

Nurturing Revival Towards an Awakening

Understanding Our Identity Brings the gift of Righteousness

1) Actions:

- a) Birthed and carried in Intercessory Prayer.
- b) Create a Revival Culture.
- c) Develop a life of power that is Naturally Supernatural.
- d) Frequent and repeated Testimonies are a key to sustaining faith.
- e) Showing the Goodness of God is the bedrock of revival.
- f) Understanding our identity brings the gift of righteousness.
- g) Live in expectancy with a personality of Hope.
- h) The greatest of these is Love.
- i) Honoring one another is the value system of Heaven.
- j) Prioritize freedom over order.
- k) Joy - the atmosphere of Heaven.
- l) The Church functions with limitless restoration as believers constantly walk in forgiveness.
- m) Unity among God's people shows the world the truth of Jesus.

2) Identity: Gift of Righteousness

a. Introduction:

- i) **Romans 5:17 (NKJV)** ... *those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.*
- ii) Identity is a paramount issue for creating and sustaining a revival culture in the local church.
- iii) Many Christians do not understand their identity in Christ.
- iv) In the fourth century, Christianity became the popular religion of Rome.
 - (1) With this brought an influx of marginally committed Christians.
 - (2) A professional clergy formed to do the ministry, while the laity spent their energy in secular pursuits.
 - (3) This brought a clergy/laity and a secular/sacred divide into the church.
 - (4) These false divisions fractured the body.
- v) An awakening in the body of Christ.
 - (1) Powered by a realization that God has called every believer to minister.
 - (2) The advance of the gospel is dependent on every believer.
 - (a) Believers who recognize their identity in Christ.
 - (3) Until believers get revelation of who they are in God, they will not realize a revival culture.
 - (4) Believers who miss this revelation will not access what they need to build the kingdom.
- vi) Understanding our identity is a necessary move towards building and keeping a culture of revival.
 - (1) Believers move from seeing themselves as simply sinners saved by grace to new creatures in Christ.

- (a) This shift in an individual believer will open them to hosting and moving in gifts of the spirit.
- (2) The gift of righteousness move believers from just forgiven sinners to living free.
- (3) They move from seeing themselves as servants to understanding that they were sons and daughters of the King.
 - (a) As sons and daughters, they have access to all the resources of heaven.
- vii) God created man in His image and man lack nothing.
 - (1) In this state of perfection, they had:
 - (a) no sense of lack
 - (b) no health issues
 - (c) no financial issues
 - (d) no relationship issues.
 - (2) God commissioned them to care for and rule.

b. IDENTITY LOST

- i) Men lost their identity during the fall in Eden.
 - (1) As we noted in the last message the fall came because Adam and Eve doubted God's goodness.
 - (2) Fooled by the serpent they ate from the forbidden "tree of knowledge."
 - (3) An identity crisis fell on mankind in consequence.
 - (4) Their purpose was interrupted and confused because of sin.
- ii) Life became a search to find that lost identity – to find "who am I."
 - (1) At the "Tower of Babel" mankind was hoping to make a name for themselves (**Gen. 11:4**).
- iii) Webster defines identity in two ways:
 - (1) "The condition or fact of being the same or exactly alike,"
 - (2) "The condition or fact of being a specific person, individuality."
 - (3) In these definitions we see what happened in the fall.
 - (a) Adam and Eve lost more than a place in the garden; they lost their identity.
 - (b) They exchanged an exact likeness with the Creator for individuality driven by a carnal nature.
- iv) Paul describes this in **Rom. 1:23** ... *exchanged the Glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of a corruptible man...*
- v) Adam and Eve's exchange had major affects to their identity in four specific ways:
 - (1) They gave up their fellowship with God.
 - (a) They lost their access to the Father along with the relationship of intimacy.
 - (b) In exchange they lived with broken fellowship, distance, and hiding.
 - (c) The introduction of sin caused a veil between God and man.
 - (d) Thankfully, Jesus restored this at His death.
 - (e) They were powerless to regain the intimacy they lost.
 - (f) Regret, remorse, condemnation, and guilt crept in.
 - (2) Adam and Eve were created with a perfect nature.
 - (a) Their attitudes, thoughts, and motives mirrored God's.

- (b) During the fall, their God-like nature was replaced with a carnal nature
 - (i) filled with self-will, self-centeredness, and individuality.
- (c) This separated them from God and from each other.
- (d) Their righteous minds now was filled with thoughts of”
 - (i) rage, jealousy, resentment, and bitterness.
 - (ii) They had never known depression, sadness, brokenness, or loss,
 - (iii) These thoughts now afflicted their minds.
- (3) In Eden, God made His resources fully available to Adam and Eve.
 - (a) Before the fall:
 - (i) He provided for them abundantly so they could prosper.
 - (ii) No sickness could touch them and everything they needed for health was provided.
 - (iii) God even included a “tree of life” that would have extended their lives indefinitely.
 - (b) The consequence of sin:
 - (i) Were cast out of Eden into a realm of lack. Hard work, thorns, weeds, and unyielding ground.
 - (ii) In the harsh environment, provision came from self-effort.
 - (iii) They began to experience infirmity, pain, and disease.
 - (iv) The more difficult life became the more they longed for the supernatural provision they had lost.
- (4) They were created with purpose.
 - (a) Before the fall:
 - (i) In creation man and woman were designed and commissioned to rule in God’s creation.
 - (ii) Every day they walked in the power and authority God had delegated to them.
 - (b) In the fall
 - (i) God’s mandate to rule and subdue was taken and mankind stepped into a realm ruled by elements beyond their control.
 - (ii) They exchanged pursuing their God-given purpose for an aimless search for meaning.
 - (iii) Their goal shifted from dominion to survival
 - (iv) their days were filled with the struggle to stay alive.

c. PROMISE OF REDEMPTION

- i) God had planned redemption before creation began.
 - (1) After the fall God provided a promise of restoration (**Gen. 3:15**).
 - (2) A deliverer would come through their descendants who would crush the head of the serpent and reverse the effects of the fall.
 - (3) As a shadow of this redemption God initiated a covering, replacing the fig leaves of self-effort with the skin of an animal.
 - (4) Throughout the Old Covenant, God mandated the shedding of blood to provide temporary relief from the consequences of sin.

- (5) All creation waited for the day that the Savior would be born.
- ii) God sent His Son to initiate His plan of redemption.
 - (1) Jesus lived a perfect life before the Father, free of the effects of the fall.
 - (2) He was secure in His identity and had unhindered fellowship with the Father.
 - (3) Although tempted, He lived free from sin – a demonstration of the new nature.
 - (4) Having fulfilled all righteousness, He lived under an open heaven with all resources available to Him
 - (5) With perfect obedience He lived only to fulfill the will of His Father.
 - (6) His death and resurrection made available to us freedom from the old and abundant life purchased with His blood.
 - (7) All that Adam lost can be found in Jesus!

d. RESTORATION OF RELATIONSHIP

- i) God created us with the spiritual capacity to have fellowship and intimacy with the Father.
 - (1) Sin erected a barrier
 - (2) Christ's blood paid the price for our redemption.
 - (3) The Father tore the veil of the temple from top to bottom, inviting us back into fellowship with Him.
 - (4) Christ, the perfect sacrifice, paid the price and forever satisfied God's justice.
 - (5) As a gift of grace God has justified us, allowing us unhindered access to His presence.
 - (6) We have been invited to draw near with confidence to the throne of grace (**Heb. 4:16**).
 - (7) Because we stand complete in His righteousness we can approach boldly.
- ii) Consider the Ark of the Covenant:
 - (1) In the instructions for constructing it God told Moses to build a mercy seat as a covering.
 - (2) It would be a place where the blood of the sacrifice would be poured out.
 - (3) God goes on to tell Moses they could meet at the mercy seat (**Exod. 25:22**).
 - (a) The word meet used here also means agree or to come into agreement.
 - (b) Catch the implication.
 - (i) As God looked across the mercy seat,
 - (ii) He would see Moses through the blood of the sacrifice.
 - (iii) In this place of grace God would see Moses through the righteousness of the Son,
 - (iv) not based on his performance.
 - (c) With the mercy seat in place we become partakers of the full benefit of our inheritance in Christ.
 - (4) Understanding our new identity moves us beyond forgiveness of sins to see ourselves as transformed.
 - (a) Through God's dynamic act of recreation, we have been redeemed from the law
 - (b) Adopted as His children.
 - (c) We can now come to God not as beggars but as sons and daughters.
- iii) In many families the grown children has a key to their parent's house.
 - (1) When a child comes in, they do necessarily need to knock
 - (2) They have free access to the home.

- (3) If they are hungry, they have access to whatever they desire.
- (4) They think like a son or daughter, not as a hired hand.
- iv) Hired workers have different access:
 - (1) When they need something, they knock on the door.
 - (2) They do not just walk in – they wait until invited.
 - (3) Access to your home and garage is limited to what they need to fulfill their responsibilities and as agreed to beforehand.
 - (4) If they ask for something, we may let them have it or use it,
 - (5) It is quite different from the relationship we have with our children.
- v) The challenge for believers is to learn to approach the Father from a position of family.
 - (1) Too many believers have received forgiveness for their sin but have never walked in the privilege of their restored relationship.
 - (2) In **Rom. 8:15** Paul tells us that we have received a spirit of adoption.
 - (3) A primary role of the Holy Spirit is to help us understand and walk in our new identity.
 - (4) This serves as an essential foundation for creating a revival culture.
 - (5) To host the presence of God in our daily walk, we must take full advantage of the fresh access and intimacy to the Father He has offered.**

e. RESTORATION OF NATURE

- i) The sin nature:
 - (1) As a result of Adam's sin, we inherit a sin nature as a fundamental part of our fallen identity.
 - (2) Without redemption, there is no escape from the consequences of our inherent sinfulness.
 - (3) Christ's sacrifice offers us a new birth and the opportunity to live with a new identity.
 - (4) This identity comes complete with a new restored nature purchased with Christ's blood.
- ii) Christ Nature:
 - (1) The law stands as God's perfect standard, but it has no power to give life or grace.
 - (2) Christ died, having fulfilled the righteous demands of the law.
 - (a) *Jesus is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes (Rom.10: 4).*
 - (3) By accepting Him, the Law of God is fulfilled in us and written on our hearts (**Ps. 40:8**).
 - (4) We are a new creation,
 - (a) new creatures in Christ.
 - (b) the old has gone the new has come! (**2 Cor. 5:17**).
 - (c) Paul tells the **Ephesians 4:24**
 - (i) *to be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*
 - (ii) Catch the implication here!
 - 1. The new self is created in the "likeness of God."
 - 2. In the new birth the image of God has been restored in our nature.
 - 3. We receive the mind of Christ so that we can think like Him, react like Him and love like Him.
 - 4. In fact, the work of ministry is to see Christ formed in every believer.

- (d) So, what is the problem?
 - (i) Why do so few believers truly represent Christ in their daily lives?
 - (ii) Most fail to recognize they are a new creation.
- iii) The attack of condemnation:
 - (1) The chief weapon the enemy uses is condemnation.
 - (2) If he can keep us feeling bad about ourselves, he can keep us ineffective and self-focused.
 - (a) Which is pride
 - (3) If we do not know who we are, we listen to the lie and think of ourselves as less than what Jesus paid for.
 - (4) We see ourselves as sinners saved by grace but not as new creatures in Christ.
 - (5) We know that we are forgiven, but we do not believe we are free.
- iv) In Romans chapter 6 Paul addressed this issue,
 - (1) *are we to continue in sin that grace might increase (Rom. 6:1).*
 - (2) The problem with this question was that they did not see themselves as changed; only forgiven.
 - (3) This does not diminish forgiveness but helps us realize that without change we will get caught in a never-ending cycle of repentance.
 - (4) We celebrate the grace that forgives, glorying in the grace that changed us
 - (5) In addition, we are to live in our new identity,
- v) Paul's next question makes this clear,
 - (1) *How shall we who died to sin still live in it? (Rom. 6:2).*
 - (2) He needs them to understand that a profound change came about in their salvation.
- vi) He then answers his own questions by laying out the process of embracing our new identity.
 - (1) We must identify with His death (**Rom. 6:3, 4**).
 - (a) We were baptized into His death, which means that when He died, we died.
 - (b) In that act there was a circumcision - the removal of the flesh – the old nature was cut out (**Col. 2:10-14**).
 - (c) *Knowing this* - the prolonged form of the verb "to know" means (to know absolutely) (**Rom. 6:6**).
 - (d) We must know absolutely *that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with....* We are no longer slaves to sin, because *he who has died is freed from sin (Rom. 6:7)*.
 - (e) Time to believe it!
 - (2) We must identify with His resurrection.
 - (a) When Christ was raised, we too were raised from the dead, but now with a new nature.
 - (b) As we identify with His resurrection we become a new creature in Christ (**2 Cor. 5:17**).
 - (c) His resurrection life creates a new nature in us.
 - (d) Paul tells the Ephesians to *...put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth (Eph. 4:24)*.
 - (e) Because our new nature is made in His likeness, it becomes natural to take on the mind of Christ.

- (f) As we realize the significance of this transformation, we see a restoration of our mind and thinking patterns.
- (g) Our new nature:
 - (i) is not inclined to sin
 - (ii) Wants to be in alignment with God's will and purpose
 - (iii) has no resistance to the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - (iv) restored intimacy with the creator. Believe it;
 - (v) the old is gone and all things have become new.
- (3) We must learn to think correctly.
 - (a) *Even so, consider yourself dead to sin (Rom. 6:11).*
 - (i) The word "consider" here means to gather up all the facts and make a decision.
 - (b) His death is my death; I died with Him, so I am dead to sin.
 - (c) His life is my life, so I am alive in Him with a new nature.
 - (d) *Therefore, do not let sin reign (vs.12).*
 - (i) Do not let sin exercise power over you any longer - it is dead in you and you are dead to it.
 - (e) *Do not go on presenting your members to unrighteousness (vs.13).*
 - (f) Do not even think of yourself as unrighteous.
 - (g) We have died to sin and are now alive to righteousness (1 Pet. 2:24).
 - (h) If we want to change actions, we must change thinking.
 - (i) If we learn to think correctly about our new nature, our feelings will follow, and we will begin to feel free.
 - (j) If we think and feel correctly, godly actions will follow.
 - (k) Correct actions result from correct thoughts.
 - (l) We are told to present ourselves as alive from the dead and as instruments of righteousness
 - (m) *Sin shall not be master over you (vs.14).*
 - (n) Believe that the old nature is dead, act like the old nature is dead,
 - (o) You will begin to live life as a new creation in Christ.
- (4) If we are dead to sin, why do we have so much trouble with it?
 - (a) Why does a rattle snake bite?
 - (i) Striking their prey is in their nature.
 - (ii) You can try to tame the snake, counsel it, educate it, and treat it with favor but in the end, it still bites because it is in its nature.
 - (iii) The only way to keep a snake from biting is to kill the snake.
 - (iv) You will not get free from your sin nature by any other means than dying to that part of you.
 - (v) Stop resurrecting your old nature!
 - (vi) Decide today that you are dead to sin and that you are a new creation.

f. RESTORATION OF RESOURCES

- i) Christ
 - (1) Lived perfect before the Father,

- (2) Demonstrating a life lived fully in the new nature.
 - (3) He had unhindered fellowship with the Father and,
 - (4) He lived free from sin.
 - (5) As the Son of Man full of the Holy Spirit, He fulfilled all righteousness.
 - (6) At His baptism heaven opened over Him and the Father confirmed His identity.
 - (7) He lived and ministered under an open heaven with all resources of heaven available to Him.
 - (8) With His death and resurrection, He made available to us abundant life through our new nature.
- ii) One of the articles kept in the Arc of the Testimony was the bowl of manna (**Exod. 16: 33**).
- (1) The manna was kept as a testimony of God's supernatural provision for His people.
 - (2) Remember that a testimony is:
 - (a) a reminder of what God has done
 - (b) a promise of what He is willing to do again.
 - (3) With Jesus' blood now on the mercy seat,
 - (a) supernatural provision is available to the people of God.
- iii) God's original intention was that His people prosper and be in health.
- (1) If we understand that supernatural provision comes as an integral part of being in Christ,
 - (a) then we will live in abundance that is not based on performance, but on His grace.
 - (2) If we depend solely on our own work ethic for our provision,
 - (a) then our ability to provide becomes our source.
 - (b) Our provision comes from our strength, our mind, our ability
 - (c) and is limited by what we have available.
 - (3) But supernatural provision:
 - (a) comes from a different source.
 - (b) *seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33)*,
 - (i) everything we need will be provided.
 - (c) What is required is for us to shift our focus to living in a reality of the rule of God in our lives.
 - (i) He becomes our source.
 - 1. I want to learn to have my source in Him and not in my ability.
- iv) We have become a joint heir with Christ.
- (1) In Him there is abundance
 - (2) We are in Him and related to Him through the new birth,
 - (a) We can live in the same provision and abundance that He experienced.
 - (b) God gives abundance so that we can supply for others (**2 Cor. 8:14**).
 - (c) We need to have, *abundance for every good deed (2 Cor. 9:8)*.
 - (d) We are even told that, *He who has abundance shall have more (Matt. 13:12)*.
 - (e) The church in this move of God must step out of the poverty mentality and into a time of abundance
 - (f) The work of God can move forward as God intended.
 - (g) Abundance is not to prove our spirituality or to live in luxury,
 - (h) The goodness of God can be fully displayed to the world.

- (i) He wants to give us access to the resources of heaven!
- v) Steve Wilson Testimonies:
 - (1) On my first trip to Brazil
 - (a) I saw blind eyes open for the first time.
 - (b) A few weeks after that, I was in Sri Lanka and fully expected to see God move in a similar way.
 - (i) During one of the sessions, I felt impressed to ask anyone with eye problems to come forward.
 - (ii) I expected a handful but about 30 came forward.
 - (iii) I felt fairly confident in praying for an individual, but this was different.
 - (iv) As I walked to the end of the line to begin praying, I asked for direction on how to minister
 - (v) I saw a mental impression of a refrigerator in heaven.
 - (vi) Then it opened and I saw that it was full of eyeballs!
 - (vii) So, as I prayed for each person I simply reached up, took an eyeball from the refrigerator, and placed it in the eye in front of me.
 - (c) When I had finished, we began to get the testimonies of what had happened, and the results were amazing.
 - (i) Several who had needed glasses could now see clearly without,
 - (ii) but the most astounding testimony came from a father.
 - 1. He brought his son to the front and had him read from the bible to show that he was healed.
 - 2. Then he told us that his son's eyesight had been so poor that he had been unable to see to learn to read.
 - 3. It took a few moments for this to sink in - in that moment, the son had not only received his sight but also had sovereignly learned to read.
 - (2) A few months later we traveled to Lebanon:
 - (a) I gave the testimony of the eyes being healed.
 - (b) Toward the end of the conference we spent time activating the leaders to pray for healing.
 - (c) One of the pastors was praying for a man who had a birth defect in his heel
 - (i) which made walking difficult.
 - (ii) he had never been able to put weight on it.
 - (iii) After praying a couple of times nothing much had changed,
 - (iv) but after the third prayer, I heard the man being prayed for exclaim that his leg had become cold and instantly all the pain had left.
 - (v) He could put full weight on it.
 - (d) Later, I was talking to the pastor who had prayed for him to get the full story.
 - (i) He said that after the first two prayers and no change,
 - (ii) he asked God what to do and saw a picture of a refrigerator.
 - (iii) When he opened it, there was a leg inside.
 - (iv) so, he took it out and stuck it on the man he was praying for.
 - (v) It was at the exact moment the man's leg got cold and the healing manifested.

g. RESTORATION OF PURPOSE

- i) Baptism of Jesus:
 - (1) Jesus submitted to John's baptism to fulfill all righteousness (**Matt. 3:15**).
 - (2) Even though John objected, Jesus had come for a purpose that could only be accomplished if He fulfilled every aspect of the law.
 - (3) From the day He was born His parents took Him to the temple and did with Him all that was required in the law.
 - (4) He would now begin His ministry, but not without receiving a baptism from John.
 - (5) He could not begin to minister unless He had fulfilled all righteousness.
 - (6) God answered from Heaven announcing that, *this is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased* (**Matt. 3:17**).
- ii) Jesus and the Law:
 - (1) Jesus did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it (**Matt. 5:17**).
 - (a) As the Son of Man, He lived obedient to God's law,
 - (b) demonstrating the power of a Spirit-filled life.
 - (c) He stood at the end of His time here on earth completely righteous before the Father.
 - (d) He went to the cross as a perfect sacrifice totally acceptable to God.
 - (e) Through this obedience, He can gift us with His righteousness that meets God's approval.
 - (i) ... *Much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ* (**Rom. 5:17**).
 - (2) Staggering! Jesus has made His righteousness available to us as a gift.
 - (a) The effects of sin are reversed as a gift from God!
 - (b) We have received an abundance of grace.
 - (c) we have also received the gift of righteousness.
 - (d) Now in this life we can reign!
- iii) The commission to rule given Adam and Eve is restored to us in Christ!
 - (1) In creation God:
 - (a) gave man and woman the responsibility of ruling in His creation
 - (b) and subduing anything that would seek to disrupt God's purpose.
 - (2) In the death and resurrection of Jesus,
 - (a) He took back the authority that had been lost in the fall
 - (i) now offers it to any who would step up and take responsibility for extending His rule.
 - (b) In the great commission:
 - (i) Jesus told His disciples that He had all authority back in His hand
 - (ii) then commissioned them to go in the power of the Spirit and the authority of His commission
 - (iii) to fulfill His purpose on the earth.
- iv) Righteousness as a gift:
 - (1) Learn to live in the revelation of the gift of righteousness.
 - (a) Our new identity:

- (i) comes complete with restored fellowship with the Father.
- (ii) We can host His presence.
- (iii) restores our nature so that we can respond as heaven responds.
- (iv) comes complete with all the resources needed to fulfill our purpose.
 - 1. Jesus ...*went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil (Acts 10:38).*
- (v) That is exactly how we should live our lives.
- (b) Until we understand who we are as royal sons and daughters of God,
 - (i) We spend our lives trying to earn what He has freely given us.
 - (ii) This robs us of the confidence to step into the greater works that Jesus promised (**John 14:12**).
 - (iii) Countless believers:
 - 1. never move into personal revival
 - 2. because they lack a revelation of the miraculous living hope
 - 3. received as part of their new identity.