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# First Light Herald

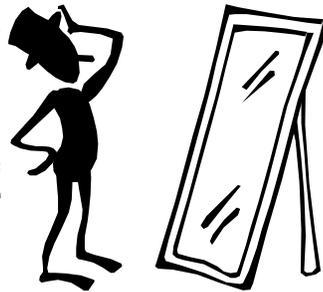
VOLUME 7, ISSUE 6

FEBRUARY 2010/5770

## Who Do You Think You Are?

Ok I know that that sounds like a challenge, but it's not. It's a wake up call. I exhort you to "Awake to righteousness".

Did you know that you are JUST like Jesus? You heard me right. You are JUST exactly like Jesus. You are not a poor, sick, defeated, good for nothing sinner with nothing to offer the world. If you believe you are poor, sick, defeated and good for nothing then the devil has used the only weapon he has left and has won. All of his weaponry and armor was stripped off of him and from his forces on the cross of our Lord. All he has left is what he had before Adam sinned, lies. He used to have the law to condemn us, but we have a new law; the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus. Jesus did away with the old law and took the curse of that law on his own body and suffered it in his soul.



*John 3:16 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (Sozo: saved, healed, delivered)*

*Colossians 2: 13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him (Jesus), having forgiven you ALL TRESPASSES; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them*

### Prayer Needs:

- Barnabas D'Souza in India. He is about to travel to Nigeria for ministry. He has left his job in the world to go fulltime in serving the Lord. He and his wife are standing for their mortgage to be paid off. They have suffered great persecution so we need to lift them up for divine protection and strength.
- Vantrice Burkes in Denver City, Texas. Healing in body and for her son. He and his wife are integral to Van's ministry and the enemy has attacked him in body as well as Van. We are standing for 100% restoration.
- Paulino Esquivel in Mexico. He has an orphanage with handicapped adults and children. With the economy in America affected his finances have also been touched. His wife Betty and the volunteers that help him daily need our prayers.
- The believers in Belarus. They are suffering more and more restrictions and persecution as the adversary attempts to put a choke hold on them through red tape and other methods of intimidation. Strength and protection.
- Variya and orphans in Belarus as well as Pastor Pavel.



## Who Do You Think You Are?.....continued *openly, triumphing over them in it.*

*John 6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, **This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.***

*Luke 10: 19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, **and over all the power of the enemy:** and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

*1 John 5: 18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, **and that wicked one toucheth him not.***

*James 1: 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: **24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.** 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

*Revelation 1: 18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

I want you to look at the verses above and see them like a flagstone pathway; a pathway that leads back to the RIGHTEOUS child of God that Yeshua/Jesus made you at the cross of Calvary.

Let's begin at the beginning. God loved us. He loved us BEFORE we came into existence. He planned us and our salvation before we ever made a single mistake or committed a single sin. He saw and sees us today through eyes of faith. He has placed HIS faith in us.

*1John 4: 17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. 19 We love him, because he first loved us.*

## Who Are You.....continued

Every time the Lord has looked down on earth He has been completely surprised by our lack of faith. He was surprised at Adam's fall. He was surprised during Noah's day. He was surprised at Babel. He was surprised when his disciples were void of faith ten seconds after he had told them what to do. He is always surprised when we don't believe. Why? Because he has faith in us. I will say that again, he has faith in us. He believes the seeds of faith he has planted will not return void, but will accomplish what he sends them to do. It's

time for us to stand up and believe it too!

The world has always wandered around full of fear and hopelessness. They have always been like lemmings headed for a cliff, but we're supposed to be different. We aren't supposed to follow the world. We have the answer for the world. The reason things are so messed up is that we've stopped testifying to the change God made in our lives. We believed the lie that there are "silent prayers" and a silent testimony. Sure actions speak louder than words, but all we are saying by our actions is that we don't believe in confessing Jesus before men. We left the job to missionaries and "ministers".

I know that when I find a product that makes my everyday life easier I tend to tell everyone I know. I don't care if others don't use the product or even like the product, if it works well for me I blab it everywhere. I remember when I found a product called, "Magic Eraser". I told every gal I knew to go get one and go about cleaning weird surfaces. I had faith in the product because I was familiar with it!

That is how we as believers should be. We can't continue to go to church on Sunday morning and sit for an hour or so and think we've done the work of God. If you think you're being fed by that I have a challenge for you. I challenge you to go to the best restaurant in the world and eat for about an hour or two and then stop eating for another week until the next time you return to that restaurant.

That sort of reasoning is why there are countless millions who have never heard the truth. I'm not even talking about the foreign countries of the world. I'm talking about your neighbors. I'm talking about the people you see everyday. Most have no idea that they were made righteous in Jesus' finished work. They see themselves as messed up, dysfunctional and not just like Jesus. We point out sin rather than the cure for sin. We judge them messed up and dysfunctional and never tell them the truth. Why do we do this? Because we don't see ourselves like Jesus therefore we don't see others able to be rescued. We see the junk in our lives and allow condemnation to stop us in our tracks. We don't see ourselves in Christ or Christ in us. We see our old selves and forget we've been forgiven of all our sin.

I exhort each one of you to really meditate on these verses and make them a part of your





## Who Are You.....continued

daily reading. Meditate, memorize, quote, confess and allow the word to be fleshed out in YOU! You are righteous in our precious Messiah. When you see yourself this way you will have the confidence to testify in word and deed! You won't be satisfied to sit in a pew and say nothing, but will be so excited that you have to tell your world about the best "Magic Eraser" ever, the blood of Jesus!

## Who Cares?



Here comes old "Trouble" again. He's clothed in darkness and carries, sickness, poverty and death with him. My response? "Who cares?" Why do I say that? You ask yourself, "Isn't she afraid to cross him?" Not so. I was struggling with fear over the stupidest thing a couple of weeks ago and heard these words. "I will be with you in trouble."

I don't know about anyone else, but the adversary stirs me up about the stupidest things. He gets me all worked up about going to the grocery store at a certain time. He works me up about how some folks drive like they were blind to speed signs or traffic rules. He frazzles me with endless little chores that have to be done and other little things that normally would just slip past my mind without a thought.

*Psalms 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; 3 Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.*

*Psalms 81:7 Thou calledst in trouble, and I delivered thee; I answered thee in the secret place of thunder: I proved thee at the waters of Meribah (testing). Selah.*

*Psalms 91: 13 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. 14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. 15 He shall call*

## Who Cares.....continued

*upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. 16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.*

I see little old David coming upon his brothers. They are all frazzled about Goliath. He's "trash talking" to the ENTIRE army of Israel and they are falling for the talk. Excuse me, rush the jerk and knock him down and kill

him. No, that's not what happens. They shiver in their sandals and act like helpless little nothings in the face of ONE GUY! They need to have watched "A Bug's Life". That big old grasshopper talked a good talk when he approached the little ants, but eventually they realized there was way more of them than there were of him. He had a few thugs to back him up, but not enough to defeat the entire ant population.

Here enters the shepherd boy David. He's dealt with big bullies before. He's killed a lion and he's killed a bear and he can just as well drop this big mouthed giant with the same sort of weapon that he dropped his first bullies. He is amazed at the fear on the faces of the soldiers. His own brothers are frozen in their tracks. What have they forgotten? That God is with the armies of Saul! If God be for them, who can be against them?

The devil is defeated in God's sight. He has been stripped of power and has been cast to earth. He hides in the darkness and whispers lies to those he may devour. But to God the darkness and the light are the same. He sees the fallen angel. His instruments of worship are all melted and tarnished from the huge burning black hole that burns in his midst.

I don't care if I'm struck dead right where I sit, I refuse to be afraid. Why? Because in the middle of the worst trouble that comes my way I am spirit and I leave this mess and go to be with God in eternity. If I live through whatever comes my way I eventually leave this planet and again end up with God in eternity. I don't even care if I make the trouble for myself, because most times I am the creator of my troubles. God didn't specify which kind of trouble He'd show up in, He just said TROUBLE! I think I'll stop here and just meditate on that for a while. I'm getting pretty peaceful as I do. You go ahead and meditate on it too. Chew it up real good and just imagine the worst trouble you've ever been in. God was there folks! He was there. It may not have felt like it, but HE was there. Selah!





## Holding Grudges

I don't like grudges. Grudges are ugly little things that sit behind magnifying glasses pretending to be huge ugly truths. A grudge is normally based on perceptions; whether true or false a perception is personal. Two people can stand and see any given incident and come up with two completely different renditions. After the incident the



two go their separate ways and begin spreading their personal perceptions. Within a relatively short time the thing morphs into something completely unrecognizable to the reality it once was.

When we hold unforgiveness in our hearts we are holding grudges. We are keeping a record of a suffered wrong. It matters little how true the wrong that was done to us may be, we are holding onto an ugly thing. The worst part of it is that grudges keep us from hearing God. He's talking love. He's talking peace. He is talking all the things that pertain to life and godliness (being like God), but we're not hearing. We are hearing the deceiver's voice and we are supposed to hear the Shepherd's voice and run from the other voices in our lives.

Forgiveness is the gift of God, but we have to receive it by faith and faith works by love. Holding a grudge or unforgiveness is not love.

I am a list keeper, but the one kind of list I am working to eradicate from my life is the list of wrongs from my past. Yesterday is my earliest past and the yesterdays before that are full of things that I must forgive and forget. I can't pick and choose which things I forgive. I have to forgive them all. I am learning to weigh every wrong against the forgiveness I've received from God. Is anything I suffer able to weigh up against what Jesus suffered so that I could be forgiven? Strangely enough, I have NEVER found a single wrong I have suffered that can measure up. I repeat NEVER. I have never suffered hell, I have never suffered the cross, and I have NEVER been completely separated from God. I have NEVER gone through a single hard thing that can compare to all that Jesus suffered for me and mine.

It is time for us to walk in love. If we don't all the faith we can muster won't yield a single thing. We have two commandments we are required to keep; to love God with all our ability and to love our neighbor as ourselves. That means we have to forgive as we want to be forgiven.

If you are holding onto an ugly grudge of any sort I say, "LET GO"! It just isn't worth making a pet of such an ugly beast.

What is it that we wait for? Who is it that we long to see? It is our precious Lord and

## Our Hope

the Heavenly Father. We long to stand in the fields of heaven and be with all the saints that have gone on before us. We know that this world is not our home, that we are aliens and pilgrims on a journey home. This world is NOT our home and we will not be staying here forever. This world is full of what Paul calls “light affliction” compared to the glory which shall be revealed. We cannot see the spirit realm with our natural eyes. We must see it by faith, and not a blind faith. Our faith is based on a hope so awesome that it overwhelms the

doubt that tries to devastate us through fear.

When discouragement tries to overwhelm me I ask Jeff to recall his “time” in the river of life. I am never as encouraged as when I see the full confidence he has in the reality of what he experienced when he was out of his body. I encourage any one of you who needs to hear about the river of life to ask Jeff to share. I know he was electrocuted with 19,600 volts and 600 amps of electricity. I know he left his body because it was dead. He on the other hand was very much alive. He is spirit (as are you). He is eternal (as are you). Do not be moved by the aches, pains, trials and yuck that comes in what seems like never ending waves to discourage you. These things are very much temporal. Eternity is real.

I knew as I held the body of my dead son in my hands that he was NOT there. He had left the building. I knew he was gone to heaven and that God Almighty was taking care of him better than I could ever care for him. As sad as I was, I was actually a little envious because he was gone to heaven. I have seen death and the thing that makes that person is gone. The person doesn't just go out into the great expanse of space and merge with the particles. To be absent from the body (for those who trust in Jesus) is to be present with the Father!

I want you to read these verses and take heart. We tend to avoid Revelation because it has some real scary stuff in it. I know that we have all gone to the end of at least one book and read the end. This book is worth going to the end and taking a peek. I'm just reminding that you can! Enjoy!



*Revelation 21: 1-4 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*