



Ghosts of Christmas Past 3: Overcoming Labels

The Power of words:

²¹ The tongue has the power of life and death. Proverbs 18:21

*What’s true about you **now** doesn’t have to be true about you **later**.*

✓ God’s power is **bigger** than your **past**.

Take your Negative label ⇒ Name It something different

The story of Jacob loved Rachel - Gen 29

Genesis 35:16-18

¹⁸ Rachel was about to die, but with her last breath she named the baby Ben-oni (which means “son of my sorrow”). The baby’s father, however, called him Benjamin (which means “son of my right hand”). Genesis 35:18

Jacob’s personal experience of renaming: (Gen. 35:1—14)

Named Jacob (*Deceiver*) at birth

Re-named Israel (*my God prevails*) after wrestling with an angel

You *don’t* get to choose what comes into your life.

You *do* get to choose what you call it.

For every label **you don’t like**—**re-name it something different!**

Remember: *God’s power is bigger than your past!*

- ✓ You are an Ambassador for Christ – 2 Cor. 5:20
- ✓ You are a Child of God – I John 3:1
- ✓ You are a Friend of God – John 15:15

⇒ You will *grow* into your new name

Through the tough times, trials and temptations of life

The enemy means to stop me—God means to Strengthened me!

Next Week: Christmas Eve: When God Changes Plans Prov. 19:21

Ghost of Christmas Past- Labels

December's Memory Verse – *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.* Colossians 4:2 NIV

Monday 12/18 - Read Genesis 36:16-18

Question: Rachel named her son, Ben-Oni, meaning 'Son of my Trouble'. What kind of label would that be for a child growing up?

Truth- *But his father named him Benjamin.* "Son of my right hand."

Meditate: Proverbs 18:21- *The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

Prayer: Father God, thank you that you call us your sons and daughters. That is a label I can always take joy in.

Action: Search the scripture for names God calls is His people.

Who I am in Christ:

Tuesday 12/19- Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Question: What was one of the labels Paul used for believers?

Truth: *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.* Vs. 20

Meditate: 2 Corinthians 5:17 - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

Prayer: Lord, I will be your representative to anyone you send me to.

Action: *For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.* Vs. 14

Who will tell about the Love of God and the Hope of Christ:

Wednesday 12/20- Read Romans 8:14-17

Blessing: *The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."*

Truth: *For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.* Vs. 14

Meditate: Romans 8: 16- *The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.*

Praise: Lord, thank you for my adoption into your family. May my life always bring glory to your Name.

Action: When I share in Christ's suffering I have the knowledge that I will also share in his glory.

What God is telling me:

Thursday 12/21- Read 1 John 3:1-3

Question: What does lavish mean?

Truth: *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.* Vs. 1

Meditate: 1 John 3:2- *Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is*

Pray: Lord your love for me is so great I am overwhelmed by all your blessings that you have lavished on me.

Action: *All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.* Vs. 3

What is God telling me:

Friday 12/22- Read John 15:9-17

Blessing: *I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.* Vs. 11

Truth: *You are my friends if you do what I command.* Vs. 14

Meditate: John 15:15- *I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*

Prayer: Lord thank you for calling me your friend. I will do as you instruct because I am your friend.

Action: *This is my command: Love each other.* Vs. 17

Who will I share God's love with today:
