



"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." - 1 Timothy 4:8

IDENTITY AS A CHRISTIAN – YOU ARE A COG!

The dictionary defines the word **COG** as a wheel with square or triangular teeth around the edge, which is used in a machine to turn another wheel or part. In describing a person as a **COG**, the implication is that they are a small, minor part of a large organization or group. Clearly, a **COG** can appear insignificant and of little value in the overall scheme of things.

Do you ever feel like a **COG** – Just another tiny working part on the treadmill of life? As a Christian, we must not settle for this definition. We must not assume an identity of insignificance or unimportance. As always, we must look to Scripture (and in this case, an acronym) to remind us of an astounding, marvelous truth.

In 1 John 3:1 the Apostle points out exactly who we are and what we have, "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called Children Of God!" Did you get that? Anyone who has made a personal profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is a **COG** – A **CHILD OF GOD!** Think about that for a moment. The Christian is a child of the Creator of the universe. The One who spoke the world into existence in Genesis 1 is the same One who adopted us into His spiritual family. If that doesn't excite (and ignite) you, nothing will! We should rid ourselves of the notion that we don't matter; that we have no purpose; that we exist merely as a **COG** in the wheel of life – unable to contribute much or achieve anything worthwhile. So...let's replace the negative connotation of a **COG** and replace it with an acronym...

As a **COG** ...

- You are loved unconditionally, no strings attached; saved not because of your goodness, but because of God's grace and mercy (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- You have a divine purpose and calling in life (Jeremiah 29:11)
- You have direct access to God – fellowship with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Hebrews 4:16)
- You are guaranteed eternal life; there is no fear of judgment for your salvation (John 10:28)
- You may enjoy peace regardless of life's circumstances (Philippians 4:7)
- You not only have the peace of God, you also have peace with God (Romans 5:1-2)
- You are a new creation; you are made new on the inside by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 5:17)

As a **CHILD OF GOD**, let's rejoice that in His eyes, we are never simply another moving part in our journey through life. We have value; we were bought at a price and redeemed by "the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect" (1 Peter 1:19). Each person is the handiwork of God; we are not an afterthought or mistake. And in that knowledge, our hearts should overflow with thanksgiving, like the Psalmist who proclaimed, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well" (Psalm 139:14).

So Christian, let's no longer consider ourselves a **COG** as defined by the dictionary, but rather a **COG** described by an acronym. Let's truly be thankful that as a **CHILD OF GOD**, "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness" (2 Peter 1:3). Let's be proud to call ourselves a **COG!**

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"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." - Philippians 4:13