

FaithPrayers

It is our privilege to pray for you

OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

How do you see yourself today? Has that changed over the years? When I was a child growing up in the 1950's, I sometimes imagined myself to be a cowboy (westerns were big then and Roy was my hero). At one point, I was Commander Cody, a hero with a helmet and suit that let me fly like Superman (even with both feet on the ground).



I was never really any of those characters, but to Christ and by Christ I am accepted, secure, and precious – and so are you. That is our real identity. Let me explain.

God's Child:

Before the world began, God had a wonderful plan for us to spend our lives with Him forever. Sin happened and it separated us from God, but God's plan has never changed. It always included Jesus as the One who would reunite us with Him and the Father. What our enemy, the devil, meant for destruction, God has worked for our good.

When we accept the gift of life God offers through Christ's death on the cross, our sins are forgiven. We are adopted into God's family, and we receive His Spirit as our "birth certificate" to show whose we are forever.

Then, our lives really begin. The Spirit starts to reveal who the Lord is, His loving character, His power to help meet life's every challenge, and how He shares His nature with us. Moment by moment, the more

we focus on Jesus, the more we become like Him and the Father through the Spirit.

As God's children, we can be assured that He will never leave us no matter how tough the going gets. No problem is too big, no task too hard for Him. As a mother holds and comforts her sick child, speaking softly with loving, reassuring words, God reaches out to us in our need to tell us how much He loves us and is caring for us, how precious we are.

Not long ago, I needed surgery and was concerned. While in the dentist office for an unrelated visit, God spoke to me. These words very clearly came to my mind, "I am taking care of you." God does not often speak to me so that I hear distinct words, but He did that day. It was reassuring, and I assumed it was about my concern for the operation, but I later learned it was more about what was to come after that.

The operation went incredibly well, but two weeks later, I developed extensive blood clots in my right lung. At one point I was pretty

"My House will be called a House of Prayer for all nations..."

Isaiah 56:7

Matthew 21:13

OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST (continued)

scared, but then I remembered the words I had heard, "I am taking care of you." Did God really speak to me? Had I heard it right, or was it just my hope that He would be caring for me? If so, how could this be happening?

I was determined not to let the enemy rattle me, or cause me to doubt. God in His loving kindness had spoken to me; I knew His voice. Jesus reminds us in John 10:3-4, "The shepherd calls His own sheep by name and leads them out...and His sheep follow Him because they know his voice."

I decided to trust what I'd heard. After several months of His care and many prayers from those who love Him, I was restored. God drew me close and reassured me that all would be all right. But, even if I had not survived, His faithfulness never ends. As God's children, we can be assured of being in His care forever.

Where is life challenging you right now beyond what you think you can

endure? Is it through a recent health concern, or one that has held you in its grasp for years? Are you faced with a relationship that is crumbling or one from which you cannot escape? Perhaps you are reaching the limit of your finances with no job, or any hope of meeting the bills which continue to pile up?

There is an answer to all these challenges because in all things God is for you. You do not have to face life alone without hope. You are someone who was created to be without fear, someone who has been given a spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind, able to handle life because of whose you are. You are God's child and always in His care.

At FaithPrayers, part of our mission is to serve as your resource to face problems. We are members of God's family who desire to share your burden and walk with you into God's throne room, confident that as a loving Father, He will hear our

plea and respond with love and a comforting hug. Please call us; it is our privilege to pray with you.

Once we were just children, looking for our identity, that cowboy or superhero we would hope to become as an adult. But now, we have an identity, and it is found in Christ. Where have you been looking for who you are and for your purpose in life? You will not find it in your work, or the material things you collect, or even in your cherished loved one who cannot be all things to you at all times.

Your real identity, the one God created you to be, the one that will bring real satisfaction in life is in Christ. Draw closer to Him, and He will draw closer to you. The more you look to His word to better understand who He is, the better you will begin to understand who you are.

*Ed Pavlik
President of the Board,
FaithPrayers*

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH



**"The free gift of
God is eternal life
in Christ Jesus,
our Lord."
Romans 6:23**

■ Have a prayer request? Want more information? We can always be contacted on our 24 hour a day, 7 day a week toll-free prayer line.

1-866-515-9406

Receive this newsletter via email! Sign up at

www.faithprayers.org

**Have a smart
phone?**

Scan this code to sign up for our e-newsletter today!

