

DO YOU KNOW YOUR POSITION?

By Donna F. Hostetler

When we are born into this world, it is a physical birth. We are physically placed into a home without our consent. It could be a good home with two loving parents. It could be a broken home with only one parent, poverty, dysfunction, or hate. Perhaps we were not wanted, or our mother could not care for us, and we were put up for adoption or raised "in the system." Regardless, we inherit whatever physical situation we find ourselves in. Our thinking, perspectives, wants, desires, hopes all come from whatever physical position we were put in. That affects our opinions, viewpoints, worldview, and how we see our Heavenly Father. It is a position that we didn't choose. We were physically brought into this carnal world.

When we become born again, we choose to be spiritually born. It is a spiritual choice. We choose to accept God's precious gift of His Son and the sacrifice He made for us. We accept that He loves us so much that He gives us a chance to step into a glorious life. When Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood for us, He positioned everyone that accepts Him into His spiritual Kingdom. It is now our choice to move into our spiritual position. When we say yes to Him, we get all of the benefits of being a child of God. It is a spiritual birth. And it is our choice. Because of our choice, we inherit all of God's best. Now the Holy Spirit can come in and affect our opinions, viewpoints, worldview, and most significantly, how we see our Heavenly Father.

Now that we are born "again," this choice we make brings us into eternal life, the life that our Heavenly Father wanted for us all along. It allows us to move beyond the sin we inherited from Adam. No longer are we chained by the curse and death, but we are free to move into the high spiritual realm of life in Jesus. We are now the righteousness

of Christ which positions us above all who won't or haven't yet made the choice to be born again. They are living only in the position of their natural physical birth.

I am quoting this directly because it is too good to try to summarize!

"When God came into the garden of Eden after the fall of the first man, the Bible says: *"But, the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"*" Genesis 3:9 NIV

This question – "**where are you?**" from God to Adam had nothing to do with his physical position or location in the garden. It had everything to do with his spiritual position and location, in exercising spiritual authority in the garden over all of God's creatures, including the serpent. Adam was not standing in his position of spiritual authority when God came looking for him in that position." *Bible Vision International Ministries.*

Adam gave up his spiritual position, but our wonderful Heavenly Father already had a plan in place to give us the opportunity to get it back! We have a way to move from just a physical position in this carnal world to a spiritual position through Jesus Christ. Our spiritual birth puts us back into "The" family of God. We are now spiritually positioned as a child of God. Merriam Webster's Dictionary tells us that position is a "relative place, situation, or standing; a situation that confers advantage or preference." What does that mean for us? As a child of the Most High God, we have received all the rights and privileges that He has given to His son, Jesus. We are immediately adopted into His home, His Kingdom. All that sounds wonderful! However, we are responsible for learning how to hold our position, be a child of the

Most High God, and represent our Heavenly Father.

The first thought that came to my mind when I thought about how miraculous it was that we could choose to be Father God's child [spiritually] is, "How do I fit in?" If you were adopted in this natural world, you would be moving in with people you either didn't know or didn't know well. And you would then be subject to their household rules, traditions, interactions, and lifestyle. As their newest child, you would be expected to represent their family because you were now a part of that family. How you carry yourself, how you interact with people, how you conduct yourself, and how you fit in would all reflect on your new adoptive parents. It is more than a legal standing that you now have with the family. Your attitudes and behaviors need to mature, perhaps change, or cease depending upon your past behavior.

Likewise, as part of the family of God, we need to present ourselves, conduct ourselves in ways that reflect our new position. It is more than just having a spiritual legal standing through Christ. We must now learn who we are in Christ, what our position is in the Kingdom of God, and above all, how to reflect all that the Heavenly Father has given to us and called us to do. For me, the most difficult part of being a born-again believer is seeing myself as God sees me. We can no longer look at ourselves the way our physical family, friends, co-workers, employers, etc., see us. Until we see ourselves through the lens of God, we can't fill our position well. How does God see us? Through His Son.

So, Jesus is the key. Now we have to shift our mindset from "what I must do" to "what He has done." We have to rise above our old thinking and how we approach things. It's

not unlike being hired into a position with a company. You have a job description, qualification requirements, expectations, and a supervisor. Jesus already "qualified" us, so we are in! Now we need to understand our new position and what's expected. The best part is that, unlike a physical job, we have the Holy Spirit alongside us at all times; coaching, directing, teaching, leading, and inspiring us. However, we still must do our part; we must understand the position!

There has been much written about who we are in Christ. Here are just a few things that explain who we are:

- Sons and Daughters
- Right Standing
- Ambassadors
- Disciples
- Students
- Soldiers/warriors
- Teachers
- Intercessors
- Prophets
- Hands and Feet
- Friends of God
- Abraham's Seed
- Kings & Priests

That's a lot of descriptions! Each is worthy of further study. We are all of these things and more. But just like any new position, we need to learn the basics before we can grow into the full scope of the position. The Holy Spirit is a patient and faithful teacher. Expect for this to take your lifetime to grow and expand into all of the positions you hold in the born again life.

As we grow in our relationship with our Heavenly Father, the more we understand what we are to do. The more we practice doing what our positions in Christ require of us, the more we are confident in who we are and what our authority is. It is not unlike the

role of an earthly boss toward his employees. A good boss has more responsibilities than simply hiring new employees. That is just the beginning. Once the people are hired, they must be trained. A good boss knows that the people in his employ will have to first learn the job in order to expand and do more. A good boss understands his responsibilities toward those who work for him.

Do the employees have all the tools they need? Do they receive encouragement and feedback so they can grow? And, above all, is the environment or atmosphere one that allows them to learn from their mistakes without punishment so they can become a better worker?

The best part of being in the position of a child of God is that no matter what, we have all that we need, and we are always seen through the lens of Christ. He is perfect! When God looks at us, He sees Christ so that our mistakes, our shortcomings, our imperfections are not seen. If God doesn't see them, why do we keep looking at them? He designed our position from the very beginning of time. And He wants us to enjoy our position with confidence and trust in Him! All that we see Jesus has, we also have. If we have the full backing of the King of Kings, then we need to understand that we also have His authority. We have His provision, His wisdom, His protection, His support, His constant presence through the Holy Spirit. As He is, so are we in the world.

Our new spiritual position brings with it responsibilities, just like a physical job does. When I was in management and supervising people, I often had to remind people to just do their job. Too often, people were focused on what others were doing or not doing, what they perceived as unfair, or people who

weren't "doing it right," and not on what they were responsible for. Countless times I would say, "Just do your job. Don't worry about anyone else. If you do your job, and do it well, that is all that is required of you".

The same is true in your spiritual position. Know what your spiritual position is. Know what your spiritual job is and do it. Don't worry about others, what they are called to do, how well they are doing it, or how "cool" their job might be. We each are called to a specific spiritual position in the body of Christ. The only person's opinion we need to be concerned with is the opinion of Christ. If He is pleased with what I am doing in my spiritual position within the Kingdom of God, then that is all that matters. Just as Jesus said to Peter when he asked what about the Apostle John after his resurrection: "*Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man? ²²Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."* John 21:21-22, so we are just to keep our eyes on Jesus. Follow Him, and He will take care of the others around you.

Understanding our spiritual position requires our time to be focused on our Father. How else can we learn what the family is all about if we don't know what the head of the household wants? How can we emulate our Father if we don't know anything about Him? He's the best of the best! We need to allow the Holy Spirit to flow through us so that we can reflect Him to others because we represent the best. As we grow in our position, we need to be seeking insight into what gifts He has given to us. "*I will praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;*" Psalm 139:14. We were designed by Him from before we were born. That means we were born with the gifts and callings He has placed in each of us. Over our lifetime, we discover what they are and

develop them so that we can exercise the authority of our position. But often, we sabotage ourselves!

For example, if you feel that God has called to you sing, but you know that there are others who sing much better than you, it doesn't take away from the fact that God has placed singing in your heart. Instead of comparing ourselves to others and what they can do or are doing, we need to look at what God has asked us to do. To do otherwise can cause us to just not do it. Our insecurities can sabotage us. You don't have to be better than someone else or, in this case, a perfect singer. If God called you to sing – sing to Him. If He chooses to have you also do more, He will promote you. In the meantime, just sing to Him with all that He has given to you. As in the garden before the fall, He just wants our fellowship. In this example, you singing to Him.

As I look over the list of positions that we have spiritually once we are born again, which I presented earlier, there are two that I would like to address. The first is Abraham's seed. Even though Abraham is "Old Testament," he lived before the law. And He was blessed by God. *"And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."* Galatians 3:29 Abraham was certainly not a perfect man. He waited many, many years to have a son. Mistakes were made while waiting for God's promise [Ishmael for one]. We can learn much from the life of Abraham and how God called him "friend." Friend means "- a person who you like and enjoy being with - a person who helps or supports someone or something." While Abraham had a relationship with God, I think God also enjoyed being with Abraham. Mistakes and all, Abraham followed what God asked him to do. It may have taken him a while,

but he obeyed and was greatly rewarded. We still can see God's promise to Abraham that he would be a father to many nations, *"Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them."* And He said to him, *"So shall your descendants be."* Genesis 15:5. Today, even though our modern-day skies are full of ambient light, you can still see many, many stars on a clear night and be reminded that if God fulfilled His promise to Abraham, how much more will He do that for you because of who you are in Christ?

Being a part of Abraham's inheritance means that all of the promises God made to Abraham [See Deuteronomy 28:1-14, for example] are ours today because we are part of the seed of Abraham. Our spiritual position includes the inheritance of God's promises. It is an inheritance that we receive because we have chosen Jesus. The best part is that there is enough inheritance for everyone who is spiritually born into the family. It is an inheritance that no one can take or challenge, and this spiritual position puts us into our Heavenly home. How awesome is that? Just as we prepare space in our earthly homes for the coming of a new member of the family, how much more does God prepare a place and provision for us in our spiritual home.

The second position we have is as an ambassador. Again, turning to the dictionary, ambassador means: "an official envoy *especially*: a diplomatic agent of the highest rank accredited to a foreign government or sovereign as the resident representative of his or her own government or sovereign or appointed for a special and often temporary diplomatic assignment"; "an authorized representative or messenger." This earthly world is the "foreign government," run by Satan. We are now ambassadors for Christ here in this

fallen world. While we may feel more secure in who we are in Christ and are learning more and more about what is expected from us in our position, we still have to live in this physical world until Jesus' return! I have some final thoughts on what we need to remember and a few more aspects of our position as born-again believers. There is an ongoing battle between the physical and spiritual worlds. Now that we are in a spiritual position, we must use all of the weapons and tools of the spiritual world as we stay in this world as ambassadors for Christ.

How we feel physically can often affect our spiritual position. It takes our focus off our place in the Kingdom, and instead, we are focused on physical things. The enemy uses sickness and other physical and mental attacks to distract us. When this happens, we must saturate ourselves with the Word to get back into the "correct" position. More time must be spent in/on our spiritual life than our physical life. We must use our weapons of praise, the power of the spoken Word [speaking the Word out loud, speaking directly to the mountains in our path], and our direct line to our Heavenly Father through the Holy Spirit that is in us. Remember that our spiritual position is also how we see ourselves vs. how God sees us when we are in the spiritual world. The enemy sees you as you are in the spiritual world when you are operating in the spiritual. He sees you when you are operating in/from a physical perspective. He is terrified of you when he sees you in the spiritual realm. His words of deceit and destruction can't affect you in the spiritual realm.

What do we look like in the spiritual realm? *"Then I looked, and there was a likeness, like the appearance of fire—from the appearance of His waist and downward,*

fire; and from His waist and upward, like the appearance of brightness, like the color of amber." Ezekiel 8:2. This is Jesus, and because we are in Jesus, this is the way we look in the spiritual realm.

When we follow the Word of God, our enemy sees us "*strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*"¹¹ *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*¹² *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of^[b]the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*¹³ *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand".* Ephesians 6:10-13

We must stay in our spiritual position to keep our thoughts from being deceived and our hearts from being turned. We must use our spiritual weapons to turn away the enemy and chase him down! Remember, the best weapon we have is "it is written." When you see lies or deceptions coming at you, just quote God's Word, and he must flee! It is part of your authority in your spiritual position. *"No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me,"* Says the LORD." Isaiah 57:14. Your Father has your back! And He has given you His authority to use. Will you use it?

It is exciting to be in a spiritual position, in the family of God, representing Him in this world as His ambassadors. Learn all that you can about who you are in Christ. Exercise those weapons of intercession, praise, prayer, supplication, and the spoken Word. This year is going to be a pivotal one

for the world and for the believer. It is crucial that everyone know his spiritual position and stand in that position. We must show the world that the only way is to choose to leave their physical position so that they can join us in our spiritual position. It is the Father's design of the new birth.

Credits

Bible Vision International Ministries; *"Are you Standing in our position of spiritual authority."* biblevisionintministries.org

Andrew Wommack; Andrew Wommack Ministries

Ward Cushman; To Every Nation Ministries;

Iain Gordon; Cru *"How to Know your Position on Christ"*

Merriam-Webster Dictionary

A believer for most of her life, Donna retired from a 30+ year career in management and administration to be in full-time ministry. Married to Todd Hostetler for more than 39 years, she is now the administrator for City on a Hill Teaching Center.