

Know Your Persona

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Sunday AM Session

You know, when Jesus asked the questions, “Who do you say I am,” He was not fishing for a compliment. He was making a crucial point about identity in Matthew 16:15. See, when you know who you are, then you know how you are supposed to live: both within yourself, and toward the people around you. You get access to a higher place than just knowledge. You come into the wisdom of God. The wisdom of God always declares something from Heaven to Earth. You understand things like your circumstances are not the problem. Your perception of your circumstances is the problem. God allows in His wisdom what He could easily prevent by His power. If you really want to grow quickly in God, then you have to ask the best questions.

🔑 **Key:** When you know who you are, you know how to live within yourself and toward the people around you.

🔑 **Key:** Consider that your circumstances are not the problem, rather your perception of your circumstances could be the problem.

🔑 **Key:** God allows in His wisdom what He could easily prevent by His power.

The two best questions you will discover were around the day of Pentecost: What does this mean? And what must I do? Never ask the ‘why’ question because the why question never gets answered on Earth. It is the wrong question. It is an invalid question that makes you an invalid. Why is this happening to me?” “Why this, why now, why me?” Wrong question. It is a victim question. You are so not a victim. You are a warrior. You are the beloved, the betrothed. That is who you are. You have to ask questions that are in line with your identity. “What does this mean, Papa? And what do I need to do?” Great questions.

🔑 **Key:** The best two questions are, “what does this mean,” and, “what must I do.”

🔑 **Key:** Asking why something happened never gets answered on earth and it makes you and invalid.

When people around you know your real identity, then they must act accordingly toward you. When He asked the question, who do people say I am, He got back four distorted images: “Some say You are John the Baptist,” which is a little weird because he just got killed a couple months ago. Other people

said, "You are Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." The last one was a guess. Four distorted images. And these are supposed to be the people of God.

🔑 **Key:** When people know who you are, they must act accordingly toward you.

Sometimes I look around the church today and I think there are so many millions of Christians with a distorted image of who Jesus is. They only know Him as Savior, but that is only the introduction to Him. It is not who He really is. He is so much more than that. And we are discovering all the personality of God. We are on this journey to understand what is God really, really, really like. And that is where you live. That is where you take all your cues about life - from God's personality. You never take any knowledge from your circumstances. Take your understanding of things from the personality of God because He is with you, and He is unchanging.

Other people, later on said about Jesus, "He is just a carpenter's son." Some people said, "Well, He is a Rabbi or a teacher or something." He wanted the disciples to understand His true identity, because that revelation would shape their relationship with Him.

🔑 **Key:** Understanding who Jesus really is shapes your relationship with Him.

Our True Identity

Our true identity is made up of two things: Who we are on earth, and how we are known in Heaven. It is made up of our **personality**: who we are on earth; and our **persona**: how we are known in Heaven. Your personality is the integrated organization of soul and body. It is the combination of psychological, intellectual, emotional, and physical attributes. Things that have been shaped by our upbringing, by our environment, by our training and our modeling into a form of learned behavior that is either positive or negative.

🔑 **Key:** Our true identity is made up of who we are on earth and how we are known in Heaven.

🔑 **Key:** Who we are on earth is our personality which is shaped by the things around us and those things can have either a positive or negative effect on us.

🔑 **Key:** Our persona is how we are known in Heaven.

Negative personality is about having a victim thinking. It is about being cautious or pessimistic. Maybe judgmental or prejudiced. It is about being fearful or hesitant. It only takes comfort in the familiar, so you do not like it when things change. It is about being embroiled in the fear of man, the fear of being wrong, the fear of looking stupid, the fear of risking. That makes us prone to deception. We believe in the worst. Having a sense of unworthiness and being entirely too self-conscious.

🔑 **Key:** A negative personality is about having a victim thinking, being cautious or pessimistic, judgmental, prejudice, fearful, hesitant, does not like change, fear of man, being wrong, looking stupid, or taking risks. Prone to deception, feels unworthy, too self-conscious.

Your **positive personality** is driven by values, by optimism, by trusting, being willing to try. The fact that you can be challenged on things. That you are a risk taker learning to be brave, honest, and self-aware. Your positive personality may just need an upgrade. Your negative personality needs the transformation.

🔑 **Key:** A positive personality is optimistic, has values, trusts, tries new things, can be challenged, a risk taker, brave, honest, self-aware.

Your **persona** is something different than that. Remember, our true identity is made up of who we are on earth, and how we are known in Heaven. When God comes, He likes to declare to you His persona. When He took Moses up on the mountain, He asked Moses to ask Him a question, because God is really good at that. He gets you to ask Him the right question so He can engineer you to the right experience He wants you to have.

He got Moses to ask Him a question. "Well, is there any chance that You might show me Your Glory." And the Lord said, "Great question, sure. I will cause My Goodness to pass before you." So while he is on the mountain, in the cleft of the rock, with God's hand protecting him from the power of His Goodness - because it is so astonishing it could incinerate you. It is that radiant. It is that glorious. You need to be protected from it until you get a new body. Thank God our bodies are going to change and we will all have a different shape! That will be so majestic.

So, here is Moses being protected while he can observe the Glory of God. The Father begins to call out His persona to Moses. "This is who I am! I am compassionate, gracious, sloooowww to anger." That is because He is not an evangelical. "I am merciful. I am truthful, faithful, forgiving." And Moses begins to relate to God's persona. "This is who I am. This is how you can know Me, and this is the place where you get to stand in My Presence."

Jesus goes to His hometown church and reads out Isaiah 61, and establishes His persona. "This is who I am. The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to bring Good News to the afflicted. He sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted; to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners. To proclaim the favor of the Lord on the day of vengeance of God. To comfort all that mourn. To grant those who mourn in all of Zion the oil of gladness instead of ashes for mourning. To give them the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting, so they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord so they may be glorified."

What is He doing? He is calling out His persona. "This is who I am. This is what I am doing; what I am here for." A little later on He wants to talk about the Holy Spirit. Have you noticed that about the Godhead? That they love to talk about one-another? You have the Father saying, "This is My Beloved Son. Listen to Him!" And He steps into the wings and gives Jesus center stage. "This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him."

What does Jesus do? He only ever talks about the Father. "I only do what the Father is doing. I only say what the Father is saying. In fact, My meat and My drink is to do that which the Father has sent Me to do." Later on, Jesus is found saying to His disciples, "Boys, it is better for you if I go away." And they are

all thinking, “No it is not! We need you around for maybe 100 years, or at least until we are dead.” And He is saying, “It is better for you if I go away, because if I go away, He can come.” And He starts talking about the Holy Spirit. What is He saying? The Holy Spirit is better than Me at this next phase of your life. “It is better for you if I go, because then He can come and when He comes, He can lead you into better truth.”

He starts talking about the Holy Spirit. This is what He says about Him. He talks about His persona. “When He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin.” Brilliant, that means we will not have to do it. “He will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment. Concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me. Concerning righteousness because I go to the Father and you will no longer behold Me. And concerning judgment - this is the only form of judgment that is acceptable in the world. We are here to tell the world the ruler of this world has been judged on your behalf.”

There is no judgment in this life, right? Okay, questions.

- » Was Jesus judged enough for sin?
- » Was Jesus punished enough for sin?
- » Did the Father pour out ever last ounce of wrath, anger, and indignation upon Jesus?
- » Then He has not got any left then. Because if He has some left, we are in a shipload of trouble. I could have said boatload, but I mean ship-load.

 **Key:** The Cross was judgment for sin for all mankind once and for all.

 **Key:** We are living in a season of Grace today.

No, I am serious as a heart attack. Because **if judgment is still possible, we have no salvation.** Calvary was judgment for sin. For all mankind, once and for all, in this world. When the world is rolled up and we come to that place before God, which is called the Judgment Seat, there in Heaven will be judgment.

Between Calvary and the Day of Judgment, we are living in a season of Grace. We are ambassadors of reconciliation. That is our job. We are here to say to people, there is no obstacle between you and God. You have been reconciled to God. Does that mean they have been redeemed? Not yet. What it means is the way toward God is completely open from God’s side. He is not judging anybody in the world. He is not judging terrorists. He is not judging the gay community. He is not judging abortionists. He is not judging anybody. He is sending us out as ambassadors of reconciliation, to say to people it does not matter what your life is like, there is a Redeemer, and His Name is Jesus.

 **Key:** We are ambassadors of reconciliation to tell people that the way is open to God no matter how ‘bad’ or ‘evil’ you might be as we have a Redeemer in Jesus.

Justice and Judgment

There is a difference between justice and judgment.

- » We are here to pass judgment on the enemy. That is what we do when we cast out devils – we cast out judgment on them.
- » We are here to cast judgment on principalities and powers; on spiritual wickedness in high places.
- » We are not fighting flesh and blood; we are not passing judgment on flesh and blood. We are here as ambassadors of reconciliation to flesh and blood so that they may receive the Lord.
- » Everyone in the world has been reconciled to God. It is like receiving a credit card in the mail. You can learn all about the benefits of it, but you cannot access those benefits until you get in contact with the Principal.
- » We are ambassadors of reconciliation, and it is **not** our job to go into places and rail against sin.
- » It is our job to go into those places where sin abounds and call out to the Grace of God that is also present. Because when sin abounds, Grace does much more abound. It is our job to call down Grace.

Wouldn't it be brilliant to get a million Christians to go down to San Francisco and call down Grace? That would be more pressure than the enemy could handle. A million Christians go to San Francisco and call down Grace on that city. Now that would be an act of God. Maybe we should all go and have a conference down there; walk around and call down the Grace of God on that place. **It is the Goodness and Kindness of God that leads us to repentance.**

What if the biggest problem in America is not crime, terrorism, poverty, poor education, abortion, or drugs? What if the biggest problem in America is simply a lack of Goodness? We overcome evil with good. So how come evil is winning in places? I think it is because the church is too busy railing against sin, which is not our job. Our job is to talk about the Splendor, the Beauty, Majesty, Sovereignty of the Lord Jesus Christ. And to celebrate Him in the earth.

Key: Our assignment is to talk about the greatness of God and who He is and not about what the devil is doing.

This is what He says about the Holy Spirit, "Concerning judgment, because the ruler of this earth has been judged" – that is the good news. "I have many things to say to you. You cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak and disclose to you what is to come." That is, He will make you a prophetic people. Every one of you should know what is coming next in your own life. You should be able to declare to your neighborhoods, "This is what is coming next into this place. This is what is coming next into this city. We stand at the gates of a city and we prophecy, 'This is what is coming from Heaven in this place.'" "He shall glorify Me. He shall take of Mine and disclose it to you. All things the Father has in mind."

Persona. I want you all to know exactly what the Holy Spirit is about. When Jesus read out Isaiah 61, He was outlining His persona, His mandate from Heaven. He said, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father.” Scripture says, “Jesus is the Radiance of the Father’s Glory, and the exact representation of His Nature (Hebrews 1:3).” Colossians, 1:15 says, “He is the image, persona, of the invisible God, and the firstborn of Creation.” Romans 8:29, “We are being conformed to the image, the persona, of His Son, so that Jesus will be the firstborn of many brethren.”

You know what you trust in, in the nature of God, gives you power in the Kingdom.

Everyone in Heaven has a persona. Angels have a persona. In Luke 1 when Zacharias questions Gabriel’s word, he comes and gives him a word about Zacharias’ son, and Zachariah questions it. “Well, I am not too sure of it.” And it is almost like Gabriel kind of stands up a little taller and is like, “Excuse me, I am Gabriel, who stands in the Presence of God. I have been sent to speak to you, to bring you this good news.” He tells him who he is. God wants you to know exactly who you are. Gabriel came to prophecy over John, Zacharias’ son. And he came to establish John’s persona, even before he was birthed. That is how important your persona is to God. And he said this, “He will be right in the sight of God. He will drink no wine or liquor. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit while in his mother’s womb. He will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord. He will go as a forerunner before Him, in the Spirit and power of Elijah. He will turn the hearts of fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous. To make a people ready for the Lord.”

Key: God wants us to know who we are from His point of view.

Now that is a persona! And it is one that John confessed, because that is what you have to do when you understand who you are. You have to talk about it. You have to say, “This is who I am.” None of this false humility stuff: “Well Jesus is brilliant, but I am rubbish.” That is a religious spirit talking. Get over yourself. John said, “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness. Making ready the way of the lord. Make His paths straight.” Your persona comes out of your mouth. It is a part of your anointing. You have to step in it, stand in it, make war through it, speak through it. And when people hear you speak, they should know who you are in the Kingdom.

Key: Who you are from Heaven’s point of view needs to be spoken out of your own mouth so others can relate to you in that way.

Key: Everything you do needs to be from the person God created you to be.

Your persona:

- » Is literally an elevated status.
- » is an expression of God’s image in us.
- » is the place of our acceptance where we know we are the beloved and we are highly favored. At some point, you have to know that God is totally, utterly, and completely biased in your favor.

- » is who you are perpetually in God. It does not matter what occurs.
- » is what should matter first in situations and it does not matter what is occurring. It only matters who God is for you now. That is the thing you have to get.
- » allows you to stand in that place and listen.
- » gives you breathing space in crisis.
- » becomes your adopted role. As He is, so are we in Christ.
- » is where we put on Christ.
- » is where we develop our new nature.
- » gives us legal authority over the enemy.
- » gives us permission to overcome every obstacle.
- » gives us the right to rule and to establish peace.
- » gives us a particular charge in terms of how we are to act in any given circumstance.
- » gives you ongoing revelation.

Your persona is there for the integrated coordination of your identity in Christ, with your calling, your favor, and your authority. Persona and personality are two sides of the same coin. They are relational and they are functional because everything God is doing in your life is always primarily relational. It is always about establishing who you are in Him and who He is for you. When God shows up and introduces us to, and calls us to a specific task, He is introducing you to your persona, **as He defines it** and that gives you an elevated status on the earth.

So David became King. Abraham became the father of many nations. Moses became a deliverer. Joseph became a Prime Minister. Deborah was a prophetess. Esther became Queen. Mary became the mother of Immanuel. Persona.

Prophecy's Role in Persona

God loves to tell you who you are. That is why we have prophecy. When He introduces you to your true self, He then relates to you in that way for the rest of your life. The problem is we need His calling in our personality, because at that time, it is probably all we have. We need Him in who we are not.

God comes through Gideon's life and Gideon is scared, he is worried, he has low self-esteem. He is hiding out from the Mideonites in a wine press, making bread, like you do when you are depressed. The Lord comes to him and tells him his persona. He says, "Gideon, you mighty man of valor, go in this your strength and deliver Israel." He tells him his persona. What is the first thing Gideon does? He gives Him all these excuses: I cannot do that. I am the least in my father's house. We are the poorest tribe in all of Israel. What is happening? **God has come to him and says this is your persona, and he meets it in his personality.** It is the negative side of your personality that will come out first. Why? Because that is the side that God wants to get rid of first, so He allows it to rise to the surface.

 **Key:** When God introduces you to your true self, He never changes in how He relates to you.

🔑 **Key:** God wants to get rid of the negative side of your personality first so you can live out of the fullness of your persona – the way God sees you.

Our personality is never equal to the task. **We make excuses because we are undeveloped in our true identity and your first response will be to express a negative.** God has not called you to do anything reasonable, possible or even attainable. He has called you to do something unreasonable, impossible, and frankly, outrageous. There are going to have to be 16 people in your body just to achieve it, unless He does something. The calling is designed to bring up and out your negative side of your personality. Your persona wages war on your inherent negativity. Your persona will clash with negativity. It is like the Spirit and the flesh. They are like 2 cats in a bag; they are so going to fight!

🔑 **Key:** Our calling is designed to bring out the negative side of our personality in order that our persona – the person God sees us to be – can wage war on it.

If you want the Holy Spirit to come to your church you better get ready to put your carnality up for sale, because the first thing He does is go for the corporate carnality in the house. The Spirit and the flesh - they are hostile against one another. They are not going to sit down and have tea and talk about reconciliation. They are going to try to kill each other and there is only going to be one winner. It is not the Holy Spirit that splits churches. It is carnality that splits churches. When the Spirit comes, He goes straight for the negativity. The flesh splits churches. The flesh causes divisions.

Listen, you cannot change your negativity by becoming more positive. Heaven does not have a self-help program. God does not want to help your self, He wants to kill it. He will help it to die. He is not going to help it to live. We fight negativity by stepping into our persona, and practicing our identity as God sees us. Persona develops the positive side of our personality. We get an upgrade about what is good about us. We get a transformation and not all the crud. God does not want to help your self. He wants to kill it. He will help it to die. He is not going to help it to live.

🔑 **Key:** Heaven does not have a self-help program.

🔑 **Key:** Overcome negativity by stepping into your God-given identity.

Heaven's Provision is Attached to Our Persona

We fight negativity by stepping into our persona and practicing our identity as God sees us. That would be good news. It is where we come into alignment. It is when we adopt the status and role God has given us. It is really important that you grasp hold of your personal identity, because God's provision can only come to your persona. **If you are into your personality you will get your needs met because God is faithful, but you will never get your inheritance.** Your inheritance is attached to your persona. If you are out there in ministry and you are struggling with your identity, and you are asking God for provision, you are not in the right place to receive it. That is why we develop the 'ministry of hints.' You can tell somebody is not living in their persona because they are hinting all the time about what their needs are, or they stand up and take a half hour offering.

Gideon hiding out in a winepress: “The Lord is with you, oh valiant warrior. Go and deliver Israel. Have I not sent you?” See it? **Elevated status, legal authority, permission to overcome.** That is your persona. But Gideon meets it in his personality, “How can I deliver Israel. My family is the least in my tribe, and I am the youngest. Nobody rates me. This is too big for me. I have no power, no influence, no place of authority.” And the Lord is looking at him saying, “What did I just say? Did I not just give you all of that? Was I talking Pakistani again? You are a Hebrew right? Okay, let Me say it in Hebrew.”

🔑 **Key:** Persona grants you elevated status, legal authority, and permission to overcome.

Listen, **God will never answer your personality once He has established your persona.** He will only talk to you, see you in your persona. Get used to it. Get over your bad self and get in the right place. It is like, come back to the good side.

🔑 **Key:** Once God has established your persona, He never communicates with your personality again.

Once He has established your persona, once it is spoken out, that is it for you. You have to align yourself with that, otherwise you are going to miss so much. You cannot squeal anymore, “Well, I am not this and I am not that”, because the Lord is saying, “I have told you who you are, now you need to become it.” Then you have people saying, “I cannot pretend to be that.” I am not asking you to pretend. I am asking you to practice.

God is not asking you to pretend. He is asking you to practice, and you practice until you become brilliant at it. This is who I am. The wiser and more astute of us will practice in small groups. You will tell your circle of friends, this is who I am. They are going to hold you accountable to become that, because that is what accountability is.

Accountability is about freedom. It is for freedom that He has set us free. Your friends will say, “Excuse me, you cannot do that because that is not who you are. You cannot whine and be a warrior, so quit whining. Stand up on the inside.”

We get to call each other on our persona, which is brilliant. Theresa and I do that with a circle of friends, and that is what we do. We understand one another’s persona. A critical part of our relationship is that we get to call each other up to who we are becoming. We say to each other on days, if necessary, “Hey, you need to quit talking like that! You need to talk in line with your persona. You need to stop thinking like that, and think in line with your persona. God did not say that about you. You are holding on to something, quit it.”

Nevertheless

God will never answer your personality once He has told you your persona. All He does is give you the “N” word: nevertheless. That is it. I am whining, moaning, and complaining, and I just get one word, “nevertheless.” That is God saying, “I am not listening. I cannot hear you. Nevertheless, I will be with you.” He will be with your persona. He is not going to be with your negative personality. Grow up. And

I say that in the sweetest possible way. He will be with you to develop your persona and your personality so it comes totally into alignment with how you are known in Heaven.

An angel came to Daniel and said, “Daniel, a man greatly beloved,” because that is how he is known in Heaven. “Caleb, you are a man of a different spirit.” That is how he is known in Heaven. God will engage with your personality to give you Himself, the Fruit of the Spirit, and to arrest the negative. You know the Fruit of the Spirit is a better place to develop a war faring personality than the Gifts of the Spirit. The Fruit is more powerful against the enemy than the Gifts, because the enemy cannot resist a person who is fully moving in their Christ-like persona.

Abundance vs. Budget

Only God has abundance. The enemy has a budget. Only God has infinite resources. The enemy is working on a budget. Do you ever wonder why the biggest weapon the enemy uses is intimidation? Because intimidation is cheap. It is a budget item in hell, because if he can put the frighteners on a whole church with a little intimidation, then he has won a victory and he has not had to pay out anything. Intimidation is cheap! But it works. And the church is a no show because they get intimidated right at the start. You cannot be intimidated if you know your identity.

David and Goliath. When Goliath sees David, he starts laughing in contempt. “Am I a dog that you come to me with sticks and bones? I will feed you to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field.” That is intimidation. The whole of Israel was actually under the spell of that intimidation. David just looks at him and says, “I will give you and all your friends to the birds of the field.” David knows one thing Goliath does not know. David has a word from Sam the prophet that he is going to be king one day. He knows that he is not king today, which means he cannot die. That is persona. That is what it does. It lifts you above the ordinary, puts you in a place where you look the enemy in the eye and say, “Is that all you got? You may be big, but I am going to give you a radical haircut starting at the neck.”

🔑 **Key:** Your persona lifts you above the ordinary, instilling confidence and boldness in who God has made you to be.

🔑 **Key:** Intimidation cannot shake your persona.

🔑 **Key:** Your persona gives you power over the enemy.

Your persona gives you an elevated status and it gives you power over the enemy.

Only God has abundance. The enemy has a budget; he has to count his pennies. Is this worth it? He makes mistakes - like Mt Carmel was a huge mistake. He knew Elijah was good, so he calculated “I can afford 850 prophets. I will beat this boy,” but the stakes they were playing for were the nation. What he did not understand though **was one person walking in their persona, in the Majesty of God, is always going to be more than enough. One person walking with God is always in the majority.** And the enemy miscalculated against Elijah. He not only lost a nation, he lost 850 false prophets. That was a good fight. A good fight is one you win.

Key: One person walking with God is always in the majority.

See, in your persona, you know this. You know you are condemned to victory. You know this fight is not your fight to win, it is actually your fight to lose. Victory is ours – it is the battle that belongs to the Lord. You have victory right now; all you can do is lose it. You understand that, right? In your persona you step into a place of crisis, and you have confidence in who God is and in who you are becoming in Him.

Gideon

Immediately Gideon asks God for a sign. Which is pretty clever, I think. “Is this really God?” That is a sensible thing to do. If God tells you your persona you say, “Okay God, I really want to believe that. Give me a sign.” The whole fleece thing was just a sign. He is not asking for guidance. He has already blown the trumpet and sent people all over the country to gather people together because we are going to win this fight. He is not asking for guidance. You do not blow a trumpet and get everyone together if you do not know what you are doing. He knows the will of God. His whole thing was, “Are you sure it is me You are going to use?” He is not asking for guidance. He is asking for reassurance and God will give you all the reassurance you need because He is like that. He, also, knows He has to get that last little piece of negativity out of you before the fight starts. “Lord, I pray that the ground will be wet and the fleece dry.” And then that happens and he thinks, “Oh, that was too easy. Okay, can we switch and make the fleece wet and the ground dry?” And it is like God is shaking His head saying, “Come on kid. Get your act together. You are a valiant warrior. You are a man of strength and we are going to do this. You and me.”

Moses and Elevated Status

Moses gets this word about being a deliverer. What does he do? He shows up in his personality. “Who am I that I should go?” And God says, “Certainly I will be with you.” He does not answer the question. And Moses says, “What if they do not believe me?” “Well, I will give you these 3 signs.” “Well, I am not eloquent. I am slow of speech.” “Okay, I will be with you and I will teach you what to say.” Moses is running out of excuses now. See, God will give you all the training, support, and development you need to establish your persona, but make no mistake, this is what we are doing in this time and this place.

Your persona gives you an elevated status and we need that right now. We need every one of you making war on your own negativity, killing it off. It is best to do it in small groups. You will be more honest about it. Moses gets to this point almost of critical mass where he has so much negativity about himself and this whole call of God is scaring the life out of him. He is at this place of shaking and the Lord says to him one day, “See I have made you as God to Pharaoh.” (Exodus 7:1) “I have made you as God to Pharaoh and Aaron should be your prophet.” That is a persona.

What is God saying? “Listen, Moses, by the time you and I have finished with Pharaoh, the only way he will be able to understand what just happened to him, he is going to have to look at you and think, ‘he has to be some kind of god in human form.’ Because that is how Pharaoh himself is perceived. And Moses, when you go into that throne room, it is not going to be a private audience. There are going to

be thousands of people in there, and you cannot go in, in a lower position than Pharaoh actually occupies. You cannot even go in on the **same level** as Pharaoh. You are going to have to go in on a level **above** who he is. Because our destiny always is to be seated with Christ in heavenly places. Our destiny is always heaven to earth, we have no choice.

Key: Walking in your persona gives you elevated status and power over the enemy.

Persona is not given to us to be underneath something. It is given to us to rise above it. We fight thrusting down, not thrusting up. If you are fond of pulling down strongholds, your head must be hurting. If you are pulling down strongholds from Heaven, who do they fall on? This is not terribly bright. We are not here to pull down strongholds of the enemy. **We are here to pull down strongholds of God into our midst.** That is why we are worshippers. "I have made you as God to Pharaoh."

Fullness, Abundance, and Developing Our True Identity

Your persona is your permission to step outside the confines of your personality into the fullness of God.

What if fullness and abundance are only linked to your true identity? No wonder so many Christians are praying like a widow and not like a bride. It is an identity crisis! That is why prayers are unfruitful. We are begging God to do things like He is reluctant to bless us.

When you see your identity, you will see the resources that come with it. You have to grow up in all things in Christ. You have to grow up into your resources. You have to get to a point where you stop praying about your resources, and you assume them. You declare them into being. You do not pray them into being. They are part of your identity. God gives them to you just like He gives you everything else.

So many times, the Lord has said to me, "Graham, you do not have to pray for that. It is who you are. It is part of your identity. It is your inheritance. You have it." It would be like being left \$100,000 from your dad as your inheritance, and everyday you are phoning Dad saying, "Hey, can I buy something? Can I spend this? Can I get something?" It is yours! Get to a point where you no longer pray about those things, because God wants you to assume your inheritance. There are better things to pray about than resources.

Key: Resources are attached to your identity.

Key: No need to pray for those resources; simply assume them.

The thing is, if you do not see it, you cannot develop it. As we are learning to put on Christ, we are, also, learning to live in our persona regarding His call on us. We are learning there are certain amounts of resources that come with this call. I have a check. I can sign it myself. I am a big boy now in the Kingdom.

Key: If you do not see your God-given identity, you cannot develop it.

When we are learning how to step into our persona, it will feel strange to us. It feels like an act and we can feel uncomfortable about it. That is okay, get over yourself! But can you do it fast, because the rest of us need you. It is only because it is new. As I said before, we are not pretending, we are practicing. Let's practice until we become astonishing.

It is a new mindset you have to practice about yourself. It is a new perspective about your circumstances. It is a new language you have to learn. And they all lead to new actions and new behaviors. It is the process of alignment. It is the development of persona and the positive side of our personality coming together, and the negative side squeezed out. You should make a list of all the things about you that you think are negative, and then get to work on them. There is a quickening spirit.

Never allow negativity any breath. Go to war against it. It is your internal enemy. It will pull you down because you give the enemy permission in those areas. Opposition attaches to what you do not remove. You need to remove those negative aspects about you, and step into your persona. When you do that, the enemy has no place he can scare you or intimidate you, and that means he has to move you to a different part of his spreadsheet. Because he is not going to get any cheap victory's over you. He is going to have to spend something. We need to get to a place where we are so powerful together, the enemy has to calculate whether he can afford to fight us or not. Right now he is getting so many walkovers, no wonder the earth is going to hell in a hand basket. It has so many no shows from the church. That is going to change though.

 **Key:** Negativity is your internal enemy that allows the enemy permission to operate within those areas.

Right now, the negative side of your personality is under necessary challenge from the love of God. We are being delivered from fear, inadequacy, insecurity, pessimism, unworthiness, and being overly self-conscious.

- » Our persona is going to accelerate our deliverance from the negative side of our personality.
- » Our persona has the faith we require.
- » Our persona has the creativity we need.
- » Our persona has the power to succeed.

We are learning how to step into and establish our identity. When Jesus asked, "Who do you say I am," He was looking to see if they perceived His persona. If people do not see our true identity, it is hard for us to walk with them. So, when He asked the question, He is looking to see who really gets who He is. Simon stands up and blurts out, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." And Jesus just grinned at him. And something shifted in the Heavens over that group, and in that moment, Simon's own persona is released to him. Jesus looks at him and says, "You, you are Peter and you will have keys to bind, to loose, and you will interact with Heaven. And the revelation you receive will be the bedrock of the church's experience, and hell will be defeated by it." Whoa, that is a persona. That is a mandate

 **Key:** If people do not see your true identity, it is hard for you to walk with them.

See, the same three things there that he said to Peter: **elevated status, legal authority, permission to overcome**. That is what your persona gives you. You have to define your personality - what is positive about you that needs an upgrade, what is negative that needs a transformation. You must not abide with your negativity. You must kick it out of your house. Do not live with it. Identify what those things are and then get excited because that is where your transformation is going to come. You need to start working with the Holy Spirit about that. Do it in small groups.

In our own church at the Mission in California, we wanted to make sure that everybody had a prophetic word over their life, because you cannot be a prophetic person unless you know what your own future is. **Prophecy is history spoken in advance**. You need to know who you are becoming, because God is not present/past. He has dealt with your past. God is not obsessed by sin; He is not an evangelical. He is consumed by life.

So, you have two relationships with God; one now in terms of where you are, and a relationship in the future in terms of how God sees you. You are present/future. That is an Old Testament revelation that came out of Genesis 18. It is that moment where Jesus shows up to Abraham with a couple of angels for lunch. That moment where He says, "For 20 years I have been prophesying that you are going to have a son, you are going to have a son." This time when He comes He prophesies, "This time next year, you are going to have a son." And Sarah has a fit of giggles in the tent. And the Lord says, "Sarah are you laughing?" and she is trying to cover it up. They have lunch and as He is about to leave, He stops and says these words to these two angels, "Shall I declare to Abraham what I am about to do now, since he is going to become the father of many nations." Pivotal word there is the word "since." "Shall I declare to Abraham what I am going to do here, because of who he is going to become" - present/future.

God deals with us in the present according to the future He sees over us. That is what your persona is. God gives you your persona and says, "I know this is who you are right now, but this is who you are going to become. Right now the role of the Holy Spirit in your life is to bring your personality and your persona together as quickly as possible." God sees you in the future, and you look much better than you look now. That is why prophecy is so important. You need to connect with the you that is emerging. You need to understand who that person is, and what the process is to get him into that place.

🔑 **Key:** We are a present/future people.

🔑 **Key:** God deals with us in the present according to who we will be in the future.

I was prophesying in Kansas City and we had a line of people. I was laying hands on people, saying what I felt God was seeing over them. I was praying over this young man standing in front of me. I am prophesying over him about the next 10 years of his life. "And I see you in Africa, and I see you doing this, and I see you with signs and wonders, and this kind of thing." And as I am saying all these things, he is getting frustrated, then annoyed, then angry. By the time I am finished, he is steaming mad. In fact, he cussed at me in church. I looked at him and said, "You are not enjoying this are you?" And he said, "No I am blank blank not." I said, "Dude, church. No cussing. What is happening?" He said, "I have

leukemia. I have four months to live. I came here to get a word of God for my life and here you are giving me all this crap about Africa." He was really mad. I said, "Let me just get this right. The doctor is giving you a word of death in 4 months. I have just given you a word of life for 10 years. I can see how that would be a difficult choice, eh?" And he looked at me and said, "What?" I said, "You came here and you got a word from the doctor, dead. I have just given you a word of life for the next 10 years. What are you going to do?" And he said, "Oh! I will be off then!"

Sometimes if you give access to your negativity, you cannot hear the word of the Lord when it comes. A couple years later I am in a conference somewhere else. This guy comes bounding up to me and he says, "Do you remember me?" And I said, "No." He said, "I was the guy with leukemia." I said, "Dude, you are not dead then." He said, "No." I said, "What happened?" He said, "I hated that encounter with you." I am thinking I was not a great fan of him myself. He said, "Because it was not what I expected." Well prophecy never is. If it was what you expected it would not be prophecy. It might be stupidity. It would not be prophecy. He said, "Because I came needing a word from the Lord about my Leukemia and God did not say anything about it." I am thinking, what is the deal with that? He said, "I have realized here I am in life, 1996, and here is God in 2006, and God is looking at who I am in the future." God speaks that into your present, and that is what we call prophecy. God did not say anything about leukemia, because in 2006 the dude did not have it. So God did not mention it, because He did not see it. That is the revelation he came to.

So if You are not talking about it to me, I am not talking about it to You. And he never prayed about his sickness from that point on. What he did is, he enrolled in a 12-month missions school. Four months later he wakes up and realizes he is a week past his sell by date. He should have been dead a week ago, but he is still here. God gives him a download living on borrowed time. So he has been in Africa. He has got another word. He is living at least another 10 years. This guy is probably going to get a word every decade. Every time he gets a word, he is going to get an upgrade.

God has a vision of you that you must become compatible with. He has a persona, a way of seeing you, which needs to come into alignment. Every one of us must kill off our negativity before it kills us. Make war on it. It is fun. Every time God points out a part of your life that is not working, He is pointing out the site of your next miracle. That is the gospel. That is the good news. He is changing us from one degree to another. What does that mean? All change is glorious. What if you had a mindset that said, "I am going to so enjoy changing. I am going to have a glorious time." God gives you a glimpse of that next piece of Glory that is yours, when you make the adjustment

Some of us have gotten out of the habit of seeing that changing is glorious; it is fabulous. The enemy has people thinking, "Oh well, God has me in this place, and He is working on me. I like the Holy Spirit, but He is really tiring." What is that? "Yeah well, I am being changed right now, so..." Listen, real warriors do not look for sympathy. They look for Majesty. Changing is a brilliant experience. Change is a fabulous experience. God gets hold of a part of your life you do not want anyway. And then talks about giving something brilliant in its place, and you are going, "Oh, alright." What is that?!?! That is the spirit of dumb! You do not want that anyway, so shut up. Get rid of it. If there is a bad smell in your

kitchen, do you live with it? No. You get rid of it. You go to war on your negativity and you kill it because it is not who you are. You go to war with it.

🔑 **Key:** Warriors do not long for sympathy; they look for Majesty.

🔑 **Key:** We must kill negativity.

There is a persona being generated this weekend. We will talk about it this weekend. **There is a persona Aglow needs to step into this weekend.** That means that every single one of you has to step into the next place of your identity, and you must kill off any negativity. It is so important that you are free, happy, that you feel glorious about yourself in this next season. It is so important that you are up and enjoying your life and living your circumstances the best way possible. It is important that God is releasing to you all the things He wants to be for you. It is important that you are energized by your life.

I love this life. I am looking forward to change. I really like who I am, and where I am. I love myself. Just in case you did not hear that, I love myself! And I want to love others as I love myself. I have a good opinion of myself. It is not higher than it ought to be, but I do not know what it ought to be, so I am doing okay.

You know God does not tell us what it ought to be, because He knows we put limits on it. He takes care of your humility. Most of us are never going to come anywhere near arrogance. I wish that we would. You heard that right? It is like faith and presumption. Faith is here to get you as close to presumption as possible. That is its job. God's roles align ahead of you. The gap between you and that line is that new persona you need to step into. The Lord wants you to go right up until your toenails are a quarter of an inch from the line of presumption.

Most Christians are so scared of presumption that they live right back there in unbelief. Unbelief is much more dangerous. The Bible calls unbelief evil. It is not that those people who are in unbelief are evil. It is that the consequences of unbelief are evil. We need to get as close to presumption as possible. Faith is defined to get us out of that territory of unbelief and to get us as far forward as possible. Listen, if you cross a line and get into presumption, God is probably just going to grin at you and draw a new line. He is not going to say to you that you are believing me too much! He is not going to do that. He is going to go, "Wow, did you see that! Let's draw a new line in front of that boy!"

If you are going to make a mistake, you better make a really good one. You better make a mistake in presumption. You do not want to make a mistake in unbelief. If I have a choice between presumption and unbelief, I am so choosing presumption. Sometimes, you get in situations and you are not quite sure where the line is. That is probably because God has erased it behind you. That would be the Goodness of God. That would be the mischievousness of Jesus working right there. "He has crossed the line! Quick, let's rub it out before he turns around." Then He just draws another line and says, "Look, you should be coming up here." God loves it when you believe.

Let's not make faith an issue. It is the nature of God to believe what you are going to do. He is a believer and He lives in you. It is His nature to believe, and He lives in you. You can believe for stuff. You have been talked out of it. You should be more scared of unbelief than you are of presumption. What is your calling, what is your belief, what is your persona? How are you going to step into your truest identity? What help, support, and development are you going to need from God and from the people around you? This is immense fun.

This is fun. A group of friends sat around together making gallons of coffee together, and nice pastries and talking about one another's future. They were prophesying to one another out of normal conversation, "This is how God sees you, this is who you are." Each of us was writing down our identity statement, "This is who I am." You are practicing together and your friends are encouraging you. Your whole group is right there calling you up on, "This is who you are, this is who you are." You get to face your life in that persona, and it is brilliant. It gives you a cutting edge so powerful it makes you enjoy your circumstances and you live a life unafraid because there is so much joy when you connect with Heaven.

You realize that it is no wonder all of Heaven came down to celebrate the birth of Jesus, "We bring you glad tidings and great joy." What were they saying? Joy has been restored over the earth. To walk in joy is to walk in the Presence of God. Be happy about who you are and the circumstances you are in, because you cannot be intimidated by the enemy. You are too busy being fascinated by Jesus. You are endlessly curious, "I wonder what God is going to do? I wonder how He is going to show up? What are You saying, Lord?" You are energized by life. You face everything with the energy, optimism, beauty, and passion of Heaven.

There are no tears in Heaven. No negativity. All of Heaven is cheering for you. On earth as it is in Heaven. A mindset straight out of the Throne Room and a persona to go with it. An outlook on life that calls up joy and the sheer pleasure in being alive today. We are the people of God. This is who we are. That is what your persona is all about. That is your persona - endlessly positive.

You have the enemy quaking in his boots, calling out to your local demon in the early morning: "is she awake yet? Oh my gosh, she is awake." You come to a place in the spirit that has been set aside for you and your persona. You make the enemy nervous. You make him tired, weary, and discouraged, dispirited, depressed, and requiring therapy. That is what joy does. Joy depressed the devil. Favor discourages him. Grace makes him nervous. Everything positive about Jesus works against the enemy.

This is the essence of discipleship and mentoring. We provide a prophetic and creative environment that empowers people around us to step into their real persona and be established in their true identity. That is the nature of church. The nature of church meetings is to provide an encounter between God and people's personas. It is to establish that persona in the earth. **How we see one another, think of one another, speak to one another, must be established so that we are all partnering with Heaven together.** It is time for us to step up to our persona and the next stage of our identity.

What I want to say to you in closing is to act quickly. Get out prophetic words that have been spoken over you. If you have not had a prophecy recently, get together and just connect. Go to war on your negativity, and bring joy in. This has plagued you for years. This is payback. You cannot have favor without vengeance. It is in the Bible. Jesus talks about a year of favor and a day of vengeance. Time for some revenge. All those negative sides of your personality – you have almost Christianized them. “Oh well, I am no good. This is what I am like.” All that nonsense. It is not who you are like. You are becoming like Jesus. He is nothing like you. We are not making Jesus in our image. He is making us in His. So, target the negative side of your personality. Think of it as remodeling your home, just one room at a time.