

Recovering Your Identity

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THE GREAT GAP

What Christians experience and what Jesus has achieved for them

- Many still live in the OT
 - That is like if Jesus had not finished His work
 - SENSE OF LACK is the way Eve was tempted and sin came into the World – **Gen.3:6**
 - Sense of lack makes you make poor decisions
 - GIVING UP - The results is that Christians are failing to overcome – **Eph.4:17-19**
- **Jonah 2:8** – Those who observe false vanities, forsake their mercy
 - Not “worthless idols” but “useless vanities” = Dead Works
 - “Their” is not there = Forsake the mercy they received
- **Rom.3:20** – By the deeds of the law no flesh shall be justified
- He has done everything you need – **2Pet.1:3**

What is your reaction to Scriptures describing what you have in Christ?

- EXPERIMENT: Read some of these Scriptures and then take time to see how you really feel about them, what thoughts come to your mind, and write them down a value for each scripture
 - Takes time to work in your heart – **Heb.6:12-20**
 - FAITH and PATIENCE are needed
 - Patience is not just passively enduring
 - Do the same exercise in six months' time, and compare results

The New Life “in Christ”

Filling the Gap

- Jesus came to give you ABUNDANT LIFE – **Jn.10:10**
 - **Jn.14:17** – **Jn.16:13** – My peace, not frustration
 - **Gal.6:14-15** – Glory on the cross to experience peace and mercy
 - **2Cor.1:20** – All the promises are ours, and we don't need to be begging
- Jesus made a DIFFERENT SPECIES - **2Cor.5:17**
 - You felt good when you were just born again, it will be again
- If you have not been experiencing ABUNDANT LIFE you must change some beliefs you have, you are in Religion
 - Not with the same problems forever

Jesus' Battle for His Destiny – **Mt.4:1-11**

- Temptation based on Identity and Sense of Lack (the two are connected)
 - If you are the Son of God
 - The Wrong Questions: based on doubting His Identity
 - Jesus refused to prove anything
 - Proving it would be depending on works
 - I give you these things
 - Jesus depended on God and followed only His ways
- Jesus could not step out in ministry until these issues were resolved
 - **Jn.13:3-5** – The source of Jesus' inner strength

Our Identity Battle

- It is the same for us - Man was created to have dominion over the earth
 - **Ps.8:4-6** – Jesus' Identity is also our identity
 - Glory and honor = dignity and worth
- When Adam sinned, FEAR AND UNBELIEF REPLACED FAITH AND LOVE
 - Man still longs for his destiny position, but having LOST HIS SENSE IDENTITY and ACCEPTED THE SENSE OF LACK tries to get it in wrong ways
 - THEN FORCE BECAME THE SUBSTITUTE OF POWER
- There are more than 200 scriptures of “IN HIM, THROUGH HIM, AND BY HIM”

- About “WHAT WE HAVE” and “WHAT WE CAN DO”
- **Col.1:21-22** – How God sees us is not as we see ourselves
- **WE MUST ACCEPT OUR NEW IDENTITY IN CHRIST and LIVE FROM THIS SOURCE OF CONFIDENCE**

Meaning of Being in Christ

- It does not mean that you can do whatever you want, and as long as you “say” I trust in Him, it is OK
- As we trust in Him from our heart for whatever thing, what is in your heart will affect your behaviour
 - If you trust Him you have enough – **Ps. 23**
 - If you have a need, you trust that He will provide for it
 - He will show you what you should do, that will always be consistent with His Word
- **Rom.8:37-39** – The power to conquer is being rooted in the love of Christ - Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ

Being Driven by Lack

- When you are in lack, you are not trusting in Him, you are accepting a lie
 - Temptation does not come from God or the Devil
 - **Jam.1:12-17** – We use the wrong way to satisfy them our desires when we are in a position of lack
 - **ANY DESIRE WE HAVE IS FROM GOD: Security, love, health –**
 - With God we will have all these needs met, and we will be blessed
- **MANIFESTATION OF LACK: Insecurity, rejection, spirit of poverty, loneliness, spirit of sickness**
 - **EXAMPLES of self-destructing behavior based on self-justification:**
 - People wanting to have friends or getting married and yoking themselves with the wrong people when the Bible is clear about that (people marrying abusive spouses, or dating and then marrying unbelievers)
 - Compromising your values and witness to get accepted
 - Getting jobs that are in conflict with your beliefs (bartender, working in a casino, stealing and cheating)
 - Taking revenge
 - **A SENSE OF LACK WILL SEPARATE YOU FROM GOD, AND WILL DESTROY YOUR LIFE**
 - You may still go to Heaven, if you hold on to believing in Jesus, but your life will not be fun

A Plan for Action – **Jam.1:1-8**

- Recognize when you are putting your trust in the wrong things
 - You must deal with your unbelief and re-orient your trust
- Decide that you are going to trust in God instead – (change your heart about your situation)
- Ask His direction
- **Jam.1:22** – Follow His advice

Pray for Your “Areas of Lack” and Accept Your New Identity

Questions to Consider

1. Can you identify specific times in your life when temptation was the result of a Sense of Lack?
2. Can you identify areas where your new identity in Christ has or is giving you victory over temptation?
3. Please, explain how your experience relates to Rom.8:37-39.
4. Can you explain what it means to “be in Christ”?
5. How can you use Jam.1:1-8 to develop a plan of action to overcome any problem you are experiencing?