

# **SPIRITUAL IDENTITY**

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*Sunday Message [September 27, 2026]*

*Sermon Summary:* In this week's message, Pastor Jerry calls believers to move beyond simply attending church and going through religious motions, urging them instead to discover and walk in their true spiritual identity in Christ. Drawing primarily from Romans 8:16-18, we establish that every born-again believer has been given a God-ordained identity that existed before birth and was activated at salvation. Pastor Jerry distinguishes between personality, which is an outward expression shaped by genetics and environment, and identity, which is an inward, God-given sense of purpose and calling. He argues that many Christians live in defeat not because they lack salvation, but because they do not understand who they are in the kingdom of God. Through adoption into God's family, believers become heirs of God, joint heirs with Christ, ambassadors of heaven, royal priests, and citizens of a heavenly kingdom.

## Scripture Reference:

- Romans 8:16-18, which speaks of the Spirit bearing witness that believers are children of God, heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ, and that the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the coming glory
- 2 Corinthians 5:17, which declares that anyone in Christ is a new creation, with old things passed away and all things becoming new
- Ephesians 2:10, which identifies believers as God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand
- Jeremiah 1:5, in which God tells Jeremiah that before forming him in the womb He knew him, sanctified him, and ordained him as a prophet
- Romans 8:28-29, which speaks of believers being called according to God's purpose and predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ
- 1 John 3:2, which affirms that believers are God's children now, and that when Christ appears they shall be like Him
- Psalms 139:14, in which the psalmist praises God for being fearfully and wonderfully made
- 3 John 2, in which God expresses His desire for believers to prosper and be in health as their soul prospers
- 2 Corinthians 9:8, which declares that God is able to make all grace abound so that believers have all they need to abound in every good work
- Proverbs 4:14-16 and Ephesians 5:15, which call believers to walk wisely and avoid danger

# **MESSAGE SLIDES**

**IDENTITY IS DEFINED AS A UNIQUE COLLECTION OF QUALITIES, BELIEFS,  
AND PERSONALITY TRAITS WE POSSESS, AS WELL AS OUR SOCIAL ROLES.**

**PERSONALITY IS YOUR CONSISTENT PATTERN OF THOUGHTS,  
FEELINGS, AND BEHAVIORS.**

**BEING BORN AGAIN DOESN'T CHANGE OUR IDENTITY;  
IT ONLY REVEALS OUR IDENTITY CLEARER.**

**UNDERSTANDING IDENTITY IS LIFE-CHANGING,  
PEACE-GIVING, & SPIRIT-RELEASING.**

**'BECOME' REFERS TO A FRESH START WITH NEW VALUES, GOALS,  
& A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**

**OUR WALK WITH GOD IS A  
PERPETUAL PROCESS OF UNFOLDING.**

**'BECOMING' IS THE JOURNEY OF THE SOUL EXPERIENCING ITSELF IN HUMAN  
FORM—LEARNING, CREATING, & EVOLVING THROUGH CHOICES,  
RELATIONSHIPS, & CHALLENGES.**

## Key Points:

- Every child of God must understand their true spiritual identity in Christ in order to fulfill their divine assignment and enjoy the promises of God
- Personality and identity are distinct: personality is the outward, habitual expression of a person, while identity is the inward, God-given sense of purpose and calling
- Being born again does not change a believer's identity but rather reveals and activates the identity God ordained before birth
- God foreknew and pre-sanctified each believer before they were formed in the womb, as illustrated through the calling of Jeremiah
- Salvation is not merely about going to heaven but about awakening to a kingdom citizenship that carries authority, dominion, and power
- Believers already possess the Spirit of God and do not need to pray for more power but rather learn to activate and walk in what they already have
- Upon salvation, believers receive a spirit of adoption, becoming heirs of God with full legal rights in the kingdom, much like adoption in ancient Roman culture conferred full inheritance rights
- Believers are crowned with glory and honor, seated in heavenly places, clothed in righteousness, and given the ring of the Father's authority
- Understanding spiritual identity transforms how believers face problems, minimizing them through the lens of kingdom authority rather than magnifying them through a worldly perspective
- God desires His children to be healthy, wealthy in blessing, and wise or stealthy in their conduct

## QUOTES:

“God already had a plan for you. God already had everything mapped out. Your steps were already ordered before you was ever born.”

“The reason we're praying but not seeing is not because we're not saved. We just don't know our identity.”

“We really are already healed. We just gotta learn how to walk in healing. We are already favored. We just gotta learn how to walk in favor. We are already righteous. We just have to learn how to walk in righteousness.”

“A lot of people are praying for more, and God says, won't you use what you got? Because what you've got on the inside of your temple is all that you need to overcome anything in life.”

“It is not so much about changing into someone entirely new, but rather unfolding and becoming who God had always intended us to be.”

“Your identity was not so much for you as much as it was for the kingdom of God. It was not earned. You didn't have to earn your identity.”

“When you understand your identity, you understand who you are. And if we don't understand our identity, then all we're going to do is go to church and go through the motions.”

“If you'll realize your identity in Christ, you'll never live defeated ever again.”

# 5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

## Knowing Who You Are in Christ: A Journey Into Spiritual Identity

### Day 1: You Were Known Before You Were Born

Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5 -- Before God formed the prophet in the womb, He already knew him, set him apart, and appointed him for a specific purpose.

Devotional: Before a single breath filled your lungs, God had already written your name into His plan. Your identity did not begin at birth. It did not begin at salvation. It began in the mind of God before time itself was measured. This means that nothing you have walked through -- no failure, no betrayal, no season of wandering -- has ever caused God to revise His plans for you. He foreknew you with intimacy, not merely with information. He chose you on purpose, for a purpose. The question is not whether God has a plan for your life. The question is whether you will trust Him enough to walk into it.

Reflection: In what areas of your life have you allowed the opinions of others, past failures, or personal doubt to define you more than God's Word has?

Practical Application: Write down three truths God declares about you in Scripture and place them somewhere you will see them every morning this week.

## Day 2: The Spirit Bears Witness -- You Are a Child of God

Reading: Romans 8:16-18 -- The Holy Spirit confirms within believers that they are children of God, and therefore heirs with Christ, with the assurance that present suffering cannot compare to the glory that will be revealed.

Devotional: One of the most transforming revelations a believer can receive is not simply that God exists, but that God calls you His own. The Spirit of God does not whisper this truth with hesitation. He bears witness -- He confirms it with full assurance -- that you are a child of God. And if you are a child, you are an heir. That means the resources, the authority, the promises, and the glory of the Father belong to you by right of relationship. Whatever you are suffering today is real, but it is not the final word. Glory is coming, and it will dwarf every difficulty you have ever faced.

Reflection: Do you live daily with the awareness that you are a child of God, or do you allow your circumstances to make you feel like an orphan?

Practical Application: Spend five minutes in quiet prayer today simply receiving the truth that God calls you His child. Do not ask for anything. Simply receive.

### Day 3: You Are His Workmanship -- Built for a Purpose

Reading: Ephesians 2:10 -- Believers are described as God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared in advance for them to walk in.

Devotional: The word workmanship carries the idea of a masterpiece -- something crafted with deliberate skill and intentional design. You are not an accident, not an afterthought, and not a rough draft. You are a deliberate creation of the living God, shaped for works that He prepared before you ever had the capacity to perform them. This means your gifts, your personality, your experiences -- even the painful ones -- are all woven into the fabric of your assignment. The works were prepared in advance. Your job is not to create the path but to walk in the one already laid. God has already gone ahead of you and set the table.

Reflection: Are there gifts, callings, or desires within you that you have dismissed as unimportant or unrealistic? Could they be part of your God-ordained assignment?

Practical Application: Identify one area where you believe God has uniquely equipped you and take one small, concrete step this week toward walking in that calling.

## Day 4: Adopted, Crowned, and Seated in Authority

Reading: Romans 8:15; Ephesians 1:5; Psalm 8:5 -- Believers have received a spirit of adoption as sons and daughters, have been predestined for adoption through Christ, and have been crowned with glory and honor by God.

Devotional: In the ancient Roman world, adoption carried full legal standing. An adopted child received a new name, full inheritance rights, and complete belonging in the family. When God adopted you into His family at salvation, He did not give you a lesser standing than those who had always been His. He gave you the full rights of a son or daughter. He placed a crown of glory and honor upon your head. He seated you in a position of spiritual authority. The enemy is not afraid of your church attendance or your religious habits. He is afraid of a believer who knows who they are and walks accordingly. Your identity is not something you are still earning. It was given.

Reflection: In what areas of your life are you still trying to earn God's approval rather than walking in the identity He has already given you?

Practical Application: Read Ephesians 1:3-14 slowly and count every spiritual blessing listed. Let the weight of what God has already given you settle into your spirit.

## Day 5: Becoming -- The Unfolding of Your True Identity

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:29; 1 John 3:2 -- Those in Christ are new creations; God predestined believers to be conformed to the image of His Son; and while believers are already God's children now, what they will fully become has not yet been completely revealed.

Devotional: Becoming is not the same as changing into someone unrecognizable. It is the unfolding of who God always designed you to be. Much like a seed that already contains everything it needs to become a towering tree, you already carry within you -- by the power of the Holy Spirit -- everything required to fulfill your divine identity. Salvation did not give you a new identity. It awakened the one God had always intended. The journey of sanctification is the process of shedding false selves -- the labels, fears, and wounds that obscured who you truly are -- so that your God-given identity can emerge fully into the light. You are not yet all you will be, but you are already His.

Reflection: What false identities -- rooted in shame, failure, or the opinions of others -- do you need to consciously lay down so that your true identity in Christ can surface?

Practical Application: Write a brief declaration of who God says you are, drawing from the Scriptures covered this week. Read it aloud each morning for the next seven days as an act of faith and alignment with your true spiritual identity.

