

Freedom's Gate

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Where? were you?

By Joe Pranger

"Where were you before you were born?" the Lord asked a friend of ours. Have you ever thought about that? Psalm 139:15,16 says "My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet **unformed**. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were **none of them**."

After pondering the question for a minute, she answered "Well, in You, I guess." She was right according to Ephesians 1:4: "Just as He chose us **in Him before** the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love."

You were in Him before God ever said, "Let there be light." Not only were you in Him before time began, you were holy and blameless **in Him**. God has always seen all men **in Christ**; that has always been His heart and plan. But He gave man a free will and let him make His choice whether he would receive God's plan or not. Ecclesiastes 7:29 tells us that God made man upright, but man sought out many schemes.

There was a long period of time when man didn't know of that plan, but God still made provision for him to have eternal life. In the Old Testament, men looked toward a coming Redeemer, but in the New Testament, we **have** the Redeemer! God's plan is no longer a mystery, it is no longer hope – it has been revealed! He is here and a substance in the flesh that you can touch and feel (you are in Him and He is in you. Just wrap your arms around yourself and give Jesus a big hug!). What was from the beginning has been opened up to us. Not only can you know that you are in Christ, but you can live there and experience being **in Him** all the time. Acts 17:28a says, "For in Him we live and move and have our being..."

It's good to know we are in Him, to know His peace, joy, and provision that comes from abiding in Him. However, did you know there is so much more? Abiding in Him is the first step; being seated with Christ in heavenly places is just the beginning.

2 Timothy 1:9 (KJV) reads, "Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began." Let's examine this verse closer.

Notice first that God saved you and gave you a holy calling. Second, this holy calling was **not** according to your works, but according to **His own purpose and grace** which He gave us **in Christ Jesus**. Third – take note of this – it was all done **before** time began. You can't mess it up! It doesn't matter what you have done. Let me emphasize it again – it is **not** according to **your** works. It is about His purpose and plan.

1 Corinthians 12:27 says you are a member **in particular** in Christ's Body. That means you are one of a kind and there is a calling that you have in His Body that nobody else has. Your part is needed and nobody else can do it for you. Oh yes, you can say no to God (God does not violate our free will. Because of His foreknowledge, He knew what you would choose and planned your days accordingly to fit His purpose and plan). He will not force you and His love for you will always be unconditional. He can get someone else to do your job, but it will be different than if it was done by you. Why? Because you are a **member in particular** with a particular holy calling designed especially for you! Read Ephesians 4:16: "From whom the whole body joined and knit together by what **every joint** supplies, according to the effective working by which **every part** does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."

Recently we heard a story told by our pastor (Pastor Campbell, Life Bridge Church) that I would like to share with you. A man died

and went to heaven. During his life on earth, he enjoyed studying history and in particular, all the great generals. However, he could never figure out who was the greatest general that ever lived. Upon entering heaven, he encountered Saint Peter and thought, "Perhaps he will know the answer." "Who was the greatest general that ever lived?" he asked. Peter said, "Oh that is easy. It was that man right over there." The man who just arrived in heaven looked at the man he pointed to and was stunned by Peter's answer. He said, "That can't be. I know that man and he was just a common laborer." Peter responded, "No, he was the greatest general that ever lived. He just didn't know it. He never knew his destiny."

That is where many in the Body of Christ are. There is greatness on the inside of them, a destiny unfulfilled! They are a member in particular with a holy calling given before time began and are unaware of who they are and of **Whose** they are! Friend, you are a "called out one", a member of Christ's Body with a special calling and a destiny to be fulfilled in His kingdom (which is His literal physical flesh body on the earth). Let me say it again; you have been saved and given a **holy calling**.

There came a time when we realized it was not enough just to be a member of a church (organization). We needed to be a member of **the** church (organism). Church in the Bible means the "called out ones." In order to be a member of Christ's Body, you must be born again. His Body is an organism, made up of people who have received His salvation, who are not their own anymore, having been purchased by Him. We are Christ's physical, living, breathing, moving existence on this earth. We are flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone (Ephesians 5:30, KJV).

However, unless His head and His mind are governing your body, then you are walking in your old man, your carnal man. You are not walking in Him, Who is **the new creation**, the new man, the Spirit of Christ. You may be like the greatest general that ever lived, but yet living your life like a "common laborer." You are still saved and going to heaven, but not living in what you were created to be.

Many Christians, self included, have diligently served God. At times we were trying to serve Him because we loved Him, and other

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times because we thought we needed His approval. That is a position of a servant. Galatians 4:7 tells us that we are no longer servants, but sons. You are really a son! God your Father has established and translated you into

God's kingdom, which is His Son's Body, the new creation. You were birthed from God's own body and you have birthrights. You were born of an incorruptible seed, meaning you cannot corrupt this new life. There are no laws to keep in the new creation; therefore there is no provision for failure. There is only the law of liberty in Christ Jesus.

Since God's calling is not according to your works, it doesn't matter what was in your past, good or bad. Any mistakes you have made in the past or for that matter, any mistakes you will make in the future play no part in God's plan and His purpose. Before **it all began**, He fixed it! Not only did God fix your mistakes and sins, He fixed you! So be a son and sit down in Him.

Many years ago, long before we understood any of this with our minds, there was "something" down on the inside of us that knew this. We weren't going to just sail through this life doing our own thing. We purposed we would be all the Lord designed us to be and that our family would be too.

Having given us greater understanding, we believe God has "enlarged" our calling somewhat and we are called to unlock people's destiny in Him! So come, let me lead you first to your home in Him. You need to sit down with Christ in God, for it is there that Abba Father, (Daddy, Daddy), will talk with you. He has wonderful things to reveal to you. He will tell you of your holy calling and your destiny in Him. But most of all, Father will tell you how happy He is that you have come home!

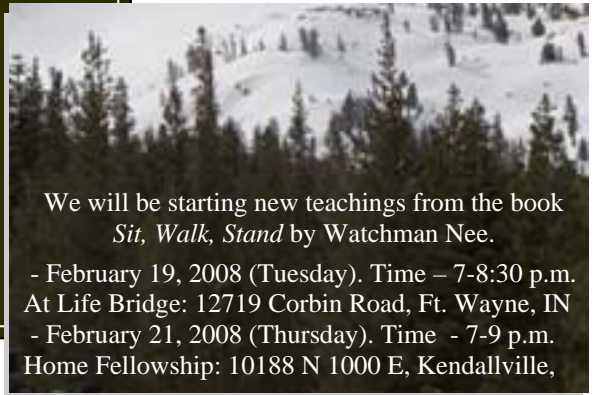
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Radio Station – Ram Zango

New and Living Way is partnering with Ram Zango of Burkina Faso to build a New and Living Way radio station, which has the potential to reach 3 million people daily. If you would like to partner with us, please use the enclosed envelope and designate “radio station.” Thank you.



We will be starting new teachings from the book *Sit, Walk, Stand* by Watchman Nee.

- February 19, 2008 (Tuesday). Time – 7-8:30 p.m.
At Life Bridge: 12719 Corbin Road, Ft. Wayne, IN
- February 21, 2008 (Thursday). Time - 7-9 p.m.
Home Fellowship: 10188 N 1000 E, Kendallville,

She Received Her Healing

My wife Iba was suffering from stomach infection that was causing frequent motions and vomiting which resulted in low blood pressure. It happened for almost a week. One night I took her to the best hospital in the town and the doctor said that she is completely all right and sent us back with some medication. But her situation was no better.

And then on 3rd February, 2008 at 10 pm when she started feeling week again, I literally got mad at the sickness and I told my wife, “Let’s settle this once and for all”. I opened the Bible and read for her Isaiah 53:4, 5 and told her that Jesus has carried away our sicknesses. You don’t have to be like this. Then I read Ephesians 1:19 – 2:6 and told her that we are in Christ, seated in Him far above the powers of darkness and they cannot touch us.

Suddenly I remembered the example shared by Joe and Anne about “Christ in me and I in Christ” (Three Plastic Boxes). And I started searching for something to demonstrate that example to my wife. I could not find anything but a plastic bag and a comb and I demonstrated the example to her. Later we rebuked the sickness and gave thanks to the Lord for healing her and went to bed.

Next morning when she got from the bed, she was healed completely and was as normal as nothing had happened to her. She was happy and rejoicing because she had received her healing. The glory and credit of this healing goes to the Almighty God Himself.

I would like to thank Joe and Anne for their teaching and example. It’s been a blessing for us to work with New and Living Way ministries and with Pastor James Chacko.

~ Manmohan, India

A New Man in Christ

I have been seeking for deeper truth in God’s work and wanting to know Him more and more. I did not know that it was through you that God was going to reveal Himself to me. The revelations that God has given you are indeed for our end times generation.

Be assured that this man is going home to Liberia, not the same man, but a totally different person in Christ. I am going to walk in the fullness of Christ and the authority of God the Father.

Please note that I am a partner with you and that this truth about God’s kingdom will be taught in Liberia among those I work with and those God will bring me in contact with.

~ Emmanuel, Liberia

Jesus, Our All in All

I had the privilege of going to Indiana to stay with a couple who taught me about being in Christ and Christ fully in me. My old man is dead and I function out of Christ’s body. Wow! I am a new creation – I truly feel it. I learned that I can choose between my flesh and spirit and how I can do that. Knowing that I have power in my words has changed how I talk. I am a new creature in Christ and take on His authority and power.

Amazing. It is the true freedom that comes from Christ and we just receive because we are in Him. I am so joyful and have such a feeling of peace now. Praise God for How He works. He is truly the giver of life and our all in all.

~ Amy, Colorado