

## WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM

### I am a child of God

We are all on a journey and as part of that journey life can sometimes throw us a curve ball or a set of circumstances that leave us with more questions than answers. Questions like “Who am I? Where are you God? What’s the point of all this?”

Back in February of this year (2019) I was thrown just such a curve ball when I was diagnosed with Myeloma (cancer of the bone marrow), and that it was all over my body and without treatment I only had 6-12 months to live. Myeloma, I was told, is incurable and all they can do even with treatment is try to manage the cancer to give me a few more years. I felt like I had been hit by a train. The cancer was only discovered because I had gone to the doctors with a bad back and an X-ray showed that my back was broken. One of the vertebrae had been completely crushed by the cancer.

I had always vowed that should I ever get cancer I wouldn’t have chemotherapy but would let nature take its course. Now, however, I was in complete turmoil. In my heart I was excited at the prospect of being in Heaven with my Lord within the year, but my head went into complete fear and panic and up came all the questions. 6-12 months just wasn’t long enough to see to my affairs, plan a funeral and spend quality time with my husband and family. I began to ask God what He wanted me to do but the fear was so strong that I actually couldn’t hear Him. I was in total shock and things just weren’t sinking in or getting through and my husband was in the same place only slightly worse for him as he has always sought to be my protector, my provider etc in the natural sense and he was totally powerless to do anything to help me or make this all go away. We reached out to our pastors and asked them to seek God on our behalf as to the direction we should take and I know that prayers went up on my behalf by many churches.

A few days had passed by now and all the while I’m getting pressurised from the doctors to make a decision and I knew that they were itching to start treatment on me. I couldn’t, however, make a rash decision when my very life depended on it and I had to be sure that even in this situation I followed God’s plan for me. The pastors came back to me saying that they had prayed individually and that God had told them both the same thing.... It wasn’t my time yet and I was to take the treatment. Decision made!

I knew that God had said that I should take the treatment for the cancer, and so I did. However, the treatment itself was gruesome and the physical effects it had on my body were so painful and tiring that it literally took all of the strength that I had just to keep breathing at times. These were the times that doubts would start to creep into my mind and I would cry out to God and ask Him to come and calm the storm and fight for me. He was faithful every time, He was right there in a second assuring me that He was in control and it was OK for me to simply rest in His arms. I would then of-

ten find that my pain levels subsided and I would drift off into a deep sleep and I would be transported in my dreams to a place where it was just Him and me and we would dance together, walk and talk together or sometimes He would just hold me in his strong arms and I would lean my head on His chest and I remember feeling totally safe and secure.

It was during one of these times when I was feeling particularly down and I had tubes in my arms, my stomach and my pain was through the roof and I don't think I realised how close I was to death, with my organs beginning to shut down and I began to pray in earnest that God would simply take me home and it would all end. I again cried out to God for help. I had doubts now and I had questions and I wanted answers. This time I met Jesus in a garden, which is my favourite place to be alone with Him, and we sat together on a bench in the garden and he just looked at me and smiled, knowing that I had come with questions.

The conversation started something like this:

Me - "Lord, do you remember when you were on the earth you asked your disciples who men said that you were and they answered, and then you asked them who they said that you were and Peter answered saying that you were the Christ?"

Jesus - "Yes, I remember it well. Peter's answer brought such joy to my heart."

Me - "Well can I ask you the same question because right now I am so confused and low and I feel so lost that I don't know who I am and I need you to remind me, so who do you say that I am?"

He smiled at me again with such love in His eyes as he said, "The first thing you need to know is that you are my beloved and I am madly in love with you. The second thing you need to know is that you are a child of the living God. Do you know what that means?"

Me - "Remind me Lord."

Jesus - "As a child of God you have my Spirit living within you, the same Spirit that raised me from the dead. You are a new creation and the Kingdom of Heaven is also within you. This means that you have all the resources of Heaven at your disposal. All authority has been given to me, in Heaven, on earth and under the earth. I have overcome it all even death itself. I have given you, as a child of God, that same authority in my name. Just these three things alone make you a powerful supernatural being."

As He spoke, He spoke with both authority and compassion so that my heart hung on every word he said. As He carried on talking to me and affirming me I began to grasp what it really meant to be a child of God and my faith began to rise again.

He reminded me that not only am I a new creation but that my place of residence and operation was in the heavenlies.

As a child of God I am:

An overcomer  
Chosen  
More than a conqueror  
An ambassador of Christ  
A new creation  
Loved  
No longer a slave to fear  
Held in the hands of the Almighty  
Sin and death have no hold over me  
Free

The list could go on, but it's all there in the Word of God, so I challenge you to complete the list as you begin to discover for yourselves just what it really means to be a child of God. Let me tell you this though, a child of God will ONLY bow down to Jesus Christ. As children of the living God we do NOT bow down to fear, to anxiety, to depression, to anger, to cancer or sickness of any kind be it physical health or mental health issues we do not bow down to it. Christ died for our sins and for ALL of our diseases and that same Spirit that raised Christ Jesus from the dead lives in us and He hasn't changed. He's still in the business of fighting giants and parting the seas so we can walk through on dry ground. Jesus said, "Greater things than this will you do in my name". We need to wake up to who we are and once we've done that we need to start being who we are and using the resources and authority in His name that He has given us and start speaking into our circumstances rather than let our circumstances dictate our lives and behaviour. We need to haul ourselves up in to the Heavens (worship is a great way of getting there), and start living from the new creation, the powerful and supernatural beings that we are and whom the enemy fears. The enemy would rather keep us in slumber than have us wake up to who we really are. Asleep we are not much of a threat to him, but awake and fully operational he knows his time in our lives, in our towns, on the streets, in our schools etc. is over and he has to flee this place.

All the time the Lord Jesus and I are having this conversation I could feel strength returning to my body as well as strength returning to my soul. My heart's response was simply to say, "I believe what you say of me".

Then the Lord focused in on the word "child" and more revelation was to follow.

As a child grows and begins to discover the world around him, he is forever under the watchful eye of his parents and their protection. This way a trust is built between parent and child that is so strongly bonded that the child instinctively knows where to go if it's in need. When you trust someone completely you don't have to understand everything.

Picture the scenario: little Joey is playing in the yard and falls down and grazes his knee. He instinctively runs into the house to find his mum because he knows that she will make him better and he expects her to make him better. He doesn't have to understand how Mum is going to achieve this, nor does he understand why she has to use antiseptic wipes or sprays which sting like crazy or the workings of the analgesic balm that mum puts on his wound. He doesn't have to understand how Mum works or why things are done in that order. All Joey is concerned about is that once Mum is finished he will be fine and can get back to playing in the yard.

This is the essence of the child like faith that Jesus spoke of and what the Father wants from us. Instinctively turning to Him in the first place full of complete trust and expectation.

Another aspect of a childlike nature is the eagerness to learn. Joey goes back out into the yard to play but catches sight of his dad working in the garage. Joey runs into the garage saying, "Hi Dad, what are you doing?" Dad replies that he's building a new cabinet for Mum. Joey instantly forgets his own plans of playing in the yard and excitedly asks his dad if he can help build the cabinet. Dad agrees and says that while they are working on Dad's plan for the cabinet, he will teach Joey how to bang nails into wood. Joey at this stage can hardly contain his excitement.

Again, the Lord showed me that this was the kind of response that the Father is looking for in his children. For us to run up to Dad and say, "What are you doing today, Dad, and can I help? How can I fit into your plans today and what can you teach me along the way?" The Father loves to spend time with His children watching them grow, teaching and equipping them with everything they will need for His purposes for them.

So very often though we may start out with the best intentions but we can get impatient and start to try and rush what God is doing or try doing it in a completely different way to Him, trying to work things out for ourselves or taking control of the situation, forgetting that His ways and thoughts are always so much higher than ours.

It is the simple child like faith that Father wants us to keep hold of and use. If we are to combine then this child like faith (totally trusting even if we don't understand, expectant and instinctive) with the true knowledge of who we are in Christ Jesus and therefore what it means to be a child of God and we were to start being who we truly are, we would be an unstoppable force for the Kingdom of God and evil of every kind would have to flee.

Wake up child of God! Know who you are and be who you are because until then you can't fully experience the best that God has for you.

It is now three months since I had stem cells harvested at Southmead Hospital and I recently had blood samples taken to assess the success or not of the transplant. I have just received the results. I was told I am now completely free of cancer; they can find no trace of cancer in my body. I am in complete remission. Can you imagine my joy as I poured out my thanksgiving to the Lord.