IDENTITY

5 DAY DEVOTIONAL





Genesis 1:27, Jeremiah 1:5

What is identity? According to Miriam Webster identity is defined as the distinguishing character or personality of an individual. This definition lends itself to make us ponder "what's my identity?".

When you want to identify something, and what it's meant to do, you start with the creator. No one can define the identity of a thing (person) EXCEPT the creator of the creation. God defines our identity because *He is our creator*. A more accurate definition for identity in this context:

Who God has called you to be.

Where do we find this information? The Bible. The Bible is FULL of descriptions of who we are. The focus scriptures for today Genesis 1:27 and Jeremiah 1:5 let us know that God is our creator and that we are not here by chance. He put thought and effort into creating us. These are not the only two scriptures that speak to our identity. There are TONS of scriptures that describe who we are according to God. Settle with knowing that God created you exactly how you were meant to be. You are a complete creation. The fact that there are so many references of who we are in the Bible shows the *importance* of knowing who God says we are.

Over the next five days this devotional will help you begin to find out what God says about who you truly are, and empower you to walk in the fullness of knowing your identity.

Use the prayer on the following page to help you begin the process of seeking God for clarity in your identity.

IDENTITY PRAYER



God I thank you for fearfully and wonderfully creating me. You have designed me on purpose and with a purpose. God open my eyes to who I am in you. Allow me to see myself how you see me. I am not defined by the world but by your word. I release the need to live up to the expectations of man. I release the need to appear a way that I am not. I do not see myself through the eyes of sin. My mistakes do not define who I am. Jeremiah 29:11 tells me that you have plans for me so I put my trust in you and I die to my flesh. I am not ruled by emotions but I am led by the power of Holy Spirit that lives on the inside of me. God thank you for loving me the way that I am. I ask that your love and mercy create in me a clean heart, a heart that seeks after you. I am bound by nothing. God reveal my gifts and talents so that I may serve your kingdom. Reveal, remove and replace anyone that is not in your plan for my life. God I trust you. I receive everything that you have for my life starting with who you have called me to be. In Jesus' name, Amen.





Psalm 139:14, Proverbs 23:7

Personal identity affects how we look at life, how we deal with conflicts, and even who we choose as friends. When you don't know your identity you believe you are what others convince you that you are. You let others dictate how you see yourself, how you feel about yourself and what it is that you can accomplish. Even more dangerously, if the enemy can confuse you about who you are he doesn't have to worry about what you will be able to accomplish.

Not knowing your identity often shows up in ways like, insecurity, low self esteem and people pleasing. This causes us to spend time and energy trying to be like others.

Why would we want to be like other people when God created us all uniquely?

Knowing your God-given identity gives you validation. When you know that God validates you, you're no longer worried about your performance. When you are trying to be like someone else or the world this is an act because you don't know your own identity. What matters is how you see yourself. You can never grow beyond what you believe about yourself (Proverbs 23:7). You must begin to see yourself the way God sees you. How can we know how God sees us? *The Bible*.

The Bible give us a glimpse into what God thinks of us. It outlines what our birth rights are. It is up to us to seek out what the Bible says about us. The more we know about what the Bible says, the more confident we become in living in our authentic identities.

Do you think you have the same thoughts about your identity that the Bible will have?



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Romans 5:19, Genesis 1:27, John 3:16, Romans 10:9

Who are you? If I were to ask you to share who you are, what would you say? Take a moment and think about who you are. If you can write it down, create a list. It doesn't have to be a very long list. Cross off anything that is a title or external description (these are facts dictated by life). What are you left with?

We undoubtedly seek and search to "find ourselves." This is why many of us have taken personality tests and other assessments, we might even give some weight to Facebook quizzes or rely on astrology.

Being born under certain stars does not dictate who we are.

There is nothing wrong with personality tests. They are tools that can help us understand the personalities that we already have. They bring awareness to how our creator has designed us.

The truth is <u>we are all born into sin</u>. Our sinful nature is inherited. To sin is to fall short of God's standards or to go against His laws. Our sin nature is not something we can conquer on our own. The good news is we DON'T have to! Jesus has overcome sin for us! John 3:16 assures us that we have overcome sin and shall have everlasting life through Him. In Jesus we are not bound to our birth as sinners, but can become children of God.

When we accept Jesus as our Lord and savior we become a NEW creation in Christ. We become a joint heir with Jesus and not only receive eternal life but all of the birthrights listed in the Bible. We are no longer held to our past life, that includes the sin, mistakes and short comings. This is what we call salvation. The act of being saved by Jesus Christ.

If you would like to confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior and walk in your NEW life, there is a prayer on the following page.



PRAYER OF SALVATION

God, I acknowledge that I am a sinner, in need of your saving grace. I know that my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward you. I confess with my mouth and believe in my heart, that your son Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I do right now accept him into my heart to be my Lord and Savior. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."





What does it mean to be a "New Creation"?

One of the most summative descriptions of our identities can be found in 1 Peter 2:9

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light;" KJV

This verse is referring to Christians. Don't let identifiers that we use to narrow down a population make you think that this scripture is not talking about you. This is not the only scripture where the Bible tells us who we are in Christ.

Who does the Bible say I am?

Redeemed (Ephesians 1:7)

Heir (Galatians 4:7)

Forgiven (Romans 8:1)

Valuable (John 3:16)

Loved (1 John 4:9-10)

Have purpose (Jeremiah 29:11)

Fearless, powerful, sane (2 Timothy 1:7

MORE than a conqueror (Romans 8:37)

Healed (Isaiah 53:5)

Have authority (Luke 10:19)

Courageous (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Bold (2 Corinthians 3:12)

Victorious (Deuteronomy 20:4)

Prosperous (Philipians 4:19)

Are able (2 Corinthians 9:8)

Not alone (Joshua 1:9

Enough (1 Corinthians 12:9-10)

Stop answering names that aren't yours.

You wouldn't answer a person calling someone else's name. Satan is a liar. He will try to make you believe things about yourself that are just not true. You do not have to accept being anything that is contrary to what the Bible says about you.



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DAY FIVE

How Tee Myself

Proverbs 18:21, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Deuteronomy 31:6

Don't feel bad if you aren't at the place where you have a Biblical view of who you are. When something is new there is an adjustment period. As you stay consistent you become more confident in your newness.

How can I change how I see myself?

Confess the Word of God

 Google is your friend, If there is a scripture that speaks to what you believe is true about you or that you need to remind yourself of Google it. Look the scripture up for yourself to see what it says. If it is applicable, write it down and confess it daily. (Your words have power)

• Refuse names/titles that don't belong to you

 Ever heard the saying "It's not what they call you, it's what you answer to"? This is straightforward. If the Bible doesn't say it about you. Don't respond.

Reading the Word/developing relationship

 The more you read your bible, the more you begin to understand the nature of God. Since we are made in his image, His nature is inherently our nature. As your relationship grows with God, so will your confidence in who

He has designed you to be.

Becoming secure in your identity is a *journey*. I encourage you to *enjoy* the journey. Give yourself the *grace* and *space* that you need to *grow*. It won't happen over night and **that's ok**. Just keep going! You got this!





for downloading this devotional. It is my prayer that it has drawn you closer to God and opened the door for you to thrive in your authentic identity.

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