

WEEK READING
EIGHT PLAN
**WHO YOU
ARE IN
CHRIST**

CRYSTAL
GARNETT



MONDAY

GEN 1:27

TUESDAY

GEN 2:7

WEDNESDAY

EPH 4:22-24

THURSDAY

COL 3:9-10

FRIDAY

COL 1:16

SATURDAY

JER 1:5

SUNDAY

2 COR 5:17

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

When you chose to say "yes" to Jesus for the first time, you were inviting Him into your life. The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit of God now resides in you to teach you, lead you, and help you grow. But sometimes it is easy to miss that we have a part to play too.

See, God calls us to "put off" the old us so that we can "put on" the new. He provides the new, we don't have to. But we do have to choose to put it on every day.

Think of it this way... Imagine you have been working long hours and you are filthy from head to toe. You take off the old clothes, wash yourself clean, and then put on the new ones. This is the picture we see in this verse.

Our old selves (our old habits, our old way of thinking, our old language, our old identities, etc.) they are dirty and soiled by sin and failure. God calls us to take those off every day.

You have been washed clean by the blood of Jesus Christ. And in the same way it would seem foolish to shower and then put back on the dirty clothes you previously discarded, so too you shouldn't put on the old self that Jesus came to free you from. You are clean now, so we are to put on the "clean clothes" of Jesus.

Some examples of this could be:

- Your speech: do your words reflect your new life or your old?
- Your habits: do you fill your day with activities that reflect your new life or your old?
- Your thoughts: are your thoughts more reflective of your new life or your old?

HOW DO I MAKE IT REAL?

Try to think of one "old self" in your previous life that you want to work to "put off" this week. What is one way that you can practically choose to take off the old habits and put on the new, redeemed identity of Christ? Who can you talk to this week about your commitment or ask for advice? Pray that God would help you to see what practical steps you can take to claim your new identity in Christ.

F O R G I V E N

WEEK

TWO

MONDAY

R O M 8 : 1

TUESDAY

1 J O H N 1 : 9

WEDNESDAY

P S A L M 1 0 3 : 1 0 - 1 4

THURSDAY

E P H 4 : 3 2

FRIDAY

2 C H R O N 7 : 1 4

SATURDAY

C O L 2 : 1 3

SUNDAY

I S A 5 3 : 5

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

As a new believer in Jesus it is so easy to feel like the weight of your sin still rests on your shoulders. It's easy to know that Jesus has saved you and that you are going to spend eternity in heaven. But to truly wrap your head and heart around the fact that your sins have been completely and totally washed clean is something most believers struggle with.

That's why I love Psalm 103:10-14. I turn to it often to remember that God's love is so steadfast and true. And just because I struggle to understand it, doesn't make it any less real or powerful.

This passage reminds me that the God of the universe, this amazing God who is so far above me, who breathed out stars and spoke all of creation into existence... THAT God loves me with a love that is as big and as amazing as He is. And because He is so big and so loving, He has both the power and the love to be able to wash away even the darkest stain on my life.

So today as you ponder the immensity of Jesus and His love for you, I want you to remember that there is nothing... and I mean NOTHING... in your past, nothing you have done, nothing that has been done to you, that His love and His power cannot forgive. There is nothing that could ever separate you from His love or His forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

You are His- forever and completely. He loves you and you are forgiven. Own that identity today.

HOW DO I MAKE IT REAL?

Confession is a huge blessing and something that people of the faith have valued for centuries, not because God needs to hear your sins, but because sometimes we need to be able to talk about them. You do not have to confess to any person other than Jesus Christ. He invites us to come to Him and unload our burdens at His feet. And then He promises that if we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us. Every time. Always.

Confession does not make us "more saved"- your salvation is full and fixed at the time of your accepting. But sometimes, talking to God about our struggles and sins helps us to let them go. See, God has already let them go, but oftentimes we struggle to fully let them go as well. Like taking a heavy backpack off, confession is a way to put down our burdens.

So, what is something that you need to unload this week? Is there a particular sin that just seems to loom over your head and cause all kinds of shame? How can you take steps this week to put down that burden, confessing it to Jesus, and taking up the forgiveness that Jesus promises in His name?

REDEEMED



MONDAY

EPH 2:8-9

TUESDAY

ROM 6:23

WEDNESDAY

COL 1:13-14

THURSDAY

EPH 1:7

FRIDAY

TITUS 2:14

SATURDAY

JOHN 5:24

SUNDAY

ROM 8:1-4

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Life before Jesus can feel dark and lonely. But when we say "Yes" to Jesus, the Bible tells us that we move from a domain of darkness to the kingdom of Jesus. And because of the forgiveness of God through the blood of Jesus, we are now redeemed and righteous before God.

But it's important to understand that this new redemption and our new citizenship in heaven doesn't take away the struggles of this world. We will still struggle against a fallen world and even our own sin nature until we get to heaven.

What it does mean, though, is that sin no longer has to win! Darkness no longer has a claim on you. You are a child of heaven now and forever. So even though we may still struggle, we now have the power of Christ in us allowing us to find victory.

Before, when we belonged to darkness, there was no hope. But now that we are redeemed by the forgiving power of Jesus, we have eternal hope and a promise that "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

So today, when you are faced with the struggles of this life, remember whose kingdom you now belong to. You are redeemed. So, no matter what this world can throw at you, you have that hope and eternal assurance. Jesus will never leave you and never forsake you. You will never again belong to the dominion of darkness!!

Praise Jesus!!!

HOW DO I MAKE IT REAL?

The word "redeemed" means purchased from or rescued from doom. It encompasses the idea that we were once belonging to something else, something evil, and something harmful. But through the blood of Jesus we have been purchased and are given a new identity. What is one area in your life where you belonged to darkness before you said "yes" to Jesus? How can you start to celebrate that you no longer belong to anyone or anything other than Christ? You have a new name, a new identity, a new family through Jesus Christ. What is one practical way you can remind yourself of this as you walk through your week?

Can you identify any areas of your thinking where you haven't FULLY embraced your redeemed identity yet? Can you identify any lies that are standing in the way of putting on your new identity? Take those things to Jesus in prayer this week. Ask Him to show you how you are no longer a slave to those things any more, that you have been redeemed in His blood and that you now belong to Him.



MONDAY

PSALM 139:13-16

TUESDAY

PHI 1:6

WEDNESDAY

EPH 2:10

THURSDAY

JER 29:11

FRIDAY

PSALM 138:8

SATURDAY

EPH 3:20

SUNDAY

HEB 13:20-21

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In Ephesians 2:10 we are told that we are God's "workmanship". Take a second to think about that word. It implies design, effort, skill, care, and intentionality. You are not an accident and the way that God made you is not an accident.

The term "workmanship" indicates the idea of putting your hands into it. It is this intentional, intimate relationship between Creator and the created. It is the image of a potter sculpting a masterpiece with his bare hands.

If you take a look back in Genesis through the creation account, all of creation is spoken into being... until God makes humankind. For us, God "forms" us. It's this same kind of word.

You are so special to God that He put His hands in, He designed you, He had intention and care that He poured out into you. And then to top it off, He breathes His life into you. You are more special than you know. You have the fingerprints of God on you!

So, no matter what this world tells you, you are unique, you are special, and you are loved. God put care and devotion into designing you.

But for what? Well, this verse tells us! To do the good things that He designed you to do. You were made with not only a design but a purpose! You have an amazing part to play in His story.

HOW DO I MAKE IT REAL?

Take some time today to ask God to show you not only how much you mean to Him, but also what design He has in mind for you. Talk to Him about your wants, your desires, and your dreams. Ask Him to show you areas where you are specially made to do special things for Him. Ask Him to help you refine your dreams to better reflect His will for your life.

Now take some time to look for and call out any lies that might be standing in the way of you feeling loved, special, cherished, or made on purpose. Ask God to help you defeat those lies with the truth of His word and His Spirit.

Who can you talk to this week about the areas of worth that you are struggling with? Look for other believers who are strong in their faith that you can share your struggles, thoughts, and feelings with. Ask them to help you to defeat the lies that stand in the way.



MONDAY

JOHN 3:16-17

TUESDAY

1 JOHN 4:10

WEDNESDAY

EPH 3:17-19

THURSDAY

ROM 5:8

FRIDAY

JOHN 15:13

SATURDAY

1 COR 13:4-8

SUNDAY

EPH 5:1-2

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

I love how Ephesians 3:17-19 says, "rooted and grounded in love." There are so many times in this world that we can feel lost and tossed about. But this verse tells us that when we have Christ dwelling in our hearts through faith, we can be firmly rooted and grounded in Him.

That grounding isn't something that is situational or circumstantial. It isn't even something that you can affect. Instead, the rooting and grounding that Christ gives you is based in His perfect and eternal love. It is always constant and always true.

So, when the world feels like it is tossing you around, you can turn to the love of God to get your feet back under you. When you feel like everything in your life is unsure, you can rest on the assuredness of His love. When you feel like you don't belong, you can go back to the deep roots you have in Christ, knowing that you will always have a home with Him.

And once we grasp this, once we plant our feet on the solid rock of Jesus, we get to experience a love that is wider, taller, longer, and fuller than anything we could ever imagine. The deeper we dive into the love of Christ, the more we realize the depth of His love for us. It's never ending. You can't over-tax God's love. You can't over use it. It will always be more than enough for anything you might face.

So, today as you keep taking steps in your faith, know that you are deeply, truly, and eternally loved by a God who cannot fail and cannot stop loving you.

HOW DO I MAKE IT REAL?

Today I want you to ask yourself this question... "If I really and fully believed I was loved, how would I live different?" This is such an important question to ask. Because the truth is we ARE really and fully loved. But all too often we live like we don't fully believe that. We may say it out loud, but often our hearts don't really hold onto that truth. And whatever is in our hearts will be reflected in our thoughts, our actions, and our feelings.

So, this week, stop and ask yourself if you are feeling, thinking, or acting out of a place of totally believing you are fully loved or some place else. If you find you are operating outside the affirmation of God's unending love for you, ask yourself that important question. Then, once you've identified HOW you would live, think, or feel different, then choose to do it! Live out the truth of God's love in your life even when you don't feel it. Because the truth is, whether you feel it or not, you are fully, deeply, passionately loved by the God of the universe! So walk in that this week!



MONDAY
ROM 6:6

TUESDAY
PHI 4:13

WEDNESDAY
ROM 8:37-39

THURSDAY
1 COR 10:13

FRIDAY
2 TIM 1:7

SATURDAY
JOHN 13:33

SUNDAY
ISA 41:10

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

I don't know about you, but sometimes I feel knocked down by this world, wondering if victory really is on the other side waiting for me. It's easy to feel overwhelmed and unsure when life is hard. And it's easy to feel defeated when you're in the middle of the valley with no view of the sun.

But what I love about Romans 8:37-39 is that it reminds us of the bigness and power of our God. I love that the author, Paul, writes out for us all the things that we might be tempted to fear: death, life, angels, rulers, things happening now, things that happened in the past, heights, depths.... anything created. He lists these things out because he wants to make a point- Nothing is too big for God! And even more than that, nothing can separate us from a God who holds tight to us.

Sometimes, I worry about holding tight enough to Jesus so that I'm not tossed about by the waves or the storms. But this verse reminds us that it is the love of God that is holding tight to us. So even when my grip starts to slip, He is faithful to hold on tight and nothing will take me out of my Father's hand.

So, whatever you are facing today, however you are struggling to make your faith all you want it to be, no matter what this world is throwing at you today... His love is strong enough and faithful enough to hold you tight. And because of this, we are not just conquerors, we are MORE than conquerors in Christ.

He has won the eternal battle, and because of that, He is uniquely able to grant you the victory over your earthly battles today. So, turn to Him and bask in HIS victory as it is displayed in your life.

HOW DO I MAKE IT REAL?

What storms is life throwing your way currently? Do you feel tossed about and struggling to hold on? Instead of trying to do it all on your own, be strong enough on your own, and figure it out on your own, take those struggles to Jesus today. In your prayer time, tell Him about what you are feeling and struggling with. Truth is, He already knows! But the action of telling Him reminds our heads and our hearts who is really in control. It reminds us who we can lean on and who has the power to effect the real kind of change we need in our lives.

Are there struggles in your life that are a result of doing things your way instead of God's way? How can you take practical steps today that realign your heart and your life to His truths over your own?

Sometimes the struggles we face are actually because we are doing the right thing. If you find that you are struggling in a world that doesn't agree with righteousness, you are in good company! How can you reach out to other Christians for support in these trials? Take these to prayer too! Ask Jesus to give you the strength and determination to withstand the storm and hold fast to the truth.

No matter what type of storm you are in, Jesus cares and He wants to help you in it and through it. He won't always deliver us from the storms of life. But we can rest assured that He will always allow us to conquer them in His name! And that, my friends, is really good news!



MONDAY

1 JOHN 3:1

TUESDAY

JOHN 1:12-13

WEDNESDAY

2 COR 6:18

THURSDAY

JAMES 1:17-18

FRIDAY

GAL 3:26

SATURDAY

ROM 8:14-15

SUNDAY

1 PET 2:10

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Our identity as a child of the Most High King is pivotal to us being able to grow in our faith because it directly effects our view of God. For you, viewing God as your Father might make you cringe. It might make you feel fearful. Or it might make God feel distant or uncaring. You might have all kinds of past negative experiences that taint your view of God.

But here is the cool thing... Where earthly fathers and father-figures will inevitably let us down (no matter how hard they try not to), God never will. He is literally incapable of being an absent, harmful, overbearing, distant, or unloving father. He is the perfect Father, fully loving us exactly where we are, always wanting the best for us, always looking out for us.

Once we can step past our view of what a father might look like, we can wipe the slate clean and allow the perfect character of God to define what our Heavenly Father really is. We can start to live in the freedom that comes from being unconditionally loved by a Father who cannot fail us.

So, wherever you are today, whatever images the word "Father" brings to mind, you can learn to trust in the Father who will never fail you.

HOW DO I MAKE IT REAL?

Today, you can take steps to first identify the misconceptions that you have about God as our Father, and then start to combat those lies with the truth of who He really is. Take some time to sit down and write out all the feelings you have when you think about God as your Father- positive, negative, and confusing ones. Then go through them all one at a time and ask yourself if they are true. For those that are not true, find a biblical truth (use Google if you need to!) to combat that lie. Repeat the truth over and over until you have conquered that lie in Jesus' name!

If you don't know how to identify the truth vs the lie, reach out to other Christians who have been walking their faith for a little while now. Ask them to help you identify the truths and the lies. Then ask them to help you find scripture to help you combat the lies.

HEIR



MONDAY

EPH 1:11

TUESDAY

MAT 25:34

WEDNESDAY

GAL 4:7

THURSDAY

1 PET 1:4-5

FRIDAY

GAL 3:29

SATURDAY

JAMES 2:5

SUNDAY

TITUS 3:7

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Before coming to Christ, whether you knew it or not, you were a slave to sin. Without Jesus in our lives, we are captive to our sin nature with no hope of breaking free.

But, through the redeeming blood of Jesus, we are no longer slaves to sin. But Jesus didn't stop there. We are more than just freed from our sin. We are now adopted into the family of God.

It could have been enough to free us and leave us there. If that were all Jesus did, it would have been amazing. But that would still leave a chasm between us and Him and that just wasn't enough for the God who loves us eternally. He wanted all of us. He wanted us near.

So, when Jesus died, He paved the way for us to become part of God's family, effectively tearing down every barrier that stood between us and God. He tore down the veil and broke open the doors of heaven. He bridged the gap because YOU MATTER THAT MUCH!

So many believers fail to understand that you are not only set free, but you have a seat at the table. You have a place set aside specifically for you. You belong. You are a child of the Most High King and nothing you do and nothing done to you can ever change that.

And as a child of God, you are an heir with Christ. Every spiritual blessing that God bestows on His children is yours too. As an heir, you have an eternal inheritance that cannot rot, be stolen, or be broken.

There is a special place in God's heavenly kingdom that is reserved especially for you.

You no longer have to live as a slave. You have inherited a new identity in Christ. And God is with you always!

HOW DO I MAKE IT REAL?

Take some time this week to write out the spiritual blessings you have inherited as a heir in Christ. Here, I'll get you started...

As a heir with Christ, I have inherited:

- Grace
- Love
- Peace
- Strength
- Wisdom
- Heavenly citizenship

Now it's your turn. Try to find at least 5 to 10 more spiritual inheritances that you have received through Christ. If you are struggling, reach out to other believers. Talk about this in your small group. Ask a mentor or friend for their advice.

Now that you have your list, whenever the world or the enemy tries to tell you that you don't have what it takes, pull out your list and remind your head and your heart that God has given you everything you need for this life and the next. In Him you are complete, lacking nothing. And this world cannot touch the inheritance we have in Him. Praise God!

