

Who Are You?

As followers of Jesus Christ, our identity gives us authentic 'throne rights', which we must recognise and learn to use over time!

¹⁶ Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

(Heb 5:16)

¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

(Eph 3:12)

Throne Rights 4 – You can do all things through Christ

As followers of Jesus Christ, we have a totally new status in life, a new identity, through the fact that we are now part of God's family – part of the new creation that will come into its fulfilment with the return of Jesus to oversee his kingdom.

¹³ I can do all these things through Christ who strengthens me.

(Phil 4:13)

Firstly, we need to establish why we have this new status!!!

It's all about who Jesus is, what he has done for us, and who he has made us in Him!

Jesus said to the Apostles just before he ascended to the Father:

¹⁸ ..."All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me..." [Why!] (Matt 28:18)

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come... [Explain] (2Cor 5:17)

And Paul had this to say about all true believers in relation to Jesus' resurrected state:

¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

(Eph 1:18-23)

He identified our need for further revelatory insight to enlarge our understanding in order:

- i. To know the hope to which we have been called! (*Eternal perfection through Jesus*)

ii. To know the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people! (*Co-heirs with Christ*)

iii. To know his incomparably great power for us who believe! (*Res transformation*)

Which Paul then equates to the power the Father exerted to raise Jesus from the dead, and seated him on his throne at the Father's right hand, above all rule and authority eternally!!!
The Father did *for the church*: not just in the church, but that the church shares the same authority as the Son over the universe, of which we only have as a 'down payment' currently – the totality will be after our resurrection.

Secondly, we also need to understand the parameters within which this amazing authority has been delegated to us, as new creations who are still living in the old creation. Paul outlines our current situation for us within the context that our verse sits in:

¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do all these things through him who gives me strength.
(Phil

4:12-13)

As we read, we have begun to enter into the 'new creation' through new birth, however, we are still living in the 'old creation' while we inhabit our untransformed physical bodies!!!

This is the tension in which we currently live, and why faith is the essential element of our Christian walk with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We cannot do this in our own human strength –

We can only do this *through him who gives me strength* – 'power from above'!!!
(Lu 24:49)

It only comes through our personal relationship with the risen Christ and the Holy Spirit whom he gives to us!!!

And this is why we must always be reminding ourselves of the WHY of the Christian life:

- i. To know the hope to which we have been called!
- ii. To know the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people!
- iii. To know his incomparably great resurrecting power for us who believe!

The Father's goal for each of us is to be transformed into the image of his Son through the presence and power of the holy Spirit, because the Son is the image of his Father, and the Spirit is the transforming agent of the Father!!!