

# Identity

Who God Says You Are

## My Research

- People: Donna & Jamie Winship, Richard Rohr
- Scripture, Bible Translations used: NLT, Amplified, NIV
- Books: Listening Prayer: Learning How to Hear God's Voice/Leann Payne, The Gift of Being Yourself/David Benner

## What is Identity?

- Definition: The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as to who a person is, having unique identifying characteristics held by no other \_\_\_\_\_.
- Perception: Your perception of your identity is not always the \_\_\_\_\_, and the truth about your identity is not always your \_\_\_\_\_.

## Where does our Identity come from?

- Birth Identity  
Every person has a birth identity. God appoints the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Kingdom Identity  
*1 John 3:1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called the Children of God! And, that is what we are!*

*Psalms 45:10-11 Listen, O daughter, consider and give ear; forget your people and your father's house. The king is enthralled by your beauty; honor Him, for He is your Lord.*

*1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.*

*John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.*

*Galatians 4:7 So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.*

## True Identity (aka: true self)

Definition: The identity that the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ into your \_\_\_\_\_ to bring you into your true self, and to \_\_\_\_\_ you into your Kingdom destiny.

*2 Corinthians 3:17-18 Now that the Lord is Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is Spirit.*

What does True Self look like?

- **Original, Eternal**  
*- Genesis 1:2 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*  
*- Ephesians 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.*
- **Authentic**  
*1 Peter 1:7 These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold – though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.*
- **Connected to God**  
*John 14:20 On that day you will realize that I am in the Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.*
- **Contained by the Spirit**  
*1 Corinthians 3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's spirit lives in you?*
- **Equipped on the Inside**  
*2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness.*
- **Worthy**  
*Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.*
- **Content**  
*1 Timothy 6:6 ...godliness with contentment is great gain.*
- **Justified by Christ**  
*Galatians 3:24 So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith.*
- **Humble**  
*Ephesians 4:2 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.*
- **Filled with the fruits of the spirit**  
*Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*
- **Not Offended**  
*Colossians 3:13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you just forgive others.*
- **Thankful**  
*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

## False Identity (aka: false self)

Definition: An identity that we receive, that we own and take on that's not from God. It comes from the \_\_\_\_\_, my view of \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_.

*Ephesians 6:10-13 Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh and blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. (additional references: Galatians 5:19-21, 2 John 1:7, John 8:44)*

What does False Self look like?

- Self-Centered (I become the reference point of all things)
- Consumed by comparison and competition
- Reinventing self (to feel good)
- Reinventing self (in situations just to fit in)
- Condemning self (I am not worthy)
- Craving approval from others
- Obsessed over past failures
- Defined by hurts
- Offended (takes great offense)
- Is the victim (default role in situations)
- Justifies self (need to be right)
- Shows off (need to be noticed)
- Asserting self (to feel powerful)
- Protecting self
- Insecure, needy and fragile
- Resentful
- Defensive (needs constant bolstering)
- Petty
- Compulsive
- Wrapped up in education, looks, achievements, etc. When this fades, all is lost.

## How do we operate in our false identity?

1. We have a \_\_\_\_\_ covering our true identity.
2. The darkness comes in the form of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. These lies are temptations to believe negative feelings of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Satan wants to \_\_\_\_\_ all people of their true identity.
5. We are tempted to develop \_\_\_\_\_ about God, His nature, and His character.
6. The enemy uses \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives to convince us we are not who God made me to be.
7. Lies permeate into our \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ until we believe root lies (guilt, fear, shame, ashamed, abandonment, confusion, hopelessness, powerlessness, unworthiness.)

## Journaling Practice

Father, God Almighty, in the name of the true Lord Jesus, what are the lies from the enemy that I have been living with? (take a few minutes to listen and write them down)

## Biblical Examples of Identities Transformed

My \_\_\_\_\_ identity doesn't change, but my \_\_\_\_\_ identity changes from false to \_\_\_\_\_.

False Identity

True Identity

Moses  
Exodus 2-3

Gideon  
Judges 6:12-15

Peter  
John 1:42, Matthew 16:16-18, Luke 22:32

Paul  
Acts 9:13-14

Samaritan Woman  
John 4:27-30

## Discovering your True Identity

*Jeremiah 29:11-14 For I know the plans I have for you \_\_\_\_\_, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come pray to me, and I will listen to you, \_\_\_\_\_. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found in you \_\_\_\_\_, declares the Lord.*

Let's start here:

- Understand that \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Understand that He has a sovereign \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for you.
- Understand that it stems from His \_\_\_\_\_.

*Isaiah 43:1 But now, this is what the Lord says – He who created you, \_\_\_\_\_, He who formed you, \_\_\_\_\_: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.*

Let's continue:

- Understand that God calls you by \_\_\_\_\_.
- Understand that the God of the universe, Your Father, has an \_\_\_\_\_ just for you.

*John 10:3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out...the sheep follow him because they know his voice.*

Lastly:

- Understand that in order to know your true identity, you need to \_\_\_\_\_ for God's \_\_\_\_\_.

## True Identity Prayer

Father, I reject the false identities \_\_\_\_\_ (name them here) \_\_\_\_\_ that the enemy has tempted me to believe all these years. I reject them in the name of Jesus.

I want to give you these false identities, these lies, so I ask first for a true image of Jesus on the cross. (wait a moment) Thank you for that picture Jesus.

Father, would you be so kind as to show me what lies I have come to believe—what they look like? A picture of what they have manifested into being? (wait a moment) Thank you Father.

In the way only you can do, Holy Spirit, please let me see what Jesus is doing with my lies as I bring them to Him at the cross. (wait a moment - stay there with Jesus and turn your lies over to Him)

Jesus, your word says in Isaiah 43:1 that you have chosen us and called us by name. Now that the lies are gone, Jesus will you tell me:

- What is the true name, true identity you have for me?
- What do you call me? (wait a moment – listen and write what you hear)

Father God, I receive this name that you call me: \_\_\_\_\_. I receive this truth and am choosing to put my trust in You and what You call me. Thank you.

## Next Steps:

- If you haven't already, get a journal. ☺
- If you haven't heard a name God calls you from the True Identity Prayer, refer back to that and give it another go.
- If you haven't already, consider forming a group of 3-4 women to process & practice listening prayer and processing identity.

## Further Your Journey:

- Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 7 - 9:00 pm, Healing Prayer, KCC Troy
- Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 am - 4 pm, Women's Prayer Retreat. Bring: Your journal, Bible, lunch/snack and enjoy a day of solitude to practice the tools we've been learning about to Subiaco Retreat House, 2711 E. Drahner Road, Oxford 48370.



## Practice

Objective: Provide exercises and a small group structure to support women in the practice of hearing their true identity with the input and support of other women wanting to do the same.

### Week 1

Homework to complete before attending Small Group:

- In your journal, write out the scripture referenced on this handout: 1 John 3:1, Psalm 45:10-11, 1 Peter 2:9, John 15:15, Galatians 4:7 and include any insights you have from these scriptures.
  - Look for a picture of an eclipse. Then, in your journal, write what you observe and ask God "What do You want me to know about eclipse lies I've believed?"
  - Set aside 30 minutes 1 day this week to:
    - Practice listening prayer and writing what you hear in your journal.
    - If you've practiced the True Identity prayer and haven't heard a name God calls you, go back now and give it another go.

Small Group Agenda:

- Allow each person to have 5-10 minutes to share insights from:
  - The scripture homework, and,
  - The eclipse journaling homework.
- Next, allow each person time to share their session of True Identity prayer and what they heard.
  - As a group help test it against:
    - Keys to Hearing God's Voice (from Listening Prayer training):
      1. Does it line up with scripture?
      2. Does it bring glory to God?
      3. Does it produce peace and freedom?
      4. Does it align with the fruits of the Spirit? Galatians 5:22
      5. Does it encourage you, build you up?
    - False Self motives, such as:  
Self-Centered? Consumed by comparison and competition? Reinventing self to feel good? Reinventing self in situations just to fit in? Condemning? Craving approval from others? Obsessed over past failures? Defined by hurts? Takes great offense? Is the victim in the situation? Justifies self/needs to be right? Shows off/needs to be noticed? Asserting self to feel powerful? Protecting self? Insecure, needy, fragile? Resentful? Defensive? Petty? Compulsive? Wrapped up in education, looks, achievements, etc.?

## Practice

### Week 2

Homework to complete before attending Small Group:

- In your journal, write out the definition of True Identity from page 3 of the handout and ask God "What do You want me to know about my true identity?" and journal the response.
- Then, journal on the following things:
  - What am I passionate about?
  - What am I gifted at, talents do I possess, what comes easy to me?
  - What is my vocation?
  - What injustices am I burdened by that keep me wondering when someone will stand up and intervene?
  - Then, ask God, "What do you want me to know about how I am uniquely created and how that fits with my true identity?"
- Set aside 30 minutes 2 days to practice this again and enter what you hear in your journal.

Small Group Agenda:

- Allow each person to have 10 minutes to share insights from:
  - The spiritual identity homework and journal entry.
  - What was learned from journaling on passions, giftedness, talents, vocations.
  - What came from asking God "What do You want me to know about how I am uniquely created and how that fits with my true identity?"
  - As a group help test it against:
    - Keys to Hearing God's Voice (from Listening Prayer training):
      1. Does it line up with scripture?
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