

The Body Of Christ Discovering God

Paul's Confession (Continued)

Daniel 3:25 (NIV)

²⁵ He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

- He gave us the Holy Spirit so we can live in **victory**.

The most intimate part of His obedience proven by His encounter with Paul is this:

1. Jesus' encounter with Paul proves to us we still can have a **personal** encounter and or **relationship** with Jesus the Christ.

Acts 9:1-5

We learn 3 things that happened in this encounter.

- A. Saul received a new **name**.

2. You also have a new **name** when you received Christ, giving you a new **purpose** and a **hope** to live for.

Revelation 2:17

Remember:

Saul – means **demanding death**

Paul – means **little** or **small**

He referred to himself as the **least** of the apostles.

Matthew 23:11

¹¹ But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

- We not only serve God, we serve one another.

Seeing others as more important than ourselves.

The questions we asked are:

- What is that new name?
- Why are you on this earth, it is a call and a divine appointment God has given you?

Here is the second thing we learn Paul received in the encounter with Jesus.

B. He received a new nature.

3. Why does God change people's names?

Answer: Your name represents your nature.

Isaiah 9:6-7

Notice: Jesus' zeal to accomplish these names.

Question: Why did God change the names of people?

Very simply – he changed their nature.

Abram – meant: father

Abraham – meant: father of a multitude.

4. Your name relates to your purpose.

Sarai – meant: princess

Sarah – meant princess of a multitude

Jacob – meant: **manipulator** or **supplanter**

Israel – means: one who **prevails** with **God**.

God was saying to Jacob – **Israel**

Because I am on **your** side, you don't have to manipulate again – I will see to it that it **happens**.

Remember Simon:

Simon – means: **unstable**

Peter – means: **stable** – a **rock**

Another name change:

Levi – changed to Matthew

Levi – means: **attached**

- Levi was Leah's second son, remember, she wasn't **loved**.

First son, she named Ruben, and Ruben means **love**.

She said, maybe my husband will **love** me now.

- Her second son she names him, **Levi** means **attached**
- She is saying, maybe my husband will become **attached** to me now.

Levi – is a **tax collector**, and everyone **hates** him.

His whole nature is trying to find **acceptance** his whole life.

Jesus comes along and says, no, we are not going to call you **Levi** anymore.

* Someone who is looking for **attachment**.

I'm going to call you **Matthew**.

Matthew means, "a **gift** from God."

5. Matthew, you never have to get acceptance by what you **do**, your acceptance is from a **gift** from God. It's who I made you because what I **already** made you.

Being born again means you have a new **nature**.

Acts 8:3

- That's Saul's **old** nature.

After the Damascus road encounter, Saul received his **new** nature.

Once Saul / Paul as we know him, received his new nature, did he do anything wrong after that?

Answer: **Sure he did**

This is how he describes it:

Romans 7:19-25

6. Paul gave us the revelation that every one of us have an **old** man and a **new** man. We must **put off** the old man and **reckon** the old man **dead**, and then **put on** the **new** man.

Romans 6:11

Romans 12:1a

¹I beseech you (beg you) therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice...

7. Put your **old** man on the **altar**; he is a **living sacrifice**.

Analogy:

- * When life gets hard / **hot**, the old man gets off the altar and tells you:

- How to **think**
- How to **act**
- How to **feel**

Think → **Act** → **Feel** is describing your **soul**.

8. Your soul is made up of 3 things: your **mind**, your **will**, and your **emotions**.
9. You cannot **cast out** the flesh and you cannot **disciple** a demon.

Christians today need this:

- A **deliverance** of spiritual **attacks** with **healing** – **demonic** entities.
- **Discipleship** to **overwhelm** the flesh with the **washing** of the Word of God – a **renewing** of the mind to your new **name** and **purpose**.

Think about who you **were** and think about who you are **becoming**.

Scripture says: **agree** with your adversary quickly

- * When the enemy reminds you of your past, say: you're **exactly right**, that's what the **old** Gary is, but that's not who **new** Gary is.

10. I am a new **creation** in Christ.

C. Paul received a new **purpose**.

Paul's testimony **five** years before he dies:

Acts 26:14-15

Now verse 16-18 is **not** recorded in Acts 9.

Acts 26:16-17

- Purpose, sent to **Gentiles** – why given a **Gentile** name.

Acts 26:18

11. You have a **purpose** in Christ and only **knowing** that purpose will bring you **fulfillment** on this earth.

Paul is the only New Testament writer that referred to the Church as the **Body of Christ**.

- * The reason I believe he spoke of this is – on the Damascus road, Jesus said, "Saul, why are you persecuting **Me**?"

Paul said: Well, who are you?

Answer: I'm **Jesus**

Paul thinks: Why would He say, I'm persecuting **Him** when I am persecuting **believers**?

Believers are the **Body of Christ**.

You go **out** and **heal** the sick, **raise** the dead, lead people to **Christ**.

- You have a new **name**.
- You have a new **nature**.

Today, you have **purpose** in this life because your new **name** – and then live it out with **passion**.