



Identity **Leaving, Receiving, Believing** **Pastor Jason Carter**

Once we receive Christ, how does our walk with God move forward and continue from that point?

- There is a process that God takes us through in order for us to know and be transformed by Him.
- In identity, if you don't know who and whose you are, you settle for something fake.

Your faith, and the decisions you make regarding it, affect so much more than just you. Both you and your family's future is affected by:

- Your decisions
- Your pursuit of Jesus
- Your unwillingness to deal with sin or sinful issues
- Your obedience or disobedience to what the Lord speaks to you

Identity determines decisions.

From Joseph, a nation was built under the guise of slavery, but the Lord wanted to lead them to freedom and into a place of promise.

Acts 13:17 The God of this nation of Israel chose our ancestors and made them multiply and grow strong during their stay in Egypt. Then with a powerful arm he led them out of their slavery.

This is a picture of all of us spiritually- God wants to lead us out of sin and into freedom!

2 Cor. 3:17-18 For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So, all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory

of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

Who we become is more important to the Lord than what we accomplish.

Leave Something: in our walk with God, there will be things we have to leave behind in order to fully receive His plan for us:

- Leave sin, sin patterns, sinful choices and sin's repercussions. The Lord is who helps us do this.
- This work begins at salvation and is a process of transformation throughout our lives.

Receive Something: in our walk with God, there are things God has provided in Jesus that are ours spiritually that He wants to reveal and give to us. It is His delight to do so.

- We understand our life is rooted and grounded in Christ. We can build our lives through Him and we have a calling through Him.
- We are sons & daughters of God and heirs of His promise. We have both privileges and responsibilities as His children.
- Sometimes we have to leave things in order to receive what God has for us.

Believe Something: God desires for what we believe in faith to be established in our lives and that we align our entire being to it (heart, mind, actions, behaviors, faith).

- Our life is fully given to what we believe about ourselves, God, others, etc.
- These are established through relationship and through faith.
- These things are true whether believe them or not.

God wants to help us navigate this process.

1. Leaving something.

The Israelites were leaving Egypt- **salvation is leaving**. It is leaving something that has always been and **it can be very difficult**. What we have learned, internalized, practiced, or believed could be shaped around a partial truth or even an outright lie.

Things you may experience while you are leaving something:

1. Life may initially become more difficult.
-Life under Pharaoh became more difficult. [Exodus 5:1-22](#)
2. It may feel like your past is pursuing you.
-The Israelites are mad at Moses for leaving Egypt. [Exodus 14: 11-12](#)
3. God may show you your own heart or bitterness.
-There was the situation of bitter water. [Exodus 15:22](#)

The Hebrew people were in slavery, finding freedom, but they still had the mindset of slaves.

- Longed for to return to what they knew because it was comfortable and familiar.
- Lust or cravings is a desire than cannot be satisfied.

Psalm 106:14-15 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tested God in the desert. And He gave them their request but sent leanness into their soul.

Often, we must be forced to leave.

- There can be loss and grief with leaving, even when the reasons to leave are good.
- If you don't understand the importance of this process, you can get pulled back into the old life.

When we get saved, God moves us forward. We leave habits, people, etc. However, **God does not ask us to leave anything without wanting for us to receive something better** in return.

- *Do you believe God is for you?*
- *What is so hard about leaving something behind?*
- *What are some things God is asking you to leave?*

2. Receiving something.

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

The Lord doesn't take something from you if He doesn't have anything to give to you. He replaces what he takes with:

- a relationship with Him
- a new name and identity
- the Holy Spirit
- a new covering of righteousness
- forgiveness- God does not hold grudges and He does not manipulate

Joseph received a robe from Jacob (**Genesis 37**).

- Jacob had received something from the Lord and he wanted to give it away.
- Joseph was impacted. He handled it arrogantly but it had a profound affect on him.

Some will not put on the identity and righteousness Jesus provided.

Some reasons people don't receive well:

- We don't know what we received.
- We don't understand.
- We don't know what to do with it.
- We don't appreciate it.
- We must get clear of our past to begin to recognize the goodness of God.
- We don't feel worthy.
- Some are too prideful to receive it.
- We feel shameful.

In the light of His cross and sacrifice, we absolutely are qualified. Don't undermine what Christ did. We must leave the mindset that we aren't worthy in order to receive what He has done.

- You cannot rise above your level of thinking.
- Your **behavior** will catch up to your **belief**. First you must receive what Jesus has done for you and what He says about you.

1 Corinthians 6: 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

We are to grow into what we receive.

- *What is it that God wants you to receive?*
- *Do you have a hard time receiving what God has for you?*

3. Believing something.

1 Peter 1:6-7 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

You will go through trials so that what is inside of you will come out and faith is developed in you. Faith then produces life.

Joseph had to grow into the robe. We all do. God would deal with his character. It took time, faithfulness, and trust.

Proverbs 30:21-22 Under three things the earth trembles, under four it cannot bear up: a slave when he becomes king.

We will live *up*
to or *down* to
who we
believe we are.
Only Jesus can
truly define us.

Often there is a gap between what God says about us and what we actually believe. We know we believe something when our thoughts, behaviors and actions reveal it.

In order to live differently we have to be around people who live differently.

- Connect with God.
- Connect with others.

- *How do you live like you believe?*
- *How are you identifying yourself? As a sinner who keeps making the same mistakes? Or are you able to believe the things that God says about you?*
- *If God says I am forgiven, how do forgiven people live?*
- *If God says I am loved, how do loved people live?*
- *If God says I am called, how do called people live?*
- *If God says we are cherished sons and daughters, how do cherished son and daughters live?*
- *How do we think? What do we allow God to do for us? What responsibilities do we now have?*
- *How do I align myself with God and how do I retrain my thinking?*
- *Am I connecting with God?*
- *Who is a friend who speaks truth in my life? Who am I connecting with?*