

[Faith, Hope & Love_Part13](#)

We have studied how Jesus is our **Jehovah Jireh**—our Provider—for everything we need in this life (both physical and spiritual) to fulfill the assignments the Father has given to us. And He is our Provider when it comes to conquering the enemies in our soul. We have studied this in the context of fear, our personal goodness, our failure and shame, and last week in relation to our pride (which was so closely connected to our goodness). Since Jesus has provided us everything we need for life and godliness through the true knowledge of Him who has called us by His glory and excellence (**2 Peter 1:3**), He is the very provision for our ability to permanently put down these enemies of fear, pride and goodness, and it is found through the pathway of humility.

If we are willing to come to Him for humility, He will give it to us and He will humble us before Him; but as with all things, there is our part. We must then be willing to take, clothe, put on, and walk in the humility that has been given to us. This humility is simply about our willingness to believe what He says and put aside what we think or feel that is contrary to what He says. In thinking about our study last week, which was very powerful and not something you want to just set aside (in fact, I think everyone should listen to it over and over again), I was reminded of a vision and a word from the Lord we received on **07/05/2013** which addressed this issue of our pride, goodness, failure and shame, and His humility. This was the evening at prayer when we had those who are weak and struggling in their faith gather in the middle as we prayed for you.

I see parts of our body stuck in a muddy swamp, some covered head-to-toe.

They look like swamp creatures. "You who were in the middle and even some standing on the outside, simply agree with me. Do not let the enemy put you to shame. That is not from me. Let humility be birthed in your spirit, letting it have its full effect, agree that my blood, MY sacrifice, not yours, has made you Righteous and Holy. It is what you are, not what you need to achieve. Believe and let yourselves be cleaned. Stay there no longer, but walk in the freedom I have given you, oh my Royal Priesthood."

The Lord just wants us to agree with Him. That is the humility He wants you to put on. It is that simple. He just wants you to lay aside your perspective of God, this life, and even who you are, which has been derived through the lens of your worldly experience. He just wants you to be willing instead to adopt His perspective of all things as you look at your life through the lens of the Kingdom of God. Simply agree with Him that you are good because He has made you good: it was His blood, His sacrifice, and not your own. What a powerful truth: "Righteous and Holy" defines what you are and not something you need to go do or achieve. **1 John 3:7** makes it clear that the one who practices righteousness is righteous just as He is righteous. Righteousness naturally flows from the life of the righteous. It is not something they have to go and try to do, it just is.

Look what He says in terms of being cleansed from the enemies in your soul and the lies that have entrapped you: "believe and let yourself be cleansed." As we have been discussing, humility is about the willingness to receive the appropriation that has been made for you by Jesus. Believe and He will do the work; He is your Provision. But for your part—and there is always "your" part—you must choose to

no longer stay in that place of arrogance and defiance where you still embrace the enemies of fear, personal goodness, pride, failure, and shame as your closest friends. Besides, should any of these have a place in the life of a Royal Priest?

This word is filled with so much hope. You can be cleansed, you can be done with these enemies, and you can know His peace and rest. I know the enemy has convinced many of you that you are powerless and they will be there forever. Well, truth be told, they are actually kind of right; they just have not told you the “rest of story.” You are powerless to defeat these enemies, you have given them the legal right to dwell in your soul; and if you try and evict them they will just laugh at you and scoff while you scurry around frantically trying to get them to leave. They simply won’t leave and they will stay entrenched in your soul and any attempt on your part to find permanent release from their terror is hopeless. But as for the “rest of the story,” if you are chosen by **Jehovah Mekoddishkem**, then by definition **Jehovah Shammah**—the Lord is there—is in you. And God who is in you is Mighty. One of Jesus’ names is **El Gibbor**—Mighty God. And we know this name belongs to Jesus because it comes from one of the most recognized messianic prophecies in the entire Bible.

Isaiah 9:6

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God**, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

If you let Him, **El Gibbor** will rout them out of your soul and go to war for you; and, as we know, these enemies are not afraid of us, but they are terrified of Jesus in us. These enemies cannot stand before our Mighty God. Therefore, the “rest of the story” is filled with hope and expectation for true and lasting freedom. If you are chosen, then hopelessness is to have no part in your life. It is simply not a reality; it is a fiction, a lie, a trick, a deception, and one of the most tried and true ways that the enemy has convinced us that our God is powerless and not mighty at all. Let’s read the rest of this passage in **Isaiah 9** for it speaks of the Lord conquering our enemies and setting up His government (in our soul) such that His rule and His peace will never end.

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. You will enlarge the nation of Israel, and its people will rejoice. They will rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest and like warriors dividing the plunder. *For you will break the yoke of their slavery and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders. You will break the oppressor's rod, just as you did when you destroyed the army of Midian. The boots of the warrior and the uniforms bloodstained by war will all be burned. They will be fuel for the fire.* For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of

Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

How glorious is this truth. He will break your yoke of slavery, He will lift the heavy burden from your shoulders, and He will break the oppressor's rod, and He will rule in your land. And even what scraps are left behind from the enemies in your soul will just be used as fuel for fire. It will all be destroyed. The point is that if you let **El Gibbor** have His way with you, your enemies will lose. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen! That is a guarantee. You just have to let yourself be cleansed, let Him war on your behalf. And your part in that cleansing (and remember, there is always "your" part) is, *by faith*, to stop empowering these enemies by worshiping their gods. You must no longer give yourself the reason, excuse, right, or privilege, to indulge in your coping mechanisms that keep you from ever truly agreeing with God that He is your Provision and that your' control, eating disorders, sexual disorders, self-protection, isolation, and so on, is not your provision.

Exodus 34:12-14

Be very careful never to make a treaty with the people who live in the land where you are going. If you do, you will follow their evil ways and be trapped. Instead, you must break down their pagan altars, smash their sacred pillars, and cut down their Asherah poles. You must worship no other gods, for the Lord, whose very name is Jealous, is a God who is jealous about his relationship with you.

Yes, in terms of our fear, pride, personal goodness, failure and shame, the Lord says: "Stay there no longer, but walk in the freedom I have given you, oh my Royal Priesthood." Agree with Him—exercise your faith—and do not let the enemy put you to shame; shame is not from God. Let humility, however, have its full effect and agree with His Provision, agree that He is your Provision, and prove this out by reaching down deep into your soul and choose, *by faith*, to walk in the freedom He has given you. For you are part of His Royal Priesthood.

What a beautifully personal and intimate declaration: "oh my Royal Priesthood." Think about this statement, for it goes to your very identity and provides the stake in the heart, so to speak, for the other enemies in your soul: insecurity and the victim mentality. You are a priest, which means you are dedicated unto the service of the Lord. You have been set apart for that purpose and that one purpose alone. That is your reason for life. Your job is to intercede on behalf of others with the Lord. You also are royalty. You belong to the one true King—the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Your very existence is one of honor, glory, and privilege. As a son or daughter of the King, you get to experience what no one else gets to experience. If you choose to view who you are through the lens of the Kingdom of God and not through the lens of the kingdom of this world, and what this world has said about you, then you will start to understand that Jesus is also **Jehovah Jireh**—your Provision for the enemies of insecurity and the victim mentality. If you think about it both of these enemies are rooted in your identity. In fact, they have defined for you much of how you see yourself; that is their specialty.

Let's start with our insecurity. The world does everything it can to not just create but to fan the flames of insecurity in our lives. We are compared constantly with

those who are: better than us, better looking, more famous, more talented, smarter, wealthier, preferred, wanted, pursued, chosen, more responsible, dependable and reliable, who do more good than we do and have more resources to do good, whose values are loftier, whose goodness is more profound, and so on. And this comparison leaves us with the message that we are simply not enough and will never be enough. Insecurity tends to be the baseline fear that engulfs and drives all of humanity. It fuels our goodness and is one of the main reasons we have adopted so many coping mechanisms; after all, we must have a way to deal with the disappointment of it all.

Our insecurity is also closely related, in terms of spiritual DNA, with the victim mentality and the entitlement that spawns from it. We are so insecure that we actually believe that somehow everyone else got the better deal from God, from society, from their parents, from their boss, from their teachers, and from life in general. Hence, we run around with an entitled attitude that is horribly destructive and takes away from God's love and personal sovereignty over our lives. The truth is that every single thing we have experienced—in its finite detail—has been part of God's perfect plan for our lives—every bit of it. Yes, His perfect plan. And your reaction to this truth is quite revealing. If what I just said makes you mad and opens up doors of doubt and disillusionment, then you are consumed with the victim mentality. If this truth makes you grateful and filled with praise, then you know you are free. But if you are squirming, then it still has a deep hold of you.

Jesus, however, is our Provision for both our insecurity and our victim mentality. You see, He has already provided for us a pleasant land in which to dwell; the problem is that we don't believe He will take care of us (the victim mentality); so

instead of advancing on the territory and taking the land, we grumble and refuse to obey the Lord. As a result, most believers choose to live as exiles and die in the wilderness of religion instead of enjoying the beautiful land He has provided.

Psalm 106:24-27

The people refused to enter the pleasant land, for they wouldn't believe his promise to care for them. Instead, they grumbled in their tents and refused to obey the Lord. Therefore, he solemnly swore that he would kill them in the wilderness, that he would scatter their descendants among the nations, exiling them to distant lands.

Jehovah Jireh is our Provider. But for us to take a hold of His provision, we must first take hold of, put on, clothe ourselves, and walk in the humility of active belief—the willingness to enter the land and take possession of what is rightfully ours. No matter what issue we are dealing with, our ability to know God's provision for our life always comes down to our willingness to believe the truth and bet our lives on the truth of God and the truth of who we are to God. Accordingly, the issue is always one of *faith*. I can teach you the truth, but you still have to decide, in humility, to believe the truth over what you would otherwise think or feel, and then make your choices according to that truth.

For example, I am going to teach you tonight about your identity in Jesus: who you are to Him, who you are in Him, who you are in the Kingdom of God, and who you are in this kingdom of the world. The truths you are going to learn tonight can

either radically change your life or they can just fill your head with more truth, and more truth, and more truth resulting in you having a lot of knowledge of the truth but still having no life in the truth. But Jesus came to give us life and to give it abundantly (**John 10:10**). He wants us to know what it is to abound in the life He provides; but this life is only found *by faith*. True life CANNOT be found in knowledge alone. But is in actively choosing to bet your life on that knowledge. If you are insecure, if insecurity has eaten your soul like a moth slowly eats away at a wool sweater, if you are consumed with the thoughts and behaviors of a victim believing that everything in your life has been, and is, unfair, then listen close, study these truths, apply them to your life, and choose to live as if it is true because it is. You may not feel like it is true, you may not even always think it is true; but you can still make the choice to live as if it is true regardless. This you can do. Feeling the right way or always thinking the right way is not a prerequisite for choosing the right way.

Jesus is **Jehovah Jireh**, the Provider for your self-image. You know what the world says about you and how you are always left wanting in the wake of all its comparisons; let's now see what God says about you. Let me warn you, it is a lot. Your true identity is lacking or wanting for nothing. It is rich beyond measure and as we go through this you will understand why the Lord refers to you as His Royal Priesthood. It is time to choose to view your personhood through the lens of the Kingdom of God. I am going to address each of these truths in the first person, it will help you apply them to yourself later on as you study them on your own.

Who am I?

- I am a child of God (**John 1:12; Romans 8:16; Galatians 3:26; 1 John 3:1-**

2, 5:1).

- I am one who calls the Father, the One who is above all, my daddy—my Abba (**Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6**).
- I am not only a son, but also a rightful legal heir through God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ. That means I have a legitimate right to all that the Father gives to Jesus. He shares every bit of it with me, not just a part but a whole (**Galatians 4:7; Romans 8:14, 17; Titus 3:7; and Revelation 21:7**).
- I am a true descendant of Abraham, an heir according to promise (**Galatians 3:29**).
- I am a friend of Jesus (**John 15:15**); and as we know, according to **Psalm 25:14**, He shares His secrets with His friends.
- I am the Lord's Beloved; Beloved is one of His nicknames for me (**1 Peter 2:11; 4:12; 1 John 2:7, 3:2, 3:21, 4:1, 4:7, 4:11; Jude 20**).
- I am no longer a slave to sin; in fact, I am dead to sin and alive to God—sin is not my master and I never again have to do what it tells me to do. I have no obligation to obey its voice. I have been set free from the power of sin and death (**Romans 6:6-14; 8:12**). Therefore, I am not hopeless; things are never hopeless when it comes to who I am in Christ—never hopeless!
- Accordingly, I am not one who is condemned by my sin; rather, “no condemnation” is my spiritual state of existence. I have been relieved of all my guilt and shame having been set free from the law of sin and death. I now operate in a totally different realm of existence; I cannot even any longer connect to this idea of sin being an issue between me and God, for I have found peace with God (**Romans 8:1; 5:1**). There is no separation

between us. For the longest time I was the one who made sin an issue and it always caused me to turn away from Him, but He doesn't—He can't.

- I am accepted by God (***Romans 15:7***); it is a done deal. There is nothing I have to do to earn this or to retain this status: I am accepted!
- And to everyone's surprise, I am a saint (***1 Corinthians 1:2, Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; and Colossians 1:2***). Saint Stephen, or Saint Ro, I like the sound of it.
- I am a temple of the Holy Spirit of God. One of the divine members of the Godhead dwells within me. **Jehovah Shammah** is there, and there is in me; and He will never leave me nor forsake me, so I can confidently say, the Lord is my helper, whom shall I fear, what can man do to me—absolutely nothing (***1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:19; Hebrews 13:5-6***)!
- This means I am one with Him (***1 Corinthians 6:17***) and have literally been clothed in Jesus Christ (***Galatians 3:28***); He is my covering.
- I am triumphant in Christ (***2 Corinthians 2:14***), for I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (***Philippians 4:13***). God has provided for me all that I need for life and godliness (***2 Peter 1:3***)—all that I need to fulfill the work of the Father.
- I am a new creation in Christ (***2 Corinthians 5:17***); the old things have passed away in terms of their ability to rule and control my soul—behold new things have come. In fact, my new creation is righteous, holy, and true having been created in the image of God (***Ephesians 4:24***).
- Now here is a shocker, I am the righteousness of God in Him (***2 Corinthians 5:21***). And if I am the righteousness of God, then that means I have been

set *free* from guilt, shame, or any other condemning lie of the enemy (***Galatians 5:1***). And He who is free is free indeed (***John 8:36***). That means through Christ I can cut off the heads of these enemies in my soul. They don't have to stay.

- I am one who has been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places (***Ephesians 1:3***). This truth is beyond imagination; I can barely scratch the surface of understanding it. Nevertheless, I know I am blessed because of all these truths spoken about my identity.
- Even when I am reviled by this world, I am blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on me (***1 Peter 4:14-15***). The same glory that once filled the Temple in Jerusalem now fills me and rests upon me.
- I am chosen, holy, and blameless, elect and dearly beloved (***Ephesians 1:4; Colossians 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4***). This one truth is enough, if *by faith* we were to believe it to be true, you could tonight lop the heads off of your pride, personal goodness, insecurity, and the victim mentality—all with one fell swoop. I am chosen! I am Holy! I am blameless! I am elect! And I am dearly beloved!
- I am redeemed, justified, and completely forgiven. Thus, there is no room in my life for shame or self-pity; none at all! In fact, I am the one upon whom He has lavishly poured out the riches of His boundless grace (***Ephesians 1:7-8; Romans 3:24***).
- I am God's precious possession; part of a chosen race, and a royal priesthood (***1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 1:11, 1 Peter 2:5***). In fact, I—Stephen—am His most precious possession, the apple of His eye (***Zechariah 2:8***). He

told me so. Yes, I am royalty; a child of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (**1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14, 19:16**).

- I am sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise (**Ephesians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 1:22**). The Spirit is the down payment so to speak, the engagement ring, the indication that Jesus will come and take me to be His bride.
- I am the bride of Christ; and one day that relationship will be fully consummated (**Revelation 19:7, 21:2, 9-27**).
- I am God's masterpiece, His work of art, His poem; and I was created for good works—for the works He would do in me and through me (**Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14**).
- I have been raised up with Christ and my life is hidden with Christ in God (**Colossians 3:1-3**). Yes, He is my hiding place (**Psalms 32:7**). As a result, I am seated in the heavenly places and I am a citizen not of this world, but of heaven (**Ephesians 2:6; Philippians 3:20**). Accordingly, I have access to the Father. In fact, I don't have to fear, I can boldly walk into His presence and talk to Him anytime I want fully confident and assured that I am welcome (**Ephesians 3:12, Hebrews 4:16; 10:19-22**).
- I am alive in Christ (**Ephesians 2:4-5**), delivered from the domain of darkness (**Colossians 1:13**). I was of the darkness, but now I am light (**Ephesians 5:8**).
- I am filled and made complete in Him (**Colossians 2:10**); and He has given me the Spirit of power, love, and self-control (**2 Timothy 1:17**). And if you can imagine, I have the mind of Christ (**1 Corinthians 2:16**).
- I am His witness (**Acts 1:8**) having been sent to earth as an ambassador of

Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:20**)—the salt of the earth and the light of the world (**Matthew 5:13-14**). And when it is all said and done, I will be revealed with Him in glory (**Colossians 3:3**).

- He has equipped me for my role as His ambassador; which is why I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (**Philippians 4:13**).
- I have been born again of imperishable seed (**1 Peter 1:23**) and I have received an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for me who is protected by the power of God for a salvation to be revealed in the last days (**1 Peter 1:3-5**).
- I am fearfully and wonderfully made (**Psalms 139:14**); I am precious and honored in His eyes; and He loves me (**Isaiah 43:4**). In fact, the God of the universe delights in the details of my life; and though I may stumble I will never fall for He holds me by the hand (**Psalms 37:23**). How personal, intimate, and totally cool is that?

That is who I am!

If you are truly chosen by **Jehovah Mekoddiskem**, all of this speaks to your true identity. With this resume, there is nothing to be insecure about, nothing at all. The world may try and put you down, but what does it matter. We may be in this world, but we are not a part of this world (**John 17:11-14**). This world and all its lusts are passing away, but those who are chosen (proven out by those who do the will of God) will live forever (**1 John 2:17**). Those in the world, those who belong to the kingdom of the enemy, have nothing over us, nothing at all. Let them love this world, let them love their religion, it just proves that the love of the Father is not in them (**1 John 2:15**). But here is the one thing I know without question, His love is in

me; I am of God and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. I know Him who is true; and am in Him who is true—in Jesus Christ, the true God and eternal life (**1 John 5:19-20**).

Thus, in terms of the victim mentality; you can put it to death. You never were a victim as we commonly understand that term to mean. All that has happened to you was necessary for you to come into your true identity, for you to be awakened from the dead into your true life. In fact, the only reason all these truths can be applied to your life is because of all that you went through. Every little detail was a step down the perfect pathway that He established for your life—a pathway which led to life. And all those details—all that you once grumbled and complained over—are the very things for which you can be thankful and for which you can choose to worship Him.

Psalm 111:1-4; 7

I will **thank** the Lord with all my heart as I meet with his godly people. How amazing are the deeds of the Lord! All who delight in him should ponder them. **Everything he does reveals his glory and majesty.** His righteousness never fails. He causes us to remember his wonderful works. How gracious and merciful is our Lord! ... **All he does is just and good, and all his commandments are trustworthy.**

Do you get it now! Jesus is your **Jehovah Jireh**—your provision to chop off the head of your insecurity and to decapitate your victim mentality. He has done it all

for you because you are precious and honored in His eyes; and your complete identity is found in Him and what He has done to you, in you, and through you. Learn these truths, fight with these truths, cloth yourself with these truths, and walk in them *by faith*. They are yours! Agree with God; let the humility of active belief be birthed in your spirit. Let it have its full effect. Believe and let yourselves be cleaned. Walk in the freedom He has given you oh Royal Priesthood.

In closing I want to read one more vision which speaks to all of this. It is so beautiful. Jesus loves us so much, it is amazing.

07/06/2013.

"Whether in the time to come or the time present, my Kingdom was, is, and always will be. You, my beloved body, whom I have personally knit together, have always been and always will be the Royalty I have made you to be. You need to change your perspective. Come and reason with me. This process of putting to death your flesh has been about removing the scales from your eyes and body so that the work of beauty would be revealed. Let it be so. Yes, you are my soldiers, specially trained to carry out the battle plans and victories laid before you, but you are so much more, for I am so much more.

You are a work of art, my beloved. You and I forged into one is a beautiful master piece! Oh, that you might agree with me! Agree with me and let the scales be removed so you too can see the beauty I have created. We are one as the Father and I are one, perfected in Holy unity. Dwell in the Kingdom of Heaven. Taste of it now and see. I am HE, more than your commander in chief, I AM your lover, your

bridge-groom. Agree with me that we might be joined as one in this way. It is the only way to see as I see. Do not let yourselves be tangled in the web of right and wrong doings. **THROW IT OFF! NEVER TOUCH IT AGAIN!** Those works have never been and never will be what I require of you, your Lord God and King. **Simply and humbly agree with me. It is far better, rest assured. That is my light burden, my love."**

Let's Pray