

KNOWING WHO WE ARE

ACTS 19:11-15 (NLT)

“God gave Paul the power to perform unusual miracles. ¹² When handkerchiefs or aprons that had merely touched his skin were placed on sick people, they were healed of their diseases, and evil spirits were expelled. ¹³ A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the Name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, “I command you in the Name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!” ¹⁴ Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. ¹⁵ But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, “I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?”

✚ ACTS 19:11-13 (NLT)

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✚ ACTS 19:15 (NLT)

“But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, “I know (or recognize) Jesus, and I know (or recognize) Paul, but who are you?”

✚ MARK 16:16-18

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be. ¹⁷ And these signs shall follow them that believe; In My Name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”

✚ ROMANS 6:3-4

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

✚ 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (NLT)

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

HOW DO WE KNOW WHO WE ARE?

1) KNOW WHO WE ARE NOT

✚ JOHN 1:19-23 (AMP)

"This is the testimony of John [the Baptist] when the Jews sent priests and Levites to him from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ And he confessed [truthfully] and did not deny [that he was only a man], but acknowledged, "I am not the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed)!" ²¹ They asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the [promised] Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you? Tell us, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one shouting in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

✚ 1 CORINTHIANS 11:1 (AMP)

"Imitate me, just as I imitate Christ."

✚ ACTS 19:15

"...I know (or recognize) Jesus, and I know (or recognize) Paul..."

2) ABANDON OUR ALL SELF-INTERESTS

✚ MATTHEW 9:23 (NLT)

"If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow Me. ²⁴ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for My sake, you will save it."

✚ ACTS 19:13b

"They tried to use the Name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, 'I command you in the Name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!'"

3) LET GO OF THIS WORLD

✚ 1 JOHN 2:15-17 (NLT)

"Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶ For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. ¹⁷ And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever."

✚ ACTS 19:15-20 (NLT)

"...The evil spirit replied, 'I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?' ¹⁶ Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered. ¹⁷ The story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to Jews and Greeks alike. A solemn fear descended on the city, and the Name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored. ¹⁸ Many who became believers confessed their sinful practices. ¹⁹ A number of them who had been practicing sorcery brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars. ²⁰ So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect."

4) DECREASE OUR VISIBILITY

✚ ACTS 19:17b (AMP)

“...Fear fell upon them all, and the Name of the Lord Jesus was magnified and exalted.”

✚ JOHN 3:28-30 (EXB)

“You yourselves heard me say... ‘I am not the Christ [Messiah], but I am the one sent to prepare the way for Him...’²⁹ The bride belongs only to the Bridegroom. But the friend who helps the Bridegroom [or the best man] stands by and listens to Him. He is thrilled [rejoices greatly] that he gets to hear the Bridegroom’s voice. In the same way, I am really happy...³⁰ He must become greater [increase], and I must become less important [decrease].”