



“Spiritual Renewal”

Genesis 35:1-22

Like Jacob, we are often guilty of making life so much harder than it has to be.

- Jacob repeatedly found himself afraid and on the run due to his own bad choices.

God is unrelenting in the mission to bring His people to a place of spiritual renewal. *Gen. 35:1*

- God brings Jacob back to Bethel, a place that's filled with deep spiritual memories.
- Take time to remember who you were and where you were headed before God's rescue.

To enjoy spiritual renewal, we must deal with the accumulation of sinful clutter. *Gen. 35:2-7*

- Regret and the stirring of our emotions doesn't equate to lasting spiritual renewal.
- God's expectation and enablement always points us toward a changed life. *Eph. 4:21-24*
- God doesn't give up on us when we fail. His ladder of grace and blessing pursues us.

The grind of daily life and personal failure can distort our sense of who we are. *Gen. 35:9-13*

- “*Israel*” - Jacob, I've given you a new and blessed identity - Walk in your new reality.
- “*God Almighty*” - Our new identity is totally dependent on God's sovereignty and power.

Only God has the right to establish your identity, to declare who you are.

- Not your background, failures, IQ, wounding, income or your personal assessment.

How does God define those who choose to follow His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ?

- 2 Cor. 5:17 - New Creation. John 1:12 - Child of God. Rom. 8:1 - No longer condemned.
- 2 Tim. 1:7 - Victorious over fear. 1 Cor. 6:19,20 - His Temple. Rom. 8:14-17 - Joint heirs.

How do we embrace the identity God has assigned to us in our everyday lives?

- We have to really believe that He is God Almighty, able to do all that He promises.
- We have to shut the door on all that influences us to slide toward our old identity.
- We have to consistently apply God's truth to the specific situations we face.

Further Study and Pondering:

1. Think through times where life was hard because of your own sinful choices.
2. Spiritual Memories: Take time this week to reflect on and share your spiritual journey.
3. Are there spiritual memories/experiences that you've drifted from? 'Want to go back?
4. Take an inventory of any clutter that's choking out your loyalty to God. Confess/repent.
5. Further study on how God defines you: Work through verses on reverse side.
6. Prayerfully apply the truth God reveals to the specific situations you face.

“Only God has the right to define who you are.”

Further Study and Pondering

Allow God to Define Who You Are!

1. **You are a new creation:** 2 Corinthians 5:17
2. **You are one of God's children:** John 1:12; Ephesians 1:5
3. **You are fearfully and wonderfully made:** Psalm 1139:13-14
4. **You are rescued from the kingdom of darkness and forgiven:** Colossians 1:13-14
5. **You are alive in Christ, victorious over rulers of darkness:** Colossians 2:12-15
6. **You are complete "in Christ":** Colossians 2:6-10
7. **You are a citizen of heaven where the Lord Jesus Christ lives.** Philippians 3:20
8. **You are forever free from condemnation:** Romans 8:1-2
9. **You are secure in the love of God:** Romans 8:31-39
10. **You are declared holy and righteous:** Ephesians 4:24
11. **You are God's masterpiece:** Ephesians 2:10
12. **You are the temple of the Holy Spirit:** 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
13. **You are raised up in victory with Christ:** Romans 6:1-13; Ephesians 2:4-6
14. **You are able to do all things through Christ who empowers you:** Phil. 4:13
15. **You are a joint heir with Christ:** Romans 8:14-17
16. **You are declared perfect in God's sight:** Hebrews 10:14-18
17. **You are being transformed into the image of Christ:** 2 Corinthians 3:18
18. **You are free from the bondage of fear:** 1 John 4:18; 2 Timothy 1:7
19. **You are a victor over the world:** 1 John 5:4-5
20. **You are a victor over temptation and sin:** 1 Corinthians 10:13; John 8:36
21. **You are given free access to God through Jesus:** Ephesians 3:12
22. **You are indwelt by the Holy Spirit:** Romans 8:9
23. **You are the recipient of spiritual gifts from God:** 1 Corinthians 12:7-11
24. **You are in Christ's grip forever:** John 6:37
25. **You are empowered to share the Gospel:** Matt. 28: 19,20; Acts 1:8
26. **You are promised an abundant life:** John 10:10

Apply the Truth of God to specific situations you face!