

# Our Full Identity in Christ Jesus

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*An 11-Session Bible Study*

Who We Are Because of What He Has Done

Includes: Greek & Hebrew Word Studies · Cross-Reference Trails  
Reflection Questions · Personal Application  
Group Discussion · Prayer Guides

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*"Christ in you, the hope of glory."*

— **Colossians 1:27**

## How to Use This Study

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This study guide contains eleven sessions, one for each foundational truth of Christian identity covered in the blog series. Each session is designed for approximately 60–90 minutes of personal study, or 90 minutes in a group setting.

### **Each session includes:**

Session Focus — a theological grounding for the identity truth, written in accessible language.

Greek/Hebrew Word Studies — the original language behind key terms, with context from the ancient world.

Cross-Reference Trail — connected Scriptures that develop the theme across the biblical narrative.

Reflection Questions — personal, honest questions designed to move from theology to your actual life.

Personal Application — concrete, specific practices to embody the truth this week.

Group Discussion — questions for open, honest conversation with others on the same journey.

Prayer — a closing prayer that speaks the truth back to God as a declaration and invitation.

### A note on approach:

Christian identity is not motivational content. It is covenantal reality — statements about who you are based on what Christ has done. The goal of this study is not information accumulation but genuine reception: learning to live from truths that are already true, rather than striving toward an identity you're hoping to earn.

Go slowly. Return to sessions. Let the word studies open the text in new ways. Use the reflection questions honestly. Pray the prayers as your own — not as liturgy to perform but as declarations to receive.

You are not discovering who you should be. You are discovering who you already are in Christ.

## SESSION 08

# Equipped and Empowered

*"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."*

— 2 Peter 1:3

### ◆ SESSION FOCUS

The New Testament doesn't just call believers to a particular kind of life — it equips them for it. The Holy Spirit provides the specific capacities needed: fruit (the character qualities of Christlike love — Galatians 5:22–23), gifts (Spirit-given abilities for building up the body — 1 Corinthians 12), intercession (Romans 8:26), and guidance (John 16:13). Ephesians 6 describes the armor of God — *pantoplia*, the full military kit of a Roman soldier, nothing missing. The dominant command in Ephesians 6 is not 'attack' or 'conquer' — it is 'stand.' You are equipped to hold ground.

### ◆ GREEK/HEBREW WORD STUDIES

**δύναμις**  
*dynamis*

**Power, inherent capacity, enabling ability**

Acts 1:8 — you will receive *dynamis* when the Spirit comes. Root of 'dynamite' but more precisely: inherent enabling capacity. Distinguished from *exousia* (authority). Luke 9:1 gives both authority and power — the right AND the ability.

**πανοπλία**

**Full armor, complete military kit**

*pantoplia*

Ephesians 6:11,13 — put on the whole pantoplia. Pan (all) + hopla (weapons/armor). The complete kit of a Roman heavy infantryman. Nothing missing, nothing optional. You haven't been given partial equipment.

**χαρίσματα**  
*charismata*

### Spiritual gifts, grace-gifts

From charis (grace). 1 Corinthians 12. Not earned, not graduated into — sovereignly given by the Spirit for the common good (12:7). Every member is gifted. No one is gift-less. The gifts are not about your level; they're about God's generosity.

## ◆ CROSS-REFERENCE TRAIL

**Ephesians 6:10–18** The full armor — each piece worth extended study. Note: God's armor, not yours to manufacture.

**Galatians 5:22–23** Fruit of the Spirit — produced by connection, not by effort.

**Romans 8:26–27** The Spirit intercedes for us. Even prayer is upheld beyond our capacity.

**1 Corinthians 12:4–11** Gifts given to each one as the Spirit determines — sovereign, generous, purposeful.

**Hebrews 13:20–21** God equip you with everything good for doing his will — the comprehensive promise.

## ◆ REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. 2 Peter 1:3 says God's power has given us 'everything we need.' Do you actually believe that? Where do you feel most under-equipped, and how does that square with this promise?

*Your response...*

2. The Spirit produces fruit — love, joy, peace, patience... How does understanding fruit as produced rather than manufactured change your approach to character formation?

*Your response...*

3. Ephesians 6 says to 'stand' — four times. Not to advance, not to conquer. Just stand. What does it mean for your current struggles that your job is to hold ground, not to win the battle singlehandedly?

*Your response...*

## ◆ PERSONAL APPLICATION

→ Study each piece of the armor in Ephesians 6:14–17 this week. For each one, identify: (a) what it protects against, (b) what it looks like practically to put it on.

→ Spend time this week asking God to show you what spiritual gifts he's given you. If you've never done a spiritual gifts assessment, do one. Then ask: how am I using this for the common good?

→ Identify one area where you're relying entirely on your own capacity. This week, practice explicitly asking the Spirit for what you need before you act — not as a formality, but as genuine dependence.

#### ◆ GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Share a time when you experienced the Spirit's power in a way that was clearly beyond your own capacity — in a conversation, a moment of forgiveness, a peace you couldn't manufacture.
2. How does your church culture tend to treat spiritual gifts — as a category for a few special people, or as something every member has been given? How does 1 Corinthians 12:7 challenge that?
3. The armor is described as standing firm, not charging forward. How does this reframe the concept of spiritual warfare in your life? What would it look like to 'stand' rather than 'strive'?
4. What does it mean that the Spirit intercedes for us when we don't know how to pray? Have you experienced the weight of prayer lifted by something beyond your own words? Share.

#### ◆ PRAYER

*Holy Spirit, I invite you into the gap between what I'm called to and what I can produce on my own.*

*You have given me everything I need. Help me to use it.*

*Grow your fruit in me — not by my effort, but by my connection to you.*

*Give me clarity on the gifts you've placed in me, and courage to use them.*

*And today, help me to stand — equipped, covered, held.*

*Not in my own strength, but in yours.*

*Amen.*