

THE SPIRIT OF FEAR, OR THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION?

Rom 8: 15-16 “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”

I had sex reassignment surgery and full legal recognition as female; however, trying to assimilate in society as a woman was a constant battle with fear and anxiety. I was so uneasy using a public woman's restroom that I only went when it was absolutely necessary and always hoped no one else was in the washroom. I recall people staring at me when shopping, walking down a street, or in a mall; my heart pounded with fear when encountering groups of young people; and I dreaded being called “sir” on the telephone. I sensed many of my then-coworkers were laughing at me behind my back, reluctantly co-operating only because of mandated human rights policies. These fears only intensified as I found myself consistently pining for acceptance and affirmation, while any critical look or disagreement could leave me distressed for days. I eventually fell into deep depression and required anti-depressant medication.

This was not supposed have happened, as I had believed my gender transition to female would bring happiness and harmony. I tried blaming a society which I perceived as bigoted and hateful; however, in reality my battles were internal. There was a spiritual war raging in my conscience and soul. My fears and anxieties were the byproducts of living in bondage to sin and not in truth. God's Holy Spirit of Truth was convicting and chastening me in order to bring me to repentance for my many sins and to the cross of Jesus Christ for forgiveness and redemption.

The Lord granted me grace, mercy and forgiveness, by simply believing on his Son the Lord Jesus Christ and repenting of all my sins. I am now a child of God, **having returned to living in truth in my true birth male identity**. I can once again use the men's public washroom, go shopping, walk down a street or in a mall, talk on the telephone and no longer need anti-depressants. The Lord Jesus Christ has freed me from the spirit of bondage to fear. Thank you dear Lord for who I am and for the many blessings in my life.

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul (1 Peter 2:11) -- John