

# WHO I AM IN CHRIST

**Journey Formation Team**



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# introduction

**J**esus came so that you may have life and life to the full. This is one of our deepest beliefs at Journey Church.

The Formation Team has written this e-book to give you clarity and vision on a life that is living fully free and alive in Christ. It is our hope and prayer that the truths presented in this book will not only change your thinking, but also change the way you live. Jesus tells us (John 10:10) that the enemy seeks to steal, kill and destroy, but He has come so that we may have life!

Also, Paul tells us in Galatians 5:1, that *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."* As a followers of Jesus we are free to live lives of joy, peace and love, but this involves surrendering old ways of thinking and operating in the world.

The good news is that through the Spirit of Christ we have the ability to live this free life. As you journey through this e-book open your heart to work of the Spirit. Envision a life that was full of freedom that Jesus has promised us. Let's begin this journey together!

# i am forgiven

by Derek Schultz

*"God rescued us from dead-end alleys and dark dungeons. He's set us up in the kingdom of the Son he loves so much, the Son who got us out of the pit we were in, got rid of the sins we were doomed to keep repeating."*

- Colossians 1:13-14

I remember sitting in on a conference about 8 years ago where I watched an interview with a man that had been imprisoned for 25 years for a murder of an elderly woman during a robbery. The interview was about forgiveness, specifically the forgiveness that was extended to the man that had murdered this elderly woman by the son of the elderly woman. As I sat through this interview, I remember thinking about the power of forgiveness. The forgiveness that was offered to this man was not normal, nor expected. Yet, here were two men, sitting next to each other crying and sharing about God's grace through the forgiveness of sins. It was amazing. It's an amazing thing to witness a life that gets to receive forgiveness, but also a life that gets to offer

The interesting part in the story I shared was the man that was offering forgiveness for the murder of his mother had to work through years of anger, bitterness and resentment. The forgiveness came in time, but it wasn't immediate.

*God made the way in advance for us*

This means, God has forgiven us ahead of our sins (Romans 5:8) or even while we are sinning, God forgave us. This goes beyond our human understanding. As humans we tend to have to deal with the emotions before we forgive or even receive forgiveness. **But God does the supernatural thing and extends the hand of forgiveness through His son Jesus Christ, ahead of our sin.** God made the way in advance for us to be forgiven and our part is only to receive it fully, turn from our ways of sinning and extend this forgiveness to others. Its almost to simple to be true or real. So let's break down this understanding of being forgiven.

We as humans are born into a sin filled life. The first two Chapters of Genesis narrate this for us. Adam and Eve chose a path of life that was in rebellion to God's path for them. This was now handed down to all humanity. I know, lucky us, but God in all His great love for humanity desired the pure relationship of His original plan for humanity and made a way for us to be fully restored in the purist sense. Jesus came to earth and died to be a full payment for ALL sin. Jesus came and lived a sinless life and took on the complete penalty of what sin causes, full and eternal separation from God.

Jesus was put to death on the cross because of sin, He rose three days later and was raised in a new resurrected life. This was all done because of God's great pursuit of us and His desire to have a fully restored relationship with us. The beauty of all of this is we get to chose to receive this full forgiveness. Being fully forgiven is the baseline of the gospel message and the amazing view of God's unconditional love for us. If you've never accepted Jesus' forgiveness, today is the day!

*Being fully forgiven is  
the baseline of the  
gospel*

So I look back on my life and I am daily thankful that God constantly pursues me and that He forgave me long before I was willing to receive that forgiveness. So when I say or think about the statement, "I am forgiven", I think of more than just a phrase or a position in life. I think of the extent God went through to make right a broken relationship just for me and just for you. My greatest desire is that you receive this forgiveness and fully understand what extent God went through to be with you in a fully restored relationship. **His love is amazing and overwhelming. All you need to do is receive it.**

The result of this is we get to then extend forgiveness to others, its actually one of the commandments Jesus calls us to follow. The Apostle Paul wrote to the church and said it this way in Ephesians 4:32, *"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."*

Remember the story I began with, the story of forgiveness? When we truly receive this forgiveness we will naturally extend it to others. We are the hope of His glory, its Christ in us, we go and live it. Let's all declare today: **I AM FORGIVEN.**

# i am a child

by Elizabeth Kauffman

*"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."  
- Jesus in John 1:12*

To what does it mean to be "a child of God"? If you're like me, you might immediately picture either a painting of Jesus holding children on his lap or—since I grew up in the '90's—one of those many little key chains or t-shirts that proudly proclaimed "daughter/son of the King!" or "I'm a princess because my daddy is the King of Kings." But there's got to be more to it than that, right? Even if we don't admit it, I think it's safe to say that from the very center of our beings, we *need* there to be more to it than that. So I would like to ask you to just take a moment out of your day to pause and reflect on this statement: **I am a child of God.**

Whether I own it or not, whether I believe it or not, God created me in His image and with a purpose in mind. He crafted me while I was yet in my mother's womb (Psalm 139) and declared over me that I was His treasure: His chosen (1 Peter 2:9).

*...God created me in His image with a purpose in mind*

Before the foundations of the world were made, before the sun rose for the first time, and before the first tide swept the shores, the God of the universe—the Lord of all creation who has no end and no beginning, who can do all and see all and knows all—looked down upon creation and said, "You know what would be amazing? If I created (insert your name here) in My image, and not only called them into a personal relationship with Me, but loved them so much that I make the ultimate sacrifice just to show them how much I love them and desire for them to live eternally with Me."

And this is only part of what it means to be children of God. John 1:12 says that from the moment that we proclaim Jesus Christ to be our Lord and Savior, we are children of God: born of God and adopted by God. This is not something to be passed over lightly as though it were a distant religious concept talked about on occasion in church or in a devotional we read: it is a life changing principal that should serve as a foundation to our core identity.

In 1 John 2:28-3:3 we're given a glimpse of what it looks like to be children of God. It says (emphases added):

*And now, dear children, continue in Him, so that when He appears we may be **confident and unashamed before Him at His coming.** If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of Him. **See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!** And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

*See what great love  
the Father has  
lavished on us...*

*Since we are children  
of God, shouldn't we let  
this title filter into every  
area of our lives?*

*Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that **when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.** All who have this hope in Him **purify themselves, just as He is pure.***

Through Christ we are redeemed, purified, and brought close to the very heart of God; we are made innocent as newborn babes, pure as lilies, and co-heirs with Christ to God's glory (Romans 8:17).

Since we are children of God, shouldn't we let this title filter into every area of our lives? Shouldn't it impact the way we act, talk, and think? Shouldn't it change the way we treat others, and even the way we view ourselves? You are a child of God.

I am a child of God.

Now I encourage you—and I encourage myself—to go out and to live like it.

# i am complete

by Joie VanHolstyn

*“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.”*

*- Colossians 2:9-10*

My boss called me into his office and asked me to review one of my latest files. There in bold ink was a customer’s review of my performance. *It was not a good review.* It was a drawn out, at times downright mean review of how I handled their file. I felt a gut wrenching pain as I reviewed the file with my boss and realized that it came down to one small mistake on my part. It was one mistake, a simple small mistake that most people would have not realized ever happened, but this time it was noticed. It was actually not a big deal and my boss was not upset. I had no action taken against me. Yet, I felt this familiar sinking feeling that I was not measuring up, I was not enough. Ultimately, I felt incomplete.

Do you remember the account of Mary and Martha in the Bible (Luke 10:38-42) Jesus had been traveling when he came to a village and was invited into the home of two sisters, Mary and Martha. In reading the story I get a picture of two sisters who were just told they had unexpected important guests stop by for dinner.

Martha went into frantic, busy hostess mode...filling glasses, finding enough pillows of people who had to sit on the floor, and trying to figure out how she was going to feed that many people on short notice. Mary, her sister, however wanted to hear Jesus and actually hang out with Jesus. Martha gets frustrated with Mary and wants her help. Yet, Jesus says that Mary is the one who got it right.

*Mary wanted to hear Jesus and actually hang out with Jesus*

Martha got caught up in what wasn't done and what "needed" to get done, but Jesus tells her 'learn from me, and just sit with me.'

When we are born, we have a God-shaped hole inside of us. We can try and fill that hole with money, power, sex, or anything else the world has to offer, **but God is the only one that can actually fill that space and create a wholeness in our souls.** The Bible tells us that when we become Christians, at that very moment the Holy Spirit (God Himself) lives inside of us (Romans 8:11).

There are probably going to be moments in my life where I feel the familiar sinking of not measuring up and not being enough. The truth is that I am complete and lack nothing. I can make mistakes, experience rejection and have moments of fear but my soul is resting in Jesus; I am complete, whole and have the fullness.

The choice is with us. We can choose to rest, and live in that fullness, or we can get distracted. We can run around doing good things, and let our hearts become frantic and stressed, or we can trust and rest in who God says you are.

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In Colossians 2:9-10, Paul tells us that, "*in Christ you have been brought to fullness.*" Paul is literally telling us that Christ is enough. If we are willing to trust Christ and his finished work on the cross, we can live lives of trust. We don't have to earn or way into a relationship with Jesus, we simply have to surrender our way into it.

A beautiful song that captures this truth is the song, *Christ is Enough*, by Hillsong. Let these words encourage you today.

*Christ is my reward  
And all of my devotion  
Now there's nothing in this world  
That will ever satisfy.*

*Through every trial  
My soul will sing  
No turning back  
I've been set free*

*Christ is enough for me  
Christ is enough for me  
Everything I need is in You  
Everything I need*

# i am free

by Kathy Waayenberg

*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*

*2 Corinthians 3:17*

*The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed.*

*Jesus in Luke 4:18*

To experience freedom, one needs to realize they are captive. In our world and culture we have been deceived by the temporary emphasized over the eternal. We are blinded to the fact that we are all held captive to sin. Adam through his rebellion in the garden ushered sin into the world, resulting in death for himself and every human after. Death has come to all men because of all humanities bent to have their way above God's better design. Sin is bondage, sin is the act choosing anything less than fully loving and obeying God. God who is so in love with us created us to all be fully free in intimate relationship with the Holy Trinity and each other. This has caused a great dilemma as man is separated from a God who loves humanity so completely but who by nature is entirely Holy, Separate and Pure.

This huge gap can only be resolved by our sin and bondage being destroyed. We in ourselves are unable to break the bondage of sin, we are powerless.

*God who is so in love  
with us created us to  
all be fully free...*

God in His abundant love and grace reclaims us all with the gift of His beloved son, Jesus. We are powerless, yet Christ, who is all powerful, left his heavenly home with his Father and took on human flesh, became one of us to demolish grip of sin and bondage. He lived a completely pure and holy life, setting an example for us of how we should live. He was perfectly innocent of all sin and rebellion.

Jesus then gave the ultimate sacrifice by dying on the cross for our rebellion, our sin. He took it all and paid for it by his own painful death.

In His death, God the Son, paid the price for our sin. Yet death could not hold him. The grave could not keep him. By the unmatched, glorious power of the living God, Jesus was raised from the dead. He is alive! **So what does all this mean?**

God is offering you a free gift: A gift of freedom. Freedom of no longer being in bondage to sin but freedom to break the chains of bondage and overcome sin. Freedom to be fully alive in loving communion with the Father. Freedom to be transformed into the image of Christ by accepting and believing on Jesus and His sacrifice. Freedom to repent of always having control but releasing the controls and allowing Jesus to lead and direct you by His Spirit.

God the Father loves you and desires a relationship with you. God the Son, Jesus died for you so you can be free to have relationship with God. God the Holy Spirit lives in you, communing with you,

*God is offering you a free gift: a gift of freedom*

*...if the Son sets you free you are free indeed*

guiding you to a full abundant life that is pleasing to the Father by revealing Jesus to you.

Jesus said in the gospel of John 8:34-35 *"I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has not permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you are free indeed."* By choosing to follow Christ you are now part of the family of God.

Freedom is full of wonderful elements. Freedom means that we no longer need to be a slave to our past destructive habits and desires that were harmful. No longer at the mercy of unstable emotions and passions that rule us. Jesus promised us he would be with us always by sending us the Holy Spirit who abides in us. We are not alone. Our old self will continue to wage war with our new self but it is no longer in charge. You have a new life with a Spiritual helper that is God himself. *"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."* 2 Corinthians 3:17.

To be an overcomer and truly walk in this wonderful freedom we have and need to learn to lean into the Spirit of the Lord. The Spirit of the Lord always has what is best for you. The Lord is leading you into new depths of love and freedom but so many times our old ways grip us so tightly we have a difficult time releasing to receive what is better. Our temporal cravings override our eternal purpose and glory.

The Lord has given us tools to walk in freedom. He gives us the Word of God to renew our mind. Each day we are subject to so thousands of thoughts and messages. By reading the God's word we can take captive in our minds what is now true, holy, pure and life giving instead of sledging through thoughts that deprive of us of peace, joy and assurance.

The Holy Spirit reminds us of what we have read and heard to encourage and empower. We can commune with God. He is always, always listening and speaking to us. Talk to the Lord and listen. Friends who are fellow believers can encourage you in your adventure of freedom.

*The Lord has given us  
tools to walk in  
freedom*

## *Freedom in Christ is an ongoing journey*

We all are given different gifts and we learn from one another. Others have experienced freedom and desire to share and encourage.

Freedom in Christ is an ongoing journey. There are times when the Holy Spirit reveals to us that we have been carrying an attitude, and unforgiveness or a habit that is not life giving. You might be challenged to do or go somewhere that is out of your comfort zone. The Lord knows you better than you know yourself. It is important to learn to trust His love for you. God in His graciousness loves us completely but too much to allow us to continue in practices or thoughts that keep us from fully experiencing His love. He will reveal these bondages to us and help us to release them. He then replaces it with all the good He has for us.

**The Spirit of the Lord is always free,  
wherever He is, is freedom, as we lovingly  
yield, we will be truly free.**

# i am a branch

by Mark Shepherd

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

*John 15:5*

Over the last 4 summers, my wife Lauren and I, have taken up gardening. We have a small raised garden bed in our yard and each summer who go to the garden store to pick out what fruit and vegetables to grow. We have tried to grow corn, green peppers, lettuce, watermelon, and tomatoes (just to name a few). The interesting thing is that every year, some of the fruit and vegetables in our garden turn out amazing while others shrivel up and die. It's an amazing feeling to go out to your garden and to pick a fresh pepper right off the vine! For some reason, eating a pepper straight from your garden is much more satisfying that buying a pepper at the store.

In John 15, Jesus uses as similar analogy to describe our relationship with him.

Jesus says that he is the vine and we are the branches. Go ahead a take a moment to read John 15:1-17. There are **4 important lessons** we learn from this passage to help live out who we are in Christ.

*Here's the good news...we are not the vine, Jesus is!*

## **1. We are not the vine.**

The vine is what sustains everything. If the vine is not healthy, then the plant (or tree) will ultimately die. Here's the good news...we are not the vine, Jesus is! We don't have to try and muster up enough strength or energy to sustain our lives. We simply have to trust and rest in the person of Jesus Christ. JESUS is our sustainer, our provider, our protector and our ultimately hope.

## 2. We are not the gardener.

In verse 2 Jesus says, *“He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.”*

What does this mean? It means that our loving Father will prune us! We don't have to try and make ourselves better or fix all of our warts and defections.!

*We simply have to be open to God's loving pruning in our lives!*

This pruning is ultimately for our good. So don't be afraid! Let God

## 3. We are not the fruit

Jesus says in verse 3, *“No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine.”*

Did you catch that? We cannot bear fruit by ourselves. This most likely runs directly against what you have been told. So often we are guilted as Christians for not being 'good enough' or 'not trying hard enough.' Here's the crazy thing...it's JESUS who produces the fruit in us. We just have trust his power *in* us.

*We cannot bear fruit  
by ourselves*

## *Our simple task...is to remain in Jesus*

### 4. We ARE the branch

So if we are not the vine, or the gardener or the fruit, what are we? *Jesus tells us that we are the branch!*

So what does this mean? It means that our simple task as Jesus follows is to remain in Jesus. The word Jesus uses for remain is the greek word “menō”. Menō means “to put our place in” or “to not depart.” What Jesus was telling his disciples and is telling us now is that our primary call as Jesus-followers to **take our place in Jesus, to abide in Him.**

So...

*When life gets really hard...abide in Jesus.*

*When life is fun and exciting...abide in Jesus.*

*When life is confusing...abide in Jesus.*

*When life is boring and dull...abide in Jesus*

*When life is unexpected...abide in Jesus.*

What if today, we threw away our legalistic, spiritual “to-do” list and simply abiding in Jesus in every moment of our day?

*It would change everything.*

# i am salt & light

by Rhonda DeWard

*"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth ...You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world."  
Matthew 5:13-14*

Can you think of the most bland food you have ever tasted? Something that was completely void of flavor? Something that tasted like a dry chunk of Styrofoam? Something that, after just one bite, you had to throw in the garbage? I can. For me, that food is something called "Cloud Bread". It requires only three ingredients: eggs, cream cheese, and cream of tartar. That's it. No salt. No pepper. No basil. No garlic. No oregano. Nothing. No seasoning whatsoever. The three basic ingredients are mixed together and baked into a puffy mound of tastelessness. Without seasoning, bread is simply not a desirable food.

Now, in contrast, can you think of a food that you have eaten that was perfectly seasoned? A food that melted in your mouth with its perfect blend of spices and herbs? A food that makes your mouth water just thinking about it?

*He wants us to be a seasoning that enhances his work in the world*

For me, that food is Fricano's pizza. I can close my eyes and imagine the blend of flavors perfectly melding together. There's nothing like it. Salt is a seasoning that has been used for thousands of years. Salt does many things. It is a food preservative, a texture enhancer, a flavor enhancer, a color enhancer, a nutrient source. Salt intensifies sweetness and reduces bitterness. It is not tasteless, flavorless, or bland. It brings out the true flavors of the foods it is added to. When Jesus tells us that we are on this earth to be salt, he wants us to be a seasoning that enhances his work in the world.

He wants to use us to preserve truth, to enhance the flavors of joy and peace and patience and love, to intensify the sweetness of his grace and reduce the bitterness of misery and hatred. And if all Jesus followers seasoned the earth, wouldn't we draw all people to the mouth-watering flavors of what Jesus has to offer?

Jesus also tells us that we are on this earth to be light. Just like salt brings out wonderful flavors, light brings out beautiful colors. Light makes rainbows appear. Light makes snow sparkle. Light makes flowers bloom. We are drawn to the beauty of what light can do.

The first words recorded in the Bible that God spoke were, "Let there be light." The earth was "empty and void" before light entered the picture. But when light was introduced – wow! Light drove out the darkness. Creativity and growth and LIFE took place in the presence of light.

*The first words recorded in the Bible... "Let there be light."*

*What we do and how we live in this life here on earth would always point people to Jesus*

So if Jesus calls us the light of the world, we are to shine in such a way that others are drawn to the beauty of what our light illuminates – the beautiful colors of Jesus. Ezekiel 1:28 paints a vivid picture of the glory of the Lord in the presence of light. *"Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord."*

What we do and how we live in this life here on earth should always point to Jesus. He is our wonderful, flavorful, beautiful, colorful, life-giving savior and friend. He has set us free from a dark, bitter life so that we can be salt and light in a world in need of Him.

# i am empowered

by Jason Pugh

*Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."  
Acts 2:38*

*For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.  
1 Corinthians 12:13*

What is empowerment? The dictionary definition of empower is "to give power or authority to; to authorize." It can also mean "to enable or permit." When you are empowered by God, you are both enabled and permitted to fulfill the unique role and position that God has equipped and designed you for. God empowers you through his Spirit which he gives to anyone who accepts the forgiveness offered through Christ (Acts 2:38-39). When you were born again, you were filled with the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:13-14; 5:18). This same Spirit of God also filled Christ, empowering him for his public ministry (Acts 10:38), and this same Spirit allows us to live like Christ with the exception that we have sinned, and Christ lived without sinning.

## **What does this empowerment give me?**

Through the Holy Spirit:

- You can understand God's will and what he has given you (1 Corinthians 2:10-16).
- You receive strength and protection (2 Thessalonians 3:3).
- You have boldness, power, love and self discipline (2 Timothy 1:7).
- You have the strength to persevere, and the discernment to understand the truth and not be misled (Acts 5:3, 2 Timothy 1:13-14).
- You receive special spiritual gifts to be used in ministering to others (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).
- You have the ability to help others for God's glory (Acts 5:16).

*When you were born again, you were filled with the Spirit*

## Why have I been empowered?

In the Great Commission we read some of the last words Jesus spoke while on earth, and Christ leaves us with a charge, a mission, and a purpose to pursue and work towards. *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* Matt 28:16-20. In this charge, Christ outlines the basic purpose of all Christ followers, the underlying theme and our purpose while we are on this earth, simply stated it is to teach others about God's love and the saving grace offered to us through Christ. You have a specific way in which you are uniquely equipped to live out the commission, and God, through his Spirit, gives you what you need to carry out the Great Commission in your personal sphere of influence. As Christians we are all called to something, we all have a part to play. You may not be called to be the next Billy Graham, or a missionary in the Congo,

*...we are all called to something, we all have a part to play*

*...if the Son sets you free you are free indeed*

but as a member of the body of Christ, as spoken about in 1 Corinthians 12, you are particularly significant to the Body of Christ, and God has already placed you in a mission field that you are uniquely equipped and empowered to reach.

## So what do I do now?

Now that you know that God has empowered and uniquely equipped you to reach those people in your personal sphere of influence, you need to stay plugged into God and ask him to continually fill you with his Spirit (Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 4:16, Ephesians 5:18). When you feel the prompting of the Spirit, don't ignore it. Be open and available for God to work through you. Don't be overly concerned about yourself, and what other people will think about you. When you are doing what God has asked you to, there is no need to be proud or self-conscious. It is not about you, it is about God, his love for you and the people you serve. Look at it this way: If you would take your fear, your excuses, your weaknesses, and set them aside -

- take them completely out of the picture - If you remove all your own shortcomings and your self imposed limitations, then:

- What could God use you for?
- What desires has he placed deep within your heart?
- What has God especially prepared you for?
- Who can you reach better than anyone else?

God has called each of us, we are all part of the Body of Christ and we each have our own role to play, so what is keeping you from playing your part? What necessary role are you prepared for and called to do that you have been holding back on?

You may not know what God has called you to or prepared you for. You may not even understand the excuses you are making before God, but that doesn't mean that you can't make a difference. Serve God where you are. Instead of looking for where he is sending you next, look around at where you are now, look for ways to serve where you currently are at.

*The Lord has given us  
tools to walk in  
freedom*

## *Freedom in Christ is an ongoing journey*

God has empowered and equipped you, he has prepared good works for you to do (Ephesians 2:10), he has confidence that you can do it. So go and chase after God with everything that you have within you, stay in his word, and don't be afraid to take on the challenges that he has placed in front of you. He wants you to succeed and to overcome, bringing glory and honor to him.

**Resources and additional study ideas on being empowered..**

*Transformed: A New Way of Being Christian*, by Caesar Kalinowski

Read the story of Moses, and pay special attention to how God prepared him for his role through the first 80 years of his life. Moses still objected and resisted the Lord's calling, but he went on to be a pivotal leader of the Israelite people, and authored several books of the Bible.

Look up some of the following people in the Bible, and look at what God did through their lives even though they struggled with sin. Sampson - was a womanizer, he struggled with lust, had poor judgement. King David - lusted, committed adultery and murder. Rahab - was a prostitute. Jeremiah - a very young man who was called to be a prophet.

# conclusion

**S**o there you have it! 7 amazing statements about who you are in Christ. You may be asking, what's next? Or, what do I do with this information?

The truth is that if this is only mere "information" it won't be enough.

Understanding who you in Christ is only half of the equation. Ultimately, our knowledge of who we are in Christ must lead to action! In other words, we are both human beings and human doings!

Jesus tells us that the 2 greatest commandments are to love God with everything and to love our neighbor with everything. Once we have squared away who we are in Christ, this loving lifestyle is just the natural outflow of who we are!

The amazing news is the you are not alone. This free life we get to live is done through the Holy Spirit (the same spirit that empowered Jesus!). So wherever you are today, I encourage you to pray this simple prayer

"Heavenly Father, I pray that I may live this day in your presence and please you more and more.

Lord Jesus, I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow you.

Holy Spirit, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your fruit to ripen in my life:

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness,  
Gentleness, and Self-Control."

Amen."

i am a child

i am forgiven

i am complete

i am free

i am a branch

i am salt & light

i am empowered