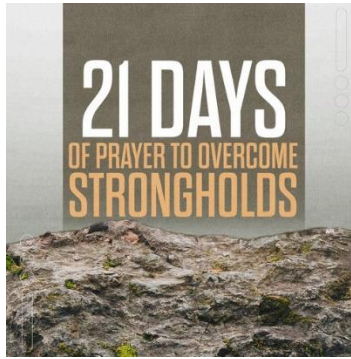


## FELLOWSHIP NOTES ~ Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024



### Part 2

#### What is My Identity in Christ?

Ephesians 1:1-14 - As a born again child of God, through faith in Christ...

1. I am a \_\_\_\_\_ – set apart as holy for God’s use - vs. 1
2. I have the \_\_\_\_\_ of God on and in my life - vs. 2
3. I am chosen \_\_\_\_\_ - vs. 4 (John 6:44; Matthew 11:28; John 6:37)
4. I am \_\_\_\_\_ into God’s family - vs. 5-6
5. I am \_\_\_\_\_ - vs. 7a
6. I am \_\_\_\_\_ completely - vs. 7b
7. I have received God’s \_\_\_\_\_ - vs. 7c-8
8. I have been granted to know the \_\_\_\_\_ - vs. 8-10
9. I am the recipient of an eternal \_\_\_\_\_ - vs. 11-12
10. I am \_\_\_\_\_ permanently by the Holy Spirit (vs. 13)

God’s Spirit signifies:

- 1.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.) \_\_\_\_\_

11. My salvation is \_\_\_\_\_ personally by the Holy Spirit - vs. 14



## What does the Holy Spirit do?

### The Holy Spirit...

1. Convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment - John 16:8
2. Guides us into all truth – John 16:13
3. Glorifies and testifies of Christ – John 15:26; 16:14
4. Leads us – Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:18; Matthew 4:1; Luke 4:1
5. Sanctifies us – 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2; Romans 5:16
6. Empowers us – Luke 4:14; 24:49; Romans 15:19; Acts 1:8
7. Fills (controls) us – Ephesians 5:18; Acts 2:4; 4:8
8. Teaches us to pray – Romans 8:26-27; Jude 1:20
9. Bears witness in us that we are children of God – Romans 8:16
10. Produces in us the fruit or evidence of His work and presence – Galatians 5:22-23
11. Gives us spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ and glorify God – Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12
12. Is our guarantee and deposit of the future resurrection – 2 Corinthians 1:22; 2 Cor. 5:5
13. Seals us until the day of redemption – Ephesians 1:13; 4:30
14. Gives us joy – 1 Thessalonians 1:6
15. Comforts us – John 16; Acts 9:31

## What Are Spiritual Strongholds and How Are They Overcome? By **STANDING IN THE GAP!**

**Spiritual Stronghold:** an area of a person's life that functions contrary to God and His Word; a place in a person's life where Satan holds the person in bondage, and they can't seem to break free from, such as anger, hatred, depression, anxiety, doubt, unbelief, sexual addiction, lust, perversion, pornography, food addiction, gambling, gaming, drugs, habits of all kinds – anything that dominates a person's life and enslaves them.

*"I searched for a man among them who would build up a wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land...but I found no one."* Ezekiel 22:30

**Intercessory Prayer:** the action of a person who regularly goes to God in prayer for themselves or someone else, continually praying and believing that Almighty God can and will break the stronghold that Satan has over them.

## IN FELLOWSHIP CAFÉ

*Face to Face With God: A True Story of Rebellion and Restoration* by Jim Maxim

### Sanctity of Human Life Books

*Healing After Abortion: God's Mercy Is for You*

*What the Bible Says About Birth Control, Infertility, Reproductive Technology and Adoption*

*Safe in the Arms of God: Truth from Heaven About the Death of a Child*

*Hope Beyond An Empty Cradle: The Journey Toward Healing After Stillbirth, Miscarriage and Child Loss*

## Growth Groups Study Guide for the Week of January 21<sup>st</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>

**Reminder:** Our Vision Dessert is Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. A table for your group will be reserved so that you can sit together. There is no need to sign up unless you would like to bring a dessert to share.

**Group Discussion:** What do people usually think about or talk about when the topic of a person's identity is brought up?

**Digging Deeper:** Read Ephesians 1:1-14 and answer the following...

1. We noted Sunday that there are at least 11 characteristics in this passage that describe every follower of Christ and provides their identity as a Christian. These are listed on the front page of these notes. Take a minute and look them over and pick the top 3 that you are most thankful for and why. (Of course, they're all important so this is just a matter of personal preference.)

1.) \_\_\_\_\_

2.) \_\_\_\_\_

3.) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Here is a biblical truth in relation to our identity in Christ...

**Biblical Truth: Every born-again follower of Christ is considered to be "in Christ". Being in Christ serves as the position from which all spiritual warfare is fought. To be in Christ is both a position we receive at salvation and a practice we exercise moving forward from salvation.**

Read aloud the following verses that describe us as "in Christ"...

*"So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."* Romans 6:11

*"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus."* Romans 8:1

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!"* 2 Corinthians 5:17

What are several things these verses teach us about our position “in Christ”? \_\_\_\_\_

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As mentioned above, being “in Christ” is not only a position, but a practice. Read Ephesians 6:10-18 together then write down the action verbs you see in this passage that instruct us the practice of being in Christ (such as “be strengthened” in vs. 10). \_\_\_\_\_

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**FACT: It is our *position* in Christ that brings the devil’s tactics down to defeat, and it is our *practice* of spiritual warfare that brings victory over our enemy.**

3. Review the 15 things the Holy Spirit does in us and for us on page 2. Which one(s) are new to you? Which one(s) are you most thankful for? Which one(s) puzzle you if any? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Review what a Spiritual Stronghold is and what Intercessor Prayer is on age 3. Why is it important for believers to “stand in the gap for others? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read Ephesians 6:18. What does this verse say about prayerfully interceding for others?

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### Wrapping Up

On Sunday morning Pastor Rob challenged us to make a list of people that we can intercede for in 2024. Let’s wrap up in prayer by praying for some of these people, asking God to remove any spiritual strongholds Satan is using in their lives to either keep them from being saved, or if they are saved, to keep them from living victoriously.

### CLOSING IN PRAYER