



# Christian Seeking Identity

June/July 2020

Greetings Family & Friends,

Suzan and I certainly trust in the Lord that you and your families are ALL safe and doing great. As we enter into summer it seems like many people are starting to get out more, in some places and a sense of “normalcy” is starting to be seen, even with facemask on. Despite this pandemic time goes on, schedules are adjusted, regular life routines have been replaced with new ones and mankind goes forth. This leads me to the subject of this June/July newsletter entitled “Your Future”.

We pray that it will be an inspiration to you in your daily walk with the Lord.

We continue to stay busy with helping pastors financially who have limited or no resources and with sharing the Word of God with different groups of people around the world via Zoom.

PTL for technology.

Suzan and I would like to take this time to say Thank You from the bottom of our hearts, for your continued prayers and support. You help us to be a help to others in many different ways.

God Bless You!

Your friends,

Mickey & Suzan

## Your Future

Have you ever tried driving a car forward by looking only in the rear-view mirror? You could say that it is virtually impossible, or at least very difficult. But that is exactly what our enemy Satan has many people doing. They are trying to live their lives by looking backwards into their past. You can't go forward by looking backwards. One basic yet very important truth that we need to know and get deep into our spirits is that when you received Jesus as your Lord and savior He did not just give you eternal life...for when you die...but He gave you salvation and an abundant life to enjoy in the now while you are alive and living on this earth. **Joh 10:10** The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: ***I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*** Jesus loves you and He has a great plan for your life.

You can read in God's Word how Jesus took people who were nothing and made them into great men and women. Peter a fisherman became a great man of God who reached 3,000 for Christ when he preached his first sermon. The Woman

at the well who had gone through five husbands and was living with another man became the first female evangelist. Saul, a Hebrew of Hebrews who had a zeal for God and went about killing Christians because he thought he was doing Gods will became Paul who wrote nearly three fourths of the New Testament.

Saul or Paul is the man I want to focus on. He was not a bad man. He was just a very religious man. He was a leader in his religious organization and he says in Philippians 3:8 (paraphrase) All my religious education, all my church work, I count it as garbage, and I threw it away so I could start following Jesus. Paul did not just get saved; he gave his life completely to Jesus. In vs 12 one translations reads like this; “I don't mean that I am exactly what God wants me to be. I have not yet reached that goal. But I do continue trying to reach it and make it mine. That's what Christ Jesus wants me to do. It is the reason he made me his.” We have to press into what God has for us; and how do we do this? He tells us in the next verse, Php 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but ***this one thing I do***, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.

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Notice that Paul says, “this one thing I do.” We have to let go of the things that are behind before we can reach forward and walk in what God has for us today. vs14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Do you think God by His Holy Spirit is trying to tell us something thru Paul? God wants us to experience the ‘Abundant Life’ and Satan tries to prevent that.

Let me say it this way ***Satan steals your future by keeping you locked in the prison of your past.*** When you look around (wherever you are) and you see people living their lives, do you really think that, that is the best God can do for people? Satan is a thief. He comes to steal your future by keeping you locked in the prison of your past. How?

One of the ways he does this is by ***reminding you of your past failures.*** This keeps you occupied with thoughts of *shame and regret.* We find ourselves in “If Land.” If I could have done this, If only I would have said that.

Not only does the enemy remind you of your past mistakes, he also steals your future by causing you to become bitter over things that other people have done to you in your past.

The second way Satan steals your future is by ***keeping you locked into old molds.*** Rom 12:2 tells us ***not to be conformed to this world:*** but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, that we may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. The Word tells us not be conformed (molded) to this world, and yet I hear many people saying, well that is who I am. I am not smart; my parents were like this and so am I. That may appear to be true but that is not who you are. The devil will try to keep you in your “Yesterday”. But that is not who you are TODAY IN CHRIST! What about **2Co 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. People tell me, that scripture is not working for me in my life. That is when I start to put them in remembrance of the truth of God’s word, and His promises and what they already have as a son or daughter of God Almighty.

TODAY...IN CHRIST IS NOT WHO YOU WERE YESTERDAY. Get out of Satan’s mold! Listen to what I am saying. In the Bible you can read how Jesus delivered people from their past and set them free to live in the future. But you say, “that’s who I am.” No, it’s not! You are living in the past. Remember in the Bible a person named Simon? Jesus changed his name to Peter. Remember Jacob, his name means deceiver. God changed it to Israel, which means prince with God. Remember Sarai who was barren. God changed her name to Sarah which means mother of many kids. Abram’s name was changed to Abraham which means father of many nations. How about Saul, the Christian murderer? God changed His name to Paul who became the evangelist. These people did not let their past, dictate their future.

The third way the devil keeps us locked up in our past is by what I would describe as “LEVELS”. Let me define it like this: Well my family never did better than this, and neither can I. Let me explain...there are some families that come from a long line of professionals and every generation seems to follow the pattern that is set by the previous generation. I am not referring to them. We experienced this in different countries but most of all in India. They have 5 general cast levels and the rule of thumb is that a person born in one level cannot break out of that level and go to a higher level. For example, a house cleaner cannot become a mechanic, or a banker. BUT I personally know of people who rose above their cast level and went to higher levels and are successful business men.

A lot of people are deceived into thinking that they cannot achieve a higher level of spirituality. But the God of the Bible operates things totally different than Satan, than tradition, than religion, then the ways of the world. They always tell you “you can’t” yet my God tells me in His Word that “I Can”. Php 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

We are living beneath the standards that God has set for us in our lives because we have listened to the lies and deceptions of the enemy. That is why it is important for us to know who we are and walk in our identity in Christ. Let us stop living in our yesterday’s according to the enemy’s deceptions and instead live in our todays and aim for the future that Christ Jesus has prepared for us.