



## WHERE ARE YOU AND WHERE DOES YOUR IDENTITY LIE?



### HOPE

It was the great writer, John Milton, who said 'Hope Springs Eternal in The Human Breast.' HOPE is so vital that if it was to disappear, the burden of life would be unsustainable. How we need HOPE in these uncertain times!

### LIVES LOST

So many Lives have been lost, Livelihoods lost, Freedom lost and everything that was once familiar turned on its head. And the stress of so much change! We rely so much on all the things of this world. And in these uncertain times it is only too easy to feel insignificant. Yet we are being given opportunities where we must dig deeper to rediscover our TRUE Christlike identity. I'll tell you something you may not like hearing but God knows, it is virtually impossible to become Christlike when everything is going well.

So, WHERE ARE YOU and WHERE DOES YOUR IDENTITY LIE?

## NO INSIGNIFICANT CHRISTIANS

The great teacher, A.W. Tozer suggests that our significance is one of the heaviest thoughts we have. But no matter how insignificant we might have felt before, we become significant the moment we encounter the Son of God. Tozer goes on to say, 'When the Lord lays His hand upon you, at once you cease to be ordinary. You immediately become extraordinary (Because He is Extraordinary!), and your life takes on cosmic significance', (We Travel An Appointed Way)

The angels in heaven take notice of you and go forth to become your ministers (Heb.1:14) (how often do we ask angels?) 'Though, before you have been only one of the faceless multitude ..... an invisible dust grain blown across endless wastes - now you get a face and a name and a place in the scheme of meaningful things.'

## JUST THE PASTOR OF A SMALL CHURCH

Tozer shared how a preacher introduced himself to the pastor of a great metropolitan church with the words, 'I am just the pastor of a small church upcountry. (orphan) the wise minister replied, SON, there are no small churches.' And there are no unknown Christians, no insignificant sons of God. Each one is significant, each is a 'sign' drawing the attention of the Triune God day and night upon him. The faceless man has a face, the nameless man a name, when Jesus picks him out of the multitude and calls him to Himself.'

## THE FATHER'S TABLE

We grieve our Lord by thinking of ourselves as less. Our union through the blood of the everlasting covenant has changed all that. Our claim now is that of a child upon his Father. We have a right in the Father's household, and we can sit down at His table without fear or embarrassment.

## THE STORY OF REDEMPTION & THE ORPHAN SPIRIT

The story of redemption is God's pursuit of man. Mephibosheth was a man who, like Adam, ran and hid from the King. But God's question to you, like David's, is the same, WHERE ARE YOU? WHERE DOES YOUR IDENTITY LIE?

David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

Now there was a servant of Saul's household named Ziba. They summoned him to appear before David, and the king said to him, Are you Ziba?

At your service, he replied.

The king asked, Is there no one still alive from the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?

Ziba answered the king, There is still a son of Jonathan; he is lame in both feet. Where is he? the king asked.

Ziba answered, He is at the house of Makir son of Ammiel in Lo Debar.

So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir son of Ammiel.

When Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honour.

David said, Mephibosheth!

At your service, he replied.

Don't be afraid, David said to him, for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table.

Mephibosheth bowed down and said, What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me? (some of us feeling like that now - life has just become too hard!) Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul's steward, and said to him, I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table." (2 Sam:9)

So Mephibosheth always ate at David's table like one of the king's sons...And he was lame in both feet!

## GOD'S HEART IS TO RESTORE

God's heart is to restore us, but this can only happen when we stop living like orphans, independent of Him. Like Mephibosheth, we have to come out of hiding and start living like Sons. Being fearful of having a voice or being self-opinionated and overly confident comes from the same orphan spirit. Fear stopped him going after his inheritance instead he chose a false refuge in the backwaters rather than living in the confident identity of his royal status. In this new decade of the Pey/Mouth the enemy is trying every way to shut down the true voice of His Bride. But God has other plans and is asking us today, WHERE ARE YOU? WHERE DOES YOUR IDENTITY LIE?

God is calling out the true revelation of who we are in Him. It was David's genuine transparency before God that gave him his kingly identity and confidence with others. It is as we behold the glory of the Lord with an 'unveiled, transparent face' that we are changed into His confident image. The veils and false refuges causing us

to hide are being revealed in this shaking time! God, in His great mercy and kindness, is giving us an incredible opportunity at this hour to move from the darkness and despair of our false refuges into the powerful light of His glorious love. And He is saying,

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### ASK GOD TO LOVE YOU

The Holy Spirit reminds us always of WHERE WE ARE TO BE - We are to be in the Beloved! He loves to give to us and He loves to receive from us!!! God is our Father! ASK HIM TO LOVE YOU! Ask Him to give you evidence of that love. When we love God well we become well loved.

### FAITH WORKS BY LOVE

As we pursue love with God we are built up in our identity, and faith is built. If we don't move in faith we will be overwhelmed by our circumstances. The world has nothing to teach about trusting God. In fact it's the opposite! When faith is required, ask for first love! Faith works by love. (Gal.5:6)

### Hope Springs Eternal - TRANSFORMATION

This is a time for incredible transformation! When the Spirit puts His finger on a part of our life that is not working, it is to point to our true identity. We become a new person discovering the person we already are in Christ. This is true transformation!

Our spiritual maturity and true identity are revealed through our willingness to sacrifice our own desires for the interests of the kingdom or for the sake of others. It's called DEATH TO SELF! And there has never been a time like this! Learning to think from heaven and not the perspective of the world is vital if we want to live in abundance.

## CONCLUSION

Yesterday may have been marked by failure, lack of faith or love, but today all that can be changed! God is inviting you to sit at the King's table as a member of His family. He is telling you that you are extraordinary because you are in Union with Him and because that's what He thinks about Himself! We have been resurrected to new life and we CAN live in our true identity BUT IT TAKES TREMENDOUS COURAGE, OBEDIENCE and SACRIFICE. Christ did not die and rise again to just get us to the finishing line! THE FINISHING LINE IS THE BEGINNING OF A GLORIOUS FUTURE!

So, WHERE ARE YOU NOW AND WHERE IS YOUR IDENTITY?

