

# *trUe    BEAUty*

## **Walking in Your True Identity with Christ**

### **Select passages from Ephesians (the Voice translation)**

**1:3** Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus the Anointed One, who **grants us every spiritual blessing in these heavenly realms *where we live with the Anointed***—*not because of anything we have done, but because of what He has done for us.* <sup>4</sup> God **chose us to be in a relationship with Him** even before He laid out plans for this world; **He wanted us to live holy lives characterized by love, *free from sin*, and blameless before Him.** <sup>5</sup> He **destined us to be adopted as His children** through *the covenant* Jesus the Anointed *inaugurated in His sacrificial life*. This was His pleasure and His will for us. <sup>6</sup> Ultimately God is the one worthy of praise for showing us His grace; *He is merciful and marvelous, freely giving us these gifts in His Beloved.* <sup>7</sup> **Visualize this: His blood freely flowing down the cross, setting us free! We are forgiven for our sinful ways by the richness of His grace,** <sup>8</sup> **which He has poured all over us.** With all wisdom and insight, <sup>9</sup> **He has enlightened us to the great mystery *at the center of His will*.** With immense pleasure, He laid out His intentions *through Jesus,*<sup>10</sup> a plan that will climax when the time is right *as He returns to create order and unity*—both in heaven and on earth—when all things are brought together under the Anointed’s *royal rule*. In Him<sup>11</sup> we stand to inherit even more. As **His heirs, we are predestined to play a key role in His unfolding purpose** that is energizing everything to conform to His will. <sup>12</sup> As a result, we—the first to place our hope in the Anointed One—will live in a way to bring Him glory and praise. <sup>13</sup> Because you, too, have heard the word of truth—the good news of your salvation—and because you believed *in the One who is truth*, **your lives are marked with His seal.** This is *none other than* the Holy Spirit who was promised <sup>14</sup> as the **guarantee toward the inheritance we are to receive when He frees and rescues all who belong to Him.** To God be all praise and glory!

**2:4** But God, with the *unfathomable* richness of His love and mercy focused on us, <sup>5</sup> **united us with the Anointed One and infused our lifeless souls with life**—even though we were buried under mountains of sin—and saved us by His grace. <sup>6</sup> He raised us up with Him and seated us in the heavenly realms with *our beloved* Jesus the Anointed, *the Liberating King.* <sup>7</sup> **He did this for a reason:** so that for all eternity **we will stand as a living testimony to the incredible riches of His grace and kindness that He freely gives to us by uniting us with Jesus the Anointed.** <sup>8-9</sup> For it’s by God’s grace that you have been saved. You receive it through faith. It was not *our plan or our effort*. It is

God's gift, *pure and simple*. You didn't earn it, *not one of us did*, so don't go around bragging *that you must have done something amazing*.<sup>10</sup> For **we are the product of His hand, heaven's poetry etched on lives, created in the Anointed, Jesus, to accomplish the good works God arranged long ago.**

**2:17** The Great Preacher of peace *and love* came for you, and *His voice* found those of you who were near and those who were far away.<sup>18</sup> By Him both **have access to the Father in one Spirit**.<sup>19</sup> And so **you are no longer called outcasts and wanderers but citizens with God's people, members of God's holy family, and residents of His household**.<sup>20</sup> You are being **built on a solid foundation: the message** of the prophets and *the voices* of God's chosen emissaries with Jesus, the Anointed Himself, the *precious* cornerstone.<sup>21</sup> The building is joined together *stone by stone—all of us chosen and sealed* in Him, rising up to become a holy temple in the Lord.<sup>22</sup> In Him you are being built together, creating a *sacred dwelling place among you* where God can live in the Spirit.

**5:1** So imitate God. *Follow Him* like **adored children**,<sup>2</sup> and live in love as the Anointed One loved you—so much that He gave Himself as a fragrant sacrifice, pleasing God.

**Paul's prayer for the people of Ephesus in MY prayer for YOU:**

**1:17** God of our Lord Jesus the Anointed, Father of Glory: *I call out to You on behalf of Your people*. Give them minds ready to receive wisdom and revelation so they will truly know You.<sup>18</sup> Open the eyes of their hearts, *and let the light of Your truth flood in*. Shine Your light on the hope You are calling them to embrace. Reveal to them the glorious riches You are preparing as their inheritance.<sup>19</sup> Let them see the full extent of Your power that is at work in those of us who believe, and may it be done according to Your might and power.

**3:20** Now to the God who can do so many *awe-inspiring things, immeasurable things*, things greater than we ever could ask or imagine through the power at work in us,<sup>21</sup> to Him be all glory in the church and in Jesus the Anointed from this generation to the next, forever and ever. Amen.

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