



BECOME AN “IN CHRIST” PERSON

SUMMARY:

This week we are continuing in our series called, Stormproof: Finding Faith in Life’s Difficulties. Pastor Derwin is talking about our limited visibility in a storm, when we are tempted to see ourselves incorrectly. Dark powers seek to shrink our vision of who we are down to our performance, popularity, and possessions.

These three questions of identity were the same three questions Satan tempted Jesus with after His baptism when He was led into the wilderness in Matthew 4. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can withstand the storm the same way Jesus has done in these verses.

God has given us a new reality, a true picture of who we are in Christ. No matter what we do, what others think, or what we have our truest identity is in what Christ has done, what God thinks of us, and our being chosen by God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Think about the ways you typically introduce yourself to strangers. *Does it reflect what you do, how others see you, or what you have?*

Now take a moment to get to know each other in your group without describing your performance, popularity, or possessions. *What is a different way that you could introduce yourself without these shrunken identity markers being your default descriptor?*

Take some time this week to practice your new self-introduction.

Read Matthew 3:16-17 and Galatians 3:27.

What does God tell us about Jesus?

What does it mean that those of us “in Christ” are clothed with Christ?

Read Matthew 4:1-4 and Romans 5:18-19.

What is Jesus being tempted to believe about Himself?

STORMPROOF

FINDING FAITH IN LIFE'S DIFFICULTIES

How does what you have done compare to what Christ has done on your behalf?

Why is it a struggle to believe which one is weightier?

Read Matthew 4:5-7.

What is Jesus being tempted to believe about Himself?

Whose opinion matters most to Jesus?

What does God think about you? How do you know?

Read Matthew 4:8-11 and 1 Peter 2:9

What is Jesus being tempted to believe about Himself?

Who chose you as a royal priest?

What purpose do priests fulfill?

It is common when we read a story to identify with one of the characters. This week Pastor Derwin has reminded us that Scripture emphatically calls us to place our identity in Christ. Jesus is the main character, and we are able to withstand any storm that may come when we become an “in Christ” person. Any other identity is insufficient. We are not what we do, what others think, or what we have. *If you know that one of these lesser identities is a struggle for you, would you share it with your group?*

End your time praying for one another—that when you are tempted to believe a lesser identity of yourself, that you would be reminded that you are an “in Christ” person.