
Following Christ to the Resurrection

Part 2 – Growing Into Your God Breathed Identity

A painting depicting Jesus, with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe, standing on a dark rock. He is leaning forward, reaching out with his right hand to grasp the hand of a man who is partially submerged in dark blue, turbulent water. The man in the water has a beard and is wearing a brown tunic and a white head covering. He looks up at Jesus with a desperate expression. The background is a vast, dark blue sea with white-capped waves under a dark sky.

Matthew 16:13-18

Matthew 16:13 NLT

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

Matthew 16:14

“Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

Matthew 16:15

Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?”

Matthew 16:16

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 16:17

Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.

Matthew 16:18

Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

A Recap of Last Week

who
am



NEW
SENT
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GREAT**

AM

Defining Identity

The FACT of who or what a person is. Identity often dictates purpose.

The Myth About Identity

Throughout your teenage years and your early twenties, you will figure out your identity, then you will spend the rest of your life living it out.

The Importance of Identity

- **Who I am often dictates how I relate to my family.**
- **Who I am often determines the career I choose.**
- **Who I am often defines what I believe, and it often defines my relationship with God.**

The Importance of Identity

- **Who I am often determines how I speak to others, how I speak about others, how I handle difficulties, and how I respond to injustice, which are but just a few examples.**
- **Who I am often determines my purpose.**



ID

- Finding Our True
- Identity in Christ

Your God Breathed Identity

The culmination of the unique ways in which God has created you to highlight specific attributes of His character and to fulfill His will. It is what makes you unique in the Kingdom of God. It is what makes you God's masterpiece.

Your God Breathed Identity

Your God Breathed Identity comes with unique personality, values, convictions, passions, circumstances, purposes, roles, skills, abilities, giftings, experiences, blessings, failures, struggles, situations, heartbreaks, and anointings.

Background of the Text

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- Simon has been following Jesus for about 2 years at this point.
- 1st time in Matthew that someone other than the author calls Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

Background of the Text

- **1st time in Matthew that Jesus calls Simon, son of John, Peter.**
- **This episode is the initiation and partial fulfillment of what Jesus predicted in John 1:40-42.**

John 1:40

**Andrew, Simon Peter's brother,
was one of these men who heard
what John said and then followed
Jesus.**

John 1:41

Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means “Christ”).

John 1:42

Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, “Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas” (which means “Peter”).

Principle #1

Your God Breathed Identity is about discovering and becoming who God originally created you to be.

Long before you ever came to know God, God knew you; and He has always had a plan for you and for your life.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Principle #2

Discovering your God Breathed Identity is dependent on God's grace, God's revelation, and on being in relationship with Him; because He is the author, designer, and creator of your life.

**Christ's assertion of Simon's God
Breathed identity as Peter in John
1:42, signaled God's plan for who
and what Peter was supposed to
become. It marked how God was
going to personally mold him and
transform him.**

Now when Jesus called Simon by the name of Peter, Jesus was asserting that Simon was now a different man, a man who was to continue on the journey which would unlock, develop, and reveal the true character of his identity.

Principle #3

The more you come to discover and learn about God's character and identity, the more you will learn about your God Breathed Identity.

**The better you get to know God,
the better you will get to know
yourself.**

**The more you grow in love with
God, the more you will grow in
love with yourself.**

Luke 5:8

When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.”

Luke 5:9

For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him.

Luke 5:10

His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.

Jesus replied to Simon, “Don’t be afraid! From now on you’ll be fishing for people!”

Luke 5:11

**And as soon as they landed, they
left everything and followed
Jesus.**

Principle #4

**Being transformed into your God
Breathed Identity, which is a
major part of the sanctification
process, is a life-long process.**

Despite what anyone else may have thought about Simon and despite what Simon may have thought about himself, when Christ called Simon and entered into a salvific relationship with him, Christ began leading him through the sanctification process. At that point, all that Christ saw was the new spiritual man - Peter.

Principle #5

Once you have entered into the process of genuinely and passionately following God, from that point forward, your God Breathed Identity, your calling, and your destiny are all anointed by the Lord Himself.

Luke 22:31

**“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked
to sift each of you like wheat.**

Luke 22:32

But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers.”

Principle #6

God will continuously confirm your identity, your calling, and your destiny throughout your life. ESPECIALLY, when you are hurting, when the pain appears to be too much, and when you feel like giving up.

Peter's success and greatness in Christianity did not come from his personal abilities or giftedness. It came from his dedication to living out his God breathed, ordained, and anointed identity.

God's process of sanctification throughout your life, will breed consistency in your true God Breathed Identity, so long as you commit yourself to surrendering to the Transformations of the Holy Spirit.

Principle #7

Your ability to successfully receive, grow into, and operate out of your God breathed identity is based on the fact that God will continuously pour out His unconditional love on you over and over and over again.

As a result of God's unconditional love for those who love Him and who faithfully follow Him, you are given the power and freedom to develop consistency in becoming who God created you to be in every area of your identity, faith, and life.

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