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- **How Do You See Yourself?**
- **Is Your Perception Based On How Others View You?**
- **Are You Looking At Yourself Through The World's Lens?**
- **Where Does Your Validation Come From? People Or God?**

Dear Chosen One:

The story in Luke Chapter 4:14-24, demonstrated how Jesus was rejected in his hometown by many.

The Bible says, “Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.” (vs.14-15.)

When Jesus went back to His hometown the place where He grew-up, He went into the synagogues/church, and He was appointed to read the Scripture. This Scripture was actually a prophecy that was spoken by the prophet Isaiah and Jesus was going to fulfill that prophecy. The Scroll from the prophet Isaiah was given to Jesus and He started to read, “**The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.**” (Isaiah 61:1-2)

The Bible says, any Word that goes out from God’s mouth will not return empty, but it will accomplish what He desires to achieve. (Isaiah 55:11) What I am trying to tell you is that everyone of us has some kind of spoken prophecy to fulfill in our life. Whether it was revealed by the Holy Spirit or through other sources, God’s will, will be done in our life.

However, when the right time comes that spoken word will manifest itself. That is why we have to be very careful what we speak or prophesy over our children and others. The Bible also tells us that “**The tongue has the power of life and death...**” (Proverbs 18:21.) As soon as Jesus read the Scripture that prophecy came alive and was fulfilled in view of all those who were in the synagogue.

Jesus knew His true identity in the Father; therefore, He rolled up the scroll and took His seat in His rightful place. However,

there was a problem. The Jews were offended, and they rejected Jesus after He sat in the chair that was set aside for the Messiah. Jesus was the Messiah, and the Son of God but they were looking for someone else.

When some people accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, they are going to face this same kind of rejection when they come in contact with their old friends. They will still be looking for that old person they once knew. Especially incarcerated individuals who are returning home saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Some people even after hearing about your transformation and things you are doing like—witnessing and telling others about Jesus’ goodness and mercies—still may not believe. Although, your character in Christ will demonstrate that you are a new creation in Christ, without spiritual eyes, those around you will not be able to accept this truth. Only spirit filled people will be able to recognize the wonderful changes while some others will remain doubtful about who you are.

This is the kind of rejection Jesus experienced. They were looking at the same Jesus that they knew—the one who grew up in Nazareth— and questioning His power and ability to heal the sick, open blind eyes, liberate the captives and raise the dead. I am sure some of them were saying “who does He think He is coming back here doing all these miracles as if He is God.” Oh yes! Jesus was God in the flesh and that was why He was able to do those things.

Unfortunately, God’s thoughts and ways of doing things are baffling to our carnal minds. Jesus was God before He left His home to proclaim the Good News and He was still God when He returned home. John 1:1-2 says “**In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He [Jesus] was with God in the beginning.**” Yes! The Word was and is Jesus. He was in the beginning when God created the world.

These religious people could not recognize Jesus because most of them were like the people in this era who are spiritually blind towards godly things/people. These people look and sound spiritual, but they are blind to TRUTH. These people who were in the Temple when Jesus read the scripture, were faithful church goers but spiritually blind. They probably were going to church only to get recognition for what they were doing.

They missed out on the manifestation of prophecy because they perceived Jesus to be just like one of them. They knew Him as Mary and Joseph's son. Therefore, He was not worth having their undivided attention. The world will not recognize you and some of your friends will not accept you when you are spiritually transformed, and *fire baptized*.

The Bible says, in 2 Corinthians 4:4 **“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of Christ.”** Satan will deprive the truth from being revealed to anyone.

If you are an unbeliever and you are reading this newsletter, don't let the devil blind your mind from receiving truth. God can and will use various people to carry out His work. You might know them prior, and they may even look the same, but remember the Holy Spirit is within them, and God will use them to accomplish His will for your life.

As Christians when we go to preach the Gospel to unbelievers some of them will not accept the Word of God because they are still looking at the vessel and not the content which is the Powerful Word of God within us.

Especially if our old acquaintances knew the lifestyles we were living before we got transformed. This could cause them to miss their blessings. Thank God Jesus came and liberated us from our past sin. The Bible says, **“But He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities: the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.”** (Isaiah 53:5)

It is a privilege to bring you the Good News. However, I want you to reflect on the four questions at the front of the newsletter.

1. **How do you see yourself?** Broke, busted, and disgusted? Or prideful, arrogant, and cocky? Or fearful, timid, and uneducated? If these tainted images are a part of your conscious, then you need to make a withdrawal and discard them in the trash right now!

You need to make some new deposits into your memory. Start repeating phases such as: I am confident in Christ Jesus. I am more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus. I am fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of Christ Jesus. I am strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. I am smart, beautiful and have the mind of Christ Jesus. Now, don't just make one deposit. Make as much as you wish and use every opportunity you get to repeat these words to fill your memory bank.

2. **Is your perception based on how others view you?** Too many people's perceptions about themselves are based upon what others think of them. Stay true to yourself and keep God first place in all your affairs. Don't make decisions about your life based on someone else's opinion. Be a God pleaser not a people pleaser. Remember, a blind person can feel the heat without seeing the Sun.

3. **Are you looking at yourself through the world's lens?** If you are looking through the lens of the world then you need to reexamine your vision and change your lens. The Bible clearly tells us that we are in this world, but this world is not our home. People who are looking through the world's lens usually start to mimic what the world is seeing. Take a good look at yourself in the mirror and remember you were born in the image and likeness of God—your Father.

4. **Where does your validation come from? People or God?** Don't wait for people to validate your accomplishments. Oftentimes, the closest people around you overlook your successes and take what you are doing for granted. Some people cannot appreciate the hard work others are doing because they are too busy trying to compete or critique the work of others. You are your biggest fan. When you successfully accomplish a task, it is because God has already validated and chosen you for that assignment. Therefore, if no one else approves of what you have done, give yourself a pat on your shoulder and say “well done...”

This Month The Sons and Daughters Ministry is celebrating 19 years of corresponding through newsletters to individuals all over the world. However, this year the Ministry has relaunched and is looking forward to using various programs to help the formerly incarcerated and others.

WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU ON THE OUTSIDE
Contact Ms. Christian Green, NYC Health Justice Network. (646) 856-0368 Email: cgreen7@health.nyc.gov
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LadyCoach Transportation providing services from NYC to NYS Prisons (Greenhaven, Fishkill, Downstate, Bedford and Taconic Call 1800-838-9704 www.theladycoachway.com