

# Clarify Your Identity

## An Amazing Life

### I. Peace with God

Romans 4:25–5:5 (NIV®)

<sup>25</sup>He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification... **5** Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,** <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> 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.

Romans 5:9–11 (NIV®)

<sup>9</sup>Since **we have now been justified by his blood,** how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, when **we were God's enemies,** we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! <sup>11</sup> Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom **we have now received reconciliation.**

### II. Following Jesus

John 1:43-51 (NIV®)

<sup>43</sup>Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup>Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote — Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." . . . <sup>50</sup>Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that." <sup>51</sup> He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

#### A. Learning, Growing & Experiencing God's Glory

Mark 4:36-41 (NIV®)

<sup>36</sup>Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. <sup>37</sup> A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. <sup>38</sup> Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" <sup>39</sup> **He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.** <sup>40</sup> He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" <sup>41</sup> **They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"**

Matthew 14:29 (NASB®)

And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

Matthew 14:16-21 (NIV®)

<sup>16</sup>Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." <sup>17</sup> "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered . . . <sup>20</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, and the

disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>21</sup> The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Luke 7:11-16 (NIV®)

<sup>11</sup> Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and **his disciples** and a large crowd went along with him. <sup>12</sup> As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out — the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. <sup>13</sup> **When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry."** <sup>14</sup> Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" <sup>15</sup> The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. <sup>16</sup> **They were all filled with awe and praised God.**

## B. Fails

### The Struggle to Grow

Matthew 15:10-16 (NIV®)

<sup>10</sup> Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. <sup>11</sup> What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'" . . . <sup>15</sup> Peter said, "Explain the parable to us." <sup>16</sup> "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them.

### The Struggle to Understand . . . a Greater Power/Authority

Matthew 14:30 (NIV®)

But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

### The Struggle to Follow

John 14:4-5 (NIV®)

<sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

### The Struggle of Awareness

John 20:2 (NIV®)

So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

Matthew 26:31-35 (NIV®)

<sup>31</sup> **Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me,** for it is written: "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' <sup>32</sup> But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." <sup>33</sup> Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." <sup>34</sup> "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." <sup>35</sup> But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, You have called me from an empty way of life into the Kingdom of Your Son. You have opened my eyes and set my feet on a new path. Give me wisdom and courage to follow You. I choose to follow Jesus, take up my cross and complete the course for which I was created. May the name of Jesus be exalted in all the earth, Amen.