

SET FREE  
to be  
SET APART

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Published by J.E. Berry (JEBerrySpeaks.com)

Printed in the United States of America

Printed by CreateSpace, An Amazon.com Company

Available from Amazon.com and other retail outlets

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Special thanks to *Millicent Williams* for her work as editor.

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# INTRO

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*"Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh"*  
Romans 1:1-4

Coming to Jesus Christ is undoubtedly, the most liberating experience available to mankind. It's a true, leap off the mountain with arms spread wide experience type of decision. Entering a relationship with Him means that you get to abandon all that once was, to carry the much lighter burden of *freedom*. We get to throw all the trash we have carried for so long down at His feet and pick up inheritance, royalty, and purpose far beyond what our natural minds can comprehend or conjure. Our new identity offers us a shackle free existence, that calls us to remain free and offer that freedom to others. All that we were meant to be is redeemed and positioned for a mission of God glorifying magnitude. The God of the universe plucks us from the grip of Satan and places us in eternity and eternity in us.

The ability to breathe without the feeling of choking on regret, shame, imperfections, and darkness. Jesus breathes new life into us. There is no true way to describe the totally overwhelming reality of what true relationship with Jesus holds, is, means. But one thing I know for sure, our genuine relationship with Christ kick starts REAL life.

*For me...*

*Relationship with Jesus holds* all that I will and could ever need. All that I have ever wanted and all that He has for me.

*Relationship with Jesus is* safety (although not a life lived without risk). It's all the security, comfort, liberty, healing I will ever need.

*Relationship with Jesus means*, that it is He and not I that lives. It means that I am made completely new. That I don't have to look back at what was, because what was is dead and gone. It means that I am renewed, redeemed, and repurposed for the will of the Father. It means that the plans the enemy had for me, of failure, shame, damnation, and aimlessness are no longer attached to me, but that I am now a child of inheritance and apostleship. And it's the same for you if you are in Christ.

Like most people, my life before I was engulfed in Jesus was not exactly a banner of God glorifying accomplishments. I was raised in the church and had confessed Jesus as my savior at an early age, but it took a while for me to make Him the Lord over my life. I ran from His covering for an extended period as I got older, putting the chains that He had taken off me back on with my very own hands. Shackled by sin, guilt and the need to control, I struggled to

surrender to His perfect will and grasp purpose within myself aside from what I thought I wanted to do. I was talented at many things but there was still a hole. Nothing I was doing pointed to anything. It was fun and seemed right in theory. However, there was zero fulfillment.

**Fulfillment:** the achievement of something desired, promised, or predicted; the meeting of a requirement or condition.

Fulfillment is a funny word. We all look at it in different ways. When Jesus came down from His throne to become a man, He came with a purpose to fulfill what had been prophesied for our sake. So, the word fulfillment means something completely different for everyone. For each of us, the payment of our sin debt was fulfilled when Jesus died on the cross for our sins. For us to be truly fulfilled, we must first accept what was achieved on our behalf.

Allowing Jesus to rescue me from myself was a no brainer. Every promise in Him was and is such a beacon for me. His light leads me away from something, but it is also leading me to something.

We have not been saved for the sake of salvation alone. Jesus came that we would be set free to live

life abundantly (John 10:10). Abundantly with purpose that points to Him.

In my study of the Word, I came to a very simple conclusion. The final destination of our salvation is not simply freedom from our deserved damnation. Our salvation was eternally purposed beyond self from the start. Every part of the Father's plan has been orchestrated to plant, water, and harvest, to benefit the nations for His glory sake.

In this book, you and I will talk about what God has done for us, and why it doesn't stop there. We will talk about the depth of why our salvation is only the start of what the Father has planned for us in the rest of our journey here on earth. Together we will look into Scripture and intentionally focus on some of the small words that connect so many dots for us in the grand scheme of things. So that we can come to an understanding that even the "little" things that we do are a part of God's grand plan. If you are reading this and have yet to enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Please take some time to meet Him in the rear section of this book, "Invitation to Salvation". Our relationship with Him is where it all begins.

The momentum of this book was birthed from one of the Apostle Paul's golden letters. The book of Romans.

*“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called **to be** an apostle, set apart **for** the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Romans 1:1-7*

Studying this portion of Scripture has taught me so much vital information and taken me on a path through the Word that has shown me much needed truth. How and why to live well in the free life bought for us. Scripture has revealed that for the God whom we serve, there is purpose for every one of His thoughts and actions. He makes no choices in

vein or devises any pointless plan. It all works together within His grace, for His glory.

The Apostle Paul understood that every part of His new life was an extension of who He was in Christ Jesus. He understood that all he was before his encounter with Christ (Acts 9) was purposed for the sake of the Gospel that he would preach to the masses. That even his evil deeds were being worked together for God's ultimate plan and Glory. Even up to this very moment in this very book.

I want to encourage you to clear your mind and open your heart in this voyage to the Father's purposes. Together we will dig deeper in Scripture text to see the Father's true intent for our freedom. We will look closer at the life and teachings of the Apostle Paul (and others) so that we can remove selfish and/or worldly presuppositions and reveal the intent of the Father for His children and His Bride. Together we are going to be encouraged, revived, realigned, and re-ignited for the purposes of God. And most of all we will conclude that.....

We have been *Set Free to be Set Apart.*

Sample Chapter

(Chapter 2)

# GRAB HOLD

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*"I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so  
that no one may seize your crown."*

*Revelation 3:11*

Having a good grip on our healthy realities gives us a great jumping point from which what we do is propelled. However, the same goes for our grip on unhealthy falsehoods. They are equally impactful.

### We've Got an Issue

Though we have many issues in our lives as humans, there is one issue that is prevalent when it comes to walking in purpose. This problem spans across the simplest parts of our lives because it goes to the core of us.

*The issue:*

*Maybe, we don't know who we really are.*

Wowzers! I know. Hard truth, right? How can this be? How can we make decisions about ourselves and for ourselves without knowing who we are? Guess what my friend, we do it all the time. Sometimes we are making decisions based on who we think we are, who we want to be, or who we think others want us to be. And yes, there are many of us who know who we are and make choices based on that frequently. However, I will bet that all of us struggle with identity at some point in some way. We are human,

and our fallible nature is prone to get a little shifty from time to time.

Many of us struggle to attach our identity to the proper source. We attempt to attach it to other people, maybe places, often we mistakenly attach it to what we do. Our job, our talents, our position. Taking on those things as defining ingredients for who we are. The problem with this kind of self-image is that the security of who we are can be easily shifted with a change of environment or circumstance.

Our identity is not attached to what we do or how well we perform. This type of thinking is a false representation of the intent of the Gospel. We are defined only by our positioning in the Kingdom of God. What we do should merely reflect the work of Christ in our lives with the outcome of His glory. When we mistakenly define ourselves by our own ability, we miss out on the gifts that come with true identification in Christ.

The bi-products of this major issue we've pointed out are typically: insecurity, overachieving, people-pleasing, prideful responses, and other damaging mindsets. The root of these shallow symptoms is an identity crisis. If we are unstable in our knowledge

of who we are, every decision we make from that place of uncertainty will lack stability in some area.

### Identity Theft

Have you ever had your identity stolen?

It's literally the most irritating experience. You are having to justify your own actions and defend yourself against the actions of a lurking criminal you've never seen. And not only have you never seen them but you didn't even know that there was a crime happening until it was way too late. Then you're on the phone with the bank rep explaining that you never bought those reindeer leggings for \$200 online.

Wouldn't it be awesome if before you were a victim of identity theft, the thief came to your door and made you aware of what He was about to do to your accounts. *"Hello ma'am! I just wanted to alert you that you will not have the funds to pay your bills this month because I will be hacking into all your accounts so that I can afford to buy a bulk supply of marshmallows for my epic marshmallow gun fight next weekend. OK thanks!"* That would be so

convenient right? We'd be able to stop the havoc before it was reeked. We'd make all the necessary calls that needed to be made and put up all the fire walls. It would be so helpful.

However, you and I are dealing with a different circumstance in our faith journey. The enemy is after our identity in Christ. And no, he's not calling ahead. He is not giving any warnings. He's coming straight for the jugular and taking all that he can. He's ruthless, devious, strategic, gutsy, wild, and very predictable. His plans generally revolve around the clues that we have given him. He feeds on our mistakes, curiosity, and misjudgments. He uses these areas of struggle to convince us to give up our rightful place and our redeemed identity. Keeping us detached from the truth of who we are and attached to who he wants to convince us we are. Good thing is, we already know what his main focuses are. We've been warned of the enemy's strategy.

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."*

*John 10:10*

**Steal:** take (another person's property) without permission or legal right and without intending to return it.

**Kill:** cause death of (a person, animal, or other living thing)

**Destroy:** put an end to the existence of (something) by damaging or attacking it

And... because we know what his plans are, we can do a preemptive strike in our spiritual warfare. We can stop him at the first sign of the lie, and we can detect his actions much quicker. We are equipped, but we must use what we have been given.

The enemy is well-aware of what we have access to in the Father. The presence of God once surrounded him, and he knows what it means to have access to the glory of God. He was in the glorious presence of the Father and gave it up in his pride. That's why he does not want us to have it. I would imagine that he is a little green with envy. Not only does he not get the glory he was after, but he can't even be around it anymore.

Listen to what Jesus had to say about the dude:

*“And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.””*

*Luke 10:18*

And what Jesus had to say about us:

*“Behold, **I have given you authority** to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”*

*Luke 10:19-20*

The enemy knows that when we know who we are in Christ, the power of the lies he has spewed at us and about us fade and the power that we have through Christ is magnified and utilized. The enemy is afraid of the truth becoming our lens. The longer he can keep us wrapped in the lies, insecurity, and uncertainty, he doesn't have to be concerned with what we will do for God and for the sake of the Gospel. He's banking on us being detached and unaware. If the enemy can convince us to believe the lie, his work is done, we do the rest ourselves. The only power the enemy has over us, is the power we

have given to him. He can't steal our identity, but we can certainly choose to forego it and live like a victim of identity theft.

### *The Man in The Mirror*

I am a firm believer that to go forward, we must know what is true now. Because of that we are going to start by looking in the mirror. Who do you see when you look in the mirror? When you think of yourself, how would you be identified? First look through your eyes. Now look through the eyes of Christ. What's different? Notice a different perspective? Do you see yourself with more or less?

You see, who we are or who we think we are can be very sketchy, depending on our perspective, our perception, our beliefs, and our reality. To get a little help with this "man in the mirror" situation, we are going to look for our true reflection. In Christ. But first, let's look at what identity means.

**Identity:** the fact of being who or what a person or thing is:

Simple right? Not so much. This whole identity thing is not as easy as this definition would make it seem. This definition, though seemingly simple, really carries a punch with those small words. Let's break it down a little. Identity starts with a "*fact*". Which means that without a truth, there is no recognition. Once the truth is established, then we can move on to the "*being*" part. Without the presented fact there is nothing to be conceived as identifiable. Who are we?

Seeing who we really are can be difficult when we look through our human lenses. However, who we really are is found in the lenses of Jesus, and Jesus alone. Actually, we have no ID without Him. Without Him we are only numbers led off as slaves. In Christ we find our citizenship, our names, our purpose, and our future. So, let's look in Him for our reflection.

In Christ we are:

## 1. Children and Heirs of God

**Heir:** a person legally entitled to the property or rank of another on that person's death; a person inheriting and continuing the legacy of a predecessor:

*“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”*

*Romans. 8:16-17*

Yes, we in Christ are most definitely the children of the Most High God. But that’s not where it stops. We have birth rights through that Father child relationship within Christ. Because of our faith in Jesus, we receive heirship with our savior. We are “fellow heirs”. Meaning that we share in what Christ receives as the Son of God. This is beyond what any of us can comprehend with our peanut human brains.

I don’t know if you realize it or not, but if you are in Christ Jesus, you are royalty. Heavenly royalty!

We are joint heirs with the Prince of Peace. We are not common. We are not average. We are not peasants. Our earthly circumstances cannot change our royal position, but we must choose to live in our inheritance and from our place as heir. A royal is only a royal if they assume the role. It doesn’t mean that their birth right is not theirs or has somehow been removed.

**2. Disciple:** a follower or student of a teacher, leader, or philosopher.

**Mathetes** (Greek for Disciple): pupil, student

This definition of who we are seems to be the most misused. Somewhere along the line we have confused “disciple” with “believe in”. A disciple, by definition, calls us to specific actions in response to the actions of another. For us, to be a disciple is to “follow” Christ or to be a “student” of Christ.

**Follow:** go or come after; strive after; go in the same direction as or parallel to (another)

Do you see so many actions that are being suggested here? I do. If we are truly going to be followers of Christ, it’s going to require some true effort on our behalf. Belief is not where it stops. If we are going to walk in our identity as disciples, we must jump to action. A disciple without movement, is merely an onlooker. And sure, you can simply believe in Christ and opt out of your role as a disciple. However, the intent of the Father for your life will lack fulfillment. We were never meant to simply be “believers”, we are meant to be followers.

### 3. **Apostle** (Greek: Apostolos): messenger

**Messenger:** a person who carries a message or is employed to carry messages.

*“through whom **we have received grace and apostleship** to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,”*  
*Romans. 1:4*

A messenger is a carrier of information or goods with intent to deliver. In our apostleship, we carry the life changing, life giving, message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have a message, but if we are not walking in our identity as messenger, then our message just becomes information.

Our identity doesn't stop at who we are, but it also consists of our positioning and what has been done for us to become who we are. One of the enemy's sad tactics is to get us to forget what was done for us. Because if he can't get us lost in false identity, he will do his best to get us wrapped up in shallow faith. He wants us to forget all that we have been freed from and all that was paid on our behalf. But we can stop all that chatter from him by recalling all that we have in Christ. Our knowledge of those truths gives us power.

In Christ you have been:

**Qualified** (Colossians 1:10-14)

Qualify: be entitled to a particular benefit or privilege by fulfilling a necessary condition

**Justified** (Romans 5:8-9)

Justify: declare or make righteous in the sight of God.

**Redeemed** (Colossians 1:10-14)

Redeem: gain or regain possession of (something) in exchange for payment:

**Reconciled** (Romans 5:10)

Reconcile: *restore* friendly relations between; cause to coexist in harmony, make or show to be compatible; make (one account) consistent with another, especially by allowing for transactions begun but not yet completed.

**Saved** (Romans 5:9)

Save: *keep safe or rescue* (someone or something) from harm or danger.

**Made Righteous** (Romans 4:5; 5:17-18)

Righteous: morally right or *justifiable*; virtuous

**Forgiven** (Psalm 103:2-4)

Forgive: *cancel a debt [our sin]*

These are ours. Wrapped in the free gift of Jesus. Take these and hang them around your neck like charms.

### Own It!

I love a good bargain. Though sometimes those bargains come at the cost of personal preference. Like when you see a nice Bible on sale for a few bucks, but then you realize it has been engraved with someone else's name. But it's so cheap. How can you pass it up? You don't. You get that thing and be "Theodore Thermopolis" with pride on Sunday.

When it comes to who we are, we can't just pick up a bargain basement version of ourselves and hope it fits. There's no wearing the fake you with pride. You are the only one who can be you and have what has been bought for you. Our salvation and freedom were purchased on a personal level. For each of us individually. We aren't grouped together in our relationship with Christ. In the same way, we aren't grouped together in our identity in Christ either. The Father broke the mold with each one of us.

Your identity was created just for you and only you can own it.

Taking ownership of something brings about a different perspective of its importance and purpose to the owner. Ownership recognizes a responsibility, even obligation to be mindful of what is owned. Our possession of who we are is a key player in the fruit we produce as believers. When we are secure in our identity as a Christian, living from Christ, for Christ and to Christ, we bring forth fruit in the Spirit. Fruit that can be reseeded in others and reproduce in bounty. We live a life that reflects our security in Christ. A life full of faith, unmoved by external circumstances or shifting tides. Steady.

On the other hand, if we are constantly unsure of who we are, living in insecurity, we will produce spoiled fruit. The fruit of pride and fear. Insecurity is developed in a place of hyper-focused attention on self, having a skewed reality of self and likely the surrounding world.

We must own who we are **in Christ**.