



## DISCUSSION GUIDE

Staying Power

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**Main Idea** – To have staying power one must know his or her true identity and capabilities. God loves, favors, and blesses His children. Knowing that, we can live a life through peace, not fear.

### Jesus activates your true identity

- Something comes alive in us when we accept Jesus as Savior.
- Everyone is God's creation, but not everyone is a child of God. God's children are different. **Matthew 5:14 – You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden**
- However, you will not be able to stay in this new identity if you don't know how to stand in it.
- **John 1:12-13 – But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**
- We may have been the wrong that we have been afraid to point out.

### Satan attacks your true identity

- As soon as one accepts Jesus, the devil will try to come against the new identity. We should not be naïve and ignorant of the enemy's plans.
- **2 Corinthians 2:11 – so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.**
- The devil would like to keep you ignorant about who you are in your identity through Jesus. Satan can only operate in the areas where you are ignorant.
- **Hosea 4:6a – My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge**
- The world thinks that behavior influences beliefs: "If you act in a certain way, then I will believe you." But, in truth, it's the other way around: beliefs influence behavior.
- So, what you believe about yourself will determine how you will behave. Don't try to have peace by your own strength.

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## Your behavior must not be based on your own strength

- **Ephesians 6: 10-11 – Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.**
- You were not created to bear up under the world's burdens. Give your burdens to God. Let Him deal with what concerns you.

## You are deeply loved, favored, and blessed. Have peace knowing that.

- You are deeply loved by God.
  - **Ephesians 2: 4-5 – But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)**
  - **Romans 8:1 – Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**
- You are highly favored.
- You are richly blessed to be a blessing to others.

## Work from peace, not from fear

- Because you are deeply loved, favored, and blessed, you don't need to worry. You can relax. **Psalms 37:7a – Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him**
- Your salvation is perfect. Don't let the world tell you anything to what Jesus did.
- If you lose your peace, it may be because you are too busy thinking about yourself. It is not about you, it is about Him.
- When you become psychologically or emotionally tired it may be because you lost focus on your identity as a child of God. **Hebrews 12:12-13 – Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.**

## Trust God and love people

- Sometimes we treat God like He is human and humans like they are God.
- Many people become weary or hurt because they put their trust in people. The Bible does not tell us to trust people.
- The Bible tells us to love and trust God –
  - **Matthew 22:37-38 – “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the great and foremost commandment.**
  - **Proverbs 3:5 – Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding**

- The Bible also tells us to love people
  - **John 13: 34-35 – A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**

**We will not grow weary if we are gathered together and love one another.**

- **1 Peter 4:8 – Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.**
- Love among Christians is different from how the world demonstrates love. **Luke 14:26 – If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.**
- Love among Christians is not judgmental. It is not based on individual performances.
- Others' actions should not influence our love for them. Even though there are people we should not associate with, we should love them nonetheless.
- **1 Corinthians 13: 4-8 – Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in righteousness, but rejoices with the truth; it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away.**

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## Back to Eden

- Before Adam & Eve sinned, they had a stress-free existence. They were not created to carry burdens. Neither are we.
- Jesus' death and resurrection enables us to return to that original worry-free relationship with God.
- **1 Peter 5: 6-7 – Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.**
- Don't let the world's thinking contaminate your thinking about yourself. You are God's child. God will handle the weight of anything that might worry you.
- Believing the right things about yourself will enable you to act accordingly: loving yourself and others.

## Reflective Questions for Staying Power

1. One of the main ways Satan attacks us is to convince us we must solve our own problems. Can you identify some Bible verses from this lesson that prove that idea is false?
2. Why does trusting God start with knowing He loves you?
3. Have you ever been hurt or disappointed because you placed your trust in another person? How do you feel about Steve Hage's teaching that we should love & trust God, and then love people?
4. In Luke 14:26, Jesus used a word that has been translated as "hate." What was Jesus saying in that verse? Was He saying we should actually *hate* our own family? How can that make sense if we are also told to love one another?

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