

Forgiven, Fearless, & Free

Navigating the River of Life: Salvation to Sanctification

Week 6 Study: Over Our Heads in the River of Life Free to Surrender to the Spirit's Call

Washing in the water.

We are taking on the spiritual practice Stacy was given in her struggle to embrace her new identity in Christ. This week we are **meditating on His Word**, specifically the truth of **Who I am in Christ**.

For all the devotional masters the meditatio Scripturarum, the meditation upon Scripture, is the central reference point by which all other forms of meditation are kept in proper perspective. ... meditation on Scripture centers on internalizing and personalizing the message.

--Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

Making His truth personal in our lives and internalizing it in our mind, will, and emotions, emboldens us to live out His call.

Start each day by looking in the mirror and stating out loud:

I am the righteousness of God in Jesus.

The scriptural basis for this truth is found in 2Corinthians 5:21.

*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that **in him we might become the righteousness of God.** (Emphasis added.)*

Take time to meditate -- prayerfully consider, reflect on, think about -- this verse through the week. Silence the voices that refute this truth. Listen to what more God has to say to you, personally.

Surrendering to the truth of our new identity is an important step in moving deeper into the River of Life. It requires silencing our own understanding of ourselves and how the world works. It takes learning what God says and boldly living it out as true because of our faith in Christ.

Along our week of study, look for additional truth about who you are in Christ.



Wading in the Word.

God gives us His Word and through faith in Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, He reveals the truth of who He is, who we are, and what He calls us to.

Read the following verses. Consider and take note of God's call on each person's life in the passage. Look for what He called them (name or description) and/or what He called them to do.

Genesis 32:22-31

Matthew 3:16-4:1

John 1:40-42

Matthew 4:18-20

John 21:15-19

James 2:21-23

John 15:12-15

What do you learn about God's call on people's lives?

What stirs in your heart when you hear what God calls His people? What He calls them to do?

Read Romans 4:13-17

How did Abraham and his descendants receive the promise of God?

According to the passage, who is Abraham the father of?

What is the nature of God's call according to Romans 4:17?

Ask God to help you put faith in Him and the call He has on your life.



Who I am in Christ.

God tells us in His Word that faith in Jesus changes everything. Embrace the new creation you are in Christ Jesus. What God is calling into being, even though it is not yet fully seen.

I am a new creation.

Ask God to guide you in meditating on the Scripture that claims this truth about you. Let it sink deep into your soul.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

The old has passed away; behold the new has come.

2Corinthians 5:17 ESV

Be still, meditate, listen for God to speak this word of truth into your heart and life.



Remember your story.

We all have a name, most of us more than one. First names, last names, middle names, nicknames. Given names and married names. They are all part of our story.

Over Our Heads in the River of Life

Who named you? What's the story behind the name you were given at birth?

Do you have a nickname? Do you like it? or hate it? Who gave it to you? Why?

Is your name the same now, as it was when you were born? Why was it changed?

Names can be descriptive. They can be hurtful or encouraging. Just know, whatever name Jesus has for you, it's born of love.

*“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine. ...”*
Isaiah 43:1 NIV

Jesus has a name for you. He calls you by it.

By faith, ask Him what He calls you. Really. Take a moment or two and ask, then listen for His response.

Read Revelation 2:17

What does God have in store for you at His return?

How is His personal and intimate nature revealed in this gift?

Are you encouraged to go deeper by His promise? Why or why not?



Who I am in Christ.

Our natural stories are an integral part of our spiritual stories. They prepare us for the call God has on our lives and our place in His Kingdom. Some things we may be good at in the world and gifted in naturally, might become things He calls us to put down. He may give us new gifts and calls totally out of our comfort zones. Gifts requiring us to fully rely on Him.

But be sure of this. You have an important place to fill in His Kingdom. This week meditate on His truth:

I am a member of Christ's Body.

If you are not growing into and fulfilling the role God has called you to, His body is suffering and so are you.

Ask Him to fill you with the truth of who You are in Him.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.
1Corinthians 12:27 NIV



Discover God's story.

God's story is a love story. Look for His love in the following verses. Love for His people. Love for you.

Read Matthew 14:22-33

How did Jesus approach His disciples on the sea? What is revealed about Jesus in this moment?

How did the disciples respond?

When Peter answered Jesus, what was Jesus's call to Him? What happened next?

What was revealed about Peter?

Sometimes God shows up in ways we never expected, stirring us to do things we would never think of doing. Know this, every invitation and every call reveals something about God and you.

Read Jeremiah 18:1-6

What did Jeremiah learn about God when God called him to go to the potter's house?

Look at the details of the story.
How is the vessel the potter formed from clay described?

What did the potter do with it?

What would you have done if you were the potter?

Use a concordance to find other instances of the word "potter" in the Bible where it relates to God as Creator.

What more is revealed about God? About us? About His love?

Read Ephesians 2:4-10

What is our natural state apart from Christ?

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What is God's response to us?

How are we saved?

How long has this plan been in place? What is God's plan for our lives?

Again, look for His love toward you. Where do you see it?

Consider your "spoiled" past before Jesus, or places of failure along the way.

How might God use your personal story to make something good?

How does the thought of such a call make you feel?

Are you willing?



Who I am in Christ.

God is the author of every story, all of history is His story. And you have a part in His love story. Today embrace the truth of who you are in Christ according to His Word.

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 ESV

Speak this truth out loud:

I am God's workmanship, born anew in Christ to do good works.

The Greek word translated as workmanship is also found at the root of the English word *poem*. When we extrapolate this meaning into our life in Christ, we see ourselves as intentionally crafted to be beautiful and meaningful -- a lyrical work of art.

Spend time meditating on the truth of your part in His love story to the world.