

Know Who You Are:
Claiming Your Identity in Christ

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Know Your Identity

If you are reading this book, one of two things is true about you. You are either a Christian, or you are not a Christian. If you are a Christian, this book is a collection of treasures you can claim for yourself in your life of faith. If you are not a Christian, this book is a collection of treasures that can be yours if you come to believe. This book has something for everyone.

This book is broken up into 18 different confessions a Christian can make about their identity in Christ. They are:

- 1) I am a believer
- 2) I am reconciled to God, forgiven, and saved by the righteousness of Christ
- 3) I am eternally secure
- 4) I am the object of God's love
- 5) I am chosen
- 6) I am a sinner saved by grace
- 7) I am confirmed as a believer
- 8) I am a child of God
- 9) I am a friend of Jesus
- 10) I am a temple of the Holy Spirit
- 11) I am a sheep under the care of the Good Shepherd
- 12) I am a poem of good works celebrated by God
- 13) I am salt and light
- 14) I am a warrior
- 15) I am cared for
- 16) I am not under the curse of the Law
- 17) I am the beneficiary of God's blessings
- 18) I am called to praise

I present every confession in this book with supporting Bible passages, and commentaries to explain what those passages mean. At the end, I present an invitation for those who don't believe to start a new life of faith. I hope this journey through your spiritual identity blesses you.

Confession 1: I am a believer (John 3:16-18, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 1 John 5:9-13)

An odd pet peeve I used to have is I would get irritated when I heard Christians called “followers of Jesus.” It truly was an odd objection I admit. After all, Jesus gave commandments. He said to follow Him. Why get irritated over something so reasonable? I had a reason back then, and it is tied up with this confession.

My objection was rooted in the Bible’s message of salvation. Christianity is the only faith in the world that teaches we aren’t saved by our works. (Ephesians 2:9) Christianity teaches we are saved by faith. (Ephesians 2:8) Whenever I heard Christians called followers of Jesus, I would object “Don’t call me a follower. I’m a believer.”

What is a believer? A believer is someone who receives salvation by believing a message. Believing is trusting in the mercy of God versus working to earn your salvation. It is receiving salvation as a free gift. (Romans 6:23)

And here is God’s message. God is love, and He desires everyone to be with Him in Heaven. (1 John 4:16, 2 Peter 3:9) If the gospel stopped there, we’d all have cause to celebrate. But it doesn’t stop there. God is also just, and punishes sinners by sending them to Hell for all eternity. (Romans 6:23) This creates a problem for us, because we are all sinners. (Romans 3:23)

This also created a problem for God. What does God do? If He lets us into Heaven as sinners, He is loving but not just. If He sends us all to Hell, He is just but not loving. God found Himself in a seemingly no-win situation. God came up with an answer to His problem, and it involved His Son.

God has a Son. (John 3:16) Like His Father, this Son is also God. (John 1:1) This means two things. One thing this means is He is incapable of sinning. (James 1:13) Another thing this means is He is infinite. All of this means if God’s Son became human, He could live a sinless life and die as a human sacrifice to pay for the sins of all people. (Romans 5:9-11) This would allow God to be loving and just at the same time.

So that is what God did. God’s Son left Heaven and became fully human, so He could be a substitute to pay for our sin. (John 1:14, 2 Corinthians 5:21) He was born Jesus Christ to a poor virgin named Mary. (Luke 1:26-33) At age 30, He began a public ministry where He taught people the way to salvation. (Luke 3:23) He healed the sick, raised the dead, and performed other miracles that testified to the fact that He was truly God’s Son. (John 20:30-31)

But this was not His purpose for coming. After Jesus finished His ministry, He was falsely arrested and sentenced to die on a cross. (Mark 14:32-15:39) On the cross, Jesus became our sin and shed His blood to pay the penalty for it. (2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 5:9-11) When He finished His sacrifice, Jesus died. But after 3 days, Jesus rose from the dead and conquered death. (Mark 16:1-7) This is the gospel message.

So, what is a believer? A believer is simply someone who believes Jesus died for their sins and rose from the dead. And if someone is to start building their identity in Christ, the first thing they have to declare is that they are a believer. I never share a truth about our identity in

Christ without supporting it from the Bible, so here are some passages that clearly lay out what it means to be a believer:

“¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.” (John 3:16-18 NIV)

“¹⁵ Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4 NIV)

“⁹ We accept human testimony, but God’s testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. ¹⁰ Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:9-13 NIV)

***Confession 2: I am reconciled to God, forgiven, and saved by the righteousness of Christ
(Romans 5:1-2 & 9-11, Colossians 2:13-15, Romans 4:5-8, 2 Corinthians 5:21)***

“⁵ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.... ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.” (Romans 5:1-2, & 9-11 NIV)

“¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.” (Colossians 2:13-15 NIV)

“⁵ However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. ⁶ David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

⁷ ‘Blessed are those
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

⁸ Blessed is the one
whose sin the Lord will never count against them.’” (Romans 4:5-8 NIV)

“²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV)

Before a person becomes a believer, they are considered an enemy of God. (Ephesians 2:1-3) But when a person comes to believe, they are forever reconciled to God. God forgives all of a believer’s sins, and gives them the righteousness of Jesus as a gift. This righteousness makes sinners appear righteous, and gives them the privilege of going to Heaven when they die.

Grace forgives all of a person’s sins (past, present, and future). This means when a person converts, they are completely forgiven. This doesn’t mean that God doesn’t care about our sin, or that He doesn’t want us to confess our sins when we fall short. (1 John 1:9) But this does mean that we have the promise of Heaven, and the assurance that we know sin will not keep us out of our newfound Heavenly home.

Confession 3: I am eternally secure (Romans 10:9-13, Ephesians 1:13-14, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, 2 Corinthians 5:4-5, John 10:27-29, Romans 8:38-39, Philippians 1:3-6, 2 Timothy 2:13, 1 John 2:19)

When a person finds God's forgiveness, they are eternally secure. Eternal security is the biblical principle that once a person is saved, they are always saved. It is throughout the New Testament. A significant passage about this is the most famous conversion passage in the Bible.

“⁹ If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹ As Scripture says, ‘Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.’ ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” (Romans 10:9-13 NIV)

A person is saved by believing, but they make their decision to convert to faith when they call on the name of the Lord. Jesus is the Lord of the universe, and the Bible teaches that anyone who wishes to be saved has to acknowledge this. (Philippians 2:5-11) A person converts to Christianity by coming to a place where they believe, and deciding to convert to faith by calling on the name of the Lord. And the Bible promises that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

When a person converts, they are sealed by the Holy Spirit.

“¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.” (Ephesians 1:13-14 NIV)

“²¹ Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²² set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.” (2 Corinthians 1:21-22 NIV)

“⁴ For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.” (2 Corinthians 5:4-5 NIV)

The Greek word used for “seal” is sphragizo. (Strong 244) It means “to stamp for security or preservation.” This means when you convert, you are permanently claimed by God.

Believers are also kept in the faith by the power of God.

“²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.” (John 10:27-29 NIV)

“³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39 NIV)

“³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:3-6 NIV)

John 10:27-29 teaches no one can snatch a believer from God’s hands. Romans 8:38-39 teaches that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. This includes the believer. If a person believes, they are held by God.

God is also faithful to us when we doubt.

“¹³ if we are faithless,
he remains faithful,
for he cannot disown himself.” (2 Timothy 2:13 NIV)

It is commonly said if you didn’t have doubts, you wouldn’t have faith. God understands this. When a believer doubts, God remains faithful to them until He leads them back to faith. Even our doubts can’t separate us from God.

You may be wondering what happens if a person were to stop believing. This is considered impossible. There are people who appear to believe who fall away, but true believers don’t fall away. John explains this.

“¹⁹ They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.” (1 John 2:19 NIV)

When a person falls away from the faith, they simply prove they never had faith to begin with. However, a true believer will keep the faith until the end of their life with God’s help.

This is one of the greatest aspects of our identities in Christ! When we believe in Jesus, we are eternally secure.

Confession 4: I am the object of God's love (1 John 4:16, Titus 3:4-7, Ephesians 3:16-19, Psalm 103:8-18, 1 John 1:9, Romans 8:38-39)

“¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.” (1 John 4:16 NIV)

“⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:4-7 NIV)

“¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 1:16-19 NIV)

We have already covered that God still cares about our sins, but the good news of the Bible is that God is a God of unimaginable love. The greatest description of God's love is found in Psalm 103.

⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
¹³ As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.
¹⁵ The life of mortals is like grass,
they flourish like a flower of the field;
¹⁶ the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.
¹⁷ But from everlasting to everlasting
the LORD's love is with those who fear him,
and his righteousness with their children's children—
¹⁸ with those who keep his covenant
and remember to obey his precepts.” (Psalm 103:8-18 NIV)

We serve a patient a loving God who understands we are flawed. We don't need to worry that God will lose His mind over our sin. He understands, and He loves us. He even gave us a way to be forgiven when we fall short: confession.

“⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9 NIV)

When a Christian falls short, they can confess their sins to God with the promise that God will forgive them. The only thing that can nullify this promise is unforgiveness. (Matthew 6:14-15) The Bible teaches that if we wish to be forgiven, we must be willing to forgive others. But if we forgive, we are promised that God is willing to forgive every sin we confess.

It is important to note that confession isn't about our salvation. We are completely forgiven and given the promise of Heaven when we come to believe. What confession is about is relationship. When a person is saved, they enter into a relationship with God. Like any relationship, God expects an apology when we sin. We confess our sins for the sake of apologizing to God for our sins, and maintaining our relationships with Him.

Something a person might worry about is what happens if they somehow exhaust God's patience? Something the Bible teaches is that no matter what we do, nothing can separate us from God's love.

“³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39 NIV)

How wonderful is it to be the object of God's love? This is a confession we need to build our lives around. Without the knowledge of God's love, we are bound to lose sight of our identity and needlessly worry about our performance. You can rest assured that if you respond to God's message of salvation, nothing separates you from His love.

Confession 5: I am chosen (Ephesians 1:4-12, 2 Peter 3:9, Luke 15:1-10, John 6:44, John 16:8-9, 1 Corinthians 2:9-12)

“⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. ¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.” (Ephesians 1:4-12 NIV)

Another thing believers can claim for themselves is the title chosen. People don’t believe without help from God, and this help starts with His basic desire to save us.

“⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9 NIV)

The Bible teaches that it is God’s will to save everyone. This means there is no believer who wasn’t chosen by God.

What else makes us chosen? The Bible teaches that much of what goes into our salvations is done by God. God is described as a God who actively seeks after the lost.

“¹⁵ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, ‘This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.’

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ ‘Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

⁸ Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15:1-10 NIV)

God draws people to Himself.

“⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.” (John 6:44 NIV)

God convicts people of their sins.

“⁸ When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me” (John 16:8-9 NIV)

Conviction is when God makes a person aware of their sin and aware of the fact that they need to be forgiven. Like God’s drawing work, this is something God chooses to do.

God also opens people’s eyes to see the truth of the gospel.

“⁹ However, as it is written:

‘What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has conceived’—
the things God has prepared for those who love him—

¹⁰ these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.” (1 Corinthians 1:9-12 NIV)

If you are a believer, you can treasure the fact that you are not an accident. You are chosen.

Confession 6: I am a sinner saved by grace (1 John 1:8-10, Romans 7:14-25)

“⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.” (1 John 1:8-10 NIV)

One thing the Bible teaches is that even though we are called to follow Jesus, we all fall short. Believers are sinners saved by grace. The word “sin” in verse 8 is used to describe the sinful nature we are all born with. And the Bible says one of the first steps to being saved is to acknowledge this sin nature.

Saint Paul describes the struggle of a sinner saved by grace in the following passage from Romans:

“¹⁴ We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.” (Romans 7:14-25 NIV)

Some people say Paul was describing his struggles as a Jewish religious leader before his conversion, but that misses the point of the passage. A religious leader would certainly delight in God’s law, but he is clearly presenting a struggle anyone can relate to. The average person can’t relate to the struggles of a Jewish religious leader. Paul teaches that despite our best efforts to live holy lives, we can’t help but fall short.

This is one of the most important parts of our identities. If we don’t recognize we are sinners, we can be bogged down with unrealistic expectations for ourselves. If you are a believer, you are a sinner saved by grace.

Confession 7: I am confirmed as a believer (Hebrews 12:5-11, Romans 8:28-29, John 9:31, 1 John 3:19-23, 1 John 3:24, Galatians 5:22-23, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, 2 Corinthians 5:4-5)

A common misconception is that the Bible requires blind faith. This couldn't be further from the truth. The Bible gives various signs a person can look for to validate their salvation and know they are saved. These signs are a source of confidence that let people know they were right to place their faith in Christ.

The first sign that confirms your salvation is God disciplines you.

“⁵ And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,

‘My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline,
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,
⁶ because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.’

⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. ⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! ¹⁰ They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.” (Hebrews 12:5-11 NIV)

The second sign that confirms your salvation is God turns all things for your spiritual good.

“²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.” (Romans 8:28-29 NIV)

The third sign that confirms your salvation is God answers your prayers.

“³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will.” (John 9:31 NIV)

“¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.” (1 John 3:19-23 NIV)

It is a misconception that anyone can pray. God only extends the privilege of prayer to those who responded to His offer of salvation. If a person believes, they are given permission to make prayers in line with God's character. (1 John 5:14-15) We can sometimes make prayers that aren't in line with God's character, but when we do, He answers those prayers however He sees best. If you see God answering your prayers, you can know you are saved.

The fourth sign that confirms your salvation is you have the Holy Spirit.

“²⁴ The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.” (1 John 3:24 NIV)

“²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23 NIV)

When a person believes, the Holy Spirit begins to express His character through that person. That character is known as the fruit of the Spirit. This fruit is watered down by our sin, but if you see God producing His Spiritual character through you, you can know you are saved.

“²¹ Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²² set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.” (2 Corinthians 1:21-22 NIV)

“⁴ For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.” (2 Corinthians 5:4-5 NIV)

If you are a believer, you can proudly say you are confirmed as one who belongs to God.

Confession 8: I am a child of God (1 John 3:1, Romans 8:14-16)

“³ See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.” (1 John 3:1 NIV)

“¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, ‘*Abba*, Father.’ ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.” (Romans 8:14-16 NIV)

A common misconception is that we are all God’s children. The Bible teaches that before a person becomes a believer, that isn’t so. (John 8:42-44) But when a person becomes a believer, they are adopted by God and become one of His children with all the benefits of a relationship with Him.

The Bible says that God becomes a believer’s “Abba Father.” The Greek word used for “Abba” is a word that a small child uses for their father. (Strong 1) It basically means “daddy.” The Bible describes the relationship of a child of God with their Heavenly Father like the relationship between a small child and their daddy. What a blessing!

If you are a believer, you can boldly declare you are a child of God.

Confession 9: I am a friend of Jesus (John 15:12-15, John 6:27-29, John 15:5-8, 1 John 3:24, Hebrews 12:1-2, Romans 8:34)

“¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:12-15 NIV)

When a person comes to Jesus, they have the privilege of calling Him Friend. This passage may make it seem like you have to earn His friendship, but when you look at the Bible, that isn’t so.

The Bible describes the Christian life as one of faith active in love. (Galatians 5:6) Faith active in love begins when a person believes in Jesus. When a person believes in Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of them. (John 14:16-17) The Holy Spirit then gives that person a desire to do Christian works. This is compared to a vine that produces fruit. A vine takes nutrients from the soil, and uses those nutrients to develop fruit. It is inevitable. Christian works are inevitable, and so is friendship with Jesus. The following passages explain this:

“²⁷ ‘Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.’

²⁸ Then they asked him, ‘What must we do to do the works God requires?’

²⁹ Jesus answered, ‘The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.’ (John 6:27-29 NIV)

“⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples” (John 15:5-8 NIV)

“²⁴ The one who keeps God’s commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.” (1 John 3:24 NIV)

When a person comes to Jesus, they find the greatest Friend a person could ever have. They find a Friend who loves them enough to die for them, and a Friend who spends His days sticking up for us.

“¹² Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of

faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV)

“³⁴Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.” (Romans 8:34 NIV)

Confession 10: I am a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19, John 14:16-17, Romans 8:26-27)

“¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own” (1 Corinthians 6:19 NIV)

“¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” (John 14:16-17 NIV)

“²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.” (Romans 8:26-27 NIV)

When a person becomes a believer, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of them to help them live the Christian life. The Holy Spirit gives people the desire to do Christian works, and over time produces godly character traits in people. (Galatians 5:22-23) A special ministry of the Holy Spirit is that He intercedes for believers. If you are in Christ, you can declare you are a temple for the Holy Spirit.

Confession 11: I am a sheep under the care of the Good Shephard (Psalm 23)

In the Gospel of John, Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd. (John 10:1-18) This means believers are His sheep. A commonly known truth about sheep is that they are dumb animals who are helpless without the care of their shepherd. God cares for His people the way a shepherd cares for sheep, and the greatest example of this is Psalm 23. I encourage you to study this psalm and see the benefits you possess as a believer.

“¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name’s sake.

⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.” (Psalm 23 NIV)

Confession 12: I am a poem of good works celebrated by God (Ephesians 2:8-10, 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, John 15:12, John 15:7-18, Mark 16:15-18, John 14:12-14)

“⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV)

The Greek word used for “handiwork” is *poiema*. (Strong 205) This word is the basis of our English word “poem.” (*Poiema*: God’s Workmanship) If you are a believer, you are a poem of good works celebrated by God.

The Bible teaches if you are in Christ, you are an ambassador for Him to the unbelieving world.

“¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.” (2 Corinthians 5:17-20 NIV)

The number one work we are commanded to share in our poems is love.

“¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. (John 15:12 NIV)

We are commanded to love, and given the promise that we can pray for our works to be effective for God’s Kingdom.

“⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples” (John 15:7-8 NIV)

We are also called to do supernatural works.

“¹⁵ He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.’” (Mark 16:15-18 NIV)

Jesus taught that believers will do the same works that He did during His ministry.

“¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do

whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.” (John 14:12-14 NIV)

This may be hard to believe, but the Bible can’t be set aside for the sake of our limited imaginations. People do these works all the time, and they are part of our poems.

All of this means that believers are wonderful poems of good works that give glory to God. If you are a believer, you can proudly declare you are God’s poem.

Confession 13: I am salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16)

“¹³ You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:13-16 NIV)

Confession 14: I am a warrior (2 Timothy 2:1-7, Ephesians 6:10-20)

There are two ways believers are warriors. The first is that they are cultural warriors.

“² You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. ³ Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. ⁵ Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor’s crown except by competing according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. ⁷ Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.” (2 Timothy 2:1-7 NIV)

Jesus said the Christian life is a blessed life, but He also taught that it involves being hated by the unbelieving world. (John 10:10, John 15:18-20) If you are a believer, you are a cultural warrior called to overcome the world’s hatred with love. (Romans 12:17-21) This requires toughness, and Paul teaches we have to fight this battle as good soldiers for Christ.

Believers are also spiritual warriors.

“¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” (Ephesians 6:10-18 NIV)

Jesus didn’t promise to remove us from the world, but He promised to give us what we need to overcome it. (John 16:33, 1 John 5:4-5) This includes the spiritual attacks of the devil. The devil comes at Christians to attack their spiritual identities, and believers have been given the armor of God and power of the Holy Spirit to overcome him. (1 John 4:4) This means believers need to have toughness as spiritual warriors.

If you are a believer, you are no wimp. You’ve been called to a struggle requiring supernatural strength, and that strength is supplied by the Holy Spirit. (John 14:16-17) If you are a believer, you can proudly declare you are a warrior for God.

Confession 15: I am cared for (Psalm 8:1 & 4-8, John 3:16, Romans 8:31-32, Hebrews 13:5, Matthew 6:25-34, Matthew 10:30-31, 1 John 3:19-22, 1 Peter 5:7, Philippians 4:4-7, Psalm 34:17-19)

“¹ LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory
in the heavens....
⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?
⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honor.
⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet:
⁷ all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,
⁸ the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.” (Psalm 8:1 & 4-8 NIV)

The Bible teaches that God loved us so much, He sent His only Son to die to make us His adopted children.

“¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NIV)

If God loved us that much, why would we doubt He cares about our lives?

“³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:31-32 NIV)

The Bible promises that God will never leave us nor forsake us.

“⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

‘Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.’” (Hebrews 13:5 NIV)

The Bible gives this promise after teaching us to keep our lives free from the love of money, because it is about God never forsaking us in our day-to-day lives. We can be confident that God will always be there for us.

God describes His care throughout the New Testament.

“²⁵ Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than

clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

²⁸ And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matthew 6:25-34 NIV)

³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.” (Matthew 10:30-31 NIV)

God’s greatest weapon given to us is the privilege of prayer.

“¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.” (1 John 3:19-23 NIV)

We have already covered that this promise is for prayers made in line with God’s character. The Bible gives us this promise that if we make those kinds of prayers, God hears us. The Bible even commands us to pray.

“⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7 NIV)

“⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:4-7 NIV)

God is a God who cares about our problems.

“¹⁷ The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸ The LORD is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

¹⁹ The righteous person may have many troubles,
but the LORD delivers him from them all;” (Psalm 34:17-19 NIV)

If you are a believer, you can confidently declare that God cares for you.

Confession 16: I am not under the curse of the Law (Galatians 3:10-14)

“¹⁰ For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.’ ¹¹ Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because ‘the righteous will live by faith.’ ¹² The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, ‘The person who does these things will live by them.’ ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.’ ¹⁴ He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.” (Galatians 3:1-14 NIV)

The Bible teaches that you are either under the Bible’s law, or you are not. The law is the sum total of the moral commandments that make up the Bible, and they are used to make us aware of our sin and need for salvation. When a person comes to believe, they are set free from the law and enter into grace. Grace is God’s unmerited favor, and it is His gift to believers. (Romans 6:23) This doesn’t mean we don’t keep commandments, but it does mean we aren’t judged by the law on judgment day. (John 5:24)

If you are under the law, you are under a curse. But when you come to believe you are free from this curse. As a believer, you can confidently declare that you are free from the curse of the law.

Confession 17: I am the beneficiary of God's blessings (Ephesians 1:3, Romans 8:31-32, Psalm 103:1-6, Psalm 37:4, 1 John 3:19-23, Matthew 7:7-11, Matthew 6:5-15, Matthew 13:15)

“³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” (Ephesians 1:3 NIV)

“³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:31-32 NIV)

This is the fun part of our identity. If you are a believer, you are a beneficiary of God's blessings. Two of the great passages that describe God's desire to bless are found in Psalm 103 and Psalm 37.

“¹ Praise the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
² Praise the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
⁴ who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
⁶ The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.” (Psalm 103:1-6 NIV)

“⁴ Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4 NIV)

As we have already covered, one of God's blessings is the privilege of making prayers in line with His character.

“¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.” (1 John 3:19-23 NIV)

“⁷ Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” (Matthew 7:7-11 NIV)

The verb tense for the word “ask” in the original language is “keep on asking.” This means when we pray, we keep on asking until we get an answer. The Bible teaches we can seek God for His blessings when our hearts are right. (James 4:1-3)

One of God’s greatest blessings is the Lord’s Prayer.

“⁵ And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷ And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹ This, then, is how you should pray:

‘Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.
¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” (Matthew 6:5-15 NIV)

When we pray for daily bread, we are praying that God would meet all our needs. When we pray that God would not lead us into temptation, we are praying that God would not lead us into trials that serve no purpose in our lives. The Greek word for “temptation” is peirasmos, and it means “trials.” (Strong 196) Some trials serve to make us better people, but we pray that God would spare us trials that don’t serve that purpose. (Hebrews 12:5-11) Opposed to God not leading us into temptation is God delivering us from the evil one. This means we pray for God to deliver us from the trials that are caused by the devil. We also make a blanket confession with the Lord’s Prayer, and are given the promise that if we forgive other people when they sin against us, God will forgive us.

One of God’s greatest blessings in healing.

“²⁶ He said, ‘If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.’” (Exodus 15:26 NIV)

In this Old Testament passage, God identifies Himself as Lord who heals you. We are told in the New Testament that God's promises are even better than the old ones!

“⁶ But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.” (Hebrews 8:6 NIV)

So, what is the New Testament basis for healing? The New Testament basis for healing is found in this Old Testament prophecy that sets forth the covenant that God would make with believers.

“⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5 NIV)

The Hebrew word used for “healed” is *rapha*. (Strong 265) It means “heal,” “cure,” and “thoroughly, make whole.” It is a word used for physical healing. Jesus used similar language in the New Testament.

“¹⁵ For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them” (Matthew 13:15 NIV)

The Greek word used for “heal” is *iaoma*. (Strong 119) It means to “to cure,” “heal,” and “make whole.” This is another word for physical healing, and the promise is given to those who turn towards Jesus in faith.

Faith healing is an interesting topic, and I encourage you to go beyond this book in your study of it. Many books have been written on the subject, and there is much to learn about it. If you are struggling with sickness, I encourage you to read up on the subject and seek God for healing. And don't limit God based on what doctors say. People have been healed of permanent disabilities, and things you wouldn't believe. Nothing is too hard for God.

If you are a believer, you can joyfully declare you are the beneficiary of God's blessings.

Confession 18: I am called to praise (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

“¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV)

After the last 17 confessions, we come to an obvious conclusion. As believers, we are called to praise God! The short passage this confession is based on gives us the simplest explanation for what it means to be a praiser.

First, we rejoice. To rejoice is simply to look for reasons to celebrate your relationship with God. It doesn’t require favorable circumstances, but an awareness of God’s goodness at all times. This can be done on good days and bad days. And it is normal to rejoice on bad days. Saints battled depression throughout the Bible. David poured out his pain in the psalms. Job expressed deep pain over his trials. And the New Testament saint Paul even wrote he despaired of life at one point. (2 Corinthians 1:8) The challenge of rejoicing isn’t being happy, but looking to celebrate your relationship with God when you aren’t happy.

Second, we pray continually. This may seem impossible, but it isn’t when you consider all the different ways we pray. You can pray over your needs. (Philippians 4:4-7) You can pray for others. (Ephesians 6:18) You can confess your sins. (1 John 1:9) You can give thanks. (1 Thessalonians 5:18) Or you can simply talk to God like you are talking to a close friend. Prayer can be so much more than simply coming to God with a wish list, and we are called to pray continually.

Finally, we are called to give thanks in all circumstances. This teaching doesn’t require us to give thanks for everything that happens to us, but to give thanks in all circumstances. You don’t have to give thanks for being sick, but you can give thanks while you are sick. The Bible teaches every blessing comes from God, and God wants us to give thanks for all His blessings, even when life is hard. (James 1:16-17)

At the end of our look into our identity in Christ, we are called to praise. And after the previous 17 confessions, it is easy to see why. God is good, and it is our joy to praise Him for that goodness.

Are You Ready to Believe?

Maybe you read this book as an unbeliever, and you are ready to place your faith in Jesus? If that is you, I would like to give you a few first steps to begin your life of faith. First, you will want to find a good church. (Hebrews 10:24-25) Second, you will want to get baptized. (Mark 16:16) Baptism is the first thing commanded of new believers, and it is every Christians duty to be baptized. (Matthew 28:19) Third, you will want to participate in any classes offered by your church for new members or new believers. Finally, you will want to make Christian friends who can help you in your life of faith. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

Whoever you are, I pray this study has blessed you in some way. May the Lord's peace be with you and your loved ones always.

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