

Vision Casting Video Series

Day 2

God took special care when he made you. Before he formed you he knew you (Jeremiah 1:5). He took special care when he made you. In fact, He made you to reflect His own image (Genesis 1:27). We are the only one in God's creation He designed to bare his image. He sees the blueprint and design of who we really are. Take a moment and let that sink in. How would your life be different if you looked in the mirror and instead of seeing everything that's wrong with you, you begin to see the handiwork of your creator. *How might your life be different?*

Psalms 139:13-14 in The Message states,

*Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out;
you formed me in my mother's womb.
I thank you, High God—you're breathtaking!
Body and soul, I am marvelously made!
I worship in adoration—what a creation!
You know me inside and out,
you know every bone in my body;
You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit,
how I was sculpted from nothing into something.*

The same God that made the heavens and the stars made you. Most of us struggle with this.

Regardless if we believe this truth or not, this is the truth.

You have been fearfully and wonderfully made. This is who you are. The sad reality is when we don't walk in this truth, our lives are drastically altered.

Instead of living a life of passion, vision, and purpose. We drudge through our life, slogging our way to the weekend. Barely making it, living in survival mode. Take a moment and ask yourself if you are barely making it. **Write down your response:** _____

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We are God's image-bearers (Genesis 1:27). This means human beings possess inherit worth and value like no other creation. And it's not because of anything you could ever do, but simply because you bear the reflection of the one who made you. ***Your worth hinges on Him, not you.*** Nothing you could ever do and nothing that has been done to you can increase or decrease your worth. Your worth is in him.

This can feel prideful so say I'm worthy and valuable. This isn't because of what you've done, its acknowledging you're creator. This truth isn't so that you live out your life for you in awesomeness. Rather its for God's glory to serve a kingdom problem.

Take a moment and think about this. Are you living according to this truth? If not, write down what is preventing you from believing your true worth.

Genesis Chapter 3 details the first temptations in the bible is Satan questioning God's identity and our identity. He began to plant seeds of doubt about God's nature and dismantling God's way by telling Eve who she was and what she needed.

Satan also tries to pull the same temptation on Jesus later on (do you notice how he uses the same temptations over and over again?) Jesus doesn't fall for it. Satan says to Jesus, ***if*** you really are the Son of God ***then*** you can turn this stone into bread, and ***if*** you are Son of God ***then*** you can jump off this cliff and angels will catch you (Matthew 4:1-11).

Satan says, "If you are the Son of God, then do this." Satan wanted Jesus to question his identity. The Son of God is Jesus's identity and "if" is a conditional word. Then is how Satan wanted him to prove it.

Jesus is the most secure person that has ever or will ever live. Jesus knew who he was, check out the references in the Gospel. Every time you see the word I am -

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that's statement of his identity. Here's a few examples - "I am the Son of God," "I am the Way," "I am the Vine." He knew his identity.

Jesus didn't have to prove anything. And neither do we because of what He did for us. Remember our worth hinges on Jesus not on us. Yes, we are on a process of transformation but we don't have to prove our worth. Ephesians 2:10 tells us we've been made new in Christ Jesus.

The sad thing is we fall for this temptation. We fall for it all the time.

What are the ways you are tempted to prove it?

Most of us try to prove our worth through our performance, perfection, appearance, and approval.

But what happens when we can't measure up? When we fall short (like the Bible tells us we will), when we fail?

If you don't know who you are, these setbacks and bumps in the road will derail your destiny. Instead of making a mistake, you become a mistake (i.e. your identity). If you get a bad grade on a test, the grade becomes more than a grade. Suddenly it becomes a way to measure your worth. Similarly, a breakup or someone being upset becomes a thermometer.

A God-given destiny in you is more powerful than any devastation that has happened to you. As mysterious as God is, He does make some things very plain and straightforward.

Listen to this verse, **Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:10 "We are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."**

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The Word says when we allow truth to permeate our hearts and minds, it frees us. When we know the truth, we begin to experience freedom.

Unfortunately, your reality and experience may be the opposite of God's truth. Maybe things have been done to you or you've done harmful things to yourself. Now you feel like a piece of garbage, trash, nothing. When left unchecked, these feelings start to become your reality. The lies feel like truth and the truth feels like a lie. What we believe about ourselves (i.e. our identity) goes on to produce thoughts, feelings, and actions.

When you believe lies about yourself, you begin to create a course for your life that will result in supporting the lie.

What we believe about ourselves (i.e. our identity) goes on to produce thoughts, feelings, and actions. Common beliefs I hear and have believed myself are things like, "I'm stupid, I'm not good enough, I'm unworthy." When I believe these types of beliefs will create thoughts like, I can't do that...everyone else has it together. I'll never be good enough.

Your belief opens a door to life or destruction. What you believe matters. And I can show you how.

What you believe goes on to produce thoughts, which goes on to produce feelings, and actions. Your beliefs determine your actions.

WHO would like to share a behavior you would like to change?

Your beliefs about yourself, others, and God (I am, they are, He is)

- Produce thoughts like "*I can't...I'll never...I should...I always...*"
- Create feelings
- Results in behaviors

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Belief (I am) _____

Thoughts _____

Feelings _____

Actions _____

“I am” statements have great impact. Every time we speak those two little words, “I am”, we are inferring something about our identity. You are labeling yourself.

Are you speaking words of truth? Proverbs 18:21 states that words have the power to bring life or bring death. Did you know the words you speak and even the words you internally think have power?

What you believe about yourself alters the trajectory of your life.

Your belief opens a door to life or destruction. What you believe matters.

Go back to the what the what the Word says about you:

You are worthy.

He delights in you.

You are valuable.

You’ve been well-made.

You are a masterpiece.

You are one of a kind.

You’ve been made in God’s image.

When you hear you are a masterpiece, well-made, God’s handiwork, **what happens inside?** You may hear a little voice, a mean little voice that says “*Yeah, but she doesn’t know about _____. If she knew that, then she’d know I’m really_____.*”

Past mistakes, our performance, what others say about us, and what we say about ourselves often becomes how we define ourselves. But here’s the reality – God is your Creator. You are His handiwork. He knit you together. He has purpose for you. Your parents, your boss, your coaches didn’t think you up or create you. God

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did. When you define yourself by what others say, your performance, how you look, etc., you start to wear a label.

Labels limit. But your identity, *the person God created, unleashes limitless power.*

Four Ways Labels Limit:

1. Keep you trapped in sin patterns
2. Keep you from receiving God's forgiveness and grace (imperative moving forward in a life of freedom)
3. As a result - Don't value or protect yourself
4. As a result - Experience depression and anxiety, low-self worth

Here are a few common labels:

1. We label ourselves by our performance - roles, failures or successes.
2. What other's approval, what other's say about us - what we say about ourselves
3. Perfectionism - living up to self-imposed expectations.

Take a moment and think about the labels you have been called throughout your childhood and adulthood, and the names you call yourself silently. Write these down.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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Imagine yourself introducing yourself based on the labels you wrote down.

I am _____.

I am _____.

How do you think you'd feel?

Do these labels line up with what scripture tells you, that you are worthy, accepted, chosen, set apart, strong, more than conquerors? If not, why?

Do these names produce life in the Spirit? If not, why?

If you answered no to any of these questions, you are wearing a false name or label. The identity you believe about yourself is a false identity.

Believing lies goes onto produce negative, toxic thinking. Scripture tells us “For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7). What we think all day long, those secret thoughts we don't tell anyone, begins to shape our identity. Scripture reminds us of the power of words. **Proverbs tells us that our words have the power to bring life or death (Proverbs 18:21).**

As you were being formed, God shaped you with certain talents and abilities. These talents and abilities are your birthright, **treasures in jars of clay waiting to be unearthed (2 Corinthians 4:7).** These are part of your identity. Labels limit your ability to exist as God intends, to undergo that process of refinement. Labels make you want to duck and cover. His love draws us out.

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God shaped you and created you. He calls you by your name. Isaiah 45:3 says “I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by **name.**” He calls us by name.

Take a moment, I’d like you to pray and ask God to tell you what this name is. Truly, the only way we can establish our identity is by hearing the voice of God. I want you to know that **God speaks**. I don’t know what your prayer life is, but regardless of where you are at spiritually, God wants to connect with you.

3 common ways that we hear God are through:

1. Words that come to mind.
2. Images that come to mind.
3. Impressions that we sense God.

You can trust its from God if lines up with the Word (explain), produces fruit of the spirit, and leads you to freedom.

If you don’t hear, feel, or sense anything don’t be discouraged. Also, don’t try and come up with the name. Simply ask God, what is my name, and wait.

What name did you hear God speak over you? While you may not have heard a voice, did a word or image come to mind, or did you sense an impression from God? If so, what was it?

If you didn’t hear or feel anything, you can rest on what the Bible says about you. Meditate on and pray about the scriptures listed below.

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Now, I'd like for you to think about the labels you wrote down a moment ago. I want you to release any name what isn't who you are. Any name that isn't congruent with scripture, doesn't produce the fruit of the spirit, doesn't produce freedom. I want you to release that label or false name.

How do the lies you believe prevent you from believing/accepting God's plan for your life?

What are two things you can do this week to begin embracing this new name?

God has a unique plan for your life. Share what you believe this plan may be.

What are two ways for you to begin embracing this plan?

1. _____

2. _____

☀ This week, begin calling yourself by your name.

I am worthy

I am valuable

I am lovable

I am loved

I am accepted

I am God's friend

I am victorious

I am capable

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☀️ Scriptures to pray and consider this week:

Genesis 1:27 - “So God created man in his own image.”

Psalms 139:13-14 - “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well”.

Proverbs 13:19a - “Souls who follow their hearts thrive.”

Proverbs 19:21 - “Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”

Jeremiah 1:5 - “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

Ephesians 2:10 - “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

☀️ Recommended Reading:

Who I Am in Christ by Neil T. Anderson

The Search for Significance by Robert McGee

Without Rival by Lisa Bevere

☀️ Prayer:

Father, I thank you that before the dawn of time, you knew me. I praise you that I am fearfully and wonderfully made. I thank you that before you created each of us, you knew me and created a plan for my life. I ask that you would give me wisdom and discernment for discovering this plan. Be with me on this journey learning more about you as Creator and the creation you have made. Help me to live a life of vision, passion, and purpose. Amen.