



The MorningStar 

# Journal

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**THE MYSTERY  
OF GOD  
COMPLETED  
(PART 2)**  
*Chris Reed*

**THE GREAT  
AWAKENING  
(PART 1)**  
*Rick Joyner*

**ON EARTH  
AS IT IS IN  
HEAVEN!**  
*Francis  
Frangipane*



# Sense-of-Identity Grace

BY ANDREA JAEGER

A new year brings hope, opportunities, and excitement for beginning anew. Promised resolutions reflect sought-after change, and what exists is soon replaced by belief and longing for better days and better ways.

Can these improvements and harmonic frequencies to our senses of identity remain meaningful between 11:59 p.m. New Year's Eve and 12:00 a.m. New Year's Day, or from one moment to the next?

If the pinnacle of a person's resolution list includes improved health, starting or stopping a particular habit, or gaining or losing weight, then an involved methodology is likely to be implemented.

However, if we seek the highest "I am" enlightenment by polishing our lives with resolutions, those lists can become endless. Our lists may include interests in different or improved forms of happiness such as jobs, friends, partners, cars, bodies, fun, purposes, health, and dedications with hardworking trench efforts all part of the evolutionary process.

Nearly thirty years ago, one of my lists of New Year's resolutions included items achieved both by long-term toil and instantaneous change. Both paths were achieved by a sense-of-identity grace. Entries on that New Year's resolution page comprised of:

1. Learning to make soup that did *not* come from a can.
2. Writing a book.

3. Raising a million dollars to help kids who were stuck in hospitals.
4. Creating a special place for children with cancer.
5. Drinking more water.

Upon recently finding this worn-out paper and reading that handwritten list, I had a hearty laugh. During that era of my resolution writing, each entry felt lofty; even the soup-mastery and hydrating-with-water entries seemed far-reaching. Still, each item was fulfilled by the scheduled allotment.

My self-identity never swayed during those resolutions' trials and tribulations, nor during the joyful successes. The same was true for any prior or subsequent resolution notebook pages in which the bar went higher each year because each map and key was envisioned after conversing with God.

In fact, I rarely ever shared my resolutions with anyone other than God. I was completely comfortable knowing God and the universe had complete access to my lists, vibrations, and life. They are family to me. Early in life I shared my resolutions with people. That did not go so well. Mockery and ridicule were received

as people thought my divinely inspired pursuits were audacious and beyond my abilities. I knew better. They were never about my ability but about divine ability. When resolutions lined up with what God and the universe intended for me, my vocations would be accomplished regardless of hurdles.

Did I find my resolution exploring life to be a little out there? Far out there for sure! Still, I had faith that they were all meant to be. The more a goodwill task on my resolution list seemed preposterous, the more my sense-of-identity grace became connected to a higher dimension of assistance. This is just another benefit of having a familial relationship with God and the universe, a wrapped gift we all are given to open.

No matter how many times I was knocked down from attempts at what destiny had deemed for me to plant seeds, pursue, and complete, I always sprang back knowing I was one step closer to connecting with and completing the visions that were given to me. “Mission accomplished” was just around the corner.

As I embarked on contemplating 2023’s New Year’s resolutions, I had to message myself and fine tune some of those connections. (We all have connection abilities, but sometimes our frequencies can get out of kilter and require adjusting.) As those connections registered, I continued writing what God and the universe had equipped me to do.

One prerequisite included in every resolution from year’s beginning to year’s end, to entirety of years, is this sense-of-identity grace. Even if we miss it on our first attempt or every attempt thereafter, this sense-of-identity grace can be received at any juncture. There is no age requirement, gender demand, or hair, eye, or skin color constraint—all are welcome to receive it. Even hidden and horrid pasts, disclosed audacities, harmful hearts, and broken spirits are no problem. The same is true for a struggling soul, misstep, misspoken word, mislead, or misdemeanor—no experience can cancel us receiving our sense-of-identity grace from God.

Similarly, a faith-filled church, or a hardworking, follows-all-the-rules, kindhearted, generous-spirited

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person has no advantage in receiving this sense-of-identity grace.

It is a gift. Grace has been defined as “God’s favor toward the unworthy,” “God’s benevolence on the undeserving,” and “God’s unmerited love and favor.”

Does this mean a person can be ruthless, hurtful, harmful, non-believing, non-loving, avoiding a light-filled life, and still receive this sense-of-identity grace? Yes, but it also means that once this sense-of-identity grace is received, realized, and activated in a person’s heart, life, soul, and spirit, an awareness of this grace will instantly and forever be raised. God can do this.

The universe will know when this grace has been bestowed on someone. Sharing this grace will be no mystical secret even to those who are behaving unheavenly and seek power above all. Some may try to dampen your awareness of this sense-of-identity grace, or perhaps even try to steal it, but to no avail, since God’s giftings are eternal for each person.

Your sense-of-identity grace has already been given to you and will be given again and again until you open it. Here is how and why:

“You are a child of God” (see I John 3:2).

“You are a coworker of God” (see I Corinthians 3:8-9).

“You are enough” (see Colossians 2:10).

“You are loved” (see Romans 8:38-39).

“You are never alone” (see Deuteronomy 31:8).

“You are a light” (see Matthew 5:14-16).

Knowing you have been given this sense-of-identity grace, the universe will open a path for your best-filled, God-given birthright and life.

When I was injured on the professional tennis circuit, I relied on my sense-of-identity grace. My world ranking of #2 already achieved, I had yet to reach my peak. While at a Grand Slam tournament easily winning 5-0 in the first set, the match took a drastic turn. As my racket followed through on a tennis ball, the ball sailed smoothly over the net, but then I heard a loud pop and felt a pain like my arm had just been bitten off like in the movie *Jaws*.

Knowing I was encountering a career-ending injury, I walked calmly to the chair umpire and defaulted. I knew why it had happened (another story), and without tears I walked into the locker room and proceeded to pack my tennis bag to prepare for my tournament departure. Before leaving the stadium grounds, a famous sports reporter walked up to me and said, “You will never amount to anything ever again if you don’t play tennis.”

Surely, I thought I misheard him. With a polite, “Excuse me?” I asked the reporter to repeat what he had said. He did. I did not mishear him. I was not angry though. How could I be? I thought, “He refused his sense-of-identity grace.” I felt sorry for him. There was a successful, applauded, revered, knowledgeable, great-at-his-craft person, a beloved reporter, yet I, a mere teenager from a small town outside Chicago, knew he had never unpacked this fantastic gift from God.

Similarly, when I was walking down a neighborhood street, and a prominent athlete and global achiever with

“We are responsible for opening God’s gifts. You might mention to them, “That wrapping is beautiful. Your name is on every gift. How about opening those gifts? What’s inside could be far greater than what’s on the outside.”

a hefty bank account and trophy room approached me, and said, “I heard you gave all your tennis prize money to help children with cancer. That was stupid! You will end up broke, and the kids will die anyway.”

Then, and in every duplicate commentary since, I have done my best to share the Good News and how a synchronistic life of following God’s call is also exciting. That person was new to hearing about a friendship with God and walked away commenting further with identical condemnation. I continued walking in the direction I was heading, thanking God for my callings, and knowing that anytime, anywhere, and any way, I was available for His service. Being understood is nice, but if not, I am okay with the priority of being given divine tasks to complete.

Imagine if you walked into someone’s home for an invited meal and gathering and saw a home filled to the ceiling with unopened presents. You may look perplexed. You may even garner bravery with kindness and ask, “Are you planning a special charity event?” “Did Amazon have a super sale?”

What if the person responded, “These gifts just showed up at my door. They were addressed to me, so I brought them inside,” yet left each of them unopened? God and the universe continually go to great efforts to get our attention. We are responsible for opening God’s gifts. You might mention to them, “That wrapping is beautiful. Your name is on every gift. How about opening those gifts? What’s inside could be far greater than what’s on the outside.”

Divine order knows you, including depths of hardships already encountered. The same is true for projected or soon-to-arrive encounters and awakenings. In a world that can make no sense, awareness helps connect us, and God's presence comes with presents. One of those presents is this sense-of-identity grace. God and the universe do not need to ask who you are. They know who you are, and they know your identity. Knowing God and the universe and you comes with this sense-of-identity grace. Enjoy! 🌟

**ANDREA JAEGER** became the #2-ranked professional tennis player in the world at the age of sixteen. While on the pro tennis circuit, Andrea helped ease the pain and suffering of children in hospitals, schools, and street corners. Using all her pro tennis career earnings, Andrea began her own children's cancer foundation. For the past thirty-seven years, Little Star Foundation (littlestar.org) has provided long-term care and better quality of life for children with cancer and children in need around the world. Andrea has been connected to MorningStar for decades and has authored *First Service-Following God's Calling* and *Finding Life's Purpose*.



**Little Star Foundation**

Little Star Foundation provides long term care and better quality of life to children with cancer and children in hospitals, schools, orphanages and shelters throughout the U.S. and the world.

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