

Step #5

Do You Know Who You Are?

It's Up to You To Turn Up The Dial

We hope your journey through Steps #1 – 4 has been enlightening and spiritually prosperous. If you weren't yet born again before taking the steps, we trust they've led you to be baptized in water and with the Holy Spirit, leaving you eager to grow in your personal relationship with God.

You now have a holy power living within you which no man can take away or destroy, and indeed it is a power ("But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you..." Acts 1:8). But, the benefits of any power can *only* be realized when that power is *accessed*. An oven is useless, for example, if you don't plug it into the electrical socket **and then** proceed to turn up the dial (or – if you want to get technical – key in the temperature and press "Start").

Think of it this way: Before you were born again of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5), you were an oven that wasn't yet plugged into the electrical supply. When you were water baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit, you were connected – through Jesus Christ the Messiah – to God. Now, it's up to you to turn up the dial to cause the power of the Holy Spirit to come alive in your life. When you do that, all kinds of nourishing food will be produced for you – and others – to feast on. In fact, every person upon this earth is an oven so to speak, created by God; many just don't know what they're capable of should they sincerely turn to Jesus for help!

Some people might find the above analogy a little corny, but analogies can be very helpful for those who are struggling to fathom the enormity of what they've been called into by the Creator of the heavens and the earth. Besides, Jesus used these kinds of comparisons *a lot*, in the form of parables. Jesus wanted his disciples to understand the fullness of their heavenly calling, and He wants you to do the same. This understanding starts with knowing who you are as one of God's anointed.

You Have Many Titles

Now that you have a concept of what happened to you at your conversion, let's explore what the scriptures actually say about those that have been born again into the Body of Christ (which is, remember, the one true church). The Bible doesn't mention you're an

oven that's now plugged in and turned on; it says *far* greater things! Here's just a sample:

*Isaiah 42:1 "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine **elect**, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth **judgment** to the Gentiles."*

*1 Peter 2:9-10 "But ye are a **chosen generation**, a **royal priesthood**, an **holy nation**, a **peculiar**" – meaning belonging to God – "**people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath **called** you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the **people of God**: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."*

*1 Peter 1:2 "**Elect** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied."*

*Titus 2:14 "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a **peculiar people**, zealous of good works."*

*John 15:16 "Ye have not **chosen** me, but I have **chosen** you, and **ordained** you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."*

*John 15:19 "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have **chosen** you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."*

*Colossians 3:12 "Put on therefore, as the **elect** of God, **holy and beloved**, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;"*

*Colossians 1:12-13 "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the **saints** in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:"*

*1 Corinthians 6:2-3 "Do ye not know that the **saints** shall **judge** the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall **judge** angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?"*

*Romans 8:16 "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the **children of God**:"*

*Ephesians 1:4-6 "According as he hath **chosen** us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy** and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of **children** by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."*

*2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren **beloved** of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning **chosen** you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he **called** you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

*Revelation 1:6 "And hath made us **kings and priests** unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."*

*Revelation 5:10 "And hast made us unto our God **kings and priests**: and we shall **reign** on the earth."*

These scriptures contain many recurring, profound titles that pertain to us – yes, us! That includes you! We are described as God’s elect, chosen, called, beloved, saints, and children. We are a chosen generation, royal priesthood, holy nation, and peculiar people. We are people of God, holy, ordained, kings and priests, set to judge and reign on this earth with Jesus Christ as our head. How humbling and mind-blowing is that?! It should make you feel incredibly privileged and grateful on the one hand, and off-the-chart excited and empowered on the other!

While most of the scriptures above highlight our calling to bring glory to God and to rule with Jesus in the Kingdom upon His return, God has a purpose for anointing people with the Spirit that extends far beyond personal salvation.

Beyond Salvation

God initially established the nation of Israel (not the Israel we know today, but rather the peoples that were descended from Jacob whose name was changed to Israel) to be an example nation to everyone else upon the earth, that all might come to know God’s glory. Likewise, God purposes to use the Body of Christ in this New Covenant age as a beacon of hope to those “outside.”

When we open our mouths to declare the goodness of God and the way to a personal relationship with Him through Jesus Christ, we plant a seed of hope within the hearer’s being. Though some will be “pricked in their hearts” (Acts 2:37) right then and there, some people may take further “watering” (1 Corinthians 3:8) before they’re willing to humble their flesh.

It truly takes humility in order to receive the promises of God, and the Word of God is the only tool that can chip away at pride and stubbornness, or bring peace and assurance to the fearful and doubting. And, as children of the living God, we have been nominated as custodians of God’s Word. We are ambassadors of the truth (2 Corinthians 5:20). Only a lighthouse can guide a wayward vessel to the safety of the shore, and we have been chosen to shine a guiding light unto those that are lost in this world:

Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Matthew 10:27 “What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.”

Matthew 10:32-33 “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”

Luke 8:16 "No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light."

Acts 10:42 "And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead."

Acts 2:36-37 "...God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

2 Timothy 4:2 "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

1 Corinthians 3:8-9 "...he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."

1 Corinthians 9:16-17 "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward..."

2 Corinthians 5:20 "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

James 5:20 "...he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."

The keys to being an effective beacon of light are 1) our testimony - our all round conduct in this life, and 2) opening our mouths in faith that there *is* power in God's Word. We can do nothing of ourselves, so we are not to stress over trying to convince or convert. That part is up to God. We are simply the instruments, but God is the creator of the music that sings to the hearts. Knowing this enables us to relax and be at rest knowing that all we have to do is speak the truth and then we have fulfilled the first part of our commission.

You Have Been Granted Full Authority

The second part of our commission is to help people complete their journey toward Christ. As God's anointed, we have been given full authority to baptize any new believer and to pray for them:

Matthew 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"

Mark 16:15-20 "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized" – in water and with the Holy Spirit – "shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went

forth,” – after their conversion on the day of Pentecost – “and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”

We are all equal in God’s eyes once we’re born again into the Body of Christ. Even Paul the apostle rebuked the brethren at Corinth when they began to hold different allegiances toward one particular person over another:

1 Corinthians 3:4-9, 21-23 “For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building...Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ’s; and Christ is God’s.”

What You Envision Is What You’ll Get

Baptizing people upon repentance and praying for people (for the infilling of the Holy Spirit, for healing, for deliverance from some kind of burden in their life, etc.) is an act of faith on our part – faith in who we are in God’s eyes (and *not* in man’s eyes!), and faith in God’s desire and ability to work through us as his instruments. We also have the authority to pray for our brethren. We must know that **our hands and our Words are the hands and Words of Jesus!**

Matthew 9:29 “...According to your faith be it unto you.”

*John 14:12-13 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and **greater works than these shall he do**; because I go unto my Father. And **whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do**, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”*

*John 14:13-14 “And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.**”*

*John 15:16 “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, **and ordained you**, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that **whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.**”*

*1 Corinthians 1:25-31 “Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. **For ye see your calling, brethren**, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. **But of him are ye in Christ Jesus**, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”*

Philippians 4:6 “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

Hebrews 10:38 “Now the just shall live by faith...”

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

James 5:15 “And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up...”

James 5:16 “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

Though you’re made a new creation upon being born again of water and of the Spirit (2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”), you will still live in your fleshly body until Jesus Christ returns. Therefore, it’s a daily choice on your part to see yourself as God sees you - and act upon this vision - or not. The Bible warns us that “Where there is no vision, the people perish...” (Proverbs 29:18), so you must consciously feed your heart and mind with all the good (and simply amazing!) things God says about you in order to flourish and maximize your calling. The ball is in your court, so take it and run! With God on your side, nothing can stop you:

Romans 8:37-39 “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Note: Review the “How To Get Empowered With God’s Power, Today!” article under Step #2 for information on baptizing and praying for others.