

The Word at Work



The Truth About You

Reading the Word

Key Scriptures: Ephesians 1:3-14

Ephesians 1 gives us an insight to some of the good things that we have in Christ. There are seven main ones:

1. we are chosen – to show the world what God is like
2. we are adopted – changed from slaves to sons
3. we are accepted
4. we are redeemed – set free by the paying of a ransom price
5. we are forgiven
6. we have been sealed by the Spirit
7. we have obtained an inheritance

Before we start looking at the good things that we have in Christ, we have to understand three important principles:

1. **God blesses us on purpose**
 - a. You didn't just catch God on a good day! He is deliberately blessing you in order to fulfil his purpose
 - b. By enjoying the good things we are actually fulfilling God's purpose of bringing glory to the Son
2. **These 7 spiritual blessings are good things** – they are real and they practically affect how we live, changing us from the inside out
 - a. Spiritual is not opposite to material; it just indicates that these blessings are made real to us by the Holy Spirit
3. **We are blessed in the heavenly realms in Christ**
 - a. it doesn't mean that we only get them when we get to heaven
 - b. it doesn't mean that we have to have a mystical experience to get them
 - c. it doesn't mean that they are in an unreachable parallel universe
 - d. what does it mean?:

God's word is settled in heaven (Ps.119:89) and his will is established in heaven (Matt.6:10). God's purpose is that - by the Holy Spirit and by faith - we realise in the earthly realm of our everyday experience what is already established in the heavenly realm – including all these good things.

This is why it is important to keep our hearts and minds fixed on things above (Col.3:1-3) and to fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen – the eternal, heavenly places (2 Cor.4:18).

This is especially relevant when we consider what is true about us. Most of us just look at ourselves in our everyday experience – with all our weakness and failures. But we also need to understand how God sees us and how he had made us to be in the heavenly realms (see the diagram on the other side).

This shows us that the key to the Christian life and growth is to be who we truly are!!

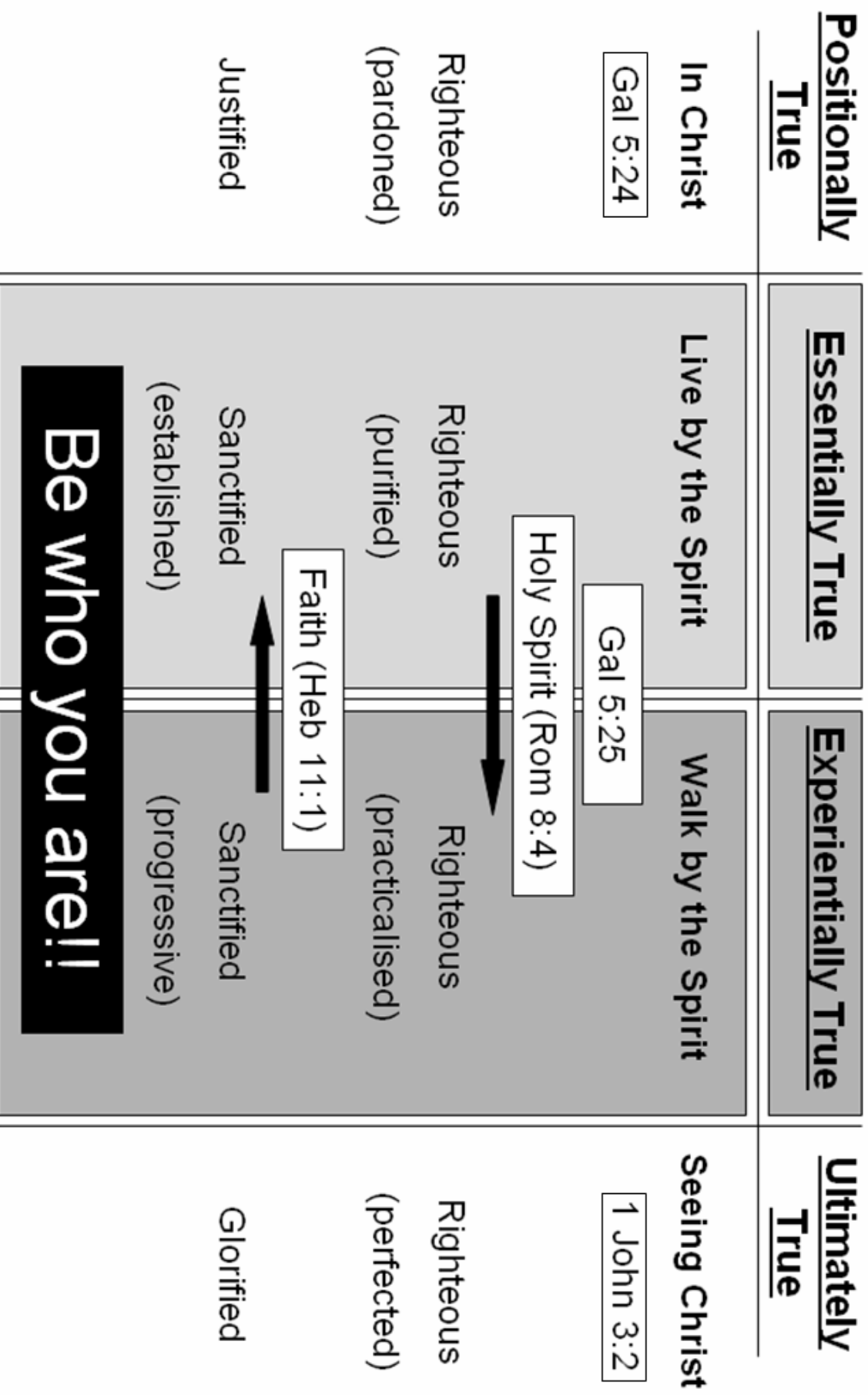
Doing the Word

To Discuss: Examine the diagram overleaf and discuss its meaning and implications

To Do: Stop just focusing on what is experientially true of you and start rejoicing in what is positionally and essentially true so that it starts to change you in your experience.

Trevor Lloyd 16th September 2007

What's the Truth About You?



Be who you are!!