



## *Day One: God's Not GOING to Change You!*

"Change me, Lord." It's been the cry of human hearts for numerous generations, as we come to the realisation that perhaps - after countless unsuccessful attempts at it - we simply can't 'change' ourselves. This desire to completely depend on God brings joy to His heart. Yet in the same moment it can also reveal an underlying and destructive belief – that somehow we are still waiting on God to give us something. That He has been holding out on us, and unless He gives us what we need in order to change, we'll never be who He said to be – like Jesus. It also shows that we have an underlying fear that who we are in this very moment is not good enough, and that God has to change us for us ever be 'right'.

My friend, let me tell you that there is nothing further from the truth! God sees you as 'right' in this moment and He is not GOING to 'change' you, because He has already done it – you're already changed! He wants to awaken you to what He has already done inside of you, and when you actually see and believe the fullness of what He has already done – you won't recognise yourself anymore! You won't have to BECOME who He said you are. You'll simply BE it!

You see, we are never waiting for God to move. Our identity is never dependent on having the next 'experience' with God so that we can 'grow' and look more like who He created us to be. He wants us to know that we are free right now – today – in this moment! The change has already taken place! Not sure how this is impossible? Stick with me and you'll see...

### **The Best News You've Ever Heard**

If you've been around the Word of God for any length of time, you will have heard this news... but you may not have known what it really means. The best news that you've ever heard is that:

#### **YOU ARE COMPLETE IN CHRIST**

Right now, in this moment, you are complete in Him. Why? Because when Jesus died on the cross, IT WAS FINISHED (John 19:30).

What was finished? Everything!



***Ephesians 2:1, 4 & 6 (TPT) And His fullness fills you,***

*...even when we were dead and doomed in our many sins he invited us into the very life of Christ and saved us by his wonderful grace! He raised us up with Christ the exalted one, and we ascended with Him into the glorious perfection and authority of the heavenly realm for we are now joined as one with Christ!*

We have been invited into the very life of Christ! Everything that fills Christ and makes Him who He is, fills you now. You are – right now – complete in Him.

It says in this scripture that He saved us by His wonderful grace and often we attribute this as our ticket to heaven and for many people, that's where they think the good news starts and finishes. However, this is only a fraction of what He did when '*He invited us into the very life of Christ*'. The big thing Jesus accomplished in His finished work, is what He did in our identity. Our salvation simply comes out of our changed identity – sons and daughters of the living God are of course going to live with Him in heaven! Yet heaven is not the end of what Jesus did. It is only just the beginning. Your identity has been forever changed and we're only just discovering the many ways in which that actually changes everything about our lives! We've been liberated in a way that we've never before even guessed at!

If His work is complete and He is complete and you are joined as one with Christ in your spirit, then His life in you makes your spirit complete – right now!

Of course, we may wonder how this could possibly be true. 'I certainly don't look or feel complete', you may think. Trust me, it's in the Book, and if you stay with this, you'll know it to be true! But before we go any further, let's choose to lay down our intellect – the things of God can only be awakened in our hearts by grace. When we defer to our natural minds, we put a boundary in place. Jesus wants to awaken our hearts with the truth and when we hang onto our clichés, we think we know what something is... only to find out that what we thought was the whole, was actually just a part of it. We may think that we know who we are in Christ and Who Christ is in us, but we cannot know the fullness of it if we reject what we can clearly see in the Word because our heads can't believe it.



Any time we have a filter we will filter OUT something – consider the Pharisees who expected Jesus to come a certain way (as a conquering King) and totally missed Him! Throughout this devotional, we will hear scriptures and terms that we’ve heard before, but if we won’t see it with fresh eyes, we will miss what God is saying and the truth that sets us free.

## Soak Time

Am I willing to lay down my filters, my clichés, my expectations and the parameters of where my heart has previously gone in faith, and receive with fresh eyes, the truth that will set me free? Why/Why not?

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## *Day Two: God's Treasure Chest*

What greater treasure could there be than the living Christ embedded within each one of us! The Word of God tells us that this is what the finished work of Christ looks like within every single believer:

***Colossians 1:26 – 27 (TPT)*** *There is a divine mystery – a secret surprise that has been concealed from the world for generations, but now it's being revealed, unfolded and manifested for every holy believer to experience. Living within you is the Christ who floods you with the expectation of glory! This mystery of Christ, embedded within us, becomes a heavenly treasure chest of hope filled with the riches of glory for his people, and God wants everyone to know it!*

What a precious scripture! We never have to be the one who misses out! We never have to be the one who watches someone else 'get' their experience with God and feel left behind, because this scripture clearly states that within each of us lives this treasure chest of Christ! Praise God! However, isn't it interesting that this scripture ends with '*and God wants everyone to know it!*' Why would this be important? If someone had a treasure chest of glory living within them, wouldn't they know it?

Well, let me ask you this: Did YOU know it? When you look around you in the body of Christ, do you think that most people know it? The sad thing is that we can have this treasure chest inside of us – locked up, shut tight and hidden away. If we don't know that it's embedded within us, or we fear opening the lid, it is as though the treasure was never there in the first place.

I lived most of my life feeling like I was boxed in, shut up, restricted and restrained. I had no idea there was a treasure chest hidden in my heart. And when I finally discovered that there was, I equally had no idea how to open it up.

As Steffany Gretzinger's beautiful song, *Out of Hiding* says, '*You've been on lockdown and I hold the key*'. That's exactly where I was, but He showed me the way out!

Our precious Lord has given us the keys to the treasure chests within our hearts. The question is, will we turn them and fling wide open the lid so that the world can see the treasure which lies within our hearts?



The poster above showcases two ornate metal keys, which were given to me, led of Holy Spirit, by a believing friend. When I received them, I held up the smaller key and heard Holy Spirit whisper to my heart that this was the key to my prison door, and He had already opened it for me... all I had to do was walk out.

When I held up the larger key, He said, *'And this is the key to the palace'*. I realised in an instant that whether or not I stayed in the prison or entered the palace was entirely up to me – He had given me the keys and the choice. And He has given the same keys to you – it's all tied up in our identity.

Do we see ourselves as prisoners living in a shut up, dark and empty box, or do we see ourselves as His royalty living in the shimmering wonder of the Palace with Him? How we see ourselves determines what we'll do with the treasure chest that lies within. If we see ourselves as a prisoner, the chest becomes a desolate prison and stays tightly shut. If we see ourselves as royalty, the treasure chest becomes a palace – the lid is flung wide open and the shining glory of the Lord is released.





Let's open your treasure chest right now and discover the shining glory that is inside it. You know, the word 'revelation' actually means 'discovery'. We have the fullness of Christ within us, and we are never looking for Him to 'give us a new revelation'... rather, we awaken to see the treasure that was already there in the first place. We've probably all walked in decades of lies, with satan telling us who we're not, what we can't be, do or have. Will you agree with me that this ends now?

Let's discover who you are. Let's discover what is inside your treasure chest. Within God's people is a whole treasure mine we can never plumb the depths of. It's all inside of us. It's His glory.



Do I see myself as a prisoner or as royalty? Why?

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Am I willing to open the treasure chest which is embedded within my heart? Why/why not?

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### *Day Three: Everything Comes Down to Identity*

Prisoner or royalty? EVERYTHING comes down to identity. We cannot go further than our sense of identity. Whether or not we walk in our destiny is completely dependent upon whether we see ourselves as the person who can live it. It's only through Christ that we can accomplish anything and if our identity is not entwined with Him, we will encounter a serious issue in the journey of our destiny.

The problem is not that we don't believe God can do it. We have no issues whatsoever with that! God is a big God. He's powerful, wise, loving and true. We know there is no force which can stop Him or overpower Him.

The problem is only when we have to believe that He can do it THROUGH US.

The Israelites actually saw the red sea part. They knew without a shadow of doubt that God was powerful and mighty – they had seen it with their own eyes as He delivered them and destroyed their enemies completely. But what happened not so long afterwards when they were asked to believe that God could work THROUGH them to take the Promised Land? They couldn't believe it! It was their sense of identity that stole the Promised Land from everyone in that generation other than Caleb and Joshua. The other spies who came back from scouting out the Promised Land saw themselves 'as grasshoppers' in the sight of their enemies (Numbers 13:32 – 33). Yet Caleb and Joshua knew that God had promised the land to them. They believed that He could work through them, and that they were well able to take it (Numbers 13:30).

We have to believe as Caleb and Joshua did, that not only can God do it, but that He can do it through us! Why? Because Jesus Christ – the heavenly treasure chest of glory – has been embedded within us. If there is nothing that He cannot do, neither is there nothing that WE cannot do! And we actually have the privilege to even look at our circumstances and the promises of God beyond the level of Caleb and Joshua. Their perspective was absolutely a 'God-is-with-us' perspective. We have the privilege, honour and confidence of living from a 'God-is-in-us' perspective! Without this perspective, we cannot enter our own promised land of destiny. But with it, absolutely nothing can stop us from walking in the fullness of all God has promised us!



In reality, it comes down to this. Our identity is the ONLY thing that can stop us. Satan can't – He's been stripped and defeated. Jesus took the keys of sin and the grave, and He made an open display of Satan as He paraded him stripped and naked before us (Colossians 2:15).

Other people can't stop us – Jesus has set us free! Many can attempt to stop us through their judgments of who we are, yet we were given the privilege of free will, and it is up to us to decide if we will receive the judgments others make about our identity, or if we will reject these judgments and choose instead to believe what GOD has said about us in His Word.

**Colossians 2:18 (AMP)** *Let no one defraud you by acting as an umpire and declaring you unworthy and disqualifying you for the prize...*

It says to 'let' no one. The instruction was given to us and the choice is ours – God says not to let others judge us (acting as an umpire over our lives). Whether we reject or receive the judgments made by others will always depend on how we see ourselves – if we see ourselves in the same manner in which we've been judged, we'll receive it. But if we see ourselves in a manner differently to the way we've been judged, we will reject their judgments.

Everything comes down to identity. And there is only one Person who knows what our identity really is. After all, He's the one who created us...

## Soak Time

Have I allowed Satan to determine or influence my identity? If so, how?

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Have I allowed other people to determine or influence my identity? If so, how?

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## *Day Four: It's Always Been About Identity*

It is not only us who can go no further than our identity. In fact, Jesus Himself could never have done what He was sent here for, if He did not settle the issue of His identity in His heart first. Jesus was a man filled with the Holy Spirit. When He was born, He wasn't pretending to be a baby – He WAS a baby! He had to grow, listen to the voice of Holy Spirit and know who He was and what He was called to do, just as we need to. What do you think was going on in the first thirty years of Jesus life? We see a big hint as to what that was in Jesus response to his parents when they could not find him for three days after taking Him to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. In the first words of Jesus that are recorded for us in the Scriptures, He says: *"I must be about my Father's business"* (Luke 2:49). He knew who He was – He called God HIS Father.

In fact, just as the fullness of Jesus Christ is the heavenly treasure chest embedded within us which allows us to be and do all things in Him, the fullness of God Himself was embedded within Jesus by the power of Holy Spirit to enable Him to accomplish His purpose on this earth.

***Colossians 1:19 (NLT)*** *For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ.*

So Jesus had to settle the issue of identity – and so do we. In fact, identity is the very reason we as a human race got off track in the first place. Identity was not settled by Adam and Eve in the garden and we can all see the disastrous results from that.

Imagine Adam and Eve in the garden. They were one in spirit with God, made in His glorious likeness, and communing with Him daily. Yet they were tempted in their soul by satan's statement, *"For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God..."*

He was going after their identity. They WERE made in God's image! They already were like God but satan got them to disbelieve it! He told them that they had to BECOME like God and therefore they assumed that they were not already like Him. Satan planted the seed of doubt - and they believed it!

And there began the age-old attack against our identity: 'You still need to BECOME something. You're not enough as you are. You have to become better... righteous... like Jesus. You are waiting to receiving something from



God that He has thus far been holding out on you.’ That’s what the lies sound like.

Adam had a Spirit, soul and body. His real sin (missing the mark) was not in eating a piece of fruit. His real sin was in believing what satan had said about His identity, instead of what God had already said – this is what led him to decide to go against God’s direct instructions to him. And in that moment, his spirit died. It still existed because that’s what makes us eternal beings. Yet it was dead, because it was disconnected from God who is the very source of life.

Jesus came to re-connect us to the fullness of God, and to the fullness of our identity: **Christ in us, God in Him!**

The fullness of God dwells in Jesus and the fullness of Jesus dwells in us, through the Holy Spirit. It’s time to settle the issue of identity, once and for all!

## Soak Time

What are the issues of identity that I feel I need to ‘settle’? Or in other words, what are the lies from satan about my identity, that can easily ‘unsettle’ me?

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## *Day Five: It is FINISHED*

Three little words with a gigantic meaning: **IT IS FINISHED!**

We've heard it. We confess it. We talk about it. We even preach about it. But **DO WE REALLY BELIEVE IT?**

Because if we do, we'll understand that the work was completed at the cross. We're not waiting for God to do anything else for us. We don't need Jesus to add to anything He's already done. When He said, "It is finished," He meant, **IT IS FINISHED!** Everything is done! Everything is complete! Now believe it!

God is not running up and down frantically between heaven and earth. The Bible tells us that Jesus is seated in heavenly places at the right hand of the Father (and we are seated with Him too... but we'll get to that soon). He is seated because it's done. It's all done, and the complete and finished work of Jesus in its fullness now resides through Holy Spirit, in the hearts of man. His finished work is contained within the fullness of Christ – the heavenly treasure chest of glory that is embedded within us.

Jesus sat down! There is now nothing more to do but to align ourselves with what's already been done. It was the great exchange. He took our place and He gave us His place. Our identity was not changed. It was completed  
**EXCHANGED: His identity for our identity.** Finished! Done!

## *Soak Time*

Is it possible that this could be true?!?! Perhaps your mind is screaming "Unbelievable!" at this point, but remember what you choose on Day One. Did you decide to lay down your preconceived notions and see with fresh eyes what the Word of God says about who you are? If so, prepare yourself to discover this truth, and to embark on a journey from which you will never see yourself the same again! How do you feel as you begin?

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