

# INSIGHTS

*God values us like a king guards his treasure —  
kept in a protected place due to its extraordinary value.*



## OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

BY DR. DENNIS BURKE

Throughout its history, not only has Israel experienced supernatural interventions but also more than its share of desperate situations. From their captivity in Egypt, to wandering in the desert forty years, to finally possessing the land of Canaan that God had promised them. There were epic victories and horrific defeats.

For example, under Joshua's leadership the nation flourished. As Joshua followed God's instructions, Israel possessed one region after another, thereby establishing dominance in the land. As long as Israel identified with God, they thrived.

But after Joshua died, the nation strayed from God's ways and in the process lost their identity as His

special people. They wandered so far from Him that during Gideon's days the Midianites attacked and pillaged Israel's settlements forcing them to seek protection in caves for seven years.

God used Gideon, listed among the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11, to bring deliverance to this terrorized nation. Yet, when Gideon first makes his appearance, he is no hero. He is terrified, hiding, and hoping to thresh just enough grain to feed his family.

It's upon this backdrop that God initiates a metamorphosis.

And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him [Gideon] and said to him, The Lord is with you, you mighty man of [fearless] courage (Judges 6:12 AMPC).

**GOD CALLS YOU HIS TREASURE.  
YOU ARE VALUED EVEN IF OTHERS  
DON'T VALUE YOU—GOD DOES!"**

*How can that be?* Gideon did not appear mighty, fearless, or courageous. Instead, he oozed weakness and fear. He perceived his

family as the weakest among his tribe, and himself as the most insignificant member of the family.

Gideon identified with the confidence-killing mindset that destroyed his faith in God. He let fear and family define him. But God burst into the doubt-filled atmosphere to *redefine* him. Gideon was about to be given a new identity — mighty man of courage. A warrior.

Although God saw Gideon's desperation, He had a different point of view. When God spoke, Gideon's eyes opened to his true identity. Once Gideon saw from God's perspective, he let go of his old way of thinking and identified with God's new truth.

Like Gideon, the way you see yourself defines you. Your mindset literally determines the boundary around the territory of your life that you cannot cross. This is what the war waged against you is all about — how you see yourself and the boundaries that contain you. Will you embrace the person God says you are, or will you allow fear and circumstances to define you?

Jesus prayed for His disciples about this very thing. This is John's account of Jesus' prayer:

I'm not asking that you take them out of the world. But that you guard them from the Evil One. They are no more defined by the world than I am defined by the world (John 17:15 MSG).

Because you belong to Christ the world does not define you.

- Your past does not define you.
- Your behavior does not define you.
- Your failures do not define you.
- Your family does not define you.
- Your bad decisions do not define you.
- Your feelings do not define you.
- Your circumstances do not define you.
- Current ideologies do not define you.

Like Gideon, today, God Himself redefines you.

Everything His Word says about us reveals our *new* identity in Christ.

- You are righteous.
- You are healed.
- You are a child of the Most-High God.
- You are an overcomer.
- You are a conqueror.
- You are valued and valuable.

- You are a new creature.
- You are chosen by God.
- You are His special people.

Notice how the Apostle Peter defines you:

But you are God's chosen treasure—priests who are kings, a spiritual "nation" set apart as God's devoted ones. He called you out of darkness to experience his marvelous light, and now he claims you as his very own. He did this so that you would broadcast his glorious wonders throughout the world (1 Peter 2:9 TPT).

A footnote for this passage in *The Passion* translation says:

The Hebrew word is *ségulla*, which means "a special treasure" (possession). It is used to describe "guarded wealth," indicating the placement of the king's jewels, treasures, etc., in a safe, protected place because of their extraordinary value. God says that each believer is a priest and king, his unique and special treasure of great importance—a treasure above all other treasures. (This is taken from Exodus 19:5–6 and Malachi 3:17).

God calls you His treasure. You are valued even if others don't value you—God does!

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your day,  
armed  
with *the*  
Truth.

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LIFE  
*daily*

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every day on  
encouragement  
from God's  
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## UPCOMING MEETINGS



### VISALIA, CA | JULY 9-10

Praise Center Church | 420 West Murray Avenue  
Visalia, CA 93291 | 559-733-2744

### SAN ANTONIO, TX | JULY 30

Omega Church | 3737 Roosevelt Avenue  
San Antonio, TX 78214 | 210-923-2220

### EDMONTON, AB CANADA | SEPT. 16-17

Living Word Christian Centre | 5315-91 Street  
Edmonton, AB T6E6E2 | 780-462-3737

### BAKERSFIELD, CA | SEPTEMBER 24

Kern Christian Center | 4701 Gosford Road  
Bakersfield, CA 93313 | 661 664 1000

## TESTIMONIES

**"When Dr. Dennis came to our church he recommended Vikki's book, *Help! It's Dangerous Out Here*. I bought it and once I started it, I couldn't put it down! It came at the perfect time! It was just what I needed. I bought several of them for friends and then I used it in a message for my women's support group that I have in my home. I was teaching on the power of God's Word in our prayers. I read a couple of the testimonies from the book. Our favorite is the one about how God's Word was a wall that stopped a tsunami. Now that's power. Thank you Vikki for writing it!"**

—GM/Mesa, AZ

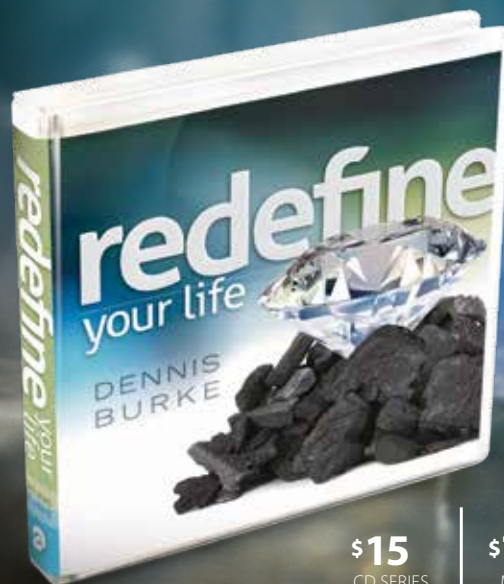
I learned this principle when selling an automobile: value is determined by what someone's willing to pay for it, not what you think it's worth.

Using that principle, think about the price that Jesus paid for your salvation. It's the highest price anyone has ever paid for anything. Your redemption cost Jesus His life. And He willingly gave Himself for you and me. This is the true value of each person. Your self-definition and self-identity must be founded on God's point of view.

The Apostle Paul describes the attitude we need to adopt:

Why does the abundant life Jesus promised always seem just out of reach for many Christians?

*How we see ourselves makes all the difference.*



Don't lie to one another. You're done with that old life. It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire. Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete. Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ (Colossians 3:9-11 MSG).

Make the decision to be done with the world's ways. Refuse to be identified and defined by the spirit of the world, the pain of your past, today's culture, or the current ideology. **You are defined by Christ.**

You are a member of the Body of Christ. This indicates that while at one point Jesus was the one body that was born of God, now you are born of God and His anointing defines you. You are the body that carries and contains the anointing.

CONTINUED ON BACK ►

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The limitations and borders which have defined you are no longer authorized to define you today. You are free from those old constraints. There is

a new authority governing your life. You have been *redefined* by Christ. Gideon was just one in the crowd of this unstable nation. Yet the angel of

the Lord stepped out of Heaven into this realm to reach one man. Everything changed that day. God was there for Gideon. Today, He is here for you!

**We need your help! Please help us curb unnecessary waste and expense by sending your change of address. Write or E-mail us at [dbm@dennisburkeministries.org](mailto:dbm@dennisburkeministries.org). If you currently receive more than one copy of Insights please notify us.** | Summer 2023 *Insights—The Way to a New Life* is published quarterly by Dennis Burke Ministries, a nonprofit corporation, Arlington, Tarrant County, Texas. ©2023 Dennis Burke Ministries. All rights reserved. Art Direction: SaltarMedia.com. Reproduction of this publication in any manner, in whole or in part, without the prior written permission of the publisher is prohibited. *Insights—The Way to a New Life* and the logo on this publication are trademarks of Dennis Burke Ministries, in the United States of America and in international countries where *Insights—The Way to a New Life* circulates. Printed in the United States of America. For a free subscription, please write to Dennis Burke Ministries, P.O. Box 150043, Arlington, Texas 76015. Visit our website at [DennisBurke.org](http://DennisBurke.org).



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## LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE

Many people let circumstances or criticism hinder their destiny. Still others achieve success by worldly standards, yet live in quiet desperation — continually stressed and dissatisfied.

No matter what you have allowed to define your life, with God's help you can find new direction and fulfillment. In this book, Dr. Dennis Burke offers clarity to help you identify what's held you back. You'll discover insight from God's word and secrets to redefine your life.

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