

WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

MEMORY VERSE

Philippians 4:13

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

The reason it is vitally important for us to know who we are in Christ is so we can effectively and courageously fulfill the call of God on our lives. The expansion of God's Kingdom must be our ultimate focus, not just our own blessing and prosperity.

Proverbs 23:7 says, "As a man thinks within himself, so he is." If we learn to think of ourselves as God says we are, we will win great victories for God and His Kingdom. If we do not, at best we will fall radically short of our potential in God. This is powerfully illustrated in the account of the 12 men Moses sent to spy out the Promised Land.

Read Numbers 13:26-33.

1. What was the 12 spies' report on the land itself? (Vv. 26-27)

2. What else did the spies (other than Caleb and Joshua) report? (Vv. 28-29)

3. What was Caleb's report to Moses and the people? (V.30)

4. How did the ten spies respond? (Vv. 31-33)

5. What did the spies say they seemed like in their own eyes? (v.33)

6. What effect did their report have on the people? (Numbers 14:1-4)

7. What ultimately happened because of this evil report? (Numbers 14:20-24, 36-38)

Note that the 10 spies' report was actually true. There were large and powerful enemies in the land the Israelites would have to overcome. The thing that made their report evil was the fact they did not consider God's ability and willingness to help them. They did not consider the fact that God was on their side. They saw themselves only naturally—they did not consider who they were in God (as Caleb and Joshua did). Because they looked at themselves only naturally and did not consider God (and who they were in Him) these men led an entire nation to defy God's command to take the land. The result was that an entire generation missed its destiny, and each of the 10 spies

forfeited their lives. Even Caleb and Joshua, who were obedient and courageous, would have to wait 40 years to fulfill their destiny and carry on with the plan of God.

We are often tempted to do the same thing! We have a tendency to look at ourselves naturally, and when we do, we often magnify our weaknesses and the obstacles that we face and forget about God's greatness. God wants to raise up an army of people that will boldly obey Him and rush to the battle. To do this, and avoid a fate similar to that of the Israelites, we must understand our position as believers.

8. Where has God placed us? (1 Corinthians 1:30)

9. What has Christ become for us? (1 Corinthians. 1:30)

10. Where are we seated spiritually? (Ephesians. 2:6)

11. How would you describe the level of Christ's victory and authority? (Ephesians 1:19b-22a)

12. If you are in Christ, seated with Him in heavenly places, and this is His level of victory, is it biblically reasonable for you to consider yourself as helpless, worthless or defeated?

13. In light of this, how does Paul describe the church, the body of Christ? What is the church's destiny? (Ephesians 1:23)

14. What has happened to us through our union with Christ? (Colossians. 3:1)

15. Where is my life to be found? (Colossians 3:3)

16. What therefore must we set our hearts and minds on? (Colossians 3:1-2)

We desperately need to change our thinking. You may not feel like you are in Christ, but you still are. You may not feel like you are seated with Him in heavenly places, but that doesn't change the truth that you are! We must live according to the truth, not according to our feelings.

17. If our thinking is thus changed what will our priorities be? (Note that such priorities will also help change our thinking!) (Philippians 3:7-10)

18. What are we told to do with ungodly thoughts? (II Corinthians 10:5)

As we recognize our position in Christ and the truth that He lives in us, we will no longer struggle trying to live the Christian life; Jesus will live His life through us!

19. How are we transformed? (Romans 12:2)

Our minds must be renewed to the point that we live our daily lives from the basis of who we are in Christ and the glorious fact that He lives in us.

20. Read the following passages and record what God says you are, what you have, and/or what you can do because you are in Christ.

Romans 6:11

Romans 8:1-4

Romans 8:37

Romans 8:38-39

I Corinthians 1:2

II Corinthians 3:4-6

II Corinthians 5:17

II Corinthians 5:21

Ephesians 1:3-5

Ephesians 1:7

Ephesians 1:11

Ephesians 1:13-14

Ephesians 2:13

Ephesians 2:19-22

Philippians 4:13

Colossians 2:9-10
