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Ministers **U**ncompromisingly **S**ubmitted to **C**hrist in **L**ove and **E**ndless **S**ervice

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Teaching from the desk of Kenneth Etta

Submitting to the identity of Christ in the new creation

What we can do through Him. Part 4 of 4

As we conclude this series of teachings on the identity of the believer in Christ, I want to end the year on the high note of **destiny**. The abundant life that Jesus came to give us is **the grace of God that empowers and enables** us to live a life that fulfills God's specific purpose for each of us. You are not on earth simply to occupy space. The bible says that God has ordained us for good works in Christ Jesus from the foundation of the world. Fulfilling your destiny as a believer is embedded in the conglomeration of good works specifically designed for you by the Father in Christ. When you believed in Christ Jesus, God, whose declaration of approval in His beloved Son was credited to you in Christ. Therefore, God no longer sees you in light of the old creation but the new (**1 Corinthians 5:17**) and speaks into your life in light of Christ's finished work.

In this vein therefore, **you are no longer** the defeated, victim mentality bound, poor me minded, good for nothing destined, devil's doormat cast but a new creation in Christ Jesus given the legal right to become and be called the child of God (**John 1: 12**), whom God has declared can do all things through the strength of Christ (**Philippians 4:13**), has been made to sit in heavenly places in Christ Jesus far above all principalities and powers (**Ephesians 1:20-23, 2: 1-6**) and given the authority to trample on serpents (**Matthew 28:18**) You are destined in Christ to reign victoriously in this life as a royal priest of the new covenant (**Romans 5:17**) Walk with God and you will reign in life and fulfill your purpose in spite of life's tribulations.

When God speaks to His own He speaks in covenant terms with destiny in mind. God created Adam in His image and likeness and gave him the power and authority to have dominion. God called Abram from a pagan household and told him to go to a land He would show him. And Abram became Abraham and the father of our faith changing his destiny and ours forever. God called Moses (a man with an impediment in his speech) and anointed him to become the mighty leader through whom he would show his delivering powers. God called Joshua and told him to be strong and courageous because as He was with Moses so He will be with him. And through Joshua the Israelites entered their destiny in the Promised Land. When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he was threshing wheat to hide it from the Midianites in fear. God spoke strong words of encouragement to him and he became a mighty deliverer. God called David, the least of Jesse's sons and anointed him to slay the giant Goliath. He became the greatest king of Israel with an everlasting throne on account of the promised messiah descending through his loins. He wants to do the same for you.

God does not look to your past or present to speak concerning your future. God did not call or anoint you based on your human ability. **In fact your human ability devoid of the grace of God will hinder His**

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destiny for your life. So if you feel inadequate in yourself, it is okay. It is not uncommon for human flesh to fall down in inadequacy in light of His awesome and overpowering majesty. But don't stay where you are or shy away from Him. If Moses, David, Peter, the other disciples and Paul had allowed their inadequacies and past failures to stand in the way of God's destiny for their lives they would have remained obscured to us. All have sinned and more often than we wish, we do miss the mark. And this is where the love, mercy and grace of God comes in and raises us up when we come to Him in repentance and submission. Gehazi, Ananias and Sapphira unlike Hezekiah and David failed to cry out to God in repentance even after judgment was pronounced and allowed their hardened heart to rob them of the blessings of what could have been. Don't go into 2004 with a dead corpse on your back. Repent if you need to. Forgive yourself and others for wrongs done if you need to. **Don't allow your past or present to rob you of your future in God**

God takes nobodies and transforms them into mighty individuals of valor in Christ. Yes in Christ you are a mighty man/woman of valor. You may say "But Kenneth I don't have a ministry like so and so and I am not like and can't do what so and so does. I am a nobody serving God in my little corner of the world" Oh stop the stinking thinking. First of all **God does not compare and compete His children against one another.** Secondly and even more important **you are not called to be someone else but you and who He transforms you to be in Christ.** As believers, there are no big kahunas in the body of Christ. Yes there are God delegated positions of authority and ministry. However, Jesus Christ **alone** is the Big Chief, Boss and Lord. He is the Star of the whole show. He is the one who paid the price for what we have and have become in Him. Authority is not given as a tool or mandate for abuse or control over people but service. There is a correlation between authority and servant hood. **Please** respect the anointing, the office and honor those in authority over you on account of the aforesaid but don't worship them. Worship Jesus. You are as valuable and important to the Father God as His child like anyone else in your particular calling and anointing.

The time for living a destiny-focused life powered by the grace of God is now. The bible says that the people of God perish for lack of knowledge and where there is no vision the people live carelessly. God visited Joseph with a vision encapsulated in a dream for his life that changed him, his family and nations. God is both a dream maker and giver (**Joel 2: 28-32**). He will not only give you a dream for your life, He will enable you to accomplish it as you seek Him and walk in faith, hope and Love. Had Joseph given up hope, his destiny and that of the millions he affected would have been different. Against hope Abraham believed in the hope God spoke to him concerning the promised seed of Isaac through whom we have the Messiah.

Keep your dream and vision ever before your eyes on tablets of paper and flowing through the door of your heart, which is your mouth. What you believe in your heart you will speak and confess through your mouth. Be mindful to whom you confide. Joseph spoke abruptly in immaturity reaped much pain. Confide in people or someone only who is a dreamer and visionary like you else your dreams could be squashed to the mud. If you don't have a dream or vision seek God for one. Embark on a crusade of been and doing good. Many have found their calling by simply been good to people. **Sometimes finding your calling is hidden in the simple things that you are gifted in and find fulfillment doing.** God's got an anointing for people who are committed to doing good called the ministry of helps. God anointed Jesus of Nazareth and He went about doing good...**for God was with Him.** God is a good God and the Church and world are in dire need to experience more of His goodness. Become an agent of the goodness of God. In love, feed the hungry; clothe the naked; visit the widows, elderly and the sick; give to the poor etc. That is true Christianity

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Jesus was a man of purpose and destiny. As we move into 2004, if you want to move into another level in God or you are tired of living life in the passive zone then I exhort you to **take hold of the loins of God** and like Jacob and Jabez don't let go till He awakens purpose in your spirit and the blessings begin to flow. I know you are well able **in Christ** to take that mountain like Caleb and enter your promise land. Keep your eyes on Jesus and you will defeat the giants and possess your inheritance. Play your life music well and the foundation to a life of purpose and destiny is birth in the subject we will embark on in January. **You don't want to miss it.** Next year can be your best year in Christ. Remember He wants to walk with you in love and grace to fulfill your purpose in life. Will you let Him? He loves you so much. He is faithful and true.

Shalom

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