



I'm Different

Gerald Discovers What Makes Jason Different

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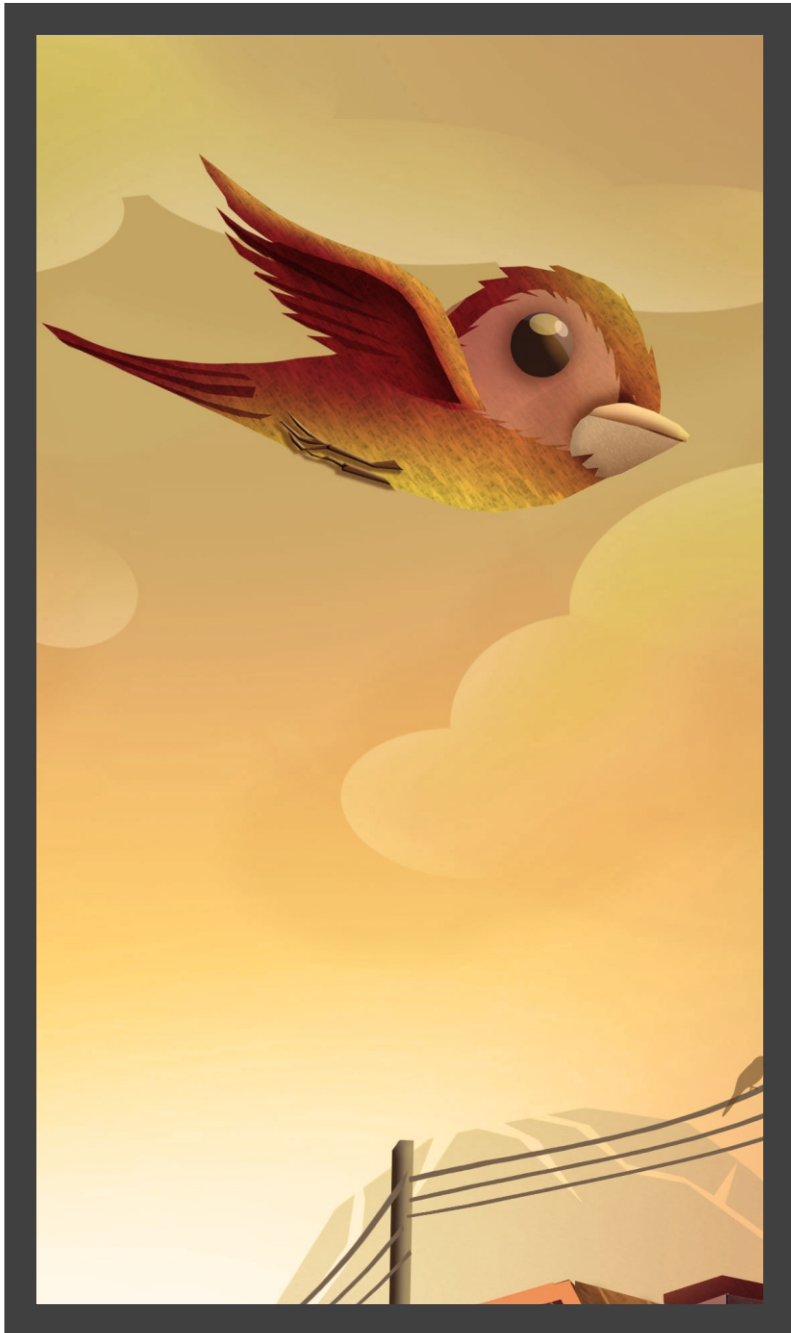
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***“And do not be conformed to
this world, but be transformed
by the renewing of your
mind...”***

(Romans 12:2)

Hi, I'm Gerald. My family just moved into a new neighbourhood, and I was helping the hauliers with some of our stuffs from the truck. This new place looks pretty nice, and our neighbours seem friendly, too.







On my first day at school, my dad thought it would be a wonderful experience for me to go with the school bus. So, I did.

Wow! I had never seen so many kids look so excited going to school. I guess my new school would be fun after all.

I sat beside this guy on the bus. I thought he was cool, because he looked calm and smart, and something just seemed to be different about him.



"Hi, I'm Jason," he introduced himself. "You're the new guy in the neighbourhood, right?"

"Yes, nice to meet you. My name is Gerald," I replied. "Are you guys always this excited about school?"

He nodded.

"Really?" I was beginning to get excited myself.

Jason just smiled, and handed me the book in his hand.



When we arrived at the school, Jason showed me to my new class, which happened to be his class too. And his desk was right next to mine! The class was just beginning to fill up, and the other children kidded about. There was plenty of laughter and chatter. Jason said it was because lessons hadn't yet started. One of the boys, while playing, knocked down Jason's pencil case. I thought Jason would get mad at him, but he didn't.







When all the children had come into the classroom, Jason introduced me to everyone. I met Kathy, who had a pretty smile; Heather, who looked friendly; Todd, with the chubby cheeks and mischievous eyes; and Billy, with these really thick, nerdy glasses.

Jason told me everyone's names, but I remembered these ones easily. I guess it was because of their striking features.

My first day at school was going on well when all of a sudden, something odd happened. Todd, who was also known as the class bully, pulled a prank on Jason.



Jason had gone to the bathroom, and while he was away, Todd slipped a little frog into his pencil case.



"What did you do that for?" I protested.

"Shush! Don't you go telling on me, kiddo," Todd snarled, pointing a finger at me.

"Don't you threaten him, Todd," Heather shouted back, "Can't you see he's new here!"

"Well, he should just keep his big mouth shut," Todd snapped.



"Shhh...here he comes!" The boy sitting next to Todd whispered.

As Jason walked in, I stared at him, wishing I could spill the beans on what had just happened.

Jason pulled out his chair and sat down. And as if he knew what Todd did, he reached for his pencil case, opened it, and out leaped the frog! The whole class burst into laughter. Todd's laughter was the loudest.



I thought what Todd did was shocking, but I was in for an even bigger shock with Jason's reaction. He simply wiped his pencil case, picked the frog up from his desk, walked to the aquarium in the front corner of the class, and gently placed the frog in it! Then, he walked back to his desk, brought out a book, and began to read as though nothing happened!





“Todd, I told you your tricks don't work on Jason anymore,” Kathy teased.

This time, everyone laughed at Todd, and that got him fuming.

I stood there gaping, too surprised to say anything. If I were the one, I sure would have screamed, and tried to get back at Todd for playing such a prank.

This really got me thinking about Jason and wondering why he didn't make a fuss.





As the days went by, Jason and I became pals. We did a lot of fun things together. We visited friends in the neighbourhood, played video games, attended soccer practice, mowed the lawn, made paper airplanes, built a school bus from old shoe boxes, and went fishing with our dads. Jason was a lot of fun to be with, but there were things about him that got me really curious.



One day at school, a girl spilled her lunch on the floor. Jason, not only helped her clean up the mess, he offered her his own lunch as well!

I asked him why he did that and he replied, "I'm different!"





On another occasion, Todd had sprained his ankle during sports exercise, and had to be away from school for some days. Then Jason asked that we go check on him, and see how he was doing.

"What? Todd? The same bully who played a prank on you the other day?" I complained. Jason just smiled and said, "Todd's not that bad; besides I'm sure he'd be glad to have us around."

"Why are you being so nice to him?" I asked.

"I'm different," was all Jason said.

At another time, almost everyone in class had caught the flu. A few of us who hadn't were vaccinated against it.

Jason was away when the vaccine was given, but amazingly, he didn't catch the flu!

I asked him why he didn't get sick like everyone else who hadn't taken the vaccination, and he simply replied again,

"It's because I'm different!"





After dinner early one evening, I laid in my bed thinking about Jason and the different things that had happened with him since we first met. I was really eager to know what he meant when he said he was different.

I couldn't hold my curiosity in any longer;
I just had to find out. So I jumped out of bed
and ran to my mum to ask if I could get to
Jason's house.
She told me not to be long, and I dashed
there as fast as I could go on my bike.



When I got there, Mrs. Williams, Jason's mum, told me he was studying in his room, so I headed there.



I pushed the door open before I realized I hadn't knocked. Jason was sitting on the floor, holding a leather-bound black book.

"I've had it Jason," I said without so much as saying hi. "I've tried to figure you out, but I just seem to get more and more confused when I think about you."





The
Champion

Jason was surprised to hear me talk that way. "Is everything ok?" he asked. "I should be asking you," I replied, raising my voice. "You keep saying you're different. What makes you different? Aren't you just a kid like the rest of us? Or are you some alien from outer space?"

"Ha ha ha!" Jason laughed.

"It's not funny," I frowned.

"I'm sorry I'm laughing, but you sound funny when you raise your voice."

I kept a straight face, so he said, "Ok, ok, I get the message. Well, I'm a kid like the rest of our classmates and friends, but I've got a different life."

"There you go again with your "I'm different" stuff!" I shot back angrily.

"What I mean is that I'm a Christian," he showed me the book he was reading; it was a Bible.

"Yeah, so? I go to church too," I protested.

"I'm not just talking about going to church; I mean I'm born again."

I had been standing all the while, but when he said those words, 'born again', I sat on the edge of his bed, and gave him my full attention.

Now he had me where he wanted, so I calmed down and listened to him.

"Sometime ago, I heard the gospel of Jesus Christ, and afterwards, I realised I needed this new life in Christ," Jason began. "Then, I asked Jesus to come into my heart and be my Lord and Saviour. And He did! Now, I'm a child of God, and I've got His life in me. That is what makes me different," he paused. I could see Jason's eyes sparkle with excitement as he spoke.

"God's plan is for us to have a beautiful life, and that's why He sent Jesus to die for our sins," Jason went on. "All you need to do to have and enjoy this life is to ask Jesus to be the Lord of your life, just like I did."



"You've got God's life in you?" I thought that was the most incredible claim anyone could ever make. I stood up feeling a little uncomfortable.

I guess Jason knew what was on my mind. He wanted me to know it was not impossible to have the God-life.

So, he said, "That's why I could forgive Todd after he pranked me, and still be nice to him. That's why I could give out my lunch, and not feel bad about it; that's why I didn't catch the flu like everyone else who didn't take the vaccination. Because that's how God is; He forgives, He cares, He loves and He doesn't get sick. And as He is, so am I in this world!"





When he finished, I knew I had to make a decision for Jesus. "I want this God-life too," I said. "How do I get it? What should I do?"

Jason placed his hand on my shoulder and smiled, "It's easy! Just say these words after me ...

"O Lord God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus Christ. Your Word says that if I confess with my mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead, I would be saved. I ask Jesus to come into my heart to be the Lord of my life from today. I declare that I have received eternal life into my spirit and I am saved; I am born again; I am a child of God! I have Christ dwelling in me, and I walk in the consciousness of my new life in Him from today. Thank you Father for making me your child, in Jesus' Name, Amen!"

After I spoke those words, I knew something wonderful had happened inside me. Not that I felt anything in my body, but I just knew that I was not the same Gerald anymore. I was different, too.

Then Jason said to me with a broad smile, "Congratulations Gerald! You're now a child of God. Welcome to the family of God!"



Jason and I became best friends from that day. We still did all the fun stuff together, but much more than that, we prayed and studied the Bible together. Now I talk differently, act differently and do things differently. I even got to tell my family about my new life, and guess what? They've all become a part of God's family too!

What could be cooler than having the life of God in you that makes you supernatural, extraordinary, excellent, special...different!



What The Bible Says

**The Bible lets us know, that if anyone is in Christ,
he/she is a new creation.**

Let's learn some of these Bible verses:

(1) "...as He is, so are we in this world." (1 John 4:17)

**(2) "... God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His
Son." (1 John 5:11)**

(3) "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life..." (John 3:36)

**(4) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten
Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have
everlasting life." (John 3:16)**

**(5) "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old
things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."
(2 Corinthians 5:17)**



A Lesson For You

When you become a child of God, you have a different life. It's the supernatural life of God that makes you live and act like Him! So, as a new creation, make bold confessions of who you are in Christ. Say these words:

I'm full of love.

I'm full of life.

I am healthy.

I'm a success.

I'm patient.

I'm kind.

I'm caring.

I'm forgiving.

You're all these and more; because you're born of God, and His life is in you.



6 Great books to Have!



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