

---

# New Things

## God Has Chosen You

---

### **Introduction**

Knowing who we belong to, and who it is that we re-present to the world, is important.

### **How To Get To There**

How does change really happen? How do we work out who we really are? Where do we find our identity?

2 Corinthians 3:17–18

It's through beholding Him that we are changed. As we look at Him, we are metamorphosised! It's the same word that we use to describe a caterpillar changing into a butterfly.

### **But How Does This Work?**

1 Peter 2:4–5, 9

We become priests for the Lord, and to the Lord.

## **Kingdom Priests**

Every system of belief had its priesthood, those responsible for the conducting of special ceremonies, for upholding the beliefs and practices of that group, and for being the intermediary between the people and the deity.

As we find our identity as a holy priesthood, we can look to the responsibilities of the priests in the Old Testament

## **God Has Chosen You**

2 Chronicles 29:1–11

### **An Invitation to Consecration**

Firstly, Hezekiah reopens the Temple doors.

Secondly, Hezekiah calls the priesthood to consecrate themselves.

Lastly, Hezekiah calls the sons, the priests, to four things:

“My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand before him and serve him, to minister before him and to burn incense.” Chronicles 29:11 (NIV)

### **Stand, Serve, Minister and Burn**

We are called to stand before the Lord.

Then we are called to be His ministers, and to minister to Him.

- + First, we are to serve God.
- + Second, we are to minister to God.

John Piper: "Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists where worship doesn't."

Finally, we are called to burn incense before Him.

In a New Testament context, this can look like two things:

- + Incense is often equated with prayer.
- + To burn bright ourselves.

"I set myself on fire, and people will come to see me burn"

## **What to Do Next**

As we allow God to start a new thing in our lives, the challenge to you is to spend some time examining your life – do you stand, serve, minister and burn?

Do I live out my calling as a kingdom priest?

This week, ponder the reflection questions, but right now, lets enter into a time of response to our God in our role as Kingdom priests.

## Discussion Questions

1. What do I know of my identity when I am in relationship with God? Who does He say I am?
2. When faced with the prospect that we, as believers, are Priests before God, how does that change your view of your identity?
3. What would it mean to you to “Stand Before the Lord” and “Behold Him”?
4. In your walk with God to date, how has being in His presence transformed you?
5. When Hezekiah commissions the priests, he first calls them to consecrate themselves. Have you done that for yourself and your life for this year? Spend some time now setting yourself apart for the Lord, allowing Him to show you His priorities for you this year, not just asking Him to bless your priorities for you.
6. As we allow God to start a new thing in our lives, the challenge to you is to spend some time examining your life – do you stand, serve, minister and burn?
7. What could it look like for you to do those things in your life?
8. Discuss with someone what practical and planned things you are going to choose to put in place over the next week, then month, then year, to stand in your identity as a kingdom priest.
9. How would others know that I am living this out, even if they didn't understand the concept? (How would I know that this is really changing my life?)