

In Christ I Am ...



“And so God makes it possible for you and us to stand firmly together with Christ. God is also the one who chose us and put His Spirit in our hearts to show that we belong only to Him.”

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

Contemporary English Version

Identity in Christ: **Who Jesus Says I Am**

When someone accepts Jesus as their Lord and Savior, He gives them a bright new identity. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], *he is* a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life].” (2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT) It literally gives you a new lease on life!

So, what does that mean? It means Jesus has chosen you. You are now unconditionally accepted by the Creator of the universe and your relationship with Him is secure.

I Am Chosen

Almost everyone knows what it feels like to be the last one chosen. We all would like to feel significant - valued - chosen. Imagine how good it would feel to be the *first* one chosen - and by the student body president, the most powerful student in the entire school! That’s how Jesus sees you; He chooses you not only to be part of His team, but part of His family. And He didn’t choose you to sit on the bench. He trusts you to be a valuable member and contributor on His team.

“You didn’t choose Me (Jesus). I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using My name.” (John 15:16) He not only chooses you, He even has a specific plan for your life. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10) The Greek word used for workmanship is actually *poema* which also could be translated as masterpiece.

And this has been His beautiful plan for you from the very beginning. “For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love, He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will— to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves.” (Ephesians 1:4-7)

Prayer: Thank You, Jesus, for choosing me and for loving me so much that You chose to adopt me into Your family. Thank You that You have a good plan for my life and that You will help me achieve every good thing that You ask of me. Amen

I Am Accepted

Not only are we part of His family, but He now calls us His friends. We all know that sometimes just being a part of a family doesn't necessarily mean you're accepted, but we choose our friends because we share common interests and we accept each other, flaws and all. Jesus accepts us as friends and He lets us in on what His Father - our heavenly Father - *has taught* Him and is *telling* Him, and God is omniscient. That means He knows everything! He is the source of all knowledge and all truth. "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." (John 15:15)

Because He accepts us as His friend, He not only tells us what the Father is thinking, He is also our High Priest and He gives us access into the very throne room of God! "Now that we know what we have—Jesus, this great High Priest with ready access to God—let's not let it slip through our fingers. We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all—all but the sin. So let's walk right up to Him and get what He is so ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help. (Hebrews 4:14-16 The Message)

"For He has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins." (Colossians 1:13-14) "Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God." (Ephesians 3:17-19)

Prayer Focus: What a friend we have in Jesus! Take a few minutes to let that soak in, and then thank Him for choosing you, accepting you, and giving you access to all the fullness of God: His love, His mercy, His grace, His forgiveness, and the unfathomable wealth of His knowledge and strength.

I Am Secure

Webster defines security as the quality or state of *being secure*, as in freedom from danger, fear, or anxiety. It can also refer to something given, deposited, or pledged to make certain the fulfillment of an obligation. Our souls long for security, and in Jesus, that is exactly what we have.

We don't have to be afraid of our enemy because God has promised to protect us from him. He will still try to come after us to tempt us to sin, but we have the Holy Spirit now to speak words of encouragement to us to help us walk the right path - the safest path. "We know [with confidence] that anyone born of God does not *habitually* sin; but He (Jesus) who was born of God [carefully] keeps *and* protects him, and the evil one does not touch him." **1 John 5:18** Amplified Bible

The enemy will also try to convince us that we really aren't saved and that one slip-up will nullify what Christ has done for us. That's a lie! Jesus has told us, "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from Me, for My Father has given them to Me, and He is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand. The Father and I are one." **John 10:28-30** NLT In fact, He tells us that *nothing* can separate us from His love. We might distance ourselves from Him, but He is always just a prayer away. "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." **Romans 8:38-39** NIV

And just to make sure that we never doubt His love or His promise to us, He gives us His Holy Spirit to remind us that He is always with us. He's like a down payment on our eternal home. "In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of the promise, who is a first installment of our inheritance, in regard to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory." **Ephesians 1:13-14** NAS

When we put our faith in Jesus, there should never be a doubt in our minds that now we belong to Him, and nothing can take that away from us. We are secure in Him!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for choosing me to both be Your child and Your friend. I am loved and accepted, and there is nothing that can separate me from You. I know who I am because Your word tells me that You call me by name, and You chose me before I was ever born. Your invitation to me has always been there, and when I chose to accept You as my Savior and Lord, You accepted me into Your family. You tell me that I am fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14); help me to never lose sight of that. I praise You and thank You for the unmerited favor You have shown me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

How To Pray Scripture

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us. **1 John 5:14***

*“But if you remain in Me and **My Words remain in you**, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!” **John 15:7***

Why should we pray Scripture?

Reading the Word of God is how we learn God’s will. Scripture reveals God’s character and provides the blueprint for how we should be living our lives according to His will. There’s no better way to approach our Heavenly Father than with heartfelt prayers that align with His will using His Words!

When We Pray Scripture:

- it glorifies God and helps us stay focused on Him.
- it aligns our hearts and desires with God’s will.
- it gives us a foundation of truth.
- it adds strength and authority to our prayers.
- it helps us better understand the Bible and how to apply it to our lives.

When our minds are shaped by Scripture, we have a better understanding of God’s will. And when we pray with confidence and ask **in Jesus’ name** according to our Heavenly Father’s will, He will do it!

How do we pray Scripture?

There is no set formula for praying God’s Word but here are a few suggestions to help you get started on your powerful prayer journey:

The first step is to ask God to reveal His will and direction in the situation you are praying about.

Then find Scripture that applies to your circumstances so you can learn how God wants you to handle it. Praying Scripture is not just about identifying the problem; it’s about praying God’s will over the problem and understanding how He helps us get through it and/or overcome it.

The best way to find Scriptures that relate to your situation is by using the index in the back of your Bible or searching online. There are many wonderful Bible apps available but word of caution about searching for Scripture online - always verify that the source is reliable and compare the Scripture to your physical Bible to ensure the wording is accurate.

As you're reading the Scriptures that relate to your situation, it's important to read the surrounding Scriptures for context. If you have a study Bible, read the study notes for additional insights. Take some time in this step. It's essential to understand each Scripture so you aren't unintentionally modifying it in a way that takes it out of God's will.

Once you choose the Scripture or Scriptures that relate to your situation, find the key words and phrases you want to incorporate into your prayer and write out your prayer. Change the pronouns to make it personal: use **I** and **me** or **we** and **us**. If you are creating a prayer for someone else, fill in their name and their pronouns.

It's a good idea to write the prayer on an index card, in a journal, on a sticky note or type it in your notes app on your phone so you can refer to it often. Prayer is not a one-and-done event. We are to pray without ceasing **1 Thessalonians 5:17**.

Here's an example: Let's say you are struggling financially and are very worried and anxious about not having enough money to pay your bills.

It was easy to find a lot of Scripture about God taking care of our needs and trusting in Him instead of worrying. You do not have to use this many passages in your prayer. This is an example to show you the possibilities are limitless when you pray God's Word!

And my God shall supply all your needs **Philippians 4:19**

When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy. **Psalm 94:19**

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. **2 Timothy 1:7**

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. **Philippians 4:13**

Take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. **2 Corinthians 10:5**

God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him.

Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Romans 15:13**

Great is his faithfulness **Lamentations 3:23**

The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. **Lamentations 3:22**

God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. **Psalm 46:1**

My hope is in you. **Psalm 39:7**

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for taking care of all my financials needs. When I'm feeling anxious about paying my bills, You comfort me and bring me great joy. You did not give me a spirit of fear but one of power and love and self-control. Father God, strengthen me so I can do all things through You, and take captive every fearful thought I have and make it obedient to Christ. You are the source of my hope, and You will fill me completely with joy and peace because I trust in You and Your promises. Then I will overflow with confident hope through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Great is Your faithfulness, Father God. Your love never ends and Your mercies will never stop. You are my refuge and strength, always ready to help me in times of trouble. Thank You, Father God. My hope is in You. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Scriptures on Your Identity in Christ

Use them to write prayers declaring who you are in Christ, pray them often, and hold them close to your heart.

I am faithful (Ephesians 1:1).

I am God's child (John 1:12). I have been justified (Romans 5:1).

I am Christ's friend (John 15:15).

I belong to God (1 Corinthians 6:20).

I am a member of Christ's Body (1 Corinthians 12:27).

I am assured all things work together for good (Romans 8:28).

I have been established, anointed and sealed by God (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).

I am confident that God will perfect the work He has begun in me (Philippians 1:6).

I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20). I am hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3).

I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7).

I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me (1 John 5:18).

I am blessed in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3).

I am chosen before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1:4, 11).

I am holy and blameless (Ephesians 1:4).

I am adopted as his child (Ephesians 1:5).

I am given God's glorious grace lavishly and without restriction (Ephesians 1:5,8).

I am in Him (Ephesians 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:30).

I have redemption (Ephesians 1:8).

I am forgiven (Ephesians 1:8; Colossians 1:14).

I have purpose (Ephesians 1:9 & 3:11).

I have hope (Ephesians 1:12).

I am included (Ephesians 1:13).

I am sealed with the promised Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13).

I am a saint (Ephesians 1:18). I am the salt and light of the earth (Matthew 5:13-14).

I have been chosen and God desires me to bear fruit (John 15:1,5).

I am a personal witness of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8).

I am God's co-worker (2 Corinthians 6:1).
I am a minister of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-20).
I am alive with Christ (Ephesians 2:5).
I am raised up with Christ (Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 2:12).
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 2:6).
I have been shown the incomparable riches of God's grace (Ephesians 2:7).
God has expressed His kindness to me (Ephesians 2:7).
I am God's workmanship (Ephesians 2:10).
I have been brought near to God through Christ's blood (Ephesians 2:13).
I have peace (Ephesians 2:14).
I have access to the Father (Ephesians 2:18).
I am a member of God's household (Ephesians 2:19).
I am secure (Ephesians 2:20).
I am a holy temple (Ephesians 2:21; 1 Corinthians 6:19).
I am a dwelling for the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:22).
I share in the promise of Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:6).
God's power works through me (Ephesians 3:7).
I can approach God with freedom and confidence (Ephesians 3:12).
I know there is a purpose for my sufferings (Ephesians 3:13).
I can grasp how wide, long, high and deep Christ's love is (Ephesians 3:18).
I am completed by God (Ephesians 3:19).
I can bring glory to God (Ephesians 3:21).
I have been called (Ephesians 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:9).
I can be humble, gentle, patient and lovingly tolerant of others (Ephesians 4:2).
I can mature spiritually (Ephesians 4:15).
I can be certain of God's truths and the lifestyle that He has called me to (Ephesians 4:17).
I can have a new attitude and a new lifestyle (Ephesians 4:21-32).
I can be kind and compassionate to others (Ephesians 4:32).
I can forgive others (Ephesians 4:32).
I am a light to others and can exhibit goodness, righteousness and truth (Ephesians 5:8-9).
I can understand what God's will is (Ephesians 5:17).
I can give thanks for everything (Ephesians 5:20).
I don't have to always have my own agenda (Ephesians 5:21).
I can honour God through marriage (Ephesians 5:22-33).
I can parent my children with composure (Ephesians 6:4).
I can be strong (Ephesians 6:10). I have God's power (Ephesians 6:10).
I can stand firm in the day of evil (Ephesians 6:13).
I am dead to sin (Romans 1:12).
I am not alone (Hebrews 13:5).
I am growing (Colossians 2:7).
I am His disciple (John 13:15).
I am prayed for by Jesus Christ (John 17:20-23).

I am united with other believers (John 17:20-23).
I am not in want (Philippians 4:19).
I possess the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:16).
I am promised eternal life (John 6:47).
I am promised a full life (John 10:10).
I am victorious (I John 5:4).
My heart and mind is protected with God's peace (Philippians 4:7).
I am chosen and dearly loved (Colossians 3:12).
I am blameless (I Corinthians 1:8).
I am set free (Romans 8:2; John 8:32).
I am crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20).
I am a light in the world (Matthew 5:14).
I am more than a conqueror (Romans 8:37).
I am the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).
I am safe (I John 5:18).
I am part of God's kingdom (Revelation 1:6).
I am healed from sin (I Peter 2:24).
I am no longer condemned (Romans 8:1, 2).
I am not helpless (Philippians 4:13).
I am overcoming (I John 4:4).
I am persevering (Philippians 3:14).
I am protected (John 10:28).
I am born again (I Peter 1:23).
I am a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).
I am delivered (Colossians 1:13).
I am redeemed from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13).
I am qualified to share in His inheritance (Colossians 1:12).
I am victorious (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Focus - Confession, Repentance and the Forgiveness of God

“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14

Spend some time in prayer based on this passage:

- **Father, we are Your people, called by Your name, and we will humble ourselves before You!** Perhaps consider kneeling or lying prostrate on the floor before God. These are two very biblical postures of humility. Spend time repenting of your lack of humility before Him individually, as a church, and as a citizen of our nation.
- **Lord Jesus, we are Your people, called by Your name, and we will pray.** Take some time to confess prayerlessness and times when prayer has been your “last resort” instead of your first response. Confess the prayerlessness of the church you attend if corporate prayer has not been a consistent practice for your community of believers. Focus time upon the prayerlessness of the Church in our nation and confess the sins that have happened nationally on our watch.
- **Holy Spirit, we are Your people, called by Your name, and we will seek Your face.** Confess times when you have sought after other things for your wisdom and counsel before the Lord, and/or when you have placed your trust in people or government or _____. The Holy Spirit was given as a gift to teach us, comfort us and to intercede for us. If you have neglected or ignored the ministry of the Spirit by not seeking the face of God, take time to experience godly sorrow in whatever form that takes for you.
- **Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we are Your people called by Your name.** Right now we repent of these sins we have confessed before You: lack of humility, prayerlessness, and seeking other things, idols or gods before seeking Your face. We turn from our wicked ways and ask for Your forgiveness. We mean to turn towards You now, giving You our full attention. We will walk in humility. We will give ourselves to prayer. We will seek Your face and forsake lesser things in which we have placed our dependence.
- **Lord God Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth, we give You thanks for listening to our prayers...for hearing us from heaven!** We thank You for the forgiveness that is now ours through Christ Jesus. And in faith, we trust in Your ability and stand upon Your promise to heal our land.