

Recently I decided to memorize some Bible verses. I chose Colossians 3:12-17, and I began by memorizing the first verse: *“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.”*

The next day I read through the entire passage again and began to memorize the second verse. Then I realized that I didn’t really want to just put them to memory. I wanted to believe them. I wanted to proclaim them. And I wanted to live them. I looked at the first verse again. It was then that my head was stuck on the words “God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved.” I heard God whisper “do you believe these words? Do you believe me when I tell you that you are CHOSEN? That you are HOLY? That you are DEARLY LOVED?” God knew my past, and those words were hard for me to swallow, let alone understand. Why had God chosen me? Knowing my sin, how could He call me holy and dearly loved? On [April 24](#), I had written about how hard it was for me to believe God when I read certain verses in the Bible. Here I was again, convicted of not fully believing God when He was trying to tell me something. I thanked Him for not giving up on me when I felt like such a slow learner.

Tonight I was reminded of this again. Dan listed dozens of verses declaring what God has said about each of us. I have to admit, some of those words were hard for me to accept. But I need to read them again and again and commit to believing God when He says them about me.

Dan told the heart-breaking story of Gabe and Monica (not Nicole...Dan’s apologies), a couple who recently lost a two-year-old in an accident. Monica shared, “I believe God is asking us to now be stewards of our story . . . parents who have lost a child.” They have been heartbroken and yet they choose to pursue God. They choose to believe Him, and they choose to allow Him to speak through their story.

God wants to do the same with each of us. Our stories are different: some struggle with addictions, broken relationships, pornography, an abortion, losing a job . . . the list is endless! But God desires to show the world what He can do through our brokenness when we allow Him to. God has a story that He is writing, and it includes the redemption of our lives through our faith in Jesus. We do not have to get our act together in order for God to use us. But He won’t force us to turn to Him. And He won’t push us into believing Him. To begin, start with one verse. Write it on sticky notes and put them everywhere. Believe it. Proclaim it. Then live it!

Questions to Consider:

The Greatest Commandment is “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37, 39) Loving God is believing Him. What are the things holding you back from fully embracing the truth of how God loves you?

What are the areas of your life that you are still trying to find your identity in other than in Christ?

What would change most in your life if you could fully accept and find your identity in the truths listed below? Which of these scriptures do you need to embrace most in your life right now? Why?

Dan read through the additional verses below. Look them up and listen to what God is telling you.

Additional Verses:

YOU are faithful (Ephesians 1:1)

YOU are God's child (John 1:12)

YOU have been justified (Romans 5:1)

YOU are Christ's friend (John 15:15)

YOU belong to God (1 Corinthians 6:20)

YOU are a member of Christ's Body (1 Corinthians 12:27)

YOU are assured all things work together for good (Romans 8:28)

YOU have been established, anointed and sealed by God (2 Cor. 1:21-22)

YOU are confident that God will perfect the work He has begun in you (Philippians 1:6)

YOU are a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20)

YOU are hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3)

YOU have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7)

YOU are born of God and the evil one cannot touch you (1 John 5:18)

YOU are blessed in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3)

YOU are chosen before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1:4, 11)

YOU are holy and blameless (Eph. 1:4)

YOU are adopted as his child (Ephesians 1:5)

YOU are given God's glorious grace lavishly and without restriction (Ephesians 1:5,8)

YOU are in Him (Ephesians 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:30)

YOU have redemption (Ephesians 1:8)

YOU are forgiven (Ephesians 1:8; Colossians 1:14)

YOU have purpose (Ephesians 1:9 & 3:11)

YOU have hope (Ephesians 1:12)

YOU are included (Ephesians 1:13)

YOU are sealed with the promised Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13)

YOU are a saint (Ephesians 1:18)

YOU are salt and light of the earth (Matthew 5:13-14)

YOU have been chosen and God desires you to bear fruit (John 15:1,5)

YOU are a personal witness of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8)

YOU are God's coworker (2 Cor. 6:1)
YOU are a minister of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-20)
YOU are alive with Christ (Eph. 2:5)
YOU are raised up with Christ (Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 2:12)
YOU are seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 2:6)
YOU have been shown the incomparable riches of God's grace (Ephesians 2:7)
God has expressed His kindness to YOU (Ephesians 2:7)
YOU are God's workmanship (Ephesians 2:10)
YOU have been brought near to God through Christ's blood (Ephesians 2:13)
YOU have peace (Ephesians 2:14)
YOU have access to the Father (Ephesians 2:18)
YOU are a member of God's household (Ephesians 2:19)
YOU are secure (Ephesians 2:20)
YOU are a holy temple (Ephesians 2:21; 1 Corinthians 6:19)
YOU are a dwelling for the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:22)
YOU share in the promise of Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:6)
God's power works through YOU (Ephesians 3:7)
YOU can approach God with freedom and confidence (Ephesians 3:12)
YOU know there is a purpose for your sufferings (Ephesians 3:13)
YOU can grasp how wide, long, high and deep Christ's love is (Eph. 3:18)
YOU are completed by God (Eph. 3:19)
YOU can bring glory to God (Eph. 3:21)
YOU have been called (Ephesians 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:9)
YOU can be humble, gentle, patient and lovingly tolerant of others (Ephesians 4:2)
YOU can mature spiritually (Eph.4:15)
YOU can be certain of God's truths and the lifestyle which He has called you to (Ephesians 4:17)
YOU can have a new attitude and a new lifestyle (Ephesians 4:21-32)
YOU can be kind and compassionate to others (Ephesians 4:32)
YOU can forgive others (Eph. 4:32)
YOU are a light to others, and can exhibit goodness, righteousness and truth (Ephesians 5:8-9)
YOU can understand what God's will is (Ephesians 5:17)
YOU can give thanks for everything (Ephesians 5:20)
YOU don't have to always have your own agenda (Ephesians 5:21)
YOU can honor God through marriage (Ephesians 5:22-33)
YOU can parent your children with composure (Ephesians 6:4)
YOU can be strong (Ephesians 6:10)
YOU have God's power (Eph. 6:10)
YOU can stand firm in the day of evil (Ephesians 6:13)
YOU are dead to sin (Romans 1:12)
YOU are not alone (Hebrews 13:5)
YOU are growing (Colossians 2:7)
YOU are His disciple (John 13:15)

YOU are prayed for by Jesus Christ (John 17:20-23)
YOU are united with other believers (John 17:20-23)
YOU are not in want (Philippians 4:19)
YOU possess the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:16)
YOU are promised eternal life (John 6:47)
YOU are promised a full life (John 10:10)
YOU are chosen and dearly loved (Colossians 3:12)
YOU are blameless (I Corinthians 1:8)
YOU are set free (Rom. 8:2; John 8:32)
YOU are crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20)
YOU are a light in the world (Mat 5:14)
YOU are more than a conqueror (Romans 8:37)
YOU are the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21)
YOU are safe (I John 5:18)
YOU are part of God's kingdom (Revelation 1:6)
YOU are healed from sin (I Peter 2:24)
YOU are no longer condemned (Romans 8:1, 2)
YOU are not helpless (Philippians 4:13)
YOU are overcoming (I John 4:4)
YOU are persevering (Philippians 3:14)
YOU are protected (John 10:28)
YOU are born again (I Peter 1:23)
YOU are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)
YOU are delivered (Colossians 1:13)
YOU are redeemed from the curse of the Law (Galatians 3:13)
YOU are qualified to share in His inheritance (Colossians 1:12)
YOU are victorious! (1 Cor. 15:57)

I received this [love letter](#) today. It's written to you, too.

This month's memory verse: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3

REMINDERS:

5.22 – The Gathering at SHU at 6pm! ***LIVING: CHURCH.*** For some reason when I read about the 'church' in the Bible and look at the 'church' today, they look very different! What is God really calling us into!?

5.29 – 5TH SUNDAY - FAMILY CELEBRATION! ***LIVING: COMMUNITY.*** The 1MOSAIC family will enjoy some food, bonfire, swimming, volley ball, worship and many other fun activities...as we gather for a family camp out! Festivities begin at 5pm Sunday evening & will end after breakfast on Monday morning. Come and go as you please and bring your friends & family. Watch the web for more details & flyers on 5/22!