



2023 Focus: Living by the Word of God

Matthew 4:4

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Reason for the Exercise – Many believers, even after years of study, classes, sermons, workshops, and worship events, still struggle with the basic things of being a Christian. Many are still shipwrecked by the issues of life and are plagued with self-doubt inconsistencies resulting in the lack of fruit – [John 15:5](#), [John 15:16](#).

One of the first things that Jesus calls the believer to do immediately after salvation is to learn from Him [Matthew 11:28-30](#). I believe believers have become too comfortable with receiving from others (pastors, teachers, and others) rather than learning from Christ and discovering truth for themselves. Therefore, many individuals cannot effectively witness ([Acts 1:8](#)) because many are unsure who they really are in Christ – [Acts 4:19-20](#). If someone does not know who they are in Christ, they have not experienced the life-changing power of the Word of God – [Hebrews 4:12](#).

This study is designed to produce freedom, confidence, authority, abundance, joy, and excitement for the believer about their life in Christ, which results in fruit bearing. Knowing who you are in Christ will make witnessing automatic and not a task, chore, or something to cross off the “to-do list,” and the believer will be motivated to do even more – [Joshua 1:8](#), [Luke 6:45](#).

This exercise should accomplish the following things:

1). Each person creates their own personal list of who God says they are from **Ephesians 1-2**.

This is the self-discovery process. This list must make sense and not just call words.

- The list must be in the "I am..." format (ex. "I am redeemed in Christ").
- The list must identify the Scripture the "I am" sentence came from – **Ephesians 1-7 NKJV**.
- This exercise creates the discipline of finding out what the Word of God says about the person and gives the student a sense of accomplishment.

2) Each person then speaks who they are to and in the presence of others.

- Speaking who you are builds confidence to freely talk about Christ to others.
- It also helps the Word to rest in their spirit (Hide the Word in the heart).
- Now the Word begins to change the person (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).

3) Each person now helps others to understand who they are in Christ as well. Because I now understand who I am, I am motivated to help others understand who they are in Christ.

- This creates the **Hebrews 10:24** culture.
- This also brings clarity and certainty about who they really are.

4) Each person is now excited to witness to those outside the church and in the main streams of life. This leads to increased attendance in the Life Groups (**Matthew 9:37**) and more individuals uniting with the Body of Christ.

Ephesians 1 & 2 Affirmations

Ephesians 1

- I am blessed with every spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (v3).
- I am chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world (v4).
- I am adopted by Christ (v5).
- I am accepted by Christ (v6).
- I am redeemed through the blood of Jesus (v7).
- I have wisdom and prudence through Christ (v8).
- I have obtained an inheritance in Christ (v11).
- I am predestined in Christ (v11).
- I am sealed with the Holy Spirit (v13).
- I am guaranteed by the Holy Spirit (v14).

Ephesians 2

- I have been made alive together in Christ (v1).
- I am raised up together in Christ (v6).
- I am seated together with Christ (v6).
- I am saved by grace through my faith (v8).
- I am Christ's workmanship (v10).
- I am created in Christ (v10).
- I have been brought near by the blood of Christ (v13).
- Christ is my peace (v14).
- I have access to the Father through Christ (v18).
- I am no longer a stranger or a foreigner because of Christ (v19).
- I am a citizen with the saints (v19).
- I am a member of the Household of God (v19).
- I am being built together for a dwelling place of God (v22).