

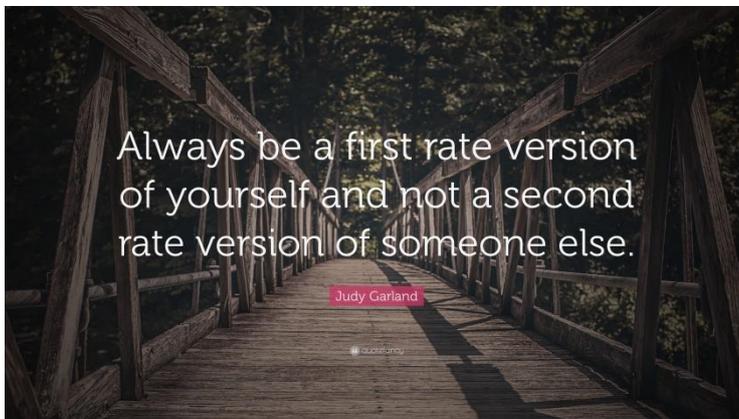
DEVOTION SEVENTEEN.

Identity matters!



You've heard it said a thousand times before, but yes! Identity does matter! But more than that, what our identity is in is what matters most. How we see ourselves determines the kind of relationships we establish. Many of us live with low self-esteem. We believe everyone else is more important than ourselves and think that meeting *their* needs is more important than meeting our own needs. We compare ourselves and allow others to determine who we are, and then we base our whole identity on their approval. But we shouldn't look at another person and say, 'I wish I were like them.'

God made each of us to reflect a unique aspect of His glory. We're all one-of-a-kind creations who can't be compared. As Christians, we've been given a new identity as children of God. The Bible says: 'If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!' (2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV). God's making us more like Jesus, and making us whole (have a read of 2 Corinthians 3:18). In Him we don't ever need to be afraid to be who we really are.

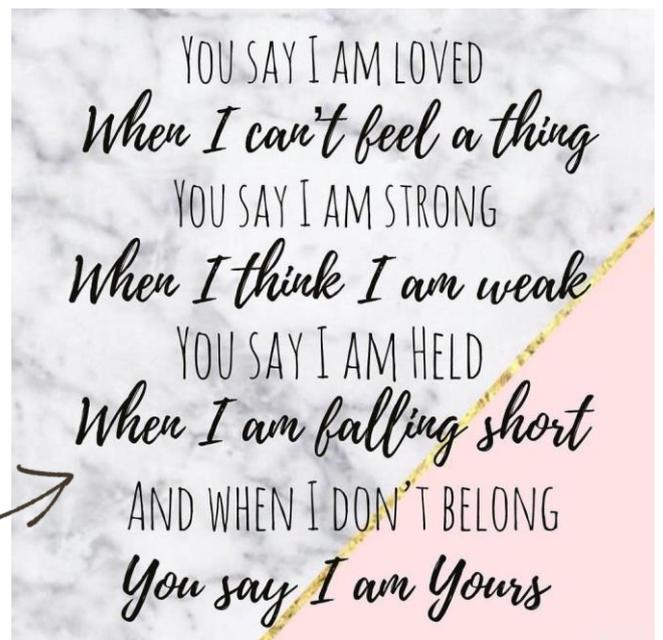


The psalmist wrote: 'You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered!' (v.15-16 NCV).

God knew each of us before we were born. He already knew what we'd be like, and the things we would do. He already had amazing plans and purposes for us in His kingdom.

When we find ourselves depending on others for approval, we don't allow God to speak the truth of who we are over us. We should never forget that we've been uniquely created by the ultimate Creator, and that we're always lovable and acceptable to Him.

So if at the end of this whole lockdown you look at your life and think what have I become? Who am I now? I've forgotten how to read (let's hope not otherwise you wouldn't have got this far!), you've forgotten how to shake hands with someone out of fear of spreading germs (but you do know how to thoroughly wash your hands!) You've forgotten how to cue in a regular line in the shops (one that isn't germ ridden and suitably distanced from the virus spreading person in front and behind you!) You've become a fearful, OCD, anxiety ridden, clean freak teen who's only form of conversation and interaction is best suited to a smartphone. Then I say NO! That is not who you are, that might be how you may end up behaving (God I hope not!) You are all of the things that God says you are and you were designed for an amazing purpose!! Amen!



YOU SAY – Lauren Daigle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZvKJl1kK8g>

Focus on these lyrics. Do you feel God close to you at this time? And do you know your identity is found in Him?



Keep repeating this prayer till it hits you: "Thank you God, that I AM YOURS and my identity is in YOU!"