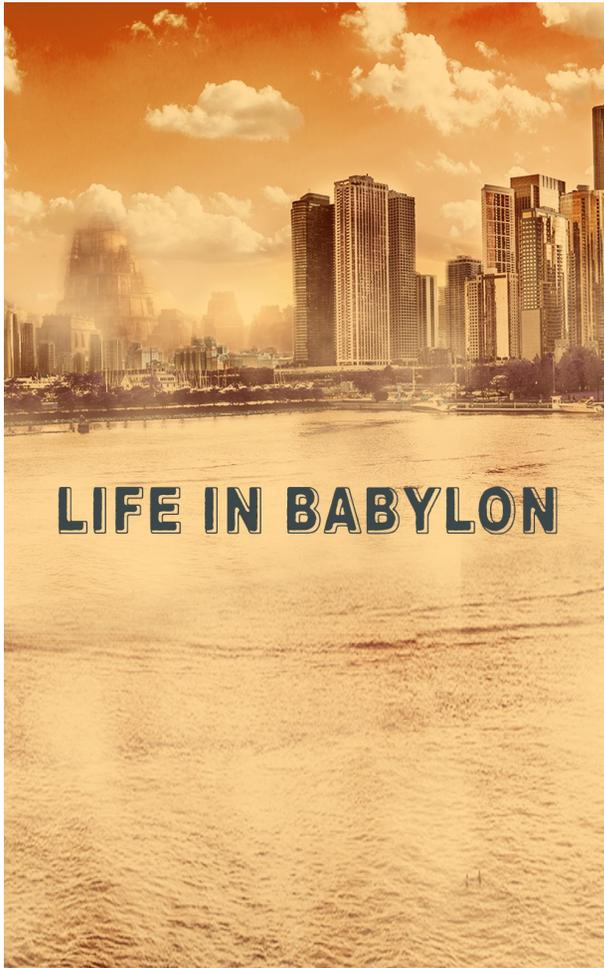




take it home



Knowing Whose You Are



When You Know Who You Belong To...

Your Identity gets refined in Truth

What happens when you've been stripped of all you've known? When the place you call home is taken from you and you are a stranger in a strange land? When you are unsure of how you're going to put the pieces back together and make a new life? Who do you turn to when your loved ones are nowhere to be found? Simply put: you turn to Jesus and by getting to understand that you are part of His family and knowing to whom you belong, your identity gets refined in Truth and Love. You begin to discover a Strength you never knew you had access to. When you accept your place in His House, life as you know drastically shifts, setting the stage for something beautiful and wondrous to begin.

The Lord said: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland Isaiah 43:19 NIV

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 NIV

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me Philippians 4:13

Find a quiet place and time to reflect on how God's Truth has begun to make changes in your life and how you are adjusting to those changes. Share the Good News.

When You Know Who You Belong To...

God Shapes You for His Mission.

Whenever the king consulted them in any matter requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, he found them ten times more capable than any of the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom. Daniel 1:20 (NLT)

Without God, people tend to put on a front, puff up to meet the challenge. Notice how Daniel and his friends are simply humble and gentle while taking a stand for what they know is right in God's eyes. And then it happens, they are up to every task sent their way.

It shouldn't be surprising. *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.* 1 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV) The things labeled "talents" and "abilities" by Babylon are the hand of God's Spirit on these young men. God is not only preserving them, He's blessing the future of Babylon.

Consider how God has shaped you. What skills or passion has he inspired in you that can serve the common good? Ask God to show you how to use them to build your influence in the lives of people who don't recognize God's presence in life or know His love. Contact your site Pastor about a 1 on 1 to talk about ways you can serve God's mission.

When You Know Who You Belong To...

Your Foundation Becomes Unshakable

Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; all Your waves and billows have gone over me. Psalm 42:7 NKJV

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.” Matthew 7:24-25 NIV

When you take in His Word and replace your thoughts with his thoughts, your soul is beckoned by His Voice to rise up and do better, to be better. Your soul is called to be a better representative of His Love and Mercy. We, as believers, are all ministers commissioned to carry forth His Message to those who are receptive and teachable. In what ways can you strengthen your foundation in Christ's Love? In what ways can you carry forth the Great Commission?

When You Know Who You Belong To...

Slavery is Redefined

Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to whom you obey-whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Romans 6:16-18

Slavery, from an earthly/natural perspective, has many negative connotations. At a very simplified level, it is viewed as a stripping away of autonomy, freedom, free choice, and identity. When we look at slavery from an Eternal perspective, slavery becomes beautiful, liberating, and transformed into the greatest Gift imaginable. We become co heirs (Romans 8:15-17) with Jesus. It means we are free from the captor of sin and depravity. It means eternal servitude to the ultimate Master who leads us into righteousness. Slavery, from an Eternal perspective takes what Satan and man used for their own devices, flips the script, and God takes back what was rightfully His and uses it for good. You see, that's how God works. He takes all of the things we mess up and makes good out of them because we were bought at a price. If this is what being a "slave" means in God's House than I gladly and wholeheartedly identify myself as God's slave. Give praise for slavery redefined!

When You Know Who You Belong To...

You Have Direct Access to God

God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf.

Hebrews 6:18-19 NIV

Pray continually. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:6

We have the gift of direct communication and access to God. Through prayer and worship, He hears us and is delighted. He desires for us to continuously communicate with Him on all topics and in all the areas of our lives; no detail is too mundane to Him. His Promises train us to get through the clutter of life with peace, joy, and focus on Him. He helps us to change our perspectives so that trials and tribulations are not seen as problems but as opportunities to grow deeper in His Love and to draw closer to His Presence. Today, in what ways is God making your paths straight?