

What is Your Identity?

Who are you? What do you see when you look in the mirror? What do you identify with around you? These are all good questions but do we ever ask them? Do we ever stop and see how God sees us? Do we know ourselves well enough to know how we are going to react under pressure?

This manuscript will be addressing these questions and will provide a perspective from the Bible that will allow us to better define who and what we are from God's Word.

Your identity is an important piece in life that we often ignore but shouldn't because all our responses in life are driven by this point of reference. To support this statement, let's look at the record of when Moses sent the 12 spies into the Promised Land to bring back a report of what they found.

When these spies returned they had two separate and conflicting reports. Within them we can see how their reports were directly generated out of their self images just by what they said.

Caleb and Joshua returned stating:

Numbers 13:30 (AMP) Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; we are well able to conquer it.

Whereas the other 10 returned stating an "evil" report: (I know where they got that report from.)

Numbers 13:33 (AMP) There we saw the Nephilim [or giants], the sons of Anak, who come from the giants; and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

Caleb and Joshua were speaking from a self image that was generated from God's Promises about them and that He would give them their "Promised Land". They knew that they were "well able" no matter what the challenges were because their God was going to add His Power or Anointing to their efforts. The 10 spies with the evil report were instead agreeing with satan and had even placed themselves "as grasshoppers" against their enemy. This group was already defeated and everybody (including their enemy) could see it by how they talked.

Let's remember what has just occurred over the last couple of weeks for the Israelites and include what was right in front of them at that very moment. These very same people just witnessed the 10 plagues that ravaged their oppressors and in the end allowed them to leave Egypt with its gold and valuables. Then when they were trapped, God parted the Red Sea and the very army that desired to destroy them was destroyed by the water gate they used in their escape. Now in your mind's eye look up and see the cloud that guided them during the day and the fiery pillars that guarded them at night. The Power of God was in visual evidence right before them as they heard the spies' report and yet they still identified themselves as people that were failing or unable. Their identity had determined their choices for action.

Recalling all these demonstrations of God's Power and with visible Presence of God before your eyes, let's consider which report you would follow. Ask yourself; "Which identity would you agree with if you were there"? You might answer back; "How could I know since I'm not there to test myself"?

I know how I would react if I was there. It would be in the very same manner as I would react in my life's challenges here today. What I decide when the chips are down right now is how I would have chosen in that situation there. So in asking myself do I identify with one of the ten as a "grasshopper" or with Caleb and Joshua that believed God will do His part when they did their part can be answered in my reactions to the circumstances around me today. You see it is not the situation that decides a reaction but the self image of the person in that situation. We will always answer or act accordingly to what we have as our identity or our self image. So just like the Israelites, my identity will directly determine my course of action and therefore, determine if I activate or disconnect from God's available Power.

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Let's switch to a different example to add some clarity. Let's look at the woman with the issue of blood that heard a good report about what Jesus was doing. She had already spent all she had to correct the situation but yet still grew worse. Now her condition was desperate and with no more resources to draw from she needed something new to have any hope. She knew she was a Hebrew and therefore, under the Abrahamic Covenant had the Promises from God of healing. She also knew Jesus was already healing people and it didn't matter what the disease was, God's Power corrected it. When she heard this good news of God's demonstrated Power she made a choice to accept the good report and take it for herself. *Mark 5: 28 (AMP) For she kept saying, If I only touch His garments, I shall be restored to health.*

She rejected her sick image for a healed one and then took an action. Her "Good Report" identity was one that had a Covenant or Promise that activated God's Power (the Anointing) to correct her disease. Just like the 2 spies she believed God would add to her actions. All she had to do is reach out to the manifestation of God's Power in Jesus and touch the edge of His garment to see her situation aligned to her identity.

Putting these two examples together and looking how their identity decided their actions now look at the disciples. Immediately after feeding 5000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish, (*Mark 6:41 [AMP] And taking the five loaves and two fish, He looked up to heaven and, praising God, gave thanks and broke the loaves and kept on giving them to the disciples to set before the people; and He [also] divided the two fish among [them] all.*) they were told they were to go to the "other side" of the Sea of Galilee.

Their challenge came when a storm that risked sinking their boat and causing them to perish stood in their path. When Jesus came He spoke to the storm and it became quiet but then He turned to rebuke them for their unbelief. Jesus told them their failure was because they didn't go to God. *Mark 6: 52 (AMP) For they failed to consider or understand [the teaching and meaning of the miracle of] the loaves; [in fact] their hearts had grown callous [had become dull and had lost the power of understanding].* They had not acted like Joshua, Caleb or the woman with the issue of blood of being Empowered or Anointed but instead like the 10 spies that were afraid and saw themselves as powerless in the situation.

Of course we are all going to come up against things that are greater than us but that is not to matter. We are to identify with God's Good Report that we are able and allow Him to add to our efforts for victory. We are not to identify with the evil report even when it is right in front of our faces and beating us with large waves. When challenged, we are to see ourselves as a winner and rely on God to add to our actions. *John 14:12 (AMP) I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, if anyone steadfastly believes in Me, he will himself be able to do the things that I do; and he will do even greater things than these, because I go to the Father.*

Ok, so how do we make the correct choice and have an identity that leads for success?

Let's look at one last scripture and see how we can make this connection for our own lives. *John 15: 4-5 (AMP)⁴ Dwell in Me, and I will dwell in you. [Live in Me, and I will live in you.] Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me.⁵ I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing.*

In a word, relationship and in this relationship we are to see ourselves as vitally connected to God! We are to live in (dwell) or abide in union with Him to draw out strength as needed and know when we are in any challenge God is right at our side. Our identity must be in Him because without His Power on (or Anointing) us we have limited power to stand against Satan's challenges. This is why early on in the church they put the identifier Christian on God's people. Christ means "Anointed" so Christian means we are His Anointed (or Empowered) ones.

The next time you get called a Christian, let it remind you that with this identity comes the self image that you draw out of God the Power needed to overcome whatever Satan challenges you with and be like the winning example in the Bible.

So look at your identity and see what it is displaying through your words or actions. If you find you need to make an adjustment then, just like the woman with the issue of blood, make one.