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Sermon by Prophet Kobus van Rensburg

THE COMING OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

IDENTITY CRISES

When we look at many Christians today, it seems that the church has an identity crisis. The one minute they want to have revival and the next minute they want to go to heaven. The one minute they want to do something for God on earth and the next minute they want to go to heaven. They do not know what God really intended for them to have on this earth. Are they here to do something or are they here to get saved and go to heaven?

Most invitations for people to get saved are as follows: "Do you want to go to heaven? If there is anybody in this place who does not know if they are going to heaven, would they please put up their hands? If you don't want to go to hell, please put up your hand..." No invitation or gospel message in the Bible was ever a case of heaven and hell.

It is not a matter of missing hell and going to heaven. It is: What is God's purpose, what is God's plan, what did God intend for me to be on this earth? We pray: "Let Your kingdom come and Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." It is time to get heaven's blessings on earth. We pray it, but we don't believe it, because we sit with an identity crisis.

We often hear: "O, there are so many questions we ask but we shall ask it in the sweet by and by. We shall ask Jesus and He will tell us the reasons why." BUT everything is perfect in heaven. You will ask Him nothing and He won't tell you anything. It is perfect. You won't remember earthly troubles and sorrows once you are in heaven, because when you are in heaven you don't think of the things on the earth. It is time to get heaven and earth combined and to get heavenly blessings on earth.

Why did God put you on this earth?

Why did He fill you with His Holy Spirit?



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Why did He get you born again?

Galatians 3:1-3 O foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, that you shall not obey the truth before which eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified. This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish having begun in the Spirit are you now made perfect in the flesh?

Paul asked the Galatians: Did you receive the Spirit by obeying the law or hearing of faith? Now that you have started in the Spirit, do you think that you can be made perfect in the flesh?

Perfection is not with fleshly desires, it is not in the flesh. Perfection comes by obeying the promptings of the Spirit.

Romans 8 (Phillips translation) Those that are obedient to the promptings of the Spirit and not the promptings of the flesh, they are the mature sons of Almighty God.

Galatians 3:3-8 Did you receive the Spirit by obeying the law or by faith? Are you so foolish having begun in the Spirit that you are now being made perfect in the flesh. Have you suffered so many things in vain, if indeed it was in vain. Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you, and works miracles among you. Does He do it by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith? Just as Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him as righteousness, that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham and the scriptures foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preach the gospel to Abraham before hand, saying in you shall all the nations be blessed.

WE ARE BLESSED IN ABRAHAM

We must understand that Abraham was the first one to receive the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Genesis 14-17:9 - Melchizedek appeared to Abraham, with bread and wine and preached the gospel unto him. Those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. Do you want to be blessed?

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Galatians 3:10-14 For as many that are under the works of the law are under the curse, for it is written, cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for the just shall live by faith. Yet the law is not of faith, but the man who does them shall live by them. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law having become a curse for us. For it is written cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree, that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

God made a promise to Abraham and in that promise are all the blessings that God wants to give man. God says that the promise we can receive that was made to Abraham, is the promise of the Spirit.

"The promise is the Spirit"

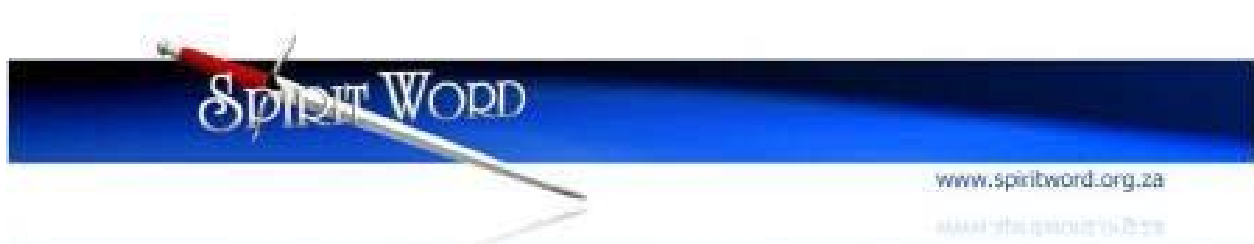
Galatians 3:14 That the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

God gave promises of blessings to Abraham and then says that we can receive the promise of the Spirit.

Galatians 3:15-18 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men. Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed no one annuls or adds to it. Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. It does not say and to seeds as of many, but as of one, and to your Seed who is Christ. And this I say that the law who was 430 years later cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. For if the inheritance is of the law it is no longer of promise. But God gave it to Abraham through promise.

Did you receive the Spirit by obeying the law or by the hearing of faith?

The inheritance is of the law. For if the inheritance is of the law it is no more of promise, but God gave it to Abraham by promise.



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The promise is the Spirit. When I receive the Spirit, I do not get it by the law; I get the Spirit by faith. If I receive the promise of the Spirit by faith, it means that I've got the blessings of Abraham. So people go for the blessings and they miss the key or the open door to the blessings. People have received the Spirit of God by faith, so they start off in the Spirit, see the blessings and then become legalistic by trying to get the blessings in their lives.

They are trying to keep laws, they are trying to please God and now all of a sudden they're back in the flesh trying to get the blessings instead of realising the blessings are in the promise of the Spirit. That is what Paul meant when he asked: "Did you receive the Spirit by obeying the law or did you receive the Spirit by faith."

The promise was made to Abraham. This is a revelation that you have to grasp. Many people receive the Spirit of God and they are so happy but when they don't get the blessings, they get back into the law to see if they can't get the blessings, instead of obeying the promptings of the Spirit. The blessings are not in obeying the law; the blessings are in receiving the Spirit, because the promise is the Spirit. The outflow of the Spirit is the blessings.

Galatians 3:19 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made.

The law was until the Seed came. It was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

Galatians 3:20-24 Now a mediator is not mediator of one, but God is one. Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not. For if there have been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law, But the scripture has confined all under sin that the promise by faith in Christ Jesus might be given to those who believe. What is the promise of the Spirit? But before faith came we were kept under guard by the law. Kept for the faith which would afterwards be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor, our schoolmaster, our trainer to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

That doesn't mean I keep the law till I find Christ. That means the law was the trainer till Christ came. Christ already came, so the law is fulfilled in Christ.



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Galatians 3:25-29 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor, for you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for as many as of you who were baptised into Christ have put on Christ, there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.

The promise was made to Christ Jesus, who is the Seed. If you are now born again and you have accepted Christ, you become the seed. Once you become the seed, the promise is for you. The promise is the Spirit. If I have received the Spirit I am an open target for the blessings of Almighty God. I am an open storeroom to gather in and receive all the promises of Almighty God. The man mentioned here is Abraham. To Abraham was the promise made. To Abraham was the gospel preached. In Genesis 12 we see how God made the promise to Abraham.

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the Lord said to Abraham get out of your country, from your family, from your father's house to a land that I will show you. and I will make you a great nation, I will bless you and I will make your name great and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you. I will curse him who curses you and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

God made a promise to Abraham and said, 'I will give you a land', but Galatians says that the promise is the Spirit. Further God said, 'I will lead you and give you a land, then I will bless you and then I will bless all the families of the earth'.

Galatians 3 states that the promise is the Spirit and in Genesis 12 God declares, 'I promise you a land'. What do people still think today? I am bound for the Promised Land. The Jews were also heading to a Promised Land.

Why did they call it a Promised Land?

It was a promise God made to Abraham. (I will take you and I promise you a land and when you get to the land, you will be blessed and then all the families of the earth shall be blessed, but you first have to get the land.)



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Romans 4:13 For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham and his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

So God gave a promise to Abraham. He said the promise I am really giving you, is that the world is going to be yours, Abraham. The promise was given to Abraham and his Seed. The Seed was Christ, and after Christ came, we are now the seed.

To whom was the promise made? To all born again children of the living God.

What is the promise? The Spirit.

What does God say to Abraham is the promise? The world is going to be yours, son.

I thought the devil.... You thought wrong

Romans 4:14-16(a) For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect because the law brings about wrath. For where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed...

THIS PROMISE IS ACTUALLY FOR ME

Romans 4:16(b)-24 ... not only to those who are of the law, but to those who are of faith of Abraham who is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you father of many nations in the presence of him whom he believed - God who gives life to the dead and calls those things that do not exist as though they did. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith giving glory to God and being fully convinced that what he had



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promised, he was also able to perform, therefore it was accounted to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed for him. But it was also written for us.

THE PROMISE OF THE WORLD

Most people reading Romans 4 would say that the promise is Isaac. No, the promise was made to Isaac. The promise was to Abraham, to Isaac, to Jacob, to Christ, to us. You are not the promise, the promise is to you. The promise is that the world is going to be yours and you can not receive it by trying to keep a law, you need the Spirit (which is also the promise).

Remember Romans 4:17... he believed God that calls things that are not as though they were.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, it is the evidence of things not seen.

How do I receive the promise? By faith.

What does faith do? It calls things that I cannot see yet as though I already see it.

Faith says, 'Don't worry if you don't see it, just make as if it is already there'. Speak like you already have it. That is why people struggle to speak positively, because they say, 'No, I can't see it' but if you say "I can't see" you are talking in unbelief. You're back in the flesh. Faith says, 'Yes, look what God has given me'. Where? 'No, I can see it in the Spirit.' The only people who get things are they who see visions. God has given you an imagination. Using your imagination is actually faith.



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Hebrews 11:8-9 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called out of the place to where he would receive a inheritance; and he went out not knowing where he was going. But by faith he dwelled in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents, showing it was temporary, with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise.

Abraham dwelled in the land as a foreigner. 'In tents' shows that he did not find it, although he was there, he didn't know it was his. They kept on staying in tents, meaning that they could take it up and pitch again, take it up and pitch it again. All the time he was looking for the land, but he was already in it.

The promise was made to his Seed, and the Seed was Christ and only after Christ came, the seed is there. We don't have to look for it, we just have to realize what it is. Jacob and Isaac were heirs of the same promise, they were not the promise.

Hebrews 11:10 For he waited for the city which had foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Abraham did not get the promise. He waited for a city which had foundations and whose builder was God. He was looking, but he didn't know where he was going..."I'm looking for my promise". What is your promise Abraham? "Well, He said I am going to get a land. Actually He said the whole world is going to be my inheritance, but it will be settled in a city, so I am waiting to see where the city is."

Either you're going to a city or you are in a city.

How can you wait for a city?

Abraham did not get the promise; he waited for it. "I am waiting for a city, but this city has got foundations and the builder of the city is God. When I get that city I will know that I have my promise."



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Hebrews 11:13 But these all died (Talking about all the other faith people) in faith. Not having received the promise, but having seen them a far off, were assured of them, embraced them and they confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

While they waited for a city with foundations and which builder was God, they saw it afar off and said, 'We are strangers'. Abraham dwelled in a land as a foreigner. 'We are strangers and we are pilgrims.'

Hebrews 11:14-16 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. (That is the promise) And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is a heavenly. So they waited for the city, for the land, for the world, but it was a heavenly one. For God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

God has prepared a city for Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Samson, Moses, David, Rahab, Sarah, Barak etc. They waited for a city that had foundations, whose builder is God. That was the promise. They saw it afar off, that is heaven, and they said that they are strangers and pilgrims because they were waiting for the city. God says, 'Because they say that, I have prepared a city for them - a heavenly city'.

Hebrews 11:39-40 And all these having obtained a good testimony through faith did not receive the promise. For God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

WE HAVE NOW COME

Remember the perfection in Galatians 3 - you started off in the Spirit and now think you can be made perfect in the flesh? These people lived in the flesh. They could not be made perfect, for God prepared something better for us, that without us they could not receive the promise. God has prepared something better for us. They did not receive the promise of the city, the land, the world, because God has prepared something better for us. They could not be made perfect without us. So you are something.



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Hebrews 12:22(a) But you have come to Mount Zion, and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem... They waited for a city, but you have come to a city - the heavenly Jerusalem, called Zion. You have now come to a mountain called Zion. You have come to a city. They waited but, (b)-23 ...to an innumerable company of angels, to a general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven to God the Judge of all and to the spirits, that means these people are now dead, of just men, that means those who were righteous, made perfect.

Hebrews 11:39-40 says that they could not be made perfect, but we have come to the city and to the spirits that are now perfect. They could not reach perfection. They could not get the city because they waited for it. God intended something better for us, therefore they were not made perfect. We have come to this city and we have come to these spirits that are now perfect. That means we have now come to the promise. We don't have to wait for it. We don't have to see it afar off. We don't have to look for it. We don't have to struggle in the flesh to get it. We have to know what the Bible says about the promise. :24... to Jesus, the Mediator of the new testament.

How did John see the revelation on the Isle of Patmos?

Revelation 1:9-10 I, John... was in the Spirit on the Lord's day.

Revelation 21:2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

They waited for a city and saw it afar off. They proclaimed that they were strangers and that there was a heavenly city, therefore God prepared a city for them.

Throughout the years people meant nothing for God on earth and that is why the heathen, rebels and terrorists are doing what they're doing - because the church is still waiting. They are still waiting to go to heaven, waiting for their city. Abraham waited for the city that was the promise. He saw it afar off. God said, 'I've prepared that city for you.' They could not be made perfect without us, but now, we have come to the city, to the spirits of the perfect saints.

John saw the city. Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. Jesus



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stood on the mountain in Matthew 28 and said, 'Go preach the gospel to all nations, lo, I am with you, but just before you get into big a hurry - first go wait in the city of Jerusalem'.

Revelation 21:6 And He said to me, 'It is done! ...'

The things that John saw were already finished.

Revelation 21:9 Then one of seven angels, who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me...

This verse was fulfilled in Zechariah talking about the seven last plagues, which were poured out on Jesus Christ when He hanged on the cross.

" He paid the complete price.

" God poured out judgement on Jesus.

" He took our judgement on the cross.

" He died for our sins on the cross.

" He shed His blood on the cross.

" The wrath of God was poured out.

" He was stricken, smitten and afflicted of God.

Revelation 21:9 Then one of seven angels, who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me saying, 'Come I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife. John, if you don't understand - it's the Lamb's wife. Check up in the dictionary - a bride is not the one standing in front of the pulpit, going to get married - the bride is the newly wedded woman.



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Revelation 21:10-11 And he carried me away in the spirit, to a great high mountain and he showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

THE CITY OF GOD

God gave a promise that you would be heir of the world. Who is the God you believe in? God died on this earth for this world. He made a promise that you would be heir of this world.

Is He now going to give it to the devil?

Is God schizophrenic?

Is God a psychopath?

Is there something wrong with our God?

This is why I say that the church has an identity crisis. For one minute they call a fast for revival and the next week they have a series of meetings about the end time, how we must hide in caves because the systems of the world are now going to take over. Do you want revival or a system?

Revelation 21:14-16,23 Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he who talked to me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates and its walls. The city is laid out as a square. Its length is as great as its breadth, is as great as its height. Its length, breadth and height are all equal. ... the city had no need for the sun or the moon to shine in it - (Reference: Isaiah 60) for the glory of the God illuminated the land as its light (Reference John 1:9) and the nations of those who are saved or are being saved shall walk in its light and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honour into it.

If this is the end of all things how can people still get saved? How on earth can people get saved when they come to the city if the city is the wrap up of all things? How can they bring their money to it? The nations that are not saved will bring money to the city. (Isaiah 60:26)

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The promise is a city, but Galatians says that the promise is the Spirit. How, if scripture must reveal scripture and explain scripture, do I get Abraham, promise, spirit, city, waited, prepared, heavenly Jerusalem, foundations, apostles all together?

Luke 24:49 Behold, I send you the promise, I send the promise of my Father upon you. But tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.

Go, wait until you are endued (the KJV says 'clothed')... The Greek word 'endue', means 'to be dressed up'. Go wait in the city of Jerusalem because something is going to come from the Father, I call it the promise. It will come upon you and you will be clothed - you will be dressed up. Don't miss! I will send you the promise. Where did Jesus say it? He took them on a high mountain and said. 'Go back to Jerusalem and wait for the promise. When the promise comes you will be clothed, you will be dressed. Go wait and then you will be dressed up.'

Genesis 11:1,4-6(a) Now the whole earth had one language. And one speech and it came to pass as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there... 4: And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men build and the Lord said indeed the people are one and all had one language...

This the chapter just before God said to Abraham, "go".

Genesis 11:6(b)-8(a) ... and this is what they began to do; now nothing they purpose to do will be withheld from them. Come let Us go down there and confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth...

In Acts chapter 2 many years later - They had to wait.



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Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost fully come... There was a waiting for something and now the time has fully come. ...They were all of one accord... In Genesis they were also in one accord. ...in one place... They were also in one place. :2-6 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. Then appeared to them divided tongues as of fire and sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because they heard them speak in his own language.

In Genesis 11 they were one and said, 'let's build us a city unless we are scattered' Then God said, 'let's go down and confuse their language' and they were scattered abroad. In Acts 2 they were one. God said, 'let's go down and fill them with the Spirit.' And the people were confused because they all heard their own language. In Genesis they were scattered but in Acts they came together.

Acts 2:13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine." But Peter stood up with the eleven... :15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. :16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; :22 Peter preaching, man of Israel, hear these words. Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested by God to you by wonders, miracles and signs which God did through him in your mist as you yourselves also know. :23 Him being delivered by the determined purpose and for knowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, you have crucified Him and put Him to death. :32 This Jesus has God raised up. :33 Therefore being exalted to the right hand of the God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured it out, which you now see and which you now hear.

Galatians 3:1 - You started in the Spirit, how do you want to be made perfect in the flesh?

The promise of the Spirit is to the seed - that includes all blessings. In Genesis we see the promise is a land "...and if you get the land you will be blessed; all families of the earth, but your inheritance will be the world." Abraham waited for the city that had foundations and whose builder was God and they said that they were strangers and pilgrims.

Ephesians 2:20-22 - we are no longer strangers and pilgrims but we are now being built up as a city. Because they looked for a city that was still far, God said I have prepared a city for them - a heavenly city, Jerusalem.



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John was in the Spirit and he saw the city that had foundations

Ephesians 3:17; Ephesians 2, 3 and 4 - we are being built up

Ephesians 3:17 - I want all the saints to know what is the length, breadth and the height.

But verse 16 and verse 18 says nothing about it. (It doesn't say the length, depth and height is love. It is the city.)

Ephesians 4 - we are built on the Apostles' Doctrine. The Apostles are the foundational teachings of Jesus Christ.

God prepared for them a city.

John saw the city prepared as a bride.

Jesus said, 'Go wait in Jerusalem till you are dressed'.

The outpouring of the Spirit - Acts 2 - is what John saw. It is the dressing up of the bride, which is the city.

WE HAVE ALREADY COME.

If I can find my identity knowing I am actually the city, people will come to me and they will be saved, set free, delivered, healed. But, they don't get the blessings because they are waiting for a city. It already came down from



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heaven. People were dressed up and they walked out and immediately started healing the sick. Three thousand came to Jesus the very next day.

The minute I realize that I am not waiting, I am, I am already married, I am the city, I am already the bride, the wife, the land, I can bring healing to the nations; I can bring blessings to people.

I needn't be filled with fear knowing what on earth is going to happen to me. But, there will be a city coming from heaven and I will walk on streets of gold. No, you will not. Streets of gold is referring to the HIGHWAY OF HOLINESS, referred to in Isaiah 35 and Revelation 21. It talks about a street (singular) and not streets, so it cannot be streets like we know them.

This is where the church has missed it, because they are waiting for a city that already came on the day of Pentecost. That is why the early church was such a blessing. That's why they brought so much healing to the people. That's why, wherever they went people jumped out of wheelchairs, jumped off stretchers, demon possessed were delivered. Why? Because, the city was there.

He said, 'John it is done.' (Revelation 21:9) 'I have just shown you what happened on the day of Pentecost. Now John, write this letter to the church, because they are getting flaky again. They are all over looking for Anti-Christ instead of looking for Christ. They are looking for demons instead of looking for Jesus. They are looking for a false church instead of looking for the church. They are looking for a city instead of being the city. Tell them they are the city. Tell them I want to send the world to them, but I can't because they don't know they are the a city.'

The minute I get my identification

People will come and be saved,

Set free, delivered, healed.