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Referral Ministry of
Transformation Ministries Alliance

He rescued me because He delighted in me. Ps 18:19b

THIS MONTH'S MEDITATION SCRIPTURE: *Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. 2 Cor 5:17*

I'm A New Creature Now, But What Was I Before?

Last night, I was in a 12 Step Recovery Group, and the devotional from the Serenity Bible we were discussing started out, "Two indicators of addiction are the gradual loss of identity and the progressive violation of one's own values in the practice of the addiction." In the course of our conversation, the thought occurred to me, "If I became a new creature when I got born again at 17 as the above Scripture verse states, then according to the devotion statement what was the identity I lost before I got born again, when I was already active in my addiction?"

In John 10:10, Jesus declared, "...The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly..." And John 3:3 says, "Jesus answered and said to Nicodemus, "Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Then, if Jesus gives us life, our abundant life, through our born again experience, does that mean we were not living at all before we got born again? According to Paul, that would seem to be the case as he writes in Ephesians 2:1-7, "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." So, our bodies were alive and decaying towards death; but our spirits, which will live eternally, were not yet alive until Jesus changed that for us when we repented and got born again.

Going back to the question "What was the identity I was gradually losing when I was active in my addiction before I got born again?", the only conclusion I came to was that it was a

temporary, earthly, finite identity that may matter to loved ones or friends while my body is alive, but in eternity when I am with Jesus, that part of me has absolutely no significance. And with that truth, it certainly behooves us to live with an eternal perspective in the present, even while we are in our mortal bodies.

[Responses From You](#)

From a dear couple in the south: We see you are still active in the cause. Thank God, for that for there are so many being deceived these days. We think of you & your beautiful wife often. M retired 2 years ago, but is still working from home a couple of days a week. He has a few struggling with ssa, but the lion share goes to the transgender children & families. It's not easy, probably harder to make any headway with middle school to college kids now...May Almighty God bless your work & may He give you strength & power through the working of the Holy Spirit to make a difference in the lives of hurting people. Continuing on because of Christ & the hope of changing hearts & minds. May you & your family be blessed. M still remembers & treasures you two on your walks, sharing & praying together. I think it was one of the California trips. What a blessing. Just wanted you to know that we still remember & pray for your family & your work. May God richly bless you for your work with the strugglers. May you see change in someone's life this week even a small change is so welcome.

From a fellow leader: Daniel, thank you for sharing your heart within the Newsletter. Again, it is very encouraging and enlightening. Keep pressing on my Brother in Christ! With my love and prayers...

From a sister on Facebook: True story: Up early today praying....and the song that I heard during prayer is Trust Me by Richard Smallwood....then I logged in to FB and saw your post....Thank YOU!

[Upcoming Ministry Meetings](#)

Overcomers Group: Thurs, Sep 29, 2022; Thurs, Oct 13, 2022; Thurs, Oct 27, 2022

Family & Friends Group: Tuesday, Oct 4, 2022; Tuesday, Oct 18, 2022

[Upcoming Ministry Events](#)

Transformation Ministries Alliance (TMA): Introductory Luncheon @ Buckheads, 3324 Peachtree Rd, Ste 3, Atlanta, GA; Friday, 10/2/22 11:30am-1:30pm **Limited seating, must have reservation.** For details, send email to identifyministries@gmail.com

Freedom March, Saturday, October 29, 2022, The Meadow at Piedmont Park 10th Street Northeast, Atlanta, GA 30306, 12:00-5:00pm

Ongoing Prayer Requests

New Participants for Overcomers Group and new online lay-counselors • New members for our Family & Friends Group (especially wives) • Ministry Finances • Open doors to churches, so pastor and staff can be effectively equipped • Those currently being served by Abba's Delight ministry, both Overcomers and Family & Friends • Continued freedom to operate ministry in Kentucky • Smooth establishment of new network, Transformation Ministries Alliance.
New male board member for Abba's Delight

If you do not wish to receive the Abba's Delight Ministry Newsletter any longer, please let me know. If you do wish to continue to receive it, please be certain to put our email address in your address book, so that this mailing does not go to your spam, and report to your carrier. Thank you.

Now unto Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority before all time and now and forever. Amen. Jude 24-25