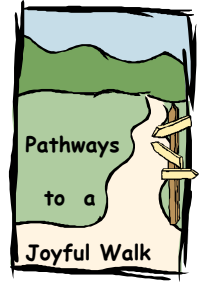


PATHWAY #1: KNOW WHO YOU ARE

"How we see ourselves directs how we live our faith walk."



Romans 5:19-6:5 (NIV)

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

20 The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, **21** so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? **2** By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? **3** Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

You've got to know your identity *Rom 5:19-6:2*

Believers get a new life with a radical new identity and are set free to live a radically new kind of life. You are not who you used to be. (2 *Cor. 5:14-17*)

Not knowing your identity enslaves you

Being enslaved to illiteracy of the Bible and poor teaching...
...results in having no idea what your new identity is and all the benefits that come with it.

Knowing your identity sets you free *Rom. 6:3-5*

From God's point of view, there are two kinds of people in the world—those "in Adam" and those "in Christ". Who you are "in" determines your identity and your options for living.

World's Lies

- ✓ You are still a sinner because you sometimes sin.
- ✓ You get your identity from what you have done.
- ✓ You get your identity from what people say about you.
- ✓ Your behavior tells you what to believe about yourself.

God's Truth

- ✓ You are a _____ who sometimes sins.
- ✓ You get your identity from what _____ has done for you.
- ✓ You get your identity from what _____ says about you.
- ✓ Your belief about yourself _____ your behavior.

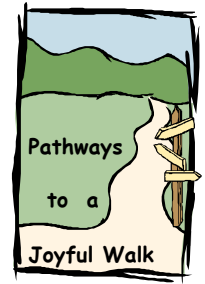
As a believer in Jesus Christ, you can assuredly say,

"I am in Christ, a child of God and one of God's saints, totally accepted and loved by Him."

WALK JOYFULLY!

PATHWAY #2: KNOW WHOM YOU ARE SERVING

"Set free from sin's power because a greater power has moved in."



Romans 6:6-14 (NIV)

6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin —

7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. 14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

My Relationship to Sin Rom 6:6-14

Sin's power is broken by Jesus' transforming power.

Sin no longer makes me guilty before God, separated from Him.

- **Confession** is _____ with God what you and He both know to be true.
- **Repentance** is _____ your mind about that sin, mourning its ugliness.
- **Dependence** is _____ to the transforming power of Jesus inside for that change to take place.
- **Forgiveness** is God's _____ removal of sin from our account with Him.

My Daily Choice How to Serve Jesus as His Woman

Option 1: Actively serve my new master Jesus

- Step 1: View yourself rightly. "I am a child of God who sometimes _____."
- Step 2: Agree with God that _____ is sin and doesn't fit one who is serving Him.
- Step 3: Desire not to _____ any longer. "Lord Jesus, please nudge me when I am _____. When He does, agree with Him.
- Step 4: Depend on Jesus' power in you to replace your _____ with something better. "Okay, Lord, by faith, I am going to let you do that in my life."

Option 2: Be passive to my new master; say "yes" to the old master sin.

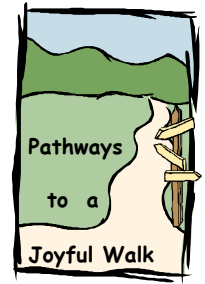
Having been set free from the power of sin, you can choose to say,

"Lord Jesus, I am YOUR woman today, tomorrow, and the next day."

WALK JOYFULLY!

PATHWAY #3: KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING

"We can faithfully endure hard times and have joy in the process."



Romans 5:1-5 (NIV)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

James 1:2-6 (NIV)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

As Christians, when we encounter stress, pressure, pain and suffering, we are more susceptible to wiggle, run, compromise or sin to avoid the suffering. Paul and James wrote to encourage suffering believers to persevere.

"Perseverance" (*Gr. hypomone*)

A strong word that means "bearing under". It's holding up a load with staying power, tenacity and stick-to-it-iveness. It's the quality that enables a person to stand on his or her feet when facing a storm head on.

What trials are you facing today?

Know where you are going—wherever Jesus leads you to go. Persevere...joyfully...listening to His voice...drowning out all the others...even when it hurts...when you're tired...when you want to give up...when you want to settle for less.

Believe it or not, faithfully enduring the hard times will lead to a joyful walk.

WALK JOYFULLY!