

# Identity and assignment

Life can, at times, be hard to navigate. Happiness can sometimes seem as elusive and intangible as a rainbow in the sky. Is there perhaps a pathway that can point and lead us in the direction of a flourishing, fulfilled life? I believe that there are 3 crucial aspects to a fulfilled life: location, vocation and identification.

## 1. Location

Where are you?

The first step to a fulfilled life is to **see yourself in Christ**.

**1 Corinthians 1:30** - *But of Him **you are in Christ Jesus**, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—*

Your co-ordinates are in Christ. The co-ordinates of the fulfilled life start in Him

**Ephesians 2:13**: *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

## 2. Vocation

What is your assignment in this life? What is the reason you were born for?

**Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)**

<sup>10</sup> *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.*

You find your assignment in the same co-ordinates: "in Christ Jesus".

## 3. Identification

What is your identity?

One of the blessings of being in Him is that we have now received a whole new identity. There is a power that goes with this new identity.

**John 1:11-12 (KJV)**

<sup>11</sup> *He came unto his own, and his own received him not. <sup>12</sup> But as many as received him, to them gave the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

Identity is such an important topic because your purpose and your identity are two sides of the same coin. When you understand who you are, it won't be difficult to find the assignment God prepared for you. Identity and assignment are intertwined. We see that very clearly with the name of Jesus:

**Isaiah 9:6** *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

All those names also reveal His assignment. Other names of Jesus: Emmanuel, God with us, Christ, the anointed One, Jesus (Yeshua – saviour).

### **The devil is an identity thief**

**Luke 4: 3** - *And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” V9: Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here.*

The devil knew that if he could get Jesus to doubt His identity He could derail the plan of redemption. Jesus would fail His assignment.

You and I need to be just as sure about our identity in Christ, of who we are in Him - in order to also fulfil our purpose in this life. The enemy is an identity thief and a hijacker of our assignments.

### **In the gospel of Luke, this is the most frequent question about Jesus:**

**Luke 5:21b** – ... *“who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”*

- **7:49b** - ... *“Who is this who forgives sins?”*
- **8: 25b** - ... *“Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him”.*
- **9:9** - *Herod said, “John I have beheaded, but who is this of whom I hear such things?” So, he sought to see Him.*
- **9:18-20** - *<sup>18</sup> And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, “Who do the crowds say that I am?” <sup>19</sup> So they answered and said, “John the Baptist, but some say Elijah; and others say that one of the old prophets has risen again.”<sup>20</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered and said, “The Christ of God.”*
- **9:35** - *And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!”*

The Father affirmed His identity!

### **You and I have an identity with Christ.**

**2Corinthians 5:17** - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

This is who we really are: new creation, saints, ambassadors for Christ, His own special people etc. Sometimes we are a bit shy to declare who we are but Jesus wasn't:

**John 13:13 (NIV)** *‘You call me “Teacher” and “Lord”, and rightly so, for that is what I am.*

**Luke 22:70 - 70** *Then they all said, “Are You then the Son of God?” So He said to them, “You rightly say that I am.”*

**John 18:37** - *Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered,*

*“You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”*

Jeremiah struggled with his new identity and assignment and God said: do not say, I am a youth

**(Jeremiah 1:6-7)** *Then said I: “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.” But the Lord said to me: “Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’ For you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak).*

### **Paul didn’t struggle with who he was, nor his assignment in life**

**1 Cor. 15:8-10** - *Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*

### **Conclusion**

The life we are called to live in Christ is the fulfilled life, the flourishing life, the abundant life He talked about in John 10:10. God has located us when we were lost, assigned us when we had no purpose and he has changed our identity from sinners to members of the family of God, saints, accepted in the Beloved, Ambassadors for Christ, new creations, king and priests etc.

We have now found the coordinates to the fulfilled life: *In Christ!*