

Introduction

**I am a Child of my Father**

Chapter 1: Identity Crisis

Chapter 2: -Born of God

Chapter 3: Humanity in Chains

Chapter 4: Life as a Baby

Chapter 5: Unashamed

Chapter 6: Don't try the Impossible! (Sermon on the Mount Redefined)

Chapter 7: What is a Son to Do? – Prodigal Son Story Revisited

**I am a Servant to My Master**

Chapter 8: The Little Great Book (Book of Philemon)

Chapter 9: Choose to Serve & You Will Get Noticed (Ruth's Story)

Chapter 10: What was your price?

Chapter 11: The Son who became a Slave to be a King (Story of Joseph)

**Chapter 12: The Perfect Servant – (The Story of Jesus) – very incomplete**

Chapter 13: Resting in Identity – Understanding the Sabbath Rest

Chapter 14: Winning by Loosing

Chapter 15: Art of dying

**I am King to this World**

Chapter 16: Brave-Heart - (David's Story)

Chapter 17: Give me My Mountain (Joshua & Caleb)

Chapter 18: Chasing Donkeys (Saul's Story to Kingship)

Chapter 19 – Called to Win in War or Peace! (Conquest of Canaan & a Bit of Esther's Story thrown in)

Chapter 20 – Kings Don't Compromise Their Crown (Daniels Story)

Chapter 21: From Glory to Glory (Understanding the Cycle of Identity)

## Epilogue & Introduction:

I have been involved in ministry for 20 years. From pastoring local churches, to being involved in producing evangelical and teaching programs on Satellite TV to conducting revival conferences overseas, or standing in the position of a prophet for local ministries, one can say I have done a little bit of everything. But what the Lord had me embark on in 2011 and the journey that has led me to write this book has been the most important of them all.

If I had been told that it would literally take almost 2.5 years for this book to be finished I would have thought it impossible. When I penned the first words on this effort back in October 2012, I thought it would be done quickly and finished within a few months, after all I imagined I had all the revelation I needed to write it right then and there. But as life would have it, many things had to occur in my life, both good and bad, and I had to experience much success and tragedy in order for me to receive the inspiration and proper revelation to finish it.

I would have never thought of the valleys and peaks I would traverse in two and half years personally and spiritually from the time I felt compelled to write down the revelations of the triune Identity, Authority and Mandate God had revealed to me. It seems that what I know now is so much more than what I thought I knew back then and it is also clear that I have to learn so much more in order for this work to be truly finished. Perhaps the work is never going to be completely done as God is endless within Himself and there is no end to the process of knowing Him, therefore there will be ultimately no end in the revelation of oneself in Him.

So perhaps this book is a launching point of a life-long journey into knowing and finding ourselves in our God. After all, the God of the Bible intended to make man in His own image and His own likeness and what we do in the search for human spiritual identity and calling is in the end about knowing our maker and creator. Is not coming to know Him more intimately the end point of all Godly pursuit?

For anyone who is the student of the Bible they can see that there is a great harmony within its pages connecting the events and people of the past with the present and the future. As if the tapestry of time and events all connect and weave together to make the perfect singular story of our God and His will for His creation. There is a grand design in the Bible at work and one that I have come to call after the famous notable pursuit of the world-famous astrophysicist Steven Hawkins who still is in the search of the "Unifying Theory of All Things", by its spiritual title "The Unifying Theology of the Gospel". I believe that when the final words of the final chapter of this three volume series will be finished one day, the theological revelation and transformation it will present to the Church will not bring further division, but at last it will bring all Christians from all walks of life, from every denomination and cultural background to a place of agreement and scriptural unity. The truths God has revealed to me are simple in nature and they traverse prior theological divides and it is ultimately His Purpose that His people get to know Him and come together in one mind and one spirit to change the world prior to His return.

I know it's a tall claim to make after all. But I truly believe the IAM revelation is that unifying force and teaching that can build bridges between us as believers where there were none before. It overcomes

prior misconceptions and misunderstanding, it reveals simple life-changing truths and it activates the Church into its ultimate destiny.

So how did this all begin?

The journey started by the Holy Spirit asking me to answer three questions for myself.

Who am I?

What can I do as a believer?

What am I supposed to do?

Honestly, I thought these were silly questions. These appeared to me to be basic concepts of faith considering *“my vast knowledge of the Word!”* and *the fact that I had taught and studied some of the so called deepest teachings in the Christian World”*. Or so I thought.

I quickly realized that I did not have concise, clear, and complete answers to these questions. I could answer them in part and or in a way that I thought was right but I did struggle to provide the answers that I knew would satisfy the Holy Spirit completely.

For example my answer to the question of who am I, was a quick response; off course a child of God! But that is where it stopped. Then I sort of deviated into Christian phraseologies like “I am the salt of the earth” and “I am the light of the world” or “I am the Bride of Christ”! Well, by then the Holy Spirit had stopped me dead in my tracks and was quizzing me on if I actually even knew what it meant to be the salt of the earth or how to be the light of the world and in case I did get to wear my wedding dress, act like and be a bride to another Man!

Well, I can tell you all that I don't usually do well in these kinds of discussions with the Holy Spirit and I sort of call a time-out and go watch TV. But the matter remained unsettled and the questions were left unanswered. I knew that in order for me to go further in my walk I had to take a giant step backward. Sort of walk back all the way to the very beginning of the line. When you are trying to read and decipher end time prophecies or you are digging the Word to seek after the deeper truths on topics such as rapture of the Church or principles of receiving biblical blessing and prosperity and you are teaching these subjects to others, it is rather hard to come to a realization that after 20 years as a teacher of the Word and a pastor I did not have a clear and concise answer to such basic question asked of me by the Holy Spirit.

I mean, come one! Who am I? This is Kindergarten stuff? A first grader question sort of? Why is it even that important! I mean doesn't everyone know these answers?

Or the question “what am I supposed to do”? Off course I am supposed to serve the Lord and be the best Christian I can be and be the most successful businessman I can become. Yes? Or maybe not? I mean the Holy Spirit did not jump and put His complete stamp of approval on those answers either

which really actually irritated me? I was hoping for an A+ on theologically nailing that answer accurately and I got a rather disappointing tepid “nope” from His Highness.

On the question of “What can I do “the same thing happened. I was absolutely ready. I provided a rapid answers one after another: “heal the sick, cast out demons, prophecy, preach, do miracles, pray in tongues, worship, have wisdom, discern, exercise faith”. Fully expecting a wild applause and bravo from the Holy Spirit with ecstatic shouts of “Amen Brother”, I was instead presented with a “well, not exactly what I was hoping to hear kind of response”!

By now I was fully dejected. I felt stumped and frankly clueless. What is it that the Holy Spirit is expecting from me and what types of answers are going to make Him happy? What does this really mean?

I wish I could tell you all that at that moment, I was given this great revelation and I could truly understand the mysteries behind the three questions He had asked me and I could clearly comprehend His real intentions by bringing me to that point. But, this has been a journey of discovery, a gradual path of re-learning basic Biblical truths over the last 30 months.

This is for certain however, that the most important Truths in the Bible are the simplest Truths. The most important foundations that have to be built for a believer are a result of properly and accurately answering these three simple questions. I believe that it is far more important to help a believer, be it a brand new babe in Christ or an old-timer in the Church, answer these questions correctly and then apply them properly in their life than to teach any other biblical subject.

These three questions form the foundation of the greatest theological study a student of the bible can undertake. They form a sort of trinity of truth of what the Cross has accomplished for mankind and the Church eternally. They are the foundation stones on which to build a personal house of faith and a healthy church.

Once a believer knows who they really are in God, what they have been empowered to do by the infusion of the God-head into their lives and to know clearly their mission statement they are impossible to stop and the Gates of hell cannot prevail against them.

I know this, that the Holy Spirit has commissioned me to teach these truths and to help His Church answer these three questions successfully. It is the most important task before me. I hope that this effort will be both beneficial and a blessing to you as a reader. More so, I pray that it will help form a firm foundation of faith in you and that it will activate and enable you to be a far more successful Christian and Kingdom builder than before.

On a final note, I wish to reiterate the truths shared in this book are universal in application. They are applicable for all Christians of all denominations who love the Lord and seek to serve Him. These questions have to be correctly answered by Baptists, Presbyterians, Catholics, Charismatics, Seventh Day Adventists, Church of God, and by any true believer of any denominational persuasion. I am pleased that the Lord has chosen to have me embark on a path that can bless the entire Household of Faith.

Let us then embark on answering the first question; WHO AM I?

Mani Erfan

February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 ( At 33,000 feet high)

# **FIRST QUESTION – WHO AM I?**

## **I AM A CHILD OF MY FATHER**

### **Chapter 1 – Identity Crisis**

Understanding one's identity is by definition the answer to the question "Who am I?"

That is a fundamental question that has to be answered for every believer. Most Christians have a partial or incomplete understanding of their true identity. Some have a corrupted or false view of themselves.

Almost all behavior is rooted in the identity and the perception that a person has of him or herself. If a man perceives himself to be a winner, successful, and an achiever his behavior will be rooted and reinforced by that belief. Naturally, he will be confident, determined, optimistic, and probably more apt to take risk and more often than naught to succeed in life. Such a positive attitude and belief in one self actually overcomes physical shortcomings in many cases.

In contrast, a person who due to their past failures or experiences or physical shortcomings has a perception of themselves as a failure, non-desirable, un-attractive or weak usually is easily afraid, tepid, unsure of themselves, indecisive, and this follows a pattern of ongoing failure.

A false identity rooted in demonic lies will cause major behavioral insecurities that can result in destructive patterns of behavior that will surely destroy relationships, scuttle marriages, cause businesses and partnerships to fail, impede church and ministry growth and cause social and spiritual isolation.

One can say with absolute confidence that how a person sees themselves is critical to their pattern of behavior.

The greatest example of this in the Bible is seen in the account of the twelve Israelite spies sent to Canaan to spy on the land. Their mission was to gather information for the tribes prior to the intended crossing of the Jordan and facilitate a successful conquest of the Promised Land.

Now the Jews had experienced some of the most spectacular miracles ever seen by human eyes in history up to that time. They had just walked in the midst of the Red-Sea and seen God miraculously destroy the most powerful army of ancient times, the Pharaoh's army in mere moments.

They had seen and lived through the 10 plagues that befell Egypt. Each plague was a supernatural miracle.

They had seen God's provision of food and water miraculously be provided in the midst of one of the most barren deserts in the world. I know this first hand, as I have gone to the Sinai desert several times; it is truly barren, inhospitable and dry. One has to wonder how anyone could survive a week let alone 40 years in such a place, and not just one soul, but millions. There have been times that I have driven for 3-

4 hours in the Sinai and I have not seen one single tree or shrub. I understand why God brought them through such a place. He wanted the Israelites to know who their God was, and He wanted them to know that they could depend on Him and trust Him. There was going to be no doubt left evidentially that their God was able to meet all their needs and fulfill all His promises to them.

But what happened is incredibly strange. The twelve spies leave the camp and spy on the land and return with an awful report. We pick up the story at Numbers 13: 31-33

*“But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.”<sup>32</sup> And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size.<sup>33</sup> We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”*

I think the phrase “we seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes” says it all. In contrast Caleb one of the twelve spies has a complete different perception of things as he adamantly proclaims in vs 30:

*<sup>30</sup> Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”*

Now, Caleb must have seen the same exact thing that the rest of the spies had seen? Or did he? It is clear that this man saw himself not as a grasshopper but as a victor, a warrior and he was absolutely confident that His God was going to come to his aide. His perception and his sense of identity changed his view of the world around him. Seeing the same facts, he came to a complete different set of conclusions about himself, the outcome of the future engagement and ultimately the future of his people. Caleb’s identity was not defined or limited to himself or his tribe or his countrymen. His identity was defined by HIS GOD.

The story of the 12 spies is telling in many ways. Failure of understanding one’s identity can lead to terrible and disastrous consequences and ultimate defeat. A life destined for greatness can end up in the desert of mediocrity or worse destruction. Hell withholds nothing from its attack on believers from the moment they enter the kingdom. If we view ourselves as mere grasshoppers before the demonic giants that come against us, they we will run away from engagement, ceding Kingdom territory to the enemy, and never being brave and courageous enough to cross the river of faith and enter in the land of promise of our lives. Ultimately, heavenly destinies and the fulfillment of our Father’s hopes and dreams for our lives depend squarely on how we perceive ourselves. We are assured of this thing as the Word of the lord in Jeremiah 29:11 states:

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

A wonderful destiny is in the balance, the attainment of which hinges on our understanding of our Godly identity.

Our very character and daily behavior, habits, our reaction to events in our life and our response to difficulties, our ability to remain in the faith and ultimately to endure so that we can experience true victory are based on our correct understanding of our identity.

Jesus summarized his understanding of His own identity in a simple statement: “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30 NIV).

This is one of the most important recorded statements Jesus ever made and it shows how He perceived Himself. If there is one thing that I wish for the reader to grasp from this book, is this: that Jesus was not only speaking for himself but prophetically on behalf of the Church that was going to be born out of him.

By direct inference, since Jesus and the Father are one, therefore, you and the Father are one.

But before we go further let me ask this question:

Have you heard in Church this statement a lot: We need to be more Christ Like? Or, we need to become more like Jesus?

These are true statements but they are also rather incomplete. What we should be saying is that we need to become more like God Himself or better said more “God-Like”. I know the phrase does not roll out of mouth that easily and some part of us somehow feels that it might be somewhat sacrilegious to even think like this, but we are made in the image of God and hence our identity cannot be defined only in the Son, but in God Himself and within the trinity that defines him.

So in order to understand our complete identity we have to understand that we have a unique identity not only in Jesus (the Son) but we also have a unique identity in the Father and a unique identity in the Holy Spirit.

So now that we know we have three distinct identities we need to ask what these identities are.

A unique depiction of these three distinct identities we have in the God-Head is found in of the most unusual creatures ever described in the bible: The Cherubim as described in the book of Ezekiel and seen again by John in the Book of Revelation:

*Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.*

*In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. <sup>7</sup>The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, and the fourth was like a flying eagle. <sup>8</sup>Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings.*

*Revelation 4:6-8*

Four living creatures and four distinct faces or depictions and all of them before the throne room of God. It is as if God has them before his throne as a reflection of how He sees Himself. I call these four living creatures God’s “Talking Mirrors”. They speak to Him of who He is and His eternal identity. Let’s look at these living creatures more closely.



One has the face of a lion. If there is one creature in all nature that it's very name and appearance resonates kingship authority it is a lion. The lion then depicts the identity of God as a King.

Another has the face of an ox. An ox is made to serve and toil to meet the need of its master. Ox depicts the very nature and identity of servant-hood. Therefore the Ox depicts the identity of God as a Servant.

A third creature has the face of a man. For Christ came in the form of man and in the nature of the Son of Man. Christmas is all about the birth of a miracle human child born of the Holy Spirit who calls God Abba Father so that through his death and sacrifice all of us can call Him Father too. A man who was and is and will always be God. There the face of a man depicts the identity of God being born as a child of man.

The last and fourth one is an Eagle. Eagles are meant to soar in the heavens and they are known to have great vision and see all that is beneath them. The eagle is the creature that speaks of God's Divinity.

So if I may be so bold to say that God sees Himself as Divine Creator of all things that took the form of a man, and chose to serve His own creation but will ultimately rule as the King of Kings.

There are therefore three distinct identities that we share with our God in His divine trinity.

I am a child of my Heavenly Father and heir to His Glorious Kingdom.

I am a bond-servant (slave) of my master and redeemer Christ Jesus.

I am a king destined for greatness and called for exercising dominion through the power and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

So a healthy and complete Christian identity can only be understood through the proper revelation and understanding of all three identities. In fact each distinct identity defines the very parameters and rules and guidelines on how we are to conduct ourselves and interact with Heaven, the Church and the world around us.

Only after truly understanding our child identity, we can then grasp the very foundations of how we ought to interact with Heaven and the Heavenly Father. We then can truly embrace the Father's grace and apply it successfully to our daily life. We are liberated from the bondage of self righteousness once and for all.

Only after embracing our servant-slave identity, we can whole-heartedly receive and accept the Lordship of Jesus Christ over our lives and embark on washing the feet of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ with joy and gladness. We are then made free from the bondage of self gratification and the chains of self.

And only after believing that you and I are meant to be Kings and are called to exercise dominion in this world, we can understand why the Holy Spirit was given to us with such dynamic and incredible power. It is only then that we comprehend the purpose of our being sent out to this dying World as ambassadors of Heaven equipped with the power and majesty of God's Spirit himself.