

**A GOD'S EYE VIEW OF YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY
FROM BEFORE THE BEGINNING UNTIL AFTER THE END**

By Colette Williams, Sept 2021

Long, long before you were born, before the creation of the world, you were conceived in the mind of God.

At some time in eternity before the world began, God thought of you, imagined you, and chose you to be his beloved child.¹ He planned your future, and gave you a ministry – a particular way to serve him.²

Then he waited, through long ages, until the time of his choosing. You were conceived, and as he began to knit you together in your mother's womb³, he must have smiled as the fulfilment of his dream began to take shape. Fearfully and wonderfully made, you were and are God's workmanship, his masterpiece.

He placed you in a family to care for you. And he waited. Through childhood, through all your growing up years, always watching, protecting, loving. Drawing you gently, continuously towards that moment⁴ that he anticipated from eternity. *When you said yes to him, by saying yes to Jesus and the cross.*

And when you did, there was great rejoicing in heaven!⁵

From that moment, you became *a new creation*.⁶ Jesus took all your sinfulness into his body, and in an almost unbelievable exchange, you received his righteousness.⁷ You were at last in right standing with God. You were holy in his sight, without blemish, and free from accusation.⁸ You were *in Christ*, a new creation by the grace of God. It's no longer about you and what you do or how hard you try – it's about what Jesus has already done for you, and your new status in him.⁹ Your *striving* ceases, and you rest in his grace.

Something else happened at that time. In an event that we can only take on faith, because we can't see it with our eyes or any of our senses, you became *united with Jesus*,¹⁰ so that his death retrospectively became

¹ Ephesians 1:4, Romans 8:29

² Eph. 2:10

³ Psalm 139:13

⁴ John 6:44,65

⁵ Luke 15:7

⁶ 2 Corinthians 5:17

⁷ 2 Cor. 5:21

⁸ Colossians 1:22-23

⁹ Eph. 2:8-9, Romans 8:1

¹⁰ Rom.6:3-5,8

your death. All your failings and shortcomings, all the accusations that could be levelled against you, were nailed to the cross,¹¹ and they, along with your old self, died with Jesus.¹² And his resurrection became your resurrection to new life. This truth is enacted as we rise from the waters of baptism, washed clean, and united with Jesus. In the words of Paul, “You have been crucified with Christ, and you no longer live, but Christ lives in you.”¹³

And in Christ, you have been given every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms.¹⁴ Every good thing that you need for your spiritual life, your life as a Christian, has been given to you, in Christ. Everything you need to resist the Enemy of your souls has been given to you, *in Christ*.¹⁵ Because *he* is the source of everything you need.¹⁶ As you believe, speak, and act in faith, these spiritual blessings become physical realities.¹⁷

And so you begin your new life in Christ, with a renewed spirit within you, a spirit that is just like Jesus and is united with his Spirit. Your old, prone-to-sin spirit has been renewed. *But not your old mindset*, your way of thinking that centres on self-interest. That’s why God’s Word tells us not to be conformed any longer to the ways of the world, but to be transformed by the *renewing* of our minds.¹⁸ We must re-programme our minds with God’s Word, so that our thinking is in line with the truth of scripture, and our body, mind and spirit are in alignment with who we now are, as children of God. Thinking his thoughts, speaking his truth, with his values and priorities becoming our values and priorities.

Thus, we now walk by *faith*, and not by sight as we did before.¹⁹ We learn to walk in step with the Holy Spirit,²⁰ who has made his home in us. In fact, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit live within us.²¹ You are not the same as the rest of the world, nor should you look just like the rest of the world.²² You have a different spiritual DNA. The *fullness of God* now resides in you,²³ and you are a new being. The fruits of the Spirit grow and become evident in your life.²⁴ You become more and more like Jesus²⁵ as you yield yourself to the recreating, sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit,²⁶ through worship, in prayer, and by meditating on God’s Word.

Now you discover the *purpose* for your life – a loving, intimate relationship with God, which is the key to everything. You rejoice that you are forgiven and free, and sharing abundant life in him. And as you focus more and more on him, you find your heart echoing his heart towards others.

¹¹ Col.2:14

¹² Galatians 2:20, Rom.7:6

¹³ Gal.2:20

¹⁴ Eph.1:3, 2 Peter 1:3

¹⁵ 1 John 3:8b, Col.2:15, James 4:7, Eph.6:10-18

¹⁶ Phil.4:19, 2 Cor.9:8

¹⁷ Matt.4:4, Proverbs 18:21

¹⁸ Rom.12:1-2, Eph.4:22-24

¹⁹ 2 Cor.5:7, 2 Cor.4:18

²⁰ Gal.5:25

²¹ John 17:20-23,26, John 14:17,20

²² John 17:13-19, 1 Cor.2:12, 3:19, Col.1:13

²³ Eph.3:19, Col.2:9-10

²⁴ Gal.5:22-23

²⁵ Rom.8:29, 2 Cor.3:18

²⁶ 2 Cor.3:18, 1 Thess.5:19, John 14:26

But you also discover the *particular* purpose he has for you, your ministry²⁷ (which is really his ministry through you). And you learn to operate in the gifts he has given you for that ministry, being open and hungry for more gifts²⁸ as you step out in faith. Receiving faith-stretching assignments that can only be accomplished as you rely completely on him and the power of his Spirit.²⁹ Together with your brothers and sisters in Christ, you make up the body of Christ and continue to do what he did in the world.³⁰

Thus, growing slowly but surely, and keeping your feet always on the path that God has set before you, you become his hands and feet in the world, serving where he has called you to serve. And as you use the authority he has given you to speak out his word and his will,³¹ you become his mouthpiece, bringing the kingdom of heaven into our physical world, to the glory of God.³²

Then at last, when your days have been completed, you rest and sleep, safe in his presence, awaiting your resurrection to eternal life³³ when you shall see him face to face.³⁴

Jesus shall return at the fullness of time, as he has promised,³⁵ being patient with us, not wanting any to be lost.³⁶ At the right time he will come in the twinkling of an eye and the sound of a trumpet. The dead who are in Christ shall be raised to meet him, given a new, imperishable body,³⁷ and a new earth in which to dwell.³⁸ When everything has been completed, we and all our fellow believers shall be presented as the Bride of Christ, radiant and pure,³⁹ the fulfilment of the ages. And we shall reign *with* him, in never-ending light.⁴⁰ Together we shall try to plumb the unfathomable depths of God, but we will never come to the end of him, because he is glorious beyond our imagining.

We find we have come full circle, back to the one who imagined us before the world began, and in that circle of eternity we worship forever the One who is eternally worthy, in a never-ending song of praise.⁴¹

²⁷ Eph.2:10

²⁸ 1 Cor.12:7, 14:1

²⁹ Zechariah 4:6

³⁰ John 14:12

³¹ Matt.28:18-20, Luke 10:19, Acts 1:8

³² Matt.6:10, 16:18-19

³³ 1 Thess.4:14

³⁴ 1 Cor.13:12

³⁵ John 14:2-3, Acts 1:11

³⁶ 2 Peter 3:8-9

³⁷ 1 Cor.15:51-53

³⁸ Rev.21:1

³⁹ Eph.5:25-27

⁴⁰ Rev.22:5

⁴¹ Rev. 5:11-14