

Knowing our Authority & Calling 1: OUR PLACE, AUTHORITY AND COMPLETENESS IN CHRIST

“A Native American elder once described his own inner struggles in this manner: Inside of me there are two dogs. One of the dogs is mean and evil. The other dog is good. The mean dog fights the good dog all the time. When asked which dog wins, he reflected for a moment and replied, The one I feed the most.” — George Bernard Shaw

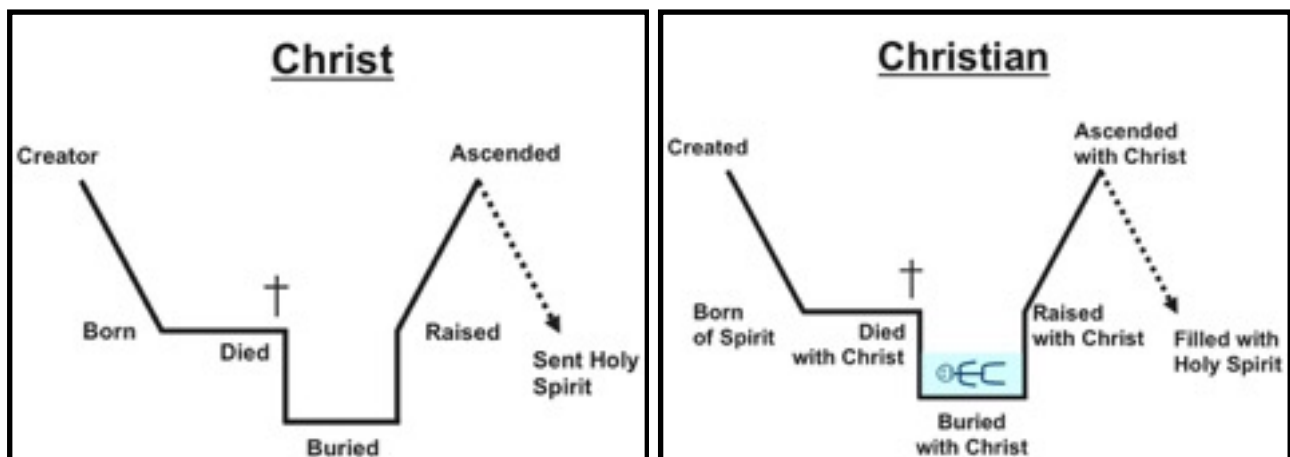
1. Our identity is IN CHRIST

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Eph 1:3

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:16-17

- We are seated with him in heavenly realms

Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. Eph 2:4-6



- Just as much as we are IN HIM, he is IN US

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

2. Knowing our identity IN CHRIST, leads to knowing the authority we've been given.

Authority is based upon the position we have, which gives that person the right to rule within the limits of and the scope of a designated authority.

Power is the strength, ability and capacity to exercise the right to rule.

- Jesus is the source of all authority

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. Ephesians 1:19-23

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. Luke 10: 17

Our authority comes from our position, and the power comes from the Holy Spirit.

3. We are 'full' in Christ

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. Colossians 2:9-10

(the Greek word 'Telos' = fullness. It means completeness. Complete: full, not lacking anything, perfect, whole, finished.)

- If we are full in Christ, we don't need anything else - to 'top up' our feeling of emotional or spiritual satisfaction.

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 2 Peter 1:3

- Knowing the truth about who we are & the authority we've been given gives us the tools to actually engage in a spiritual battle.
- We've been given all the weapons to exercise our authority and do battle in the spiritual realms.
- We have the authority of Christ, and the enemy cannot stand up against us in a direct confrontation of authority.

The Christian's birth-right card: [see the toolkit]

4. Each of us has a unique personal calling

Being filled with Christ isn't just about us becoming more Christ-like; it's about us discovering more of who he has made us to be. The more I come to recognise Christ in me, the more I become the true me!

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3:1-4

