

## **THE IMAGE** by Allison Bown

Our journey of discovery as to who **"I am"** through the thoughts and truths given to us by The Spirit. The book is based on 2 Cor. 3:18

*"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, (as in a mirror) are being transformed into that very same image, from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (for He is the one doing it).*

### **Chapter 1: Our Primary Identity.**

So, The question for us is **"Who am I."** It is such an important question and cannot be ignored by the believer. Even if it takes a lifetime, you must find the true answer.

The main statement from which to build a picture of our true identity is: *"I am chosen by God. I am accepted in the Beloved. I belong here."*

When we are born again, we are birthed into a new life and a new identity. It is our identity in the Beloved. The Father only sees us now through Christ who lives in us. It is here that the image in the mirror is changed. The image is now Jesus. This is the true and only image as the Father sees us. From here on, we are that image and are becoming that unique person the Father created us to be through the process of transformation until that day when we are presented at the throne.

Can you imagine the Father saying, "It is my delight and honour to present to you *"....."* (put your name here) who is really, really special to me, who has trusted me faithfully through good times and bad times, a true champion who stood firm and took bold steps of faith because he (she) trusted in who I Am; a lover of wisdom and of me and my Son. Allow me to introduce my special child, my friend, my dearly beloved, in whom I am well pleased."

Take some time and craft out a statement that truly reflects your primary identity in Jesus. Do not consider who you are at this point in time but 'see' who you truly are and becoming in the mirror.

**Landmark.** New ideas or a fresh perspective gained from this chapter.

eg.

It is new to me that the "Image" I am to see in the mirror is in fact JESUS. While we somehow retain our unique identity in Him, we should be seeing His image, because we are being changed into His likeness.

**Questions for Exploration.** List what you feel has most influenced your current image of God. This is meant to give us a sense of direction...so my questions are in line with this thought.

- a) I have been influenced by "God's creativeness". All I have experienced in music, song, dance and film has been wonderful, I wonder where the next door will lead?
- b) I know in my heart that what you think about me is the only 'True' opinion that I need to take notice of. Can I go further with this thought and truth?
- c) I understand that I am uniquely created and have a specific ongoing calling and destiny in you. How do I travel this road more clearly...besides intimacy?
- d) You have always been with me, even though I have strayed from you. As I enter this new phase of my life will you show me more clearly how to live in you. For when I am living in you I will have an impact for you and your Kingdom?

**Questions for God.** Father, what do you see in me that I don't see in myself?"

eg.

I see you as an amazing creative man/woman. I see you as being much more full of the abundant life I have already arranged for you. Throw off that 'towel' and get all that I have for you now!

**New Thought.** When God looks at me, He sees....

Well, He sees me through Jesus. This is a bit of an upgrade to say the least!! He sees the new man/woman, the new created ME, not restricted by myself or the enemy, because Jesus has set me free. I need to fully comprehend this truth and walk in freedom.

**Activating your Discoveries.** Spiritual development is always meant to partner knowledge with real-world encounters.

eg.

Using some part of the statement you have made about your 'true' identity in Christ (as the Father sees you), make a point of meditating over this truth and see yourself changing into this person.