



Youth Alert: Identity and Destiny

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When you know who you are and where you are going it helps you to stay focused and avoid distraction that delays or even destroys your destiny. Every one of us has a unique identity and destiny; we are made in the image of God, our Creator, with a specific calling and God-given ability to reach our full potential. When we are born again and receive Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord all our sins are forgiven the moment we repent, then we become overcomers according to **1 John 5:4**.

In order to live out our identity and destiny we need to meditate on God's word daily and have our minds renewed otherwise we settle for less than our capability and live like those who don't know the Lord. Study carefully **Romans 12:1-2**. When we become fully aware of our identity and destiny it awakens within us a passion to fulfil the purpose for which we were born. We also realise the privilege of living in the centre of God's will and the influence we have as ambassadors for Jesus and shine the light into the lives of those who are on the wrong road.

So what is our identity as believers?

1. We are part of God's family

John 1:12 shows that when we receive Jesus we become children of God.

Romans 8:17 says we become heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. When we are in the family we have access to all that the Father has so when we need wisdom all we have to do is ask – see **James 1:5-6**.

The inheritance is endless so study His word and let faith develop in your heart, for example, you can be greatly encouraged and enlightened by reading books of the Bible like Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Corinthians, 1 & 2 Peter and 1 & 2 Timothy; but it takes determination and discipline because the enemy will do his best to distract you because he knows you will become strong and dangerous to his kingdom.

Also your own flesh will fight you and tell you 'you haven't got the time' but remember you have the power of the Holy Spirit in you, guiding you into truth – see **John 16:13-15** and **Acts 1:8**. If you have not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit set your heart to receive, notice carefully **John 7:39** and **Acts 19:1-5**.

Knowing your identity enables you to live above the snares of strife, sin and deception of satan. **Romans 6:14** says ‘sin shall not have dominion over you’. Sin always degrades, devalues and destroys. **James 1:14-21** shows that when lust is conceived it brings forth sin and sin when it is finished brings forth death.

You are so precious in God’s sight that He gave Jesus, His only son, to die in your place on the cross, so it is possible to live in this present world with all it’s lust, immorality, adultery and every wicked work of satan, and yet keep ourselves pure by the grace of God and faith in what Jesus did for us on the cross. See **Titus 2:14** – ‘Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works’.

2 Peter 1:1-10 reveals how He has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness – please study this carefully. The life that is ours as believers is awesome. There is nothing to compare to it, which is why Paul told young Timothy to meditate on the word of God and give himself completely to it – see **1 Timothy 4:15-16**.

Yes, it will take commitment to allow His transforming word to take root in our hearts and lives but the benefits are greater than any earthly reward, not only for ourselves but for our families and all we are associated with now and even in future generations.

2. Destiny

When we know who we are it alters how we act, so trust the Lord to lead you step by step and you will have His peace in your heart so remember as you go forward into your destiny to enjoy doing what you are gifted to do and you will become more effective as you grow in wisdom, courage and strength.

One valuable lesson I learned is the importance of forgiveness on a regular basis, otherwise our destiny is delayed and anxiety creeps in, bringing stress and trouble to our minds. That is why Jesus said 'do not let your heart be troubled nor be afraid'. He said in **John 16:33** 'you will have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world'.

Many people fall into the snare of satan and get offended then they withdraw from fellowship and become isolated. Not only is their destiny delayed but their relationship with the Lord is weakened and even broken. But when we are aware of satan's snares we can forgive one another again and again and endeavour to keep fellowship with those who have hurt us, continuing to pray for them – see **Matthew 18:15-22** and **Colossians 2:15**.

Remember we have all hurt someone without realising it! Jesus said ‘offences will come’ but the good news is that we don’t have to give them a place in our hearts and minds.

Keeping a sensitive heart toward the Holy Spirit is vital and we must refuse to harbour hurt but give it over to the Lord and keep forgiving. This is so important if we are to fulfil our destiny. **Hebrews 3:12** says ‘Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God’. A hard heart is a dangerous thing and it will affect your relationship and your health but we can, by the grace of God, keep a tender heart through forgiving and controlling our tongue so that we refuse to speak critical or negative things against anyone.

Ephesians 4:31-32 says ‘Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice: And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you’.

Controlling our tongue will shut the door in the face of the enemy and open the door into a new and fruitful future led by the Holy Spirit.

3. Rewards of right relationships

There is nothing to compare to maintaining a right relationship with the life-giver Jesus, our Lord and Saviour and with those God has brought into our lives that inspire us to rise higher in our relationship with the Lord. **Proverbs 4:23** exhorts us to guard our heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life. When we do this it brings honour and glory to His name and opens the way for divine connections that God has planned. The rewards of right relationships are immeasurable now and on into eternity. We miss out on the wrong relationships the enemy has planned and we can live a life of excellence and integrity in a world that is deceived and full of pride, selfishness and lust.

Daniel chapter 6 shows how Daniel had an excellent spirit in him and how God rewarded him in the midst of a compromising world full of wickedness and deception. We as followers of Jesus are called to live a life above average so that we can shine the light to those around us and be good ambassadors in a generation of lost and hurting people. Remember **Romans 5:17** says ‘... much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ’. Yes, it takes determination and strong courage but God has called us and empowered us to live that kind of life and the rewards are of eternal value.

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