

You Are His Child

There was a moment when something gripped my heart and changed me forever. It was the moment that I actually realized that I was a child of God. I had called God my Father for years and years but this day it was real. It was such a part of me that I couldn't get rid of this feeling that I actually belonged to God and He belonged to me. My prayer is that you also will live in this same truth of who God made you.

I found a peace inside of me that wasn't there before. In the past I would need to fight to get peace into my heart but not anymore. I went to sleep at peace with God and when I woke up, that peace was still there. Nothing seemed to be able to remove this beautiful peace that was now anchored in my being. When circumstances said I would fail, peace was still resident inside of me. When my own mistakes and weaknesses shouted at me and said I was a failure, peace was still there. I could not get rid of this belief from inside of me that things were going to change.

This peace that I am sharing about wasn't from heaven coming down to me. I didn't have to go get it anymore like I used to. It was now part of me; it belonged to me. For most of my Christian life I lived with the best that I could and served God with the best that I understood of Him. Even though I was born of God I never actually realized it and as I continued to pray in the Holy Spirit a revelation was birthed into my spirit of who I actually was. I always believed in God and His wonderful love but I never actually saw myself as His child. I called myself His child but to actually realize it and have it in me was transformational to my life. I used to look into a mirror and see all of my weaknesses and struggles. I would pray for God's grace and mercy as I fought to be a better man and a better Christian. My heart would say, "When I overcome these things then I will be a worthy child." Each prayer was held down with a subtle unbelief that I was still not qualified yet to receive from God.

Oh, but when I had this moment of revelation, all of that changed forever. I actually got to see who I really was and **who my Heavenly Father made me the moment I was born of Him.** One of the fruits of my born again spirit is peace and it is this peace that I was able to live in. Galatians 5:22-23 says, "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*" These fruits come from who God made us and they are available to be lived in each moment of each day.

When I started to see myself as the person God made me instead of the person my past made me I started to believe that God was truly my Father. My struggles that I had with my flesh were actually my struggles but not me. Verse 24 says, "*And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*" I still struggle with my flesh and it is my responsibility to crucify it, however it is no longer me. **God is the Father of my spirit but He is not the Father of my Flesh!**

Please look closely with me at these next verses I want to share with you. They are all from the book of 2 Corinthians, chapter 4 and chapter 5. We will start in verse 7 of chapter 4, "*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.*" The Apostle Paul is describing the new nature we received the instant we were born of God. It describes our nature as a treasure that is inside an earthen vessel. What a description of who we are! We are the treasure and we are covered in this flesh that is like a clay pot, made of earth.

How many years of my Christian life did I think that I was the clay pot trying to be good enough to be accepted by God and the whole time I was the treasure inside! Yes, it is my responsibility to crucify this earthen vessel that I call my flesh, but God is not the father of my flesh. He fathered me and I am a treasure unto Him. It says in Genesis that Adam's body was formed by the dust of the earth but his spirit came from God. My body is just like Adam's. It comes from the dust of the earth and that is why Paul calls it an earthen vessel.

Next in chapter 4 I want us to look at verses 16-18, *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet **the inward man** is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but **at the things which are not seen**. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are **not seen are eternal**.”* Please look closely at the words chosen here by Paul. He is telling us to stop looking at the things that are seen but at the things that are not seen. I used to think this was only talking about my circumstances but it so much more than that. He is telling us to stop looking at what you can see; the earthen vessel, our outward man, because it is perishing, and to look at what we cannot see which is our inward man. What you see is the flesh and it is temporary, but what is not seen, the treasure (your spirit), is eternal.

We are told that when this flesh falls off of us we then will be given a new body that is eternal and will be of heaven. This body will be as righteous as our spirit is and will desire heavenly things as our spirit does. Right now we struggle with this flesh and groan for the day we will have a new body. Chapter 5:1-4, *“For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.”*

Now I shared all of this to get to one last verse. I pray that if you understand this verse it will help save the years of misunderstanding that I went through and will help you to see who you really are. Please remember that Paul is talking about not looking at your flesh, this earthly house, but to look at your inner man as who you are. He tells us in Chapter 5:7, *“**For we walk by faith, not by sight.**”*

The moment you accepted Jesus into your heart you became a child of a Heavenly Father. You were born into His Family and He is your Father. When you feel inadequate because of the struggles of your flesh, then walk by faith and remind yourself to look at what you cannot see (your inner man) instead of looking at what you can see (your flesh). God is your Father - remember who He made you. He is not the Father of your flesh. So, next time you look into the mirror look past what you can see and look at what He made you. And that is how we “walk by faith and not by sight.”

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