



TOPIC: Identity & Purpose – Min. Logan Baughman
Bible Study & Life Groups: Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Unless a person can answer in the affirmative the challenging question...do they have what it takes; can they be counted on in a critical situation to come through, or are they merely a caricature of what they claim to be, dressed up in an adult suit? Faking and shaking they way through life...

To get to the nitty and the gritty of the having what it takes issue, a person must come to terms with their **Identity and Purpose**, they must know where they can find them, and how they can live them out in a world which is diametrically opposed to them doing so...

GCFI family, our **Identity, and Purpose** must come from the One who created us...We find them through **establishing and maintaining our conscious contact with God**...By operating in **Self-control** and **Accountability**, by doing so, you will surely have what it takes

- ✓ Having a strong Prayer Life because you live connected (In an active L.I.F.E. Group)
- ✓ Engage in a Daily Devotion, Quiet Meditation, and Reflection about God and His plan for you
- ✓ S.T.A.N.D. on God's Word where your life is concerned, despite life's challenges
(Simply Trust And Not Doubt)

Genesis 1:26 *"God said, Let Us [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness, and **let them have complete authority** over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the [tame] beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth."*

2 Peter 1:2-4 *"Grace and Peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as **His Divine power has given to us all things that pertain to Life and godliness**, through the knowledge and experience with of Him who called us by Glory and Virtue, by which have been given to us Exceedingly Great and Precious Promises. That through these you may be partakers of the Divine Nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."*

In those Scriptures, we can see that God created us in His image, to be like Him. Furthermore, God has given us what we need to live the way He intended. Some of you may be thinking, that you just cannot seem to stay on track, always finding yourself caught up in the same, old same old.

Proverbs 26:11 (MSG) *“As a dog eats its own vomit, so fools recycle his silliness; or his folly/foolishness”*

A Point to Ponder About Accountability and Self-Control

- I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I fall in the hole. I am lost. I am helpless. It isn't my fault. It takes forever to find a way out. I walk down the same street.
- There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I pretend I don't see it. I fall in again. I can't believe I am in the same place. But, it isn't my fault. It still takes me a long time to get out.
- I walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I see it is there. I still fall in. It's a habit. My eyes are open. I know where I am. It is my fault. I get out immediately.
- Walk down the same street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I walk around it.
- From now on I will walk down a different street. [by Portia Nelson]

There is an Ancient African saying, “Don’t look at where you fall, look at where you tripped.

Ecclesiastes 1:9 *History merely repeats itself. It has all been done before. There is nothing truly new under the sun.*

GCFI Family, know that our enemy & the inner me(us) is not innovative, the same things that worked against you in the past, will be employed against you again, and again. Know that your designer trap will come in three forms

1 Johns 2:16 *For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a yearning for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father but are from this world.*

- Lust of the flesh (physical gratification)
- Lust of the eye (greed and wanting everything you see)
- Pride of life (misguided attitudes about our achievements and possessions)

The same plot played out in the Garden of Eden and when Jesus was tempted during and after His wilderness experience. What made the difference in these outcomes?

Hurdles to a Renewed Mind

Fear of Failure----Stuck In A Rut----Just Plain Scared----Complacency----Company You Keep

Think about this, what makes and keeps Superman strong? By staying away from what makes him weak [Kryptonite].

Get into a L.I.F.E. Group; Live Connected (Accountability)

Proverbs 11:14 (AMP) *“Where there is no wise, intelligent guidance, the people fall and go off course like a ship without a helm. But in the multitude & abundance of wise and godly counselors, there is Safety/Victory.”*

Operate in wisdom by (using Self-Control).

Proverbs 25:28 (NLT) *“A man/person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls*

There is an interesting exchange in the Garden of Eden,

Genesis 3:9-10 *God called to the man, “Adam, where are you?” Adam replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because **I was naked.**”*

When God called

- Adam was out of position,
- Adam lacked self-control,
- Not being accountable

If you can get what God’s answer to Adam’s trivial response was, it can help you to answer in the affirmative do you have what it takes, God said, “Who told you that you were naked?” In other words, who have you been listening to?

God has affirmed His promises for your life, to make sure that you have what it takes. It will require something of you.

God’s Spirit Helps Us In Our Hardship(s) & Challenges

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We have been acculturated and socialized into maladaptive concepts regarding what it means to be a man.

- Cowgirl or Cowboy-Up, Why You Crying Just Suck It Up, Being A Believer Your Life Should Be Easier

Romans 8:18-19 *“I consider our present sufferings insignificant compared to the glory that will soon be revealed to us. All creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal who his children are.”*

2 Timothy 2:1-4 *“You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 3 You therefore must endure[a] hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.”*

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God Wants You To Win

Jeremiah 33:2-3 *“This is God’s Message, the God who made earth, made it livable and lasting, known everywhere as God: ‘Call to me and I will answer you. I’ll tell you marvelous and wondrous things that you could never figure out on your own.’”*

You may be saying to yourself, I want to do right, but how can I get on and stay on the right track. God has an App for that. Get into a L.I.F.E. Group;

Live Connected (Accountability)

Hebrews 11:6 (AMP) *It is impossible to walk with and please God without Faith, for whoever comes near to God must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who earnestly and diligently seek Him.*

Answering in the affirmative to the question of; Do you have what it takes, can you be counted on to come through in challenging situations?

- to starts first with faith in God and the plan he has for your life.
- Next, is know and understand where and what your Kryptonite is (self-control),
- Get accountable immediately by Living Connected in an L.I.F.E. Group (accountability).

Gentleman, our identity, and purpose come from God.

The Last Word:

Colossians 3:15-17 *“Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, **Thanking (Trusting) God every step of the way.**”*

The Quest I On

1. Where is your level of trust in God’s plan for your life? What can you do to improve it?
2. Who told you are, you are _____?
3. What about this topic that haunts you (“Identity & Purpose”)?
4. Are you active in a L.I.F.E. Group? Is your accountability superficial?
5. Do know what your Kryptonite is, how can you avoid those situations?