

IDENTITY TEMPTATION

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GREETINGS in the wonderful name of Jesus! It is a great blessing for me to be here and just bring you the Good News of God's love and His Grace! It's an honor for me to serve you with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Today we are going to be talking about temptation in connection with identity. It will be a follow up of what we spoke on last week.

PRAYER Father, I want to thank You so much for the honor that we can be here together. Thank You that I can minister Your Gospel today. I'm so excited about this message and I trust that it is going to touch so many people's lives. Thank You that I can share in Your excitement! Lord, speak powerfully through me today and I thank You that Your Spirit has prepared hearts that You speak to people, that You encourage people and that we, as a family, can gather around Your Good News in the confident expectation of what You have promised us in the surety that You have given us of eternal life. Glory to God! Amen!

COMMUNION As our custom is we have Communion together every Sunday. The reason why we do this Communion is very simple. We as a Web Church can, together, meditate, think, ponder on, the whole idea of a body that is innocent, righteous before God, to whom eternal life belongs. That we will not see ourselves as separate and alone but that we will see ourselves as united in the Finished Work of Jesus Christ.

It is also an opportunity where people who are meeting in groups in homes can minister and pray for one another. Communion talks about, as the word says, the communion that we have with God. It talks about the communion that we have in the body of Christ where we are in common union. The common union that we are in is the blood of Jesus and His body and the resurrected body that there is seated at the right hand of the Father that spells our eternal life, our innocence, our acceptance. And the most beautiful thing about this body is that this body of Jesus does not exclude anybody. Jesus died for sinners and since He died for sinners, and took the sin of the world upon Him and took our lives upon Him, died and was raised, then we can come to the conclusion that we are not separate anymore. We are not Jew, Gentile, male, female, all these things that would separate people on the earth. We have become part of a body, a part of a union, and this union is in Christ. That is our reality and that is the truth about us. Glory to God!

When you take the bread and break it, we are talking about the union that there is in Jesus Christ through the breaking or the death of the old man. When the body of Jesus was broken, it talks about the death or the breaking of any form of separation. So Jesus Christ came and took the sin of all people into one, took the life of all kinds of people into one and died that life away. That means that He died away the separation of Jew and Gentile. The Law is what separated them so He ended the Law System, He ended Jew/Gentile, He ended Us/Them in His death. When He was raised up in the new body, that new body talks about us. Glory to God!

It's the same with the blood that flowed. When the blood flowed, the blood of Jesus speaks about the end of the Old and the beginning of the New Covenant. The Covenant between God the Father and Jesus Christ which is the Father gives Jesus eternal life and we have been engrafted into that in the fact that He took our lives to Him. When He died, He died away the Old and when He was raised, He was raised up our lives. We were co-raised with Him seated at the right hand of the Father.

How do we apply this practically in a setting where we may be in a house with family and friends. We break the bread and give it to each other. As we give it to each other, we think of the value of the other one. We think of his or her union with the Father, our union with the Father, and how we are united in this truth. We see the value of people.

In the Bible in 1 Corinthians, Paul corrects the Corinthians. He says, "You come together as a church to eat at the Lord's table but it's not the Lord's table because the rich are on one side and the poor on the other side. It's a difference between Jew and Gentile. You are not even discerning the body of Christ!" So when we discern the body of Christ we look at what the elements represent but discerning the body means that I am not seeing "Us and Them" anymore. I am seeing people as the people of God. Glory to God!

There are two different groups of people on the earth. The only difference there is between these two different groups of people is that one believes in what Christ has done and the other, to whom Christ has also given everything, doesn't believe it. That's the only difference there is. As a matter of fact, Jesus became the sin of all people so when we take this, we automatically have a great respect, if we understand what it is all about, for all people. Glory to God!

We are not talking about God excluding anybody. We are talking about God reaching out His hand to all people. When we see this and when we partake of this, there is a truth that is in our hearts that is so powerful that we want to have all people hear this and believe this so they can be born from this truth. They don't have to be born from fear, rejection, laws, regulations, but they can be born from the revelation of the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ... be born again! Glory to God!

Let us just break the bread, drink of the cup in remembrance of what Christ has done. We can also minister to one another and pray for one another.

TODAY'S MESSAGE: IDENTITY TEMPTATION

Today I will talk on the meaning of identity temptation and how temptation works and how we can resist temptation and walk in the victory that Jesus Christ has for us. I will start out by first declaring our identity. What is our identity? Many times in Christian circles we have said that we have our identity in Jesus and then we started to quote things like, "I'm the head and not the tail. I'm above and not beneath!". What we have done is we have basically quoted the blessings of Deuteronomy 28 and we have actually had our identity in the prosperity promise in Deuteronomy 28. We have had our identity in the promises instead of in Jesus and we just slapped in, "In the name of Jesus" or "In Christ" on to that. What we had done is we have had our identity in a combination of law and grace where we were under the Old Testament. Especially when we looked at the Jews and then the Gentiles before Christ died, our whole identity was in what we could achieve in this world and our stand in this world. Then we looked at the Old and we looked at all the promises there were and now in Christ it's as if our identity was in fulfilled promises in our life. Our identity was in how God would affirm us in this world through fulfilling Deuteronomy 28 in our lives.

Let me explain it to you in a very simple way. I'm going to just use Church examples because that is what I am used to but this applies to any area of life.

In Church it is a big thing that our identity was in how God provides for us. How does God provide for you financially? How does God provide for you pertaining to the growth of your church? How does God provide for you in regards to healing? We would look at all those provisions and when all those provisions would come then our identity would be in that. We would say, "In Christ we have all these things," misleading our own hearts, finding our identity, not in Christ but in what Christ can bring us in this life. It's a very fine line but when we get it wrong, it destroys us. When we get it wrong, it destroys us! I want to say this again: I remember so many times and I think some of you came out of Charismatic Pentecostal circles, we've had our identity in how many miracles happened in our Church. When we lay hands on the sick, how many people fall over under the power? How many people do we reach in town? Our identity was basically in how God hears our prayers. Our identity was in how God gives us what we ask Him. Our identity was in breakthroughs and that destroys the Church. That doesn't have eternal life. God wants us to have eternal life. God wants us to have His quality of life! That is what He has come to do and the devil has tempted us and cheated us to the point that we don't find our identity in Christ but we find our identity in what we believe Christ must bring us which is defined in how Christ brings the fulfillment of the Law to our life. In other words, on how Christ makes the promises of the Old Testament, or the "promises of Abraham" we would call it, manifest in our lives. That left the Church in a place where there is still hierarchy it left the door wide open for teachings that will tell us how to get breakthrough, seven steps to this, ten steps to that. It left the door wide open to manipulation and control and brought devastation to our lives.

So, I want to talk about what true identity is. Maybe you haven't heard what I am about to share with you but my prayer is what Paul said, "Father, I pray that their hearts might be straightened with might in the inner man that they may see that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith that they might see the dimensions of the love of God. So, my prayer to you right now is that your inner man will be straightened to accept what is going to be said."

Acts 17:

27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commands all men every where to repent:

31 Because he hath appointed a day, in which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.

When we look at this passage, it clearly defines our identity as an immortal man in the equality of God or with the life of God. That is our identity. Our identity is not in how we can have our prayers answered today. That is not where we find our identity and we find it so easily in how does God answer my prayers today, how it is going with me today. When I pray did I see something? Our identity is in that but Paul comes and what he is saying here is he comes and he clearly explains to people and he even quotes their own poets. He says, ***For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.***

He says, "In Him we live and move and have our being." That is not quoted from the poet. That is Paul's words. And then he says that this is exactly what your own heathen poets have said. They have said, *For we are also his offspring*. Then he goes on and he says, *Since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device*.

What he is saying is, "Listen, you cannot worship stones. You cannot worship golden images. You cannot worship all these other gods because, and then he uses their own reasoning which was in line with the truth, he said, "You say that we are the offspring of God and if we are the offspring of God then when we worship God, He has to be a man." Let me say that again and this is what I want your heart to be strengthened. Paul comes and he says, "I walk through your devotions here in your temples and what I am seeing is that you are very, very, religious, superstitious. You have all these images but I want to ask you a question. If you guys say that we are in the image of God or that in Him we live and move and have our being, we are the offspring of God. If we are not made of gold and stone, how can you worship a god that is made out of stone and all those kind of things?" What Paul was trying to say is, "Let's move away from this thing of God is this image and let's see God as a man because since we are humans. and we are the offspring of God, He has to be in human form." That is what he is talking about. We have to be like Him and he knows where he is going with this because he's going with this to Jesus. If we look at these passages in *Acts 17*:

30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man (The word, that, was not in the original.) whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

He is saying that He will judge the world by a man and this man will judge the world in His righteousness or in His goodness and His judgment will be that He will raise the dead. You many say, "Now, Bertie, that is not what it says there. It is exactly what it says.

Let's read verse 31 again. ***Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men,*** (It says there that in that man it is ordained that Jesus will bring judgment to the whole world and he has given assurance. So our assurance is to all men) ***he hath given assurance unto all men,*** (How?) ***in that he hath raised him*** (The man who will bring judgment to the world) ***from the dead.*** Glory to God!

He was saying, "The judgment of God is this: These people believe that God is going to come one day and judge the world. Why are you serving a God of gold? Why are you serving this graven image? That's not right. God will come in human form for He has sent a man, Jesus, to this earth. This man came to bring judgment to the whole earth and He has given assurance to all men by raising Jesus from the dead." So he was saying that Jesus Christ will come and bring to the earth the righteous judgment of God which is the resurrection from the dead. He has given assurance that God can bring His judgment to life to us. He has given this assurance to all people. How did He give this assurance to all people? He took a man and took all people's sin and death and put it on that man. Then He raised that man from the dead. Now he says that this man who was raised from the dead with our life that is seated at the right hand of the Father will come and manifest His judgment, which is in Christ, to all of us. Paul is saying that you cannot identify yourself with a god who is far and distant. The only God that you can identify yourself with, is where judgment will take place, is a man who has conquered death..

Where do we find our identity? We find our identity in our immortality in Jesus. That is it! Our identity, who we are, is we are the God kind. In Him we live and move and have our design and our being. This God became flesh and dwelt among us. He didn't downscale. What He basically did was He came and took man, put man in the Godhead and now He reveals to us the truth of what and who He is. He will come back and bring forth that immortality into manifestation in us.

Verse 32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked him: I want to say that I see that even toward what I am saying. The moment we talk about resurrection, the moment we talk about immortality, you get mocked. But that's okay! It's actually just something that man does but there is no power in it because the truth is that God will judge the world by the man that He has ordained and this is the judgment that He will come and this is the assurance that He gives in His judgment: He raised Jesus from the dead.

Our identity is in a God or in the reality that we have conquered death. That is our identity. That is what it means to have your identity in Jesus. It is that we have conquered death. You might say that if our identity is that we have conquered death does that mean that we are not dying? Remember, we are talking about the temptation of identity or identity temptation because there is a temptation that is around this whole identity thing and we are going to look at that.

I want to go a little further and talk about our identity.

Romans 10:

11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believes on him shall not be ashamed.

12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same is Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

I want to go back to verse 13: **For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

It's very important to understand what that passage says. We are talking about our identity. When we talk about calling upon the name of the Lord, it means something. It doesn't just mean, "Help, Lord!" That's not what it means. There is a deeper implication which is connected to identity.

Identity means to put a name upon, to surname; to permit oneself to be surnamed (Thayer)

To permit oneself to be surnamed... isn't that powerful! So what he is saying is that whoever permits himself to be surnamed, or to have the family name of God on him. In other words, the one who can see himself as the Godkind, the one who can see himself in who Jesus is and what He accomplished in heaven. If he can see himself in that, in the midst of not seeing that in this world. That person shall be saved from death and sin. That's what it basically says. So when we call upon the name of the Lord, is when we are willing to receive the family name, is when one permits yourself to be surnamed or have God's name written behind your name, when you can permit that. That takes place when you can see a man in the Godhead. So this is what true Christian identity is. True Christian identity is to see yourself as one to whom belongs immortality in human flesh, that has conquered all sin and all death. That is your true identity. That is the reality from where you live.

Now we have a problem. We don't see that yet in our lives. We don't see ourselves immortal. We see ourselves still mortal. We see ourselves still in a place where we are hungry to see our immortality manifest in our lives. We are hungry to see this manifest but we are not seeing it yet. Are we going to see it? Yes! Now I want to say this again: I want to be so honest and so frank with you today. The purpose why I am preaching this stuff and the reason I have a Web Church is not to see how many followers I can get. It's not to see how many likes I can get. It's not to see how I can make a living. This reason why I preach this is because I believe with all my heart, and the reason I have this ministry and the reason I minister is because I believe with all my heart that what I am preaching here is God's truth and that it belongs to you and it will encourage you and give you power and abundance of life in this world. Secondly, I feel a compassion and a love of Christ that compels me to minister this.

So since my identity is in this resurrection that will take place, in this immortality that shall still take place, that will manifest, I see that as the truth and anything that contradicts that in this world has no voice. It means that I am not going to change from this. I'm not changing my view. I'm not going to back off from preaching the immortality as our identity. We have found our identity in heaven. We have found our identity in how we are going to leave this earth and be blasted into heaven and sit there with God around a lake or something. That's our identity. I want to tell you that will not help your heart in this world. It might help some but it is not going to have the power that can flow from a revelation of the immortal body that Jesus has and having that as our reality because the moment we have that as the reality and our identity where we see I identify myself fully with an immortal physical human being whose body could not see corruption who was glorified in every part of his body, his brain, his mind, his will, his emotions, everything, and when I see that God will come in that man and that is righteousness and He has given the assurance that I will have that. When I see that I can find boldness and hope and strength in this life.

I want to say to you in Dynamic Love Ministry that I believe in heaven. I believe that the people who believe in the Lord and have passed away are in heaven. I believe that but my identity is not in this heaven thing. My identity, I live and move and have my being in someone who is just like me which is a man of whom God is not ashamed, whom He has given immortal eternal life! That is what this whole Gospel is all about. I want to tell you, Church, we missed it in such a great way! Our identity was in promises fulfilled, prayers being answered and those kind of things. Even Jesus was tempted to have His own identity in God answering His prayers. That is where He had His identity. That was a temptation that He had.

Let me just wrap up this first part and then we will look at the temptation that Jesus had and then we will look at a practical place where we are tempted in. in the Church. That's going to be in healing, signs and wonders and I'm going to talk about that.

Wrapping up the first part, in Him we live and move and have our being. Everyone at that time believed that God was going to come and judge the world which is still the truth. He is going to come and judge the world but He will judge the world in righteousness and has given full assurance of man that His judgment unto life is sure for us all in that He raised Jesus from the dead.

So my identity is in God who can raise the dead and that I am like that immortal man at the right hand of the Father and that is my identity. That is my assurance! Glory to God! That will keep you away from being tempted to find your identity in “prayers being answered” in this life. Glory to God! Can God answer prayer? Yes, but you cannot find your identity in that.

Jesus Became Hungry: **Matthew 4:**

1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward hungry.

I have fasted before. I remember the time when I believed in fasting. I would fast twice a week. Once a month I would fast three days, three times a week... not three times like a meal but three days, twenty four hour days. I'm still suffering the consequences. That was over fifteen years ago and I am still skinny. I remember there would be times once in four months or so I would fast ten days or fourteen days. I believe in the fasting thing. There are people who fasted much more than me but one thing I know about fasting is you don't only become hungry after forty days. You don't start to have a desire for food after forty days. You have a desire for food after the first meal you skipped. That's when you already become hungry for food.

So I don't believe that the hunger that is talked about here in this passage has anything to do with physically being hungry. It says He fasted for forty days. We all know that you become hungry in that fast and the Bible says then He was hungry and then the devil came. Look at what he tempted Him with. First he tempted Him with turning the stones into bread. Another sensation was, “Jump off this temple if You are the Son of God.” “If You are the Son of God, have this. If You are the Son of God have that!” One of the things he said was, “I will give You all these kingdoms if You bow down and worship me.” It was all about him tempting Jesus into having His identity not in the Father that will vindicate Him with immortality where He would behold the Father as an immortal being where in Him, who is busy dying, He could feel His dying in His body. After forty days you are dying! He could feel death creeping up on Him. He could feel that hunger for a proof of life in His life. What the devil came and did was he said to him, “Have life by Your own works and let Your identity be in answered prayer. Let Your identity be in truth applied into this life. Let Your identity be in that. Let Your sonship be in that. Let Your eternal life be in that!” And what the devil did was he tempted Him with a different identity. He tempted Him not to have His identity in the immortality promised from the Father but he tempted Him to have His identity basically in answered prayer. He tempted Him to have His identity in the manifestation of that truth which was true in the Father now. That's what he tempted Him with.

That is a great thing we need to look at in this world because if we go and we find our identity in Deuteronomy 28 and in the answers of all those blessings in saying, “You know because Jesus died for us, because by His stripes and by all those kind of things and if we take all the promises of the Old Testament and we say, “That must be now!” I pray that the Lord will strengthen your hearts to hear what I am saying because this is a message of hope. I'm going to talk about signs, wonders and miracles as well today so please hear what I am saying.

If we say that all those things are now yet we find that the immortal perfection is in the judgment of Christ by which He will still judge the world in His return giving us the assurance by raising Jesus from the dead that we will be raised from the dead. When our identity is not that we get healed. Our identity is not when we lay hands on somebody is he healed. Our identity is not how we prosper financially. Our identity is not in that. Our identity is in immortality, an immortal human that will bring immortality to my human flesh, to my body.. Glory to God!

We have seen ourselves just as spirits. I want to tell you that you are not just a spirit. You are a human and salvation has come to man. God has come to take away sin from humans. He has come to take away humans not partaking of eternal life. He's come to take away death from humans. He didn't come to take away death from spirits. He came to save humans. That's what He has come to do. So never see yourself just as a three part being and you have one part and you have a house and a this and a that. See yourself as a human. That is what God has declared in Jesus. He raised up a human. I'm not worshipping just a spirit. I am worshipping in spirit and I believe in a man, Jesus. I am worshipping a man, Jesus Christ. I believe in Him. He is the judge and He is the One who has given assurance to me. My assurance is not in my answered prayer. My assurance is in His resurrection and when He was raised from the dead and seated at the right hand of the Father I stopped my nonsense of having graven images when I want to copy what I think is in heaven in an image of gold or in an image of this or an image of that but my assurance is in this man that was raised from the dead and He will judge me with eternal life and give it to me. Glory to God!

Once that is our assurance, once that is the final assurance and we believe that, that is our faith. If we connect it to last Sunday's message, the Bible says that the trustworthiness of this faith will give you the power to withstand the temptation and the voice of the devil when you go through the normal things in this life where maybe you found your car ran out of gas, you didn't fill it up or maybe you broke a pump, or you didn't look where you were driving and you bumped into somebody, maybe somebody got injured or hurt or whatever! Where you see the normal things of this life and once that is your assurance, once that is your faith, you find that the Bible says the testing of our faith produces patience, in other words, the trustworthiness. That word testing means trustworthiness, the trustworthiness of this persuasion that I am trying to bring to your hearts by the passion of the Holy Spirit, I want to say to you that the trustworthiness of that will bring power to your life! The trustworthiness of this will bring a hardheadedness, and a stubbornness to you where this world and the things of this world will have no say whatsoever! It will bring something to your life where the spirit of this truth can manifest its gifts and the supernatural things, the gifts of the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit powerfully in your life. Glory to God!

James 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass

24 For he beholds himself, and goes his way, and straightway forgets what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looks into the perfect law of liberty, and continues therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed,

What it says is that you are tempted when you are drawn away by your own hunger. You are drawn away by your own hunger and when that entices you. I've seen that so many times in my own life and I've seen it in the life of the Church. We are so tempted to say that we are the people of God. I've seen it just in churches. I'm not bashing churches. Please know that my heart is not in rebellion against anything. But when we look at church and we see things like, "Bertie, that man is a blessed man of God because look how God provided for his church building! He has spent hundreds of millions of dollars and how he is debt free!" We say, "Look at that! That means this is a man of God. That means he is accomplishing something in the earth." Then I'm feeling in my heart, listen, the hunger to say, "I am a child of God." The hunger where we have come to a place where we are living in the promise where we are beholding our immortality, the immortal man in Jesus, and yet we are not seeing that immortality right now and yet we are hoping for it and we are expecting that in Christ which is our only reference of truth. When we see that, we know His judgment shall be manifested in my life."

Yet in that time when we don't see it, when Jesus didn't see proof of His Sonship while He was in the desert, when I see people in that and then they are grabbing Old Testament definitions of blessedness like, "Blessed will you be in the field. Blessed will you be here. Blessed will you be there." And look at all those things and try to fall again for temptations and that when we get enticed into that it brings forth sin and sin brings forth death. That's how I see people's lives being destroyed because you are tempted to find your identity in your pocket book. The Church is tempted to find our identity in that, and my heart breaks when I see this and how many people fall over when they lay hands on them. They say, "Look at the power of God!" No, no, no! The power of God to me is not revealed in how many people fall over or any of those kind of things. When I walk in the power of God it's when I walk in the conviction of the immortality that Christ has promised me which brings forth patience in my life which I just translate as simple hardheadedness and stubbornness and deafness toward the voices of this world and the things of this world, where my life is in that. Glory to God!

Is it not a blessing, is it not a great thing, if we prosper financially? Listen, thank God for financial prosperity! Thank the Lord that He provides that we can have. That is a given. It is not something we measure with. It is a given. The Bible says, "Your heavenly Father knows what you have need of and He will give those things. Some people's need is to give money to other people. Some people's need is they want to sponsor ministries. Other people's has certain needs in their life and the Father provides for us so why do we want to measure by that? The Father provides for us.

The only vindication, the only judgment that is righteous towards you is that of you conquering death. The final enemy that shall be conquered is death.

When we look at that temptation, that temptation is not to be a doer of the Word. The word, doer, there means to be a poet. It means to basically be a performer, to perform on a stage. So when the Bible says to be doers of the Word it means to be a performer of the Word. I want to explain what James was seeing there. I'm not saying, and please hear me, I'm not saying. "Let's act as if we are righteous." The different dynamic that he is looking at there is actually powerful and great. When we look at this and we look at an actor, you can go and read up on any actor. When an actor wants to be a good actor, he needs to go and study. Let's say that he is going to play the role of somebody that has Parkinson's disease. What he will do is he will go and study a person who has that. He will do great research on what these people think, what they feel, how they relate to other people and all those kind of things. Then he will start to imagine himself as a person like that to the point that he becomes that person. If he was going to play an old man who has this disease, before he would go on the stage, he would dress himself like an old man. He's going to look into the mirror and he's going to see that man. When he goes out on the stage he should not forget what he saw because that is what you would call a good performer.

What he's coming to do here is and what James says is, "We need to be a doer of this Word where God cannot change and that Word is the message of our God conquering death." The Bible says, "That which was from the beginning, which was before time, as pertaining to the Word of life, came and dwelt among us. What this is all about is very simple. When we look at what Christ has done for us, when we look at the finished work there, when we look at this identity in Christ, we behold as in a mirror. We look at the work of immortality. We look at this work of righteousness. We look at this work where He has come and given us just that eternal life and when we behold that mirror of the original identity and we have this word of life, we should see how God clothed us with that message of eternal life. The way He clothes us with that message of eternal life is very simple. The way He clothes us is like this: He clothes us with immortality and He has promised us that. As we behold that life where we've conquered death and conquered sin and we clothe ourselves in that, with that reality in that truth in our lives, we are doers of the Word. Glory to God!

So, in this message where there is a word of life, a word of righteousness, a word of all those things, the devil will want to come and tempt you in your identity to find your identity in how God answers prayer and not in the immortal human Jesus, where you believe in Him but you believe in the manifestation of all these things.

I want to talk a little about signs, wonders and miracles. 1Corinthians 14 talks about signs, wonders and miracles and putting it in its correct place. What we have done is we have taken this whole thing about signs, wonders and miracles and we have completely put it out of proportion. What has happened in the Charismatic Church is we have come to a place where everything was about signs, wonders and the spiritual. Then when we go into Grace, we go into a place where become antagonistic toward the supernatural because we "shouldn't have our identity in that so we aren't going to have any miracles."

I just want to bring this in balance and show you what God says about this. Our identity is in Christ. Our identity is in Christ who will come by His Spirit and judge us with eternal life and give us eternal life. That is what will take place. Then, with that in mind, that Spirit will have signs, wonders and miracles pointing towards this true identity. So the identity cannot be in the miracle. Our identity can only be in Christ but we can still, and should still, have this supernatural in our lives. I want to explain that.

1 Corinthians 14:

1 Follow after charity (love), and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that you may prophesy.

2 For he that speaks in an unknown tongue speaks not unto men, but unto God: for no man understands him; howbeit in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

3 But he that prophesies speaks unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

I want to look at the word for desire. It means to have warmth or feeling for or against.

What he is saying here is follow after, that word follow after means run for, lay a hold of love. The Bible says, "Herein is love that He gave His Son so we should not perish but have everlasting life." Follow after the passion there is for the immortal life that belongs to everybody. Follow after that and what comes from that. He said, "Desire, have a warmth for spiritual gifts. That simply means that we don't find our identity in miracles although it warms our hearts. It warms our hearts to see sick people being healed. It warms our hearts to see the manifestation of the Spirit in people's lives. It warms our hearts to see prophesy come and encourage people. It warms our hearts to see the manifestation of gifts. It warms our hearts but that is not what we follow after. Are you understanding what I am saying?"

We don't follow after that but that is our desire and we have had a desire as, "We must desire that!" I think the best way to say that in its context is, "Never let your heart be cold towards miracles. Let it still have a place in your heart where it warms your heart to see somebody healed from cancer, to see somebody provided for supernaturally, to see a word of wisdom, a word of knowledge, encouragement, to see certain gifts manifested. Let it be heart warming to you. Let it be something that is nice but never let that be what you follow after. Never let that be what you run to grab a hold of. What we run to grab a hold of is that which He grabbed a hold of us for and God did not grab a hold of you for the purpose of doing miracles in the earth. God grabbed a hold of you for the purpose of making you immortal in your body taking dust and glorifying it with immortality saving it from death. That is why He grabbed a hold of you!"

So I want to say to you that I have always had this passion in my life to pray for the sick. Then there came a time when I saw how hurt came to the Church through signs, wonders and miracles because of the identity thing which was in miracles. I prayed to the Lord and I said, "Lord, help me to see where the supernatural should be and what place it should have in our hearts." I want to say this to you: Never again will miracles be something that tempts me into having my identity in the supernatural because what the Lord has revealed to me is it can warm your heart to see a miracle, glory to God, but that is not what you should chase after.

What we grab a hold of and where our identity is in the immortal Jesus who will come and manifest His life in us, glory to God, and our heart is warm towards miracles. Because my heart is warm towards miracles and my heart is warm towards gifts, I would love to pray for the sick today. I would like to see people being healed. I would love you guys to minister to one another from the platform where that doesn't have any voice to us anymore. It's just something that is beautiful, it's heart warming that we embrace, that we are open for. We just just have a warm welcome in our hearts but it's not an end goal. Glory to God!

I trust that this message has blessed you. I want this message to be watched again and again. Let it touch your heart. Let it wash your heart. Let the truth of this flood your heart in such a great way that you can say, "God, thank You, thank You, thank You for this truth that my heart can be warmed towards miracles where I don't have to be afraid of miracles anymore because I used to find my identity in it but now I am actually afraid of it. No, it can be heart warming but since my identity is in the immortal human, Jesus, I identify with that life and that is my future. I know that Spirit will bring forth these things and my heart warmly welcomes this. That's it! Glory to God! As the Spirit brings forth certain things and as we are not antagonistic towards these things and we feel it, we can just walk in it openly, easily, because it's not an identity thing anymore. Let nobody ever come to you with anything like, "You know the apostles walked in signs, wonders and miracles so you have a word and God will confirm His word with signs, wonders and miracles so you better go and do miracles!" Just say, "Satan, get behind me!" Just look at what Christ has done and look at His Finished Work and walk as the Spirit wills in your heart as pertaining to the supernatural. Glory to God!

I would like to pray for the sick right now. My heart is warmed to whatever the Holy Spirit wants to speak through me. Let us pray:

Father, I thank You so much that I can stretch forth my hand and I can just in the Spirit in what You've done in this warm welcome in the supernatural and for Your things without it having a voice, without it having a temptation of identity or anything anymore where the voice of Satan was removed from the supernatural and miracles and all of that into a place where it can just warm our hearts because it is something that You do. I stretch forth my hand and I declare healing of cancer, I declare healing of the sickness and disease and whatever these people are going through. I thank You, Lord, that You stretch forth Your hand through signs, wonders and miracles that we can preach Your word boldly in the mighty name of Jesus. Thank You for that, Father!

I also want to thank You that You come and You help people. I just feel in my heart there are some folk here who have finances toward school or study or something. Everything went well but there is some money that is still outstanding. I just prophetically want to encourage you and say to you, "Don't let that have a voice to you. Don't let that be a voice. It shall be provided anyway although it looks as if it's not going to be. You are not going to lose that. It's going to come. The Lord will provide for you! Glory to God! Thank You for that, Father. Thank You for that Lord, Jesus.

I thank You, Father, that I can just pray, by Your Holy Spirit, over the minds of people that they can understand the dimensions of Your love, that they can be flooded with Your peace.

I want everyone who is watching now just allow that peace that is already rising up in your heart, just let it flood your heart right now, in Jesus' mighty name! Thank You, Father, for the power of the Holy Spirit and thank You, Lord, that You have removed the voice of temptation from miracles and signs and wonders where we can have our identity in You! Thank You for bringing truth to the Church! Amen

I want to thank you so much for watching. What a blessing to just share my life with you and to share with you what God has shared with me. Thank you for this Church family. Thank you for everyone who sponsors this ministry and whose heart is for this ministry and the spreading of this Gospel. You are loved! You are cared for! What a blessing to minister to you! Thank you for all your love!