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IT TAKES COURAGE

“Who are you?”

-LaCrea Silinzy

JOSHUA 1:9

Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and of good courage**; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

GENESIS 3:8-9

- Then the man and his wife heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the breeze of the day, and they hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 So the LORD God called out to the man, **“Where are you?”**

TODAY: We will discuss WHO we are in Christ, HOW that knowledge empowers us to courageously live holy lives, and HOW we develop the confidence in Christ that produces the courage we need to live Holy in this day and age.

- Adam in the garden... “Where are you?”

Genesis 3:8-9 Then the man and his wife heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the breeze of the day, and they hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 So the LORD God called out to the man, “Where are **you**?”

- Today imagine with me, God is asking you...
“Who are you?”

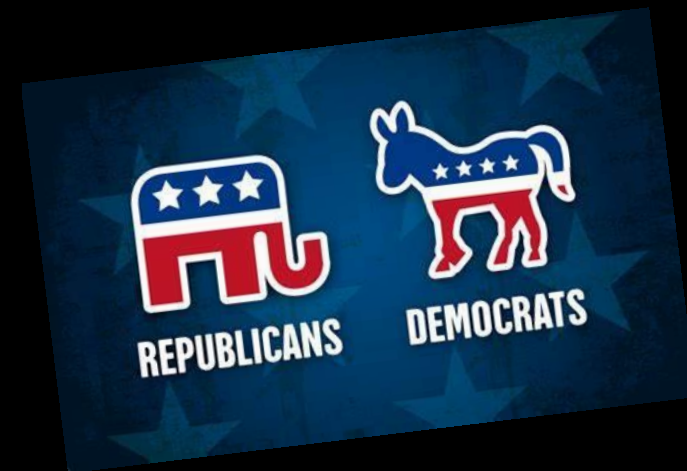
Just like Adam was “hiding” in **location** in Gen 3:8... How many of us are hiding in **identity**, from who we are in Christ?

Who does GOD say you are?

Is that who you are being?

It matters to God.

Revelation 3:15-16 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”



CHRISTIAN

- How do we wear this title?
- Do we know WHO we are?
- Are we excited by the things that excite God? Turned off by the things God hates?
- Do we realize we are ambassadors of Christ
- Can't be 1/7th Christian. 24/7. It's not a uniform that can be taken on and off.
- <https://youtu.be/uMqfre091mc>

- Once you realize WHO you are in Christ... it takes **COURAGE** to walk in that knowledge.

•COURAGE

Mentioned at least 116 times in the bible.

REAL LIFE SCENARIOS NEEDING COURAGE

- When everyone else is doing 1 thing... but you KNOW God is not in it or He does not want that for you.
 - Social Media fads
 - Relationships
 - Celibacy
 - Telling a Lie vs Owning the Truth
 - Society “politically correct”
 - Temptation to gossip
 - Go against the grain
 - Evangelism
 - To Apologize
 - Living Holy despite “judgement”
- The world is against Christianity.
 - We fight against our own flesh.
- (Rom 7:15-20 For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.)**

CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST = COURAGE THROUGH CHRIST

COURAGE CAKE

(recipe/ingredients)

- Salvation/Your Testimony
- The Word of God (in you)
- Revelation through time spent with Him
- Relationship & Experience

(Icing)

- Your Witness



SALVATION & YOUR TESTIMONY¹¹

- Healing of 10 Lepers – Luke 17:11-19
 - As Jesus was headed to Jerusalem He was met by 10 lepers. As outcasts and sick men, they knew they should not approach the general public. They called to Jesus from afar and asked for mercy. Jesus simply told them to go to the priest so that they could be proclaimed clean.
 - As they traveled to find the priest their bodies were healed. Jesus did not need to touch them. He did not need to ask them for a show of faith. Simply through His will He was able to heal these men.
 - Once they realized their cleansing one of the lepers returned to Jesus and bowed down to worship Him. This man wanted to thank the Lord for the healing power that was shown to him. This man was a Samaritan.
 - Jesus asked where the other nine were. They had not returned to offer thanks. Jesus told this man that his faith had made him whole.
- Has WHO God has been TO US, prompted us to ACTION, what has it caused us to DO?

- When you think of WHAT God has done personally in your life...
- What He did when He saved you, pulled you out of the mire, the sinking sand....
- The countless prayers He's answered, the many times He's delivered you
- This is where your courage begins. Because this is where your confidence in Him begins. How can we not be confident in a perfect love, a love that sent His Son to die for us while we were yet sinners. A love that never leaves us, is there when no one else is there, can do what no one else can do.
- When you know WHO you are TO God, what you are worth to Him, you can't help but walk a little different... talk a little different.. LIVE DIFFERENT.
- Being set apart begins to FEEL more like a privilege than a chore or challenge. Feels more EXCLUSIVE.... More Royal...

THE WORD OF GOD (IN YOU)

HE SAYS IT. WE STUDY IT. WE BELIEVE IT. WE WALK IN IT.

- **2 Corinthians 5:17** ESV - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
- **Ephesians 2:10** ESV - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
- **1 Peter 2:9** ESV - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- **1 Corinthians 6:19** ESV - Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,
- **Galatians 2:20** ESV - I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- **John 15:15** ESV - No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

TIME SPENT W/HIM (REVELATION)

- What have you sacrificed for uninterrupted, complete alone time with God?
(examples of Jesus going away alone with God)
Relationships? Friendships? Places? Activities? Habits? It will cost you something.
- Has there ever been a time in your life where God has had you ALL to Himself?
(Matthew 6:33)
- Have you talked (and LISTENED) to Him enough to KNOW His voice?
- Do you feel easily swayed or are you ROOTED deep?

RELATIONSHIP & EXPERIENCE

- Have you ever experienced His presence? You can't spend time in God's presence and stay the same.
- People who EXPERIENCED Christ in the bible + confidence

Matthew 9:27-31 ²⁷As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" ²⁸When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, LORD," they replied. ²⁹Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you"; ³⁰and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." ³¹**But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.**

WITNESS (THE ICING)

- Its in being different, that our witness is most powerful, most attractive, most effective, most inviting.
(testimony)
- Set apart – holy standard
- Salt & Light
- Easy to love those who love us.
- Walking breathing examples of the LOVE of God here on earth.
- Sets the tone for one to want to listen to you.

Now that you know who you are and you have the courage to walk in it, what will you do with that knowledge?

CONCLUSION

- Satan is the king of Identity Theft. (steal, kill, destroy)
- Knowing WHO you are in CHRIST is the key to living the abundant life He has planned for you.
- It takes courage to live THAT life.
- Courage comes from Christ and must be developed.
- It's worth it! Choose Christ and His truth about you at every opportunity and just watch how your life and everything around you begins to transform!

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