Lesson 1A – True Identity – Spirit and Being His Child

"For the Lord will *comfort* Zion (you), He will comfort all your waste places; He will make your wilderness *like Eden*, And your desert like the *garden of the Lord*; *Joy* and *gladness* will be found in it, *thanksgiving* and the *voice of melody*." **Isaiah 51:3**

This is a promise that Father God gave many years ago, but it is one that He desires to fulfill in each of your lives today. He desires for you to experience all that was originally in the Garden of Eden.

- Eden in Hebrew means pleasures and delights. Our Father planned for His family to be blessed and to enjoy a close personal relationship with Him!
- Jesus did all that was needed on the cross to bring you back to a life like it was in the beginning in the garden!
- You simply need to come "home" and let your Father love you just the way you are!
- Jeremiah 31:3-4 gives you an idea of Father's heart towards you. He loves you just the way you are and He will do the work of rebuilding your life and making you whole!
- It is time for God's family to begin to see who you really are and begin to believe and act like we really are His sons and daughters!

Your Truest Identity – A Spirit

1. Do you get your identity from the outside, the inside, or from what Father says about you?

- Most often you get your identity from what you do, what you possess, or what others say about you.
- Once you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, your true identity is found by *being "in Christ.*" Acts 17:28 being, not doing; 1 John 4:17- just like Jesus
- Your Heavenly Father wants you to know He loves you as much as He loves Jesus. John 17:23
- Your Heavenly Father sees your true identity and loves to tell you who you are, but the question is will you believe Him?

2. The Real You – A Spirit

- You are made in the image and likeness of Father God Gen. 1:26
- John 4:24 says, "God is spirit!" Hebrews 12:9 says He is "the Father of spirits." The real you on the inside is a spirit!
- Father God is the One who *gives us life* as **Job 33:4** says, "The spirit of God has made me and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."
- Your spirit originally heard Father's voice and lived out of that relationship. Job 32:8 – "But there is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty gives him understanding."

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- *Becoming spirit conscious* as well as *Spirit of God conscious* can change the way you see yourself and thus help you walk more like Father God.
- 3. We were meant to live from our spirits filled with the Holy Spirit
 - The Spirit of the Lord makes the difference in our lives, not our intellect, wisdom, strength or might. **Zech. 4:6**
 - The Spirit can impart whatever is needed to accomplish what needs to be done.
 Ex. 31:3 Men were given what they needed from God to make all the items for the tabernacle.

- Num. 11:17, 25 – God put the spirit on 70 others so they could help Moses handle all the people.

- Isaiah 11:2 lists the various aspects of the Spirit that rested on Jesus. We too can receive the supply and ability of His Spirit to know what to do in any situation.

• 1 Cor. 2:12 says, "We have received the Spirit who is from God" and 2 Cor. 3:17 says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit." Thus we were made to live and walk by the Spirit. Read 1 Corinthians 2 to get a greater understanding of how you were meant to live your life!

4. Living from the Spirit takes the pressure off self to figure things out!

You were made to *depend on the spirit of Christ* for what you need, not self.
In Gal. 2:20 Paul understood that "...it is *no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;* and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me."

- The choice is yours. Will you depend on the Spirit or your flesh in each situation?

• Jesus is your example of how to live your life. He got His identity from His Father and looked to His Father about how to think, talk, and act.

He boldly said, "He who has seen me has seen the Father." John 14:9
Even though He was the Son of God He relied totally on His Father saying, "the Son could do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do." John 5:19

- While the devil tempted Him in the **wilderness**, that time alone **allowed Jesus to focus on His true identity as well as the purpose for His life (Isa. 61:1)** Settling this in His heart "Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit."(Luke 4:14)

• Let the Spirit reveal the glory of Jesus Christ. Then you will stop being so self-conscious and become more Christ conscious. John the Baptist said, "He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)

5. Your true identity is that <u>you are a spirit</u> that is made to live forever eternally with your Father in heaven.

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Your Identity – A Child of Father God

1. Father God created man and then He breathed/kissed His man and gave him life.

- All mankind came from Adam and Eve.
- In Acts 17:25-29 Paul tells some non-Christian Greeks that God "made from one blood every nation of men on the earth..." and he goes on to say, "We are also God's offspring."
- **Ps. 82:6** states "...all of you are children of the Most High."
- 2. We were once all His children (in Adam and Eve).
 - Father knows us even before we are born.
 - Jeremiah 1:5 says, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you."
 - Ps. 139:16 says, "Your eyes saw my substance being yet unformed.."
 - We are a conception of Father God Himself; He made the universe to house His family. He is our "real Father!"
 - Jesus paid the price of our redemption. He bought us back from the devil so that we again can inherit eternal live.
 - Jesus bought back what was originally His Father's.
 - Father created a second birth so that we could be born again back into the family.
 - Hebrews 2:10 states that Jesus' coming is "bringing many sons to glory!"
 - Today as many as receive Him, He gives the right to become *"children of God."* John 1:12
- 3. Evolution and other world views have taken us away from how Father made us.
 - Young people are struggling because they do not see who they are or why they are here.
 - It lays down a basis of total hopelessness, despair, and worthlessness.
 - If we are here just by chance or an accident of nature, then we have no purpose.
 - This leads to our having no reason to control ourselves or what we do to others.
 - These mindsets give no value to people; we don't see life as a gift or have a reason to live.

4. The truth is "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! ...Now we are children of God and what we will be has not yet been made known..." 1 John 3:1-2 NIV

- Paul wrote how Father "*chose us in Him before the foundation of the world.*" **Eph. 1:4** - God has wanted everyone of us!
 - There is no such thing as an illegitimate or unwanted child, only unprepared parents.
 - Children are only on loan to their earthly parents.
- 2 Corinthians 6:18 is God's promise to us, "I will be a Father to you and you will be My sons and daughters." He is a good Father and He loves us with an "everlasting love and draws us with lovingkindness." Jeremiah 31:3
- Father loves you as much has He loves Jesus! Let that touch your heart! John 17:23

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- **Romans 8:14-21** speaks about how the Spirit bears witness with our spirits that we are children of God and sons of God crying out "Abba Father" (Daddy). The whole earth is waiting for us to walk in our true identity and change the world around us!
- Galatians 3:26 through 4:7 is another place where we find the reality of how Father wants us to *walk as His sons*!

- Jewish fathers trained their sons for many years but there came a day when he announced to the whole town that his son can now do business in his father's name.

- Jesus showed us how to walk as a son, relying totally on His Father. Let us pray that *"Christ be formed in us."* Gal. 3:19

- 5. Your true identity is found in "being a son/daughter of Father."
 - When Jesus was baptized, He experienced His Father's pleasure in Him before he did one miracle or any ministry!
 - Father spoke audibly from heaven saying, *"You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* Mark 1:11

Father placed us "in Him." Have you heard Him say those words to you?
Can you say, "*I am good looking and extremely loveable*?" If anyone has a problem with that, they have a problem. If they don't like me, they have to tell my Father because He made me! We are all sons and daughters!

His love changes your priorities.
If you don't know His love for you, other things in life can become extremely important.

- The more I rest in His love for me, the less I will worry about things on a social level or in other areas of life.

• The apostle John had a revelation of how much he was loved. John 13:23 says, "Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved."

- Jesus came from the bosom of the Father, an intimate place of relationship.

- We are destined to be in the same place. Jesus made the way for us to come home to our Father. So begin to live in His love as a son/daughter now!