

IDENTITY, SIGNIFICANCE, SELF-WORTH AND SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

(Ohaeawai - Kaikohe CF - 3/4/96 - EKB)

- IDENTITY** is knowing who I am in Christ.
- SIGNIFICANCE** is realising God's gift of ministry in my life and that I am very important to God for the fulfilling of His purposes in the earth.
- SELF-WORTH** is being aware that God loves me, as I am, and that I am very precious to Him.
- SECURITY** is the knowledge that the Lord, the Almighty God is with me, and that He is keeping me in His place of safety.

A. IDENTITY - who I am in Christ.

God's Word declares the identity of the believer.

- E.g. *1Cor 6:19* my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.
Gal 3:26 I am a son of God by faith in Christ.
2Cor 6:18 we are sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty.
2Cor 5:17 I am a new creature in Christ.
Eph 1:7 I am redeemed through His Blood.
Eph 1:4 I am chosen of God.

[Many others are listed in No 25.]

John the Baptist declared his own identity, *Jn 1:19-34*.

Jesus was frequently declaring His identity, *Jn 6:35, 7:37-39, Jn 8:12, 10:7,11, 11:25,26, 14:6, 15:1-5*.

B. SIGNIFICANCE

I am very important to God to fulfil His purposes in the earth. I matter to God. God is relying on me to fulfil the purposes and work He has planned for me to do, *Eph 2:10*. I also matter to other people, to minister to them God's life.

God has given each believer, particular gifts of ministry, and ability, to enable him/her to effectively contribute to the life of the church. There are seven such gifts listed in *Rom 12:3-8*. It is very important for us to discover which gifts we have been given and to serve our fellow believers through them, *1Pet 4:10*.

There are other gifts listed in *1Cor 12:28, Eph 4:11, 1Cor 12:7-11*, that we can receive and grow into. As we mature in the Lord our specific calling of ministry is revealed to us so that we can be sure and confident. [No 60 shows how to identify and move into our ministry.] Every believer needs to realise God has made him/her "a somebody" in the Body of Christ, the Church. You are vitally important to God for the fulfilling of His purposes in the earth.

You are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that you should walk in them, *Eph 2:10*.

In *Eph 1:1* Paul declares His ministry gift and significance when he says he is an apostle of Jesus Christ to the saints at Ephesus. Jesus tells us how important it is for the believer to fulfil his/her God-given ministry in *Mat 24:45-51, Mat 25:21,23, Lk 19:12-27*. The ministers of the Gospel are

the most important people in the earth, and every believer is a minister of the Gospel, *2Cor 3:6*, *2Cor 5:18*. Augustine said: “Without God we cannot” (do what He wants),

“Without us God will not”(do what He wants done).

The only way God will do His work on this earth, among people, is through you, by His Spirit, by His Word, and this makes you very important to God.

C. SELF-WORTH

How I see myself? Do I think that God thinks well of me? Do I think well of myself?

You are precious to God, as you are, in this place, now, *Is 43:4*. If we love and are concerned for our sons and daughters, how much more is our loving Heavenly Father concerned for us. His love is perfect and constant, *1Jn 4:8*. He says, “I will never forget you and I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands,” *Is 49:15,16*. The Lord says, “I have loved you with an everlasting love, and with loving kindness I have drawn you,” *Jer 31:3*.

We need to regard ourselves as the Lord looks on us and not listen to the lies of this world and satan. Think of yourself as the Lord thinks of you and do not allow anyone to despise you, *Tit 2:15*. In *Ps 139:17* it says, “How precious are Your thoughts to me, O God!”

Ps 139:14,15 God has made you for Himself.

Is 43:4 You are precious, honoured and loved of God.

Eph 1:6 You are accepted, (highly favoured), completely in Christ (NKJV)

Ps 5:12 God surrounds you with His favour as a shield.

Eph 1:3,4 You are blessed with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ, and God has chosen you in Christ before this world began.

Ps 118:6,7 God is on my side. God is for me.

Josh 1:9 The Lord is with you wherever you go.

Heb 13:5,6 He will never leave you or forsake you, so you can boldly say, the Lord is my helper.

D. SECURITY

Psalm 91 is a picture of our security in the Lord our God. We are in the secret place of faith in Christ and we abide under the shadow of the Almighty God. He is our refuge and fortress and He delivers us from the snare of the trapper and the dangerous attacks upon us. He takes us under His wings and shields us with His truth. The whole Psalm assures us of our security in the Lord.

So the Lord repeats time and again, “Fear not, because I am with you.” *Gen 15:1*, *Ex 14:13*, *Deut 31:6*, *Josh 1:9*, *Is 41:10*, *Is 43:1,5*, *Mat 10:26,28,31*, *Rev 1:17*, *Rev 2:10*.

The Lord is of all power and authority and is able to protect and deliver us from all evil. He watches over us with caring love and He never leaves us or forsakes us, *1Pet 5:7*, *Ps 121*, *Ps 23*.

As we pass through various trials and tests, the Lord is right there with us, urging us to believe in Him, and trust in Him to bring us through into a larger inheritance in Him.

“I called upon the Lord in my distress; the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place,”

Ps 118:5, (see also *Ps 50:15*).

Remember to pray as Jesus taught us: “Lead me not into temptation and deliver me from the evil one,” *Lk 11:4*.