

**THE IMAGE** by Allison Bown

## **Chapter 4: Upgrading our Identity Software.**

Chapter 4 is also a short chapter but a very important one. Maybe it is best to start with some questions directly from it, so as to zone in on a few important aspects. Think of your brain as your computer. You have had it for years and been using Microsoft Windows 7 or an even earlier package. You are reluctant to upgrade as you are so familiar with how it functions but to delay much longer will make you a dinosaur and obsolete. So, translating this into kingdom language questions:

- a) Are you working with a current, updated version of your kingdom identity, or are you still trying to process your life through an outdated version?
- b) What old thoughts about God and yourself are you still bringing along with you just in case you mistakenly believe you might need them?
- c) Are you still trying to process your new identity in Christ through an outdated system of old covenant beliefs?
- d) Is your self talk and thinking more 'in the past' rather than about 'today and tomorrow'?

As you can see, it would appear that most believers are in a serious need of an upgrade. The Kingdom age is now here and the Church age has finished. This does not mean that the church will cease to exist. It means that those parts of the church that do not transition to kingdom thinking and culture will eventually cease to exist. For the individual believer it means totally scrapping your operating system of religion and legalism and replacing it with the latest kingdom software. The best way to do this is to go cold turkey. Stop, quit and delete every religious practice you have from your regular spiritual life. Get rid of all your 'church' language. The only and important thing you need to keep, or develop (if you haven't) is having time with and talking directly with the King. He will direct you in your life and point you to good kingdom teachers, most of whom you will find on the web. Also, find 2-4 'true kingdom' believers to hangout with. These will most likely not be attending a typical church as you know it.

This requires a major lifestyle change. Major! Everything must change. It can be the most exciting time of your life with God. As you surrender to do 'only' what the king says...you will find freedom.

## **Chapter 4: Upgrading our Identity software.**

### **Landmark.**

New ideas or a fresh perspective from this chapter. It should not be difficult to identify at least 10 religious habits that need to cease.

eg.

Stop always saying grace before eating. Stop praying for fellow believers 'in Jesus' name. Maybe give up reading the bible for 3-6 months. No more 'exciting' conferences. Take your 'Jesus' bumper stickers off your car. Take time out going to your church for a while and spend that time with Him instead.

### **Questions for Exploration.**

These should act as a compass to give some sense of direction in Kingdom thinking.

eg.

What do I really need to hang onto for my faith? Explore your understanding of 'Hell'. Does it really exist? Explore why Jesus really came? Hint...to re-establish his kingdom.

### **Questions for God.**

This is where you are doing the asking and he is doing the answering...hopefully.

eg.

Lord, will you help me to get rid of the beliefs I have that are not from you? Will you replace them with correct kingdom theology?

**New Thought.**

This is about actively looking for new opportunities to explore your new Kingdom life.

eg.

How about finding a new group of friends outside of your church. Scary! Don't tell them you are a 'Christian'. Let them find out from how you relate to them.

**Activating your Discoveries.**

How do we activate what we have learned. Practice talking to fellow believers and others about the kingdom, and kingdom life without using any 'church' language whatsoever.

eg.

John, in answer to your question, I am finding that most of the information given to us by the media is simply not true. In fact it is very biased mostly to the left but sometimes to the right. I usually tap into a different source. Some call it 'the dark web' but often it comes from a variety of sources. Try ' Outsiders' on Sky TV for a change.