

A SEVEN-DAY DEVOTIONAL

Own Your Identity:

DISCOVERING WHO GOD
SAYS YOU ARE

Written & Developed by Pastor Abram T. Haley

DAY 1

You are Chosen and Blessed in Christ

S - SCRIPTURE

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens. For He chose you in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined you to be adopted through Jesus Christ for Himself, according to His favor and will, to the praise of His glorious grace that He favored you with in the Beloved. - Ephesians 1:3-6

Ephesians 1 begins by showing you that your identity starts with what God has already done, not what you do for Him. Before you try to earn approval or figure out who you are, God has already spoken truth over your life: you are chosen, adopted, loved, and blessed in Christ.

O - OBSERVATION

Let's walk through what Paul is saying to you, right in the text:

1. "Blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing" (v. 3)

God has already given you everything you need for a real relationship with Him. Your identity begins with gift, not performance. You don't have to chase worth – God has already placed blessing on your life.

2. "He chose you... before the foundation of the world" (v. 4)

Before you had a past. Before you made mistakes. Before you felt pressure to fit in or prove yourself. God had already chosen you. Your value was determined long before others had opinions about you.

3. "To be holy and blameless in His sight" (v. 4)

This is not describing how perfectly you live. It describes how God sees you in Christ – holy, set apart, clean. Your identity is based on Jesus' work, not your struggles.

4. "Predestined... for adoption" (v. 5)

Adoption means permanent belonging. God didn't just forgive you – He wanted you in His family. He brought you close intentionally and joyfully.

5. "To the praise of His glorious grace" (v. 6)

Your identity reflects God's grace. Your life is meant to show the world what it looks like to be loved by God.

Summary:

Your identity is secure because God initiated it, God accomplished it, and God delights in it. You don't have to build your identity alone – God has already given you one.

A - APPLICATION

You are surrounded by labels that try to tell you who you are – how you look; what you've done; who approves of you; how you compare; what your past says about you.

But Ephesians 1 reveals something stronger: You are not defined by your situation. You are defined by your Savior.

Ask yourself today:

- What label or lie has tried to define me lately?
- What would change if I actually believed I was chosen?
- If God has adopted me, why am I trying so hard to earn the approval of people?

Identity truth for today: *My identity is God-given, not self-made.*

This is where real worship begins – seeing your life through what God has already spoken over you.

P - PRAYER

Father, thank You that before the world began, You chose me and loved me. Thank You for adopting me into Your family through Jesus. Help me reject the lies and labels that try to shape my identity. Let my life today reflect who You say I am, and let my worship flow from a heart that knows I am Yours. Amen.

DAY 2

You are Made Alive and Given Purpose

S - SCRIPTURE

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world...But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love that He had for us, made you alive with the Messiah even though you were dead in trespasses. By grace you are saved! He also raised you up with Him and seated you with Him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that you should walk in them. - Ephesians 2:1-10

Ephesians 2 shows you the before-and-after of your identity. Before Jesus: spiritually dead, stuck, unable to save yourself. After Jesus: alive, raised, seated, saved, and given purpose. Your identity is not built on where you were, but where God has brought you.

O - OBSERVATION

1. "You were dead" (v. 1)

Paul isn't exaggerating. He means spiritually unresponsive, unable to fix yourself or find God on your own. Dead things can't rescue themselves – this exposes why salvation must be a gift, not a reward.

2. "But God... made you alive" (v. 4-5)

These two words, "But God," are the turning point of your entire story. God stepped into your spiritual death with mercy and love. He didn't wait for you to get it together – He moved toward you while you were broken. Your identity begins with God's action, not your effort.

3. "Raised you up... seated you with Him" (v. 6)

Paul uses resurrection language:

- You were raised – given new spiritual life now.
- You were seated with Christ – given status, belonging, access to God.

This means you don't live toward acceptance; you live from acceptance.

4. "Saved by grace... God's gift" (v. 8-9)

Grace means undeserved, unearned kindness from God. You didn't climb your way to God – God came down to you. Salvation is not a group project where you contribute some good deeds and Jesus covers the rest. It is fully God's gift, start to finish.

5. "His creation... created for good works" (v. 10)

The Greek word for "creation" means "masterpiece" or "work of art." You are God's intentional design. You're not random. You're not accidental. You were crafted on purpose and for purpose. And the good works you're called to? God prepared them ahead of time for you.

Summary:

Your identity is this: You were dead. God made you alive. God gave you a place. God saved you by grace. God prepared a purpose for you. You are not defined by your past – only by the God who rescued you from it.

A - APPLICATION

You might feel: Stuck in sin; Defined by old habits; Hidden by shame; Unsure of your purpose; Like God couldn't use someone like you. But Ephesians 2 says something radically different: You are alive. You are forgiven. You are purposeful. Ask yourself:

- What part of my past tries to tell me who I am?
- What sin do I need to surrender now that I'm alive in Christ?
- What good works might God be preparing for me today – at school, at home, or in my relationships?

Identity truth for today: *I am God's masterpiece, created for a purpose only I can walk in.*

P - PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for making me alive when I was spiritually dead. Thank You for saving me by grace and not by anything I could earn. Help me walk in the purpose You've prepared for me. Remind me today that I am Your masterpiece and that my past does not define my future. Amen.

DAY 3

You are a Child of God

S - SCRIPTURE

But to all who did receive Him, He gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in His name. - John 1:12

John 1:12 tells you something simple but world-shifting: When you receive Jesus and believe in His name, you don't just get forgiveness – you get family. You are given the right, authority, and privilege to become a child of God.

O - OBSERVATION

1. "To all who did receive Him"

To *receive* Jesus means more than accepting facts about Him. It means opening your life to Him – welcoming His authority, His love, His leadership, His truth. Receiving Jesus is an act of surrender, not just agreement.

2. "To those who believe in His name"

To believe in Jesus' name is to trust in who He truly is – the Messiah, the Son of God, the One who saves. Biblical belief is an active trust, not just mental acknowledgment. John's point: Receiving Jesus and believing in Jesus always go together.

3. "He gave them the right to be children of God"

This is legal and relational language.

- Legal: You are given a *right* – the Greek word *exousia*, meaning authority, status, legitimate place.
- Relational: You don't just belong to God's kingdom – you belong to God's family.

This isn't something you earn. It's something Jesus gives you the moment you trust Him.

4. The contrast in John 1

Earlier in John 1, many rejected Jesus – even His own people. But that rejection doesn't change the truth: Anyone who receives Him becomes a child of God.

That means *you* are not an outsider. You're not barely accepted. You're not tolerated. You are welcomed and wanted.

Summary:

As soon as you believe in Jesus, God gives you a new identity – You are His child. Fully loved. Fully chosen. Fully known.

A - APPLICATION

Being a child of God means:

- You are not alone.
- You don't have to earn God's approval.
- You have a Father who cares deeply about your life.
- You don't have to build your identity from scratch – God has spoken one over you.

Ask yourself:

- Do I actually believe God sees me as His child?
- Where am I still trying to earn approval God has already given me?
- What would change in my day if I really lived like God is my Father?

Identity truth for today: *I am God's child, fully loved and fully welcomed into His family.*

P - PRAYER

Father, thank You for giving me the right to become Your child when I received Jesus. Help me see myself the way You see me. Remind me that I am loved, wanted, and secure in Your family. Let my life today reflect the confidence of someone who belongs to You. Amen.

DAY 4

You Already Have Everything You Need in Christ

S - SCRIPTURE

His divine power has given you everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called you by His own glory and goodness. - 2 Peter 1:3

This verse tells you something powerful: God hasn't called you into a life you're not equipped to live. Through Jesus, He has already given you everything you need to walk with Him, grow spiritually, and live out your identity. You are not lacking. You are not behind. You are not spiritually underpowered. You are fully supplied by God's divine power.

O - OBSERVATION

1. "His divine power"

Peter points you straight to the source: Your identity is built on God's power, not your willpower. You don't live the Christian life by trying harder – you live it by depending deeper. This is God's supernatural strength working *in you and for you*.

2. "has given you everything required for life and godliness"

Notice the tense – has given. Not "will give." Not "might give." Not "once you pray enough."

God has *already* placed in you everything you need to: grow in your faith, fight temptation, walk in wisdom, reflect Christ, love others, worship in everyday life... You're not waiting for more spiritual tools. You're learning to use what you've already been given.

3. “through the knowledge of Him”

Peter is clear: You gain access to all God has given by knowing Jesus, not by achieving spiritual maturity on your own. The more you know Jesus – who He is, what He’s done, what He says about you – the more you grow into the identity He has already secured for you.

4. “who called you by His own glory and goodness”

You were called because *He is good*, not because *you were impressive*. Your calling is rooted in God’s character, not your qualifications. This means your identity is stable, secure, and unshakeable – because it rests on who God is.

A - APPLICATION

You may feel: unprepared, not spiritual enough, inconsistent, weak, unsure if God can use you... But 2 Peter 1:3 speaks straight into that insecurity: God has already given you everything you need to live out who He’s called you to be.

Ask yourself:

- Where do I feel “not enough” spiritually?
- What would change if I believed God has already equipped me?
- Am I trying to live for God in my own strength instead of His?

Identity truth for today: *I am fully equipped by God’s power to live out the identity He has given me.*

P - PRAYER

Lord, thank You that Your divine power has already given me everything I need for life and godliness. Help me stop trying to live in my own strength and learn to depend on Yours. Grow my knowledge of Jesus so I can walk confidently in the identity You’ve given me. Amen.

DAY 5

Nothing Can Separate You From God's Love

S - SCRIPTURE

For I am persuaded that not even death or life, angels or rulers, things present or things to come, hostile powers, height or depth, or any other created thing will have the power to separate you from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 8:38-39

Romans 8 ends with a promise that defines your identity: God's love for you is unshakeable, unbreakable, and unstoppable.

You may feel insecure, inconsistent, or unworthy, but this passage says none of that has the power to separate you from the love God has for you in Christ.

Your identity doesn't rest on how tightly you hold onto God – it rests on how tightly He holds onto you.

O - OBSERVATION

1. "I am persuaded"

Paul isn't guessing. He's not hoping. He is *convinced* – fully convinced – that God's love is permanent. This is the confidence God wants you to have.

2. Paul lists pairs of extremes

Each pair covers the full spectrum of human experience:

- Death or life – nothing in your existence
- Angels or rulers – nothing in the spiritual realm
- Things present or things to come – nothing in your timeline
- Height or depth – nothing in creation
- Any other created thing – in case he missed something

Paul is making one point again and again: Nothing has the power to disconnect you from God's love.

3. "The love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord"

Your identity is secure *because* you are in Christ. God's love isn't based on your performance – it's based on your position. As long as Jesus can't be separated from God, you can't be either, because your life is now united with His.

4. The context of suffering in Romans 8

Paul writes this in a chapter about: weakness; struggle, fear, suffering, and spiritual battles.

Meaning: Even when life feels chaotic, God's love does not change with your circumstances. This is worship – seeing life through the lens of God's steady, faithful love.

A - APPLICATION

There are moments when you feel distant from God: When you sin; When you fail; When you feel spiritually dry; When people hurt you; When anxiety or fear overwhelms you; When you think you've disappointed God... But Romans 8 is your reminder: God's love doesn't leave you. God's love doesn't fail you. God's love doesn't change based on your day.

Ask yourself:

- What makes me feel "separated" from God lately?
- Have I believed a lie about God's love?
- What would it look like to live today with confidence instead of insecurity?

Identity truth for today: *I am completely secure in God's love. Nothing can separate me from Him.*

P - PRAYER

Father, thank You that nothing in this world or beyond it can separate me from Your love. Help me stand firm in the truth that Your love holds me even when I feel weak or unworthy. Give me confidence today to live out who I am in Christ. Amen.

DAY 6

You are Redeemed and Fully Forgiven

S - SCRIPTURE

We have redemption in Him through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. - Ephesians 1:7

Ephesians 1:7 anchors your identity in something unshakeable: Because of Jesus, you are redeemed and forgiven. Your past doesn't define you. Your failures don't own you. Your shame doesn't get the last word. God's grace does.

O - OBSERVATION

1. "We have redemption in Him"

Redemption in the first century meant being bought out of slavery and set free.

Paul is saying: You were stuck. You couldn't free yourself. Jesus stepped in and paid the price for your freedom. Your identity is not "broken," "stuck," or "too far gone." Your identity is redeemed – bought back, restored, and made new by Christ.

2. "through His blood"

Your freedom came at a cost – Jesus' sacrificial death. This means:

- You are not cheaply loved.
- Your forgiveness wasn't casually given.
- Your value is measured by the blood of Christ, not by mistakes, opinions, or labels.

3. "the forgiveness of our trespasses"

Forgiveness here is total, not partial. Paul isn't saying God forgives you *sometimes* or *when you're doing well*. He's saying: Every sin that once separated you from God has been wiped clean. You don't have to live chained to your past or defined by what you've done.

4. “according to the riches of His grace”

God doesn't forgive you out of scarcity or reluctance. He forgives you: generously, joyfully, completely, endlessly... His grace isn't a drip – it's a flood. And it keeps coming.

Summary:

Your identity is this: You are redeemed. You are forgiven. You are valued by God's grace, not your performance.

A - APPLICATION

You may struggle with:

- Guilt over your past
- Shame about a mistake
- Feeling unworthy of God
- Believing you have to “make up for” your sins
- Fear that God is still disappointed in you

But Ephesians 1:7 tells you something stronger: You are forgiven because of Jesus – not because of your effort. You are redeemed because God wanted you – not because you earned it. Ask yourself:

- What guilt or shame have I been carrying that Jesus already paid for?
- Am I living forgiven, or am I still punishing myself?
- What would change if I believed God's grace toward me was truly “rich”?

Identity truth for today: *I am redeemed, forgiven, and fully accepted because of Jesus.*

P - PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for redeeming me through Your blood and forgiving every one of my sins. Help me stop carrying guilt You already paid for. Let me walk in the freedom and confidence that comes from being forgiven. Teach me to live from grace, not shame. Amen.

DAY 7

Your New Identity is Christ Living in You

S - SCRIPTURE

I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. - Galatians 2:20

Galatians 2:20 declares the deepest truth about who you are: Your old life is gone, and your new life is Christ living *in you*. God didn't just improve you – He transformed you. Your identity is no longer built on your effort, achievements, failures, or past. Your identity is now built on Christ Himself.

O - OBSERVATION

1. "I have been crucified with Christ"

Paul uses strong language on purpose. When Jesus died, your old self – the one defined by sin, shame, insecurity, and striving – died with Him. This means: Your past doesn't define you. Your sin doesn't own you. Your old identity is not who you are anymore. God doesn't see you as the person you used to be.

2. "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me"

Paul isn't saying you disappear. He's saying your core identity has changed. Christ now lives in you through the Holy Spirit. This is the heart of Christian identity: Jesus isn't just with you – He is in you. His power, His presence, His life, and His love shape who you are.

3. "The life I now live... I live by faith"

You don't live the Christian life by trying harder. You live it by trusting deeper. Faith means: depending on Jesus, walking with Jesus, listening to Jesus, allowing His life to shape yours... You live from a new source – Christ in you.

4. "Who loved me and gave Himself for me"

Paul ends with identity truth: Jesus' love is personal. He didn't just die for "the world." He died for you. This is where worship is born – realizing that the God who lives in you is the God who loved you enough to give Himself for you.

Summary:

Your identity is this: Your old self died with Christ. Your new self is Christ living in you. You now live by trusting Him. You are loved by the One who gave Himself for you.

A - APPLICATION

You may still feel: pulled by old habits; tempted to live for approval; insecure about who you are; unsure about your purpose... But Galatians 2:20 speaks a stronger truth: You are not who you were – Christ lives in you now. Ask yourself:

- Where am I still living like my old identity is in control?
- What would I do differently today if I truly believed Christ lived in me?
- What step of faith is Jesus asking me to take as I walk in my new identity?

Identity truth for today: *Christ lives in me. My life is now shaped by His love, His power, and His presence.*

P - PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for giving me a new identity. Thank You that my old self died with You and that You now live in me. Help me trust You, depend on You, and follow Your voice. Let my life become an act of worship as I live out who I truly am in You. Amen.

