

Me As God Sees Me April 28, 2024
I am who God says I am

Your identity is either the devil's playground or an arena for success.

*When we win the identity war in our minds,
 we can move forward in who God has created us to be.*

John 15:16 AMP You haven't chosen Me, but I've chosen you & I've appointed & placed & purposefully planted you, so that you would go & bear fruit & keep on bearing, & that your fruit will remain & be lasting...

Make what God says about us, bigger than the lies of the enemy.

1 Peter 2:9 TPT You're God's chosen treasure - priests who are kings, a spiritual "nation" set apart as God's devoted ones. He called you out of darkness to experience his marvelous light, & now He claims you as His very own. He did this so that you would broadcast His glorious wonders throughout the world. ¹⁰ For at one time you were not God's people, but now you are. At one time you knew nothing of God's mercy, because you hadn't received it yet, but now you are drenched w/ it!

For many of us, our identity has been given to us by people, culture, experiences, social media, education, etc. Not by our Heavenly Father.

1 Corinthian 3:16,17 MSG You realize, don't you, that you're the temple of God, & God Himself is present in you? No one will get by w/ vandalizing God's temple, you can be sure of that. God's temple is sacred - & you, remember, are the temple.

Why do you think about yourself the way you do?

Who do you think you are? Where did the thoughts come from?

Who told you who you are?

Storytime w/ Pastor Frank - "Mighty Man of Valor"

Judges 6:2 The Midianites were so cruel that the Israelites made hiding places for themselves in the mountains, caves, & strongholds. ³ Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, marauders from Midian, Amalek, & the

people of the east would attack Israel, 4 camping in the land & destroying crops as far away as Gaza. They left the Israelites w/ nothing to eat, taking all the sheep, goats, cattle, & donkeys. 5 These enemy hordes, coming w/ their livestock & tents, were as thick as locusts; they arrived on droves of camels too numerous to count. They stayed until the land was stripped bare. 6 Israel was reduced to starvation by the Midianites. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help. 7 When they cried out to the Lord because of Midian, 8 the Lord sent a prophet to the Israelites. He said “The Lord says ‘I brought you up out of slavery in Egypt. 9 I rescued you from the Egyptians & from all who oppressed you. I drove out your enemies & gave you their land. 10 I told you, ‘I’m the Lord your God. You must not worship the gods of the Amorites; in whose land you now live.’ But you have not listened to me.” 11 Then the angel of the Lord came & sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah,... Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. 12 The angel of the Lord appeared to him & said, **“Mighty hero, the Lord is w/ you!”** (*Hail, you mighty man of valor! or man of fearless courage/hero/warrior*) 13 “Sir?” Gideon replied, “if the Lord is w/ us, why has all this happened to us? & where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn’t they say, ‘The Lord brought us up out of Egypt’? But now the Lord has abandoned us & handed us over to the Midianites.” 14 Then the Lord turned to him & said, **“Go w/ the strength you have & rescue Israel from the Midianites. I’m sending you!”** 15 *“But Lord,”* Gideon replied, *“how can I rescue Israel? My clan’s the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh & I’m the least in my entire family!”* 16 The Lord said to him, “I will be w/ you. You’ll destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man.” 17 Gideon replied, “If You’re truly going to help me, show me a sign to prove that it’s really the Lord speaking to me. 18 Don’t go away until I come back & bring my offering to You.” God answered, “I’ll stay here until you return.”

Chapter 7 - *He goes on to defeat the entire Midian army w/ 300 men!*

Don’t let your mistakes or failures or worst moments identify you.

You can move past your past. In Jesus, you are so much more.

How you see yourself is influencing/controlling every area of your life.

Matthew 6:22 Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled w/ light. **23** But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled w/ darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

Proverbs 23:7a NKJV For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he.

4 negative things that influence/control the self-image of most people:

1. The Past – *guilt, shame, sin, mistakes, failures, divorce, etc.*

Philippians 3:13b ...I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past & looking forward to what lies ahead, **14** I press on to reach the end of the race & receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

2. The Present – *your current situation; circumstances of life; a victim; feel stuck; your job, health, marriage, friends, relationship w/ Jesus...*

Philippians 4:13 AMP I have strength for all things in Christ who empowers me; I'm ready for anything & equal to anything through Him who infuses inner strength into me; I'm self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency. (**MSG** ...*in the One who makes me who I am.*)

3. The Future – *fear of failure & lack of vision so you give up.*

2 Timothy 1:7 God didn't give us a spirit of fear & timidity, but of power, love, & self-discipline. (*self-control*)

4. Competing & Comparing – *others as the standard of measurement*

2 Corinthians 10:12 NIV We dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves w/ those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves & comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

He cleansed your sin, redeemed your shame, & set you free – forever.

Walk in that Jesus freedom today!

Colossians 2:8 Don't let anyone capture you w/ empty philosophies & high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking & from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. **9** For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. **10** So you also are complete through your union w/ Christ...

We identify ourselves w/ Christ, by knowing Jesus

Colossians 2:11 AMP *In Him* you were also circumcised w/ a circumcision not made w/ hands, but by the spiritual circumcision of Christ in the stripping off of the body of the flesh; the sinful carnal nature, ¹² having been buried *w/ Him* in baptism & raised *w/ Him* to a new life through your faith in the working of God; as displayed when He raised Christ from the dead. ¹³ When you were dead in your sins & in the uncircumcision of your flesh (*worldliness, manner of life*), God made you alive *together w/ Christ*; having freely forgiven us all our sins...

Seeing yourself in Jesus is a key to your success in life here on earth.

When Jesus is Lord, you're a new person, you're in Him.

Philippians 3:8 Everything else is worthless when compared w/ the infinite value of knowing Jesus. For His sake, I've discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage so that I could gain Christ ⁹ & become *one w/ Him*. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through *faith in Christ*. For God's way of making us *right w/ Himself* depends on faith.