

android *Data* recognizes computer generated intelligence does not impart life.

In the Old Testament book of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 37) God shows the prophet a valley of dry bones and asks the question, “*Can these dry bones live again?*” Ezekiel wisely replied, “*Sovereign LORD, you alone know.*” Then the Spirit of God moved on those dry bones to put flesh on them, then to breathe into them the breath of life, and they lived.

Only God can impart life as he did to Adam when He breathed into him the breath of life. So it is today, when a person invites Jesus Christ into his life, something extraordinary happens. Life is imparted. He becomes a new creation, not a patched up old one, but a brand new creation of God. He is born again. Life begins when Jesus comes in.

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD’S THOUGHTS.

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Can you think of other promises that would help you believe this?

Day 24

God Says I Am...

Complete in Him

“You are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” (Colossians 2:10)

Most of us have at least heard of the *Unfinished Symphony* by Franz Schubert. He set out to create a traditional four-movement symphony six years before his death, but never completed it. He gave its beginning to his friend Anselm Hüttenbrenner, to act as his representative. His friend, however, left the piece a secret until 37 years later when he showed it to conductor Johann von Herbeck, who conducted the unfinished movements in 1865, adding the last movement of Schubert’s third symphony as the finale.

There are many unfinished monuments. One noted unfinished monument is the Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The Indian chief of the Lakota tribe invited a sculptor to carve a memorial honoring all Native Americans. The carving decided on was to represent the Lakota leader Crazy Horse. It was started in 1948 but was not completed when he died in 1982. Since the 1990s others have chipped away at the monument, most of the time being spent on the colossal head which stands 22 stories high. His eyes alone are 17 feet wide. Money to complete the project comes in slowly from admission fees and donations. It may take years, even decades to finish, if ever.

Other masterpiece paintings were left unfinished. Benjamin West’s *“Treaty of Paris”* was a depiction of British and American statesmen discussing the Treaty of Paris. The British delegates refused to pose for the painting because they felt their defeat was shameful. As a result the painting features a large blank space where the British soldiers were to stand. It remains unfinished.

Many books remain unfinished as well, usually because the author died while writing the novel. Chaucer’s *“Canterbury Tales”* was to be a compilation of a hundred stories. Only 24 stories were completed. Jane Austen’s *“Sandition”* was started in 1817, but she only completed eleven chapters before she died. Charles Dickens’

"The Mystery of Edwin Drood" was started in 1870. Dickens finished only six chapters before he died.

I am reminded of the children's song, "He's still working on me to make me what I ought to be. How loving and patient He must be, 'cause He's still workin' on me."

Songwriters: Joel Hemphill, He's Still Working on Me lyrics © Capitol CMG Publishing, Universal Music Publishing Group

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6)

With so many wonderful works of art unfinished isn't it good to know that God promised to complete the work in us? In fact, he calls it already complete. "You are complete in him." What remains of God's plan for you and me will be completed when Jesus comes again or we go to meet him.

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD'S THOUGHTS.

Tell God your own thoughts, doubts and struggles.

Can you think of other promises that would help you believe this?

Day 25

God Says I Am...

Born Again

“For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.” (1 Peter 1:23)

Charles Colson’s book *Born Again* describes the events that brought about the fall of a President. The story was written as a personal testimony which started as he jotted down his memories from his prison cell. Those notes developed into a story of a changed life. Here is his first-hand testimony of being BORN AGAIN.

“Thirty years ago today, I visited Tom Phillips, president of the Raytheon Company, at his home outside of Boston. I’d represented Raytheon before going to the White House, and I was about to start again.

*But I visited for another reason as well. I knew Tom had become a Christian, and he seemed so different. I wanted to ask him what had happened. That night he read to me from *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis, particularly a chapter about the great sin that is pride. A proud man is always walking through life looking down on other people and other things, said Lewis. As a result, he cannot see something above himself immeasurably superior—God.*

Tom, that night, told me about encountering Christ in his own life. He didn’t realize it, but I was in the depths of deep despair over Watergate, watching the president I had helped for four years flounder in office. I’d also heard that I might become a target of the investigation as well. In short, my world was collapsing.

That night, as Tom was telling me about Jesus, I listened attentively, but didn’t let on my own need. When he offered to pray, I thanked him but said, no, I’d see him

sometime after I read C. S. Lewis's book. But when I got in the car that night, I couldn't drive it out of the driveway. Ex-Marine captain, White House tough guy, I was crying too hard, calling out to God. I didn't know what to say; I just knew I needed Jesus, and He came into my life."

Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3:3, *"You must be born again."* Nicodemus pretended not to know what he meant and jested, questioning if he needed to enter his mother's womb again. Jesus explained, *"Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'" Nicodemus knew the Scriptures. He about the new birth from Ezekiel 36:36 "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh."*

When you receive Christ you are born into the family of God. You are born again, everything becomes new. He doesn't just patch up the old life, He gives you a brand new start. You're not the person you used to be.

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD'S THOUGHTS.

Tell God your own thoughts, doubts and struggles.

Can you think of other promises that would help you believe this?

Day 26

God Says I Am...

Healed by His Stripes

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)

While Jesus walked on earth he healed people everywhere of every disease. (Mathew 4:23, 9:35 and 10:1)

“Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sicknesses (nosos=infirmities) and all manner of disease (malakia=weaknesses) among the people.”

The Kinds of Diseases Jesus Healed – The blind, deaf, lame, crooked, lepers, fevers, hemorrhage, withered hand, cut off ear, palsy, fits of epilepsy, raised the dead.

The Spiritual & Emotional Healings – The sicknesses of the soul, sinners in the act, murderer on cross, prostitutes, tax collectors and cheats, demonized, oppressed by devil, bound by devil, and insanity.

Promised Healing of the Whole Man – It is amazing to me how often Jesus related healing of the body to the healing of the soul and spirit. Read Isaiah 61 and note the emotional healing Jesus promised (spirit, soul, body, and mind).

Jesus quoted Isaiah 61:1-3 when he introduced his ministry in Luke 3.

“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the

oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.”

How can stripes heal us? – He carried them in his body on the tree. He carried them away. Peter applied this truth to our spiritual and heart healing. (1 Peter 2:24) There are many kinds of healing for us, soul, spirit, mind and emotions, but it begins with the heart.

- **Medicinal** – God uses his created natural medicines, plants and chemicals.
- **Surgical** – he provides doctors with knowledge and skill to mend the body.
- **Emotional-Mental** – he touches hearts, emotions, nerves, fears, and worries.
- **Miracle** – he touches those he gifts with faith to be healed.

Old Time Chorus – **He Is Able**

*“He heals the broken hearted,
and he sets the captive free,
he makes the lame to walk again and
he caused the blind to see. He is able.
He is able. My Lord is able to carry you through.”*

“He’s Able” written by Paul Paino, (1958)

Jesus never changes and he never fails. “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8) Wherever you are hurting Jesus cares and is willing and able to touch your need.

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD’S THOUGHTS.

**Can you think of other promises
that would help you believe this?**

Day 27

God Says I Am the...

Head and not the Tail

“The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom.” (Deuteronomy 28:13)

We have all heard the saying “the tail wagging the dog.” In our culture, this means that something is fundamentally out of balance. The tail should not be dictating the direction of the dog—the head should do that.

The head is the leader who provides vision, decides the direction and charts the course, while the tail just has to follow along. The head decides where to go and what to do, while the tail has no say in the matter. In other words instead of “the dog wags its tail” it is “the tail wags the dog.” Too often the leader becomes the tail. The same thing can become true in marriage. The husband is the head of the home in God’s order of things, but a weak husband/leader lets the wife rule the roost. He abdicates his responsibility.

In the Old Testament prophets were to be the leaders of Israel. They heard from God and told the leaders what God’s orders were for the nation. All through the book of Numbers we read again and again, “*The LORD spoke to Moses.*” Moses was the head, ordained by God to be the listener to the voice of the Lord. The first qualification of a godly leader is to be the head by learning to listen to the voice of the Lord. Unfortunately, in Israel the reverse happened.

The prophets, who were to be the heads of Israel, became the servants of kings. They allowed the kings and governors to set the pace and direction. The prophets became the puppets of the leaders. In other words they became apple-polishers, bootlickers, brownnosers, and suck-ups. They were only consulted and expected to rubber stamp the decisions. They became the tail rather than the head. The tail wagged the dog.

God wants you to be the head and not the tail in life. He wants you to first learn to listen to the voice of the Lord and not the voice of men, politics, culture, or peer pressure.

God wants to determine your direction (to obey and serve the Lord) without compromise. Your decision-making is not based on what others think or what might be popular or acceptable in the moment. If you want to get ahead, be the head. Put God first!

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD'S THOUGHTS.

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**Can you think of other promises
that would help you believe this?**

Day 28

God Says I Have a...

Sound Mind

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

A “sound mind” refers to a disciplined mind, a mind that does not wander aimlessly. It is a mind that is disciplined to point itself in the direction of deliberate goals and keeps that focus. A sound mind is a settled mind. It is a decisive mind. It is not characterized by fear, but the opposite of fear—strength that operates in love for the Lord.

The Greek word for “sound mind” is one word, *sophronismos*. It is derived from the root Greek word, *sozo*, to save or preserve someone or something. The rest of the word, *phren*, implies the diaphragm, the heart, or the decisions of the heart and mind. It has to do with discipline of the mind. A sound mind is not overly concerned with the cares and problems of every day life.

The Apostle Paul is in prison and about to be put to death for his faith. He doesn’t want Timothy to be afraid. He wants him to be disciplined in mind and convictions and “to stay the course.” He means “stay focused,” don’t get distracted in your mind.

The opposite of a sound mind is a “double mind”, a wavering mind, an indecisive mind, and a vacillating mind. It affects all aspect of life.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.” (James 1:5-8)

The symptom of double-mindedness is “instability” which is described by James as one who *“is like a wave of the sea driven*

with the wind and tossed" (vs. 6). To be double-minded is to be inconsistent, vacillating, to be and act one way today and be and act some other way tomorrow.

A double-minded man changes from day to day based on his circumstances. He is bold one day, timid the next. He is strong one day and fearful the next. He can't be counted on to "stay the course."

Tis The Set Of The Sail

by Ella Wheeler Wilcox

*One ship sails East,
And another West,
By the self-same winds that blow,
'Tis the set of the sails
And not the gales,
That tells the way we go.*

***"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on you: because he trusts in you."* (Isaiah 23:3)**

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD'S THOUGHTS.

Tell God your own thoughts, doubts and struggles.

**Can you think of other promises
that would help you believe this?**

WEEK 5

My Security

Day 29

God Says I Am...

Sealed by the Holy Spirit

“Who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.” (2 Corinthians 1:22)

When we read the world “seal” today we might have our own context in mind. We might think of sealing a letter by licking a stamp or closing an envelope. We might think of sealing some food to go in the refrigerator to seal in freshness.

When God referred to being sealed it was more permanent. Kings set seals upon important documents with a signet ring. Every king had a ring by which he would “seal” commands or documents to show it was authentic. It was a sign of his approval. I like to think of the Old Testament story of King Darius who sealed a command with the seal of the Medes and Persians that could not be changed.

The Persians had an attitude towards their rulers that implied that the king’s word was the law, and the law could not contradict itself. This meant that edicts specifically authorized by the king and sealed with his signet ring were irrevocable: they could not be undone or repealed (Esther 8:8 and Daniel 6:6-9)

Joseph was given the ring of authority, the signet ring, which gave him enormous power in the land of Egypt—the same authority as Pharaoh’s written signature.

“Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck.” (Genesis 41:42)

When we applied for visas to go to Brazil as missionaries we were surprised that they wanted copies of every conceivable document concerning us, whether birth certificate, marriage certificate, graduation certificates, drivers’ licenses, inoculations, and the list went on and on. But we could not simply make copies, those copies had to be authenticated by a notary public. The notary had a seal which was a metal stamp that was pressed into the document as proof of its authenticity.

When God seals us He means He claims us as His own.

- Ephesians 1:13 "you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise."
- Ephesians 4:30 "you were sealed unto the day of redemption."
- John 6:27 "For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."
- 2 Corinthians 1:22 "Who has also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit."
- Revelation 7:2 and 9:4 "I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God;"
- 2 Timothy 2:19 "Nevertheless the foundation of God stands sure, having this seal, The Lord knows them that are his."
- Revelations 22:4 "They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads."

When the Lord says we are sealed it means God put his stamp of approval on us. We were marked as genuinely His. We were the real deal. When God seals us with the Holy Spirit we are sealed, signed and delivered.

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD'S THOUGHTS.

Tell God your own thoughts, doubts and struggles.

Can you think of other promises that would help you believe this?

Day 30

God Says I Can Never Be...

Separated from His Love

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38)

There is a great illustration of the love of God and the impossibility of being separated from God’s love in James Harriott’s, *All Creatures Great and Small*.

“All young animals are appealing but the lamb has been given an unfair share of charm. (On) a bitterly cold evening when I had delivered twins on a wind-scoured hillside; the lambs shaking their heads convulsively and within minutes one of them struggling upright and making its way, unsteady, knock-kneed, towards the udder while the other followed resolutely on its knees.

The shepherd, his purpled, weather-roughened face almost hidden by the heavy coat which muffled him to his ears, gave a slow chuckle. ‘How the ’ell do they know?’ He had seen it happen thousands of times and he still wondered. So do I.

And another memory of two hundred lambs in a barn on a warm afternoon. We were inoculating them against pulpy kidney and there was no conversation because of the high-pitched protests of the lambs and the unremitting deep baa-ing from nearly a hundred ewes milling anxiously around outside.

I couldn’t conceive how these ewes could ever get their own families sorted out from that mass of almost identical little creatures. It would take hours. It took about twenty-five seconds.

When we had finished injecting we opened the barn doors and the outpouring lambs were met by a concerted rush of distraught mothers. At first the noise was deafening but it died away rapidly to an occasional bleat

as the last stray was rounded up. Then, neatly paired off, the flock headed calmly for the field.”

As in the last lesson, we cannot be separated from God’s love because he knows us. He keeps us. He protects us. He will never let us go.

“Nevertheless the foundation of God stands sure, having this seal, The Lord knows them that are his.” (2 Timothy 2:19)

“And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads.” (Revelation 22:4)

“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.” (Isaiah 49:15-17)

If you want to boldly profess that nothing can separate you from the love of God, then repent of your sins and receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. He is truly the only way to remain in God’s love in this life and in the life to come.

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS TO AGREE WITH GOD’S THOUGHTS.

Tell God your own thoughts, doubts and struggles.

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Day 31

God Says I Can Never Be...

Lost or Perish

“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up: That whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:14-16)

Harper Hall, a Scottish evangelist, was on a journey to The Moody Church but drowned when the Titanic sank in April 1912. Harper, his sister, and his six-year-old daughter (his wife had died) had traveled on the great ship, the Titanic, to return to Moody Church where he was requested to return for revival services. Survivors of the Titanic reported that as the Titanic began to sink, Harper admonished people to be prepared to die. He made sure his sister and daughter were in a lifeboat even as he continued to share the Gospel with whoever would listen. And when he found himself in the icy water with a life jacket, floating near another man, Harper asked, “Are you saved?” The desperate man replied, “No, I’m not saved!” Harper then shouted, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!” One report said Harper, knowing he could not survive long in the icy water, took off his life jacket and threw it to another person with the words, “You need this more than I do!” Moments later, Harper disappeared beneath the water.

Before drowning, John Harper shared, for the last time, the message of Christ, which is, in a nutshell, that Jesus came to earth to die in our place that we might be saved. This Gospel does not spare us from drowning in an ocean, but it does spare us from a far worse eternal destruction.

To complete the story: Harper’s six-year-old daughter and her aunt arrived safely in New York, rescued by the *Carpathia*, and only then learned of Harper’s death. Four years later, when there was a reunion of the survivors of the Titanic, the man to whom Harper had witnessed told the story of his rescue and gave a testimony of his conversion recorded in a tract, *“I was John Harper’s Last Convert.”*

The great message of the Gospel is found in John 3:16-18.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.” (John 3:36)

The guarantee of your salvation is not you, your good deeds, your faithfulness or obedience. He saved you because you called on Him. *“For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourself, it is a gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8)*

Excerpted from a Moody Church Testimony:

<https://www.moodymedia.org/articles/sharing-gift-christmas-one-minute-you-die/>

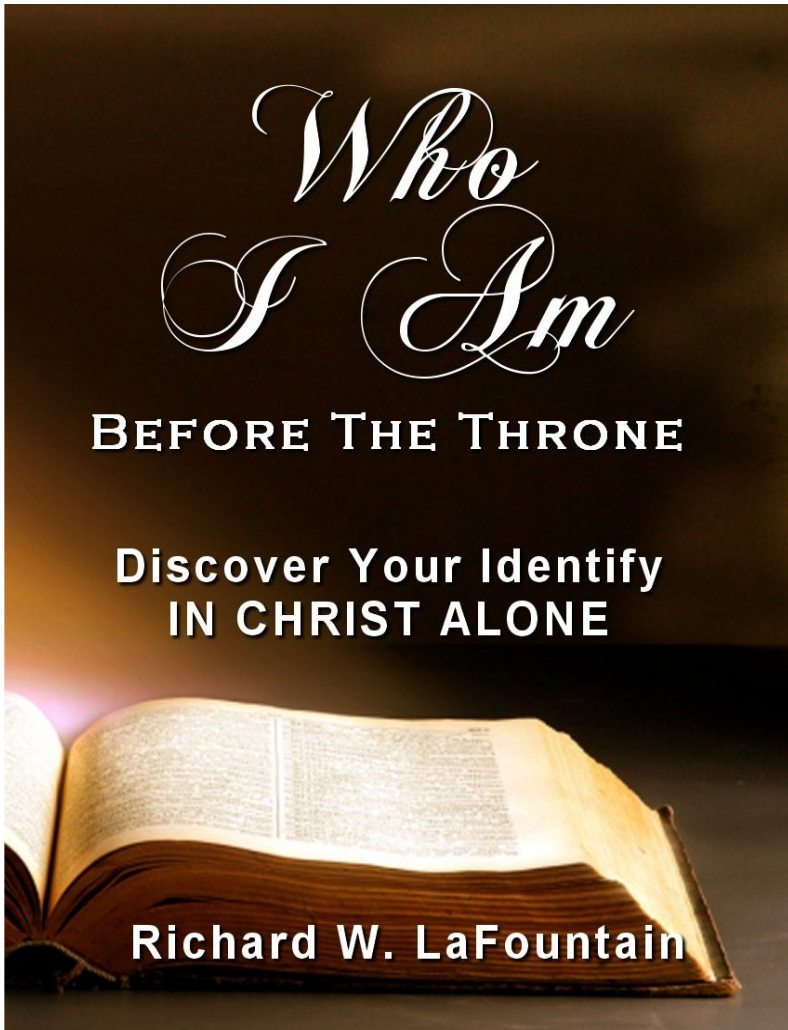
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This book is the introduction to the concept of who we are in Christ. It includes the biblical basis with illustrations and a list of over 150 biblical statements of who we are in Christ. It is followed by a 31 day study.

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do not call common or unclean.**

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You are not what others think you are.
You are, and always will be,
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THE PROMISES OF GOD

*“Man shall not live by bread alone
but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”*


We don't live the Christian life by practicing positive thinking. We live our lives by believing and claiming the promises of God. It is obvious that our thoughts are not His thoughts and our ways are not His ways. The only way to truly cleanse our consciences and clear our guilty feelings is by the Word of God, specifically by knowing, memorizing and quoting the promises of God. This is how Jesus dealt with his temptations. When the devil contradicted the Word of God Jesus corrected him. We don't live by the bootstraps of our own ideas, but by the Word of God. This is what I call “promise-living” and is our only way of defeating our negative, self-condemning thoughts.

At the end of each day's exercise it would be good to fill a page of your prayer journal with the promises of God that apply to that particular truth of God's word.

We have provided another document in PDF format with 365 promises for every believer covering a variety of life topics. As you study these 31 truths, search for promises that you can claim that will help you overcome your struggle to believe what God says about you. You can find this download at our prayer web site, www.PrayerToday.org.

365

Precious Promises



<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Numbers 23:18</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">“God is not a man, <u>that he should be</u>; neither the son of man, <u>that he should report</u>; has he knee, and shall he have eyes? or has he hands, and shall he hold out? or has he ears, and shall he hear? or has he a nose, and shall he smell?”</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">2 Peter 1:4</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and <u>precious promises</u>; that by these you might be partakers of the <u>divine nature</u>, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Hebrews 6:17-19</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">“Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of <u>promise</u> the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by <u>two immutable things</u>, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an <u>anchor of the soul</u>, both sure and steadfast.”</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">2 Corinthians 1:20</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">For <u>all the promises</u> of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 5px 0;">Matthew 24:35</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.</p>

Updated, Corrected and Revised – May 14, 2021