



grenepages

Issue 7

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YOU

Become

the world's focus

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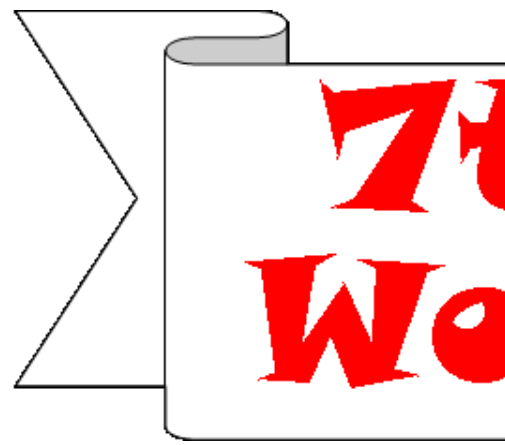
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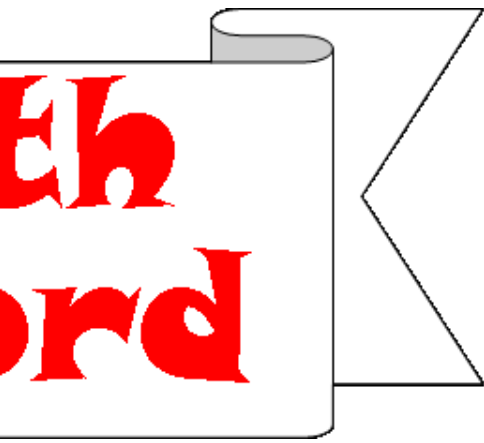


Sydney hosted the year 2000 Olympics and caught the attention of the whole world. For every athlete and tourist moving in and out of Sydney, the Sydney Harbour Bridge was unavoidable, especially with the bold “Eternity” inscription on it. Those who watched on TV did not escape it either.

As the fireworks of the closing ceremony came to life right on the bridge, it only brought the inscription (Eternity) to the world’s full view. The whole world was reminded about eternity, and the question on people’s heart was - “If indeed there is an eternity, where will I spend mine?” Eternity became a household name in Sydney because a certain Arthur Stace decided to write the word so bold that everyone will live with the consciousness of eternity.

It is another Olympic season in the year 2016 and Rio de Janeiro is the host. Every Day, cameras focus on an image in the City Centre called “Christ the Redeemer.” As the world watches the Olympic Games and the camer-

Tobi



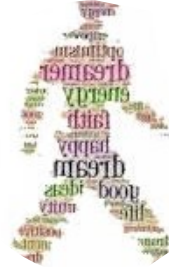
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as keep covering that image, a message is constantly passed across—"Christ is the Redeemer."

These two cities were chosen to host the Olympics among several others who wished and applied to be chosen. By God's arrangement, why they were chosen is not farfetched. The gospel must reach everyone before the Lord comes...

God wants to answer your prayers of excelling, but why should he? If he raises you high, picks you out among your equals or makes you the focus in your family or your organization, what will they see?

As you read this edition of *grenepages*, we call your attention to the fact that the father wants to lift you up, but when you become the world's focus, what is there in your life to see?

I am sure you loved the last six. Welcome to our seventh issue.

Olowookere



Ministering
Rhythms
Joan Abimbola

<https://joanabimbola.com>

ministeringrhythms.wordpress.com

*“Arise, shine;
For your light
has come!
And the glory
of the Lord is
risen upon
you.”*

Isaiah 60:1

NKJV

Arise and shine
For here comes your light
The long awaited glory...
Stand! Shine! Do the work boldly

Do not look back
In resources you won't lack
Now be encouraged
Move in courage

Live your dreams
Not a single one leave
Who says it's not possible
When with God nothing is impossible

Let the vision speak
Go attain the peak
Work! Build! Plant!
And your rewards, uncountable as the sand

It's time to spread your wings
Don't start to mind the wind
Like the eagle soar
Above the thunder that roar

Take the shackles off
Open all its locks
Your dreams are the keys
It's time to set yourself free!

You've dreamt big
Now truly see it
Make your life fit in
It's time to work it out and win!



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spread your wings



Treasures in Jar of Clay *Femi Sobayo*

<http://otuwafemisobayo.blogspot.com/>

God does not stay where you wish he could stay, he stays where He wills. He does not say what you wish he would say, He says what He will say. He is God, you are his sheep, do not presume him, follow him. Always know that his thoughts could always be far from ours.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Isaiah 55:9 KJV

I have always had issue with the cliché ‘the voice of the people is the voice of God’. God’s voice is God’s voice, independent of whatever the voice of anything; people or spirits is. It does not matter whether people or nations speak something else or not. He is the sovereign God.

We all have moments when we think for God, moments when we expect him to behave in a certain way, more because we become emotional about such things. I have almost advised God to ‘kill all politicians who loot and cause pains to the masses’. At a time, when an *agbero* (roadside tout) hit a conductor hard because the later will not pay the forced levy, I became so emotional that I wished thunder could just

the **errors** *of p*

slap the tout instantly and avenge the poor conductor. If I had that free uncensored power, I could have done so. We may find it hard to balance revenge and forbearance. Thank God, we are not the Almighty God; I do not think there will be this world again.

Elijah once expected God to be in the wind, God was not there. Later, he opined that God should be in the fire or at least in the earthquake. God was not in any of those places. God was in an unexpected still small voice (1 Kings 19:11-13). By default, Elijah just felt or presumed the Almighty should be in a mighty wind or a fierce fire or something more dramatic.

resumed pathway



Samuel, seeing Eliab, Jesse's first born quickly brought out the Oil (2 Sam 16:6). *Samuel* took one look at *Eliab* and thought, "Surely, here before the LORD stands his chosen king!"

That is more like saying, "Waoou, see a kingly figure, this must be God's mind". Alas! God had his spirit on another person, a most unlikely person. Thank God, men are not the almighty God.

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There is no single physical indicator of spiritual bearings. We cannot assume the way of God. We cannot determine a spiritual path by studying a physical map. It does not matter how much it looks like it. If it is not it, it is not it. The undoing of men is that we run ahead of God assuming the path to trail. We must learn to follow God's leading indeed, if we must be successful.

"O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Jeremiah 10:23 KJV



The Daughter's Inspiration

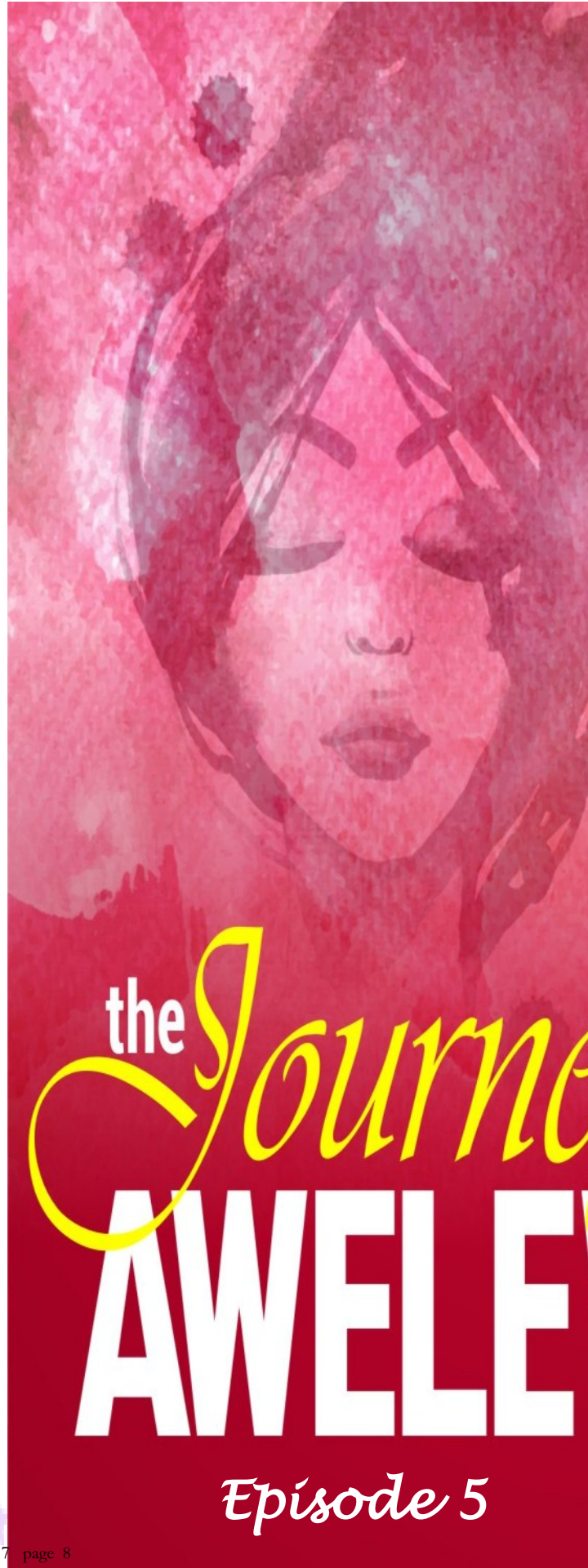
Adeyinka Oresanya
<http://adeyinkaoresanya.com>

Read previous episodes [here](#)...

“Oh God!” I groaned when the lights went off, just when I was getting into the drama of Olivia Pope and Mellie Grant in *Scandal*—two women, rivals, striking a deal over the heart and the business of the president of America.

PHCN could be so insensitive at times.

Waking up this morning, I had felt like lazing around. Akinyemi had finally travelled to France for his course. We eventually settled our little quarrel, and it was decided no *iru* and no dogs. We are happy and moving on. Glory to God!



Sara had gone to her parents' house in Lagos to chill out after her bad break up, and Bolanle was spending the weekend at her boyfriend's place as usual, so I was alone at home on this bright Saturday morning. It was just natural that I felt like lazing around.

Hence, after my morning devotion and cleaning my apartment, I had settled into the thrilling movie, before PHCN decided to spoil the fun, and now was not the time to trek miles in order to buy fuel to power the generator. It was lazing-around Saturday, remember?

Sighing, I picked up my phone and began to browse through Facebook. Sara was grooving at the Elegushi Beach with some friends, and she had tagged me in her pictures. In a pair of black shorts, cameo-pink chiffon top, and a wide-brimmed hat that covered her hair weave, which had been let down, Sara, didn't look like her heart had been broken just some days ago. Her smile was so full of sunshine. You go, girl! I scrolled down to see if Ayoade was among the people she had tagged.

He wasn't. A part of me

wished she had tagged him; he ought to see what he had passed over. Nevertheless, my home girl was looking good!

This further drove home this point for me—if you had just had a bad break up, try not to spend time moping around. Yes, it is easier said than done but very achievable. Visit friends, read good books, go for church programs, attend conferences and events, go to the beach and enjoy life, because it is not the end of the world! Just make sure you do something with your life. Who knows, you might eventually meet your very own this way.

I clicked 'like' on Sara's photos and moved on. Just then, my eyes caught a picture of a set of triplet boys tagged to the profile of a friend from my undergraduate days. The name of the guy who owned the picture was so familiar. I quickly clicked on his profile and searched for his pictures.

Just what I thought.

I stared at the screen of my phone,

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at the guy I used to love with the whole of my heart so much that it hurt; the guy who took advantage of the innocent love I had for him some five years ago.

Bukunmi Williams.

In my third year at the university, I met Bukunmi Williams through my friend Folake who also happened to be my course mate. Bukunmi was Folake's elder brother's close friend. He also happened to be the vice-president of their fellowship, which was a popular one on campus. One night, Folake and I had planned to go study at one of the lecture theatres in the Faculty of Science when Dele, Folake's big brother, called her to come to the Faculty of Administration lecture theatre in order to collect a package their father had sent to her through a neighbour's son who was also attending our school.

When we got there and Bukunmi and I were introduced, the only word I said to him throughout was, "Nice to meet you, too." I was tongued-tied, star struck.

Folake was at ease with both guys and they gisted for a while before she informed them we were going to read somewhere.

"Stay here to read," Bukunmi said, his eyes on me.

We studied there that night and several



nights after. The more I saw Bukunmi, the more I fell in love, the more I felt it was right just because he was a passionate Christian and the vice-president of a fellowship. He was also good looking. What more could a Christian girl ask for?

I began to spend more time with him. Everyone around us, his friends and Folake, knew I was in love with this guy. It was like I wore my love for him on my sleeves. Everyone also knew Bukunmi was NOT in love with me.

And no one informed me.

... to be continued.

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13 writers



7 issues



72 stories



greenepages



Akinwumi's Handwriting(s)

Adeoye Akinwumi

<http://nikeadeoye.blogspot.co.uk>

Everyone else's opinion is often readily available than your opinion. There is always someone who has got an opinion on where you should be at the moment and on what you should be eating.

There is always somebody, who will come into the room to suggest that the trousers you are wearing are too long, that your fingernails are too long, that you should have used palm oil to fry plantain instead of vegetable oil, to avoid the dangers of cholesterol. They may be your mother's friend, your friend, your acquaintance, a stranger, or even your enemy.

Moreover, some do not merely suggest, their opinions can come with speed, insistence, suggesting authority and discouraging dissent. They feel you should have married someone from your tribe instead of considering an intertribal marriage and you do not attend a "correct enough" physical church.

I can go on and on and on, about everyone else's opinion. Everyone else's opinion can show up many times, before you can think deep about the situation at hand. You see, Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, made a valid point when he said, "*If someone isn't what others want them to be, the others become angry. Everyone seems to have a clear idea of how other people should lead their lives, but none about his or her own.*"

Trust me, everyone else's opinion can be overwhelming, they can drown your thoughts.

However, the beautiful thing about everyone else's opinion is that you get to be the judge of them. Opinion, can remain as it is- an opinion. The best it can be is an opinion, if you leave it at that level.

I got to a stage while growing up, where I wanted people's verdict about every of my action and



everyone else's

attitude. Once a friend popped in for a visit, and after minutes of chit chatting, and a warm reception, I moved to my business-as-usual-what do you think about me? The problem was not the fact that I wanted other people's opinion about whether I was relating well or not.

In fact, the scriptures in the book of Philippians chapter four and verse five says, *"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand."*

So I was not too far from the Bible's injunction with that habit of mine, God did request that our moderation be evident to men and not Him alone. However, the problem afterwards, was that I was controlled by these varying opinions of others and I was fast fulfilling the words of Oscar Wilde that, *"Most people are other people. Their thoughts are someone else's opinions, their lives a*

mimicry, their passions, a quotation."

The danger in daily filling your ears with what is wrong about you is that you are likely to fight from a loser's standpoint. You are likely to want to struggle to be a better person with more fear of impossibility than of possibility. That is the very reason I avoid children of God that are more aware of what the devil can do to them than what God can do for them.

I agree, that there are weaknesses and each person has their own reasonable share and that there are still some more masteries to be won, but don't live in a pool of your inadequacies.

Your (intending or current) spouse and your immediate family are most likely the best judge of your character and you should hear them every now and then, but do not walk on the streets with your mind filled with everyone else's opinion.

It is one major way I know of losing the driver's seat of your life. Do not give the devil that privilege.

Yes, go ahead and build fortresses around your weaknesses that you have observed and that have been mentioned to you by others, but do not consistently make life decisions around other people's opinions.

Therefore, I ask you like Steve Maraboli once asked, *"How would your life be different if...You stopped allowing other people to dilute or poison your day with their words or opinions? Let today be the day...You stand strong in the truth of your beauty and journey through your day without attachment to the validation of others."*

I urge you to receive the wisdom of mentors by all means, but if you have never received an instruction directly from your creator -God, but you have always decided cogent issues in your life based on second hand opinions of fathers, loved ones, friends and enemies, then, maybe they created you.

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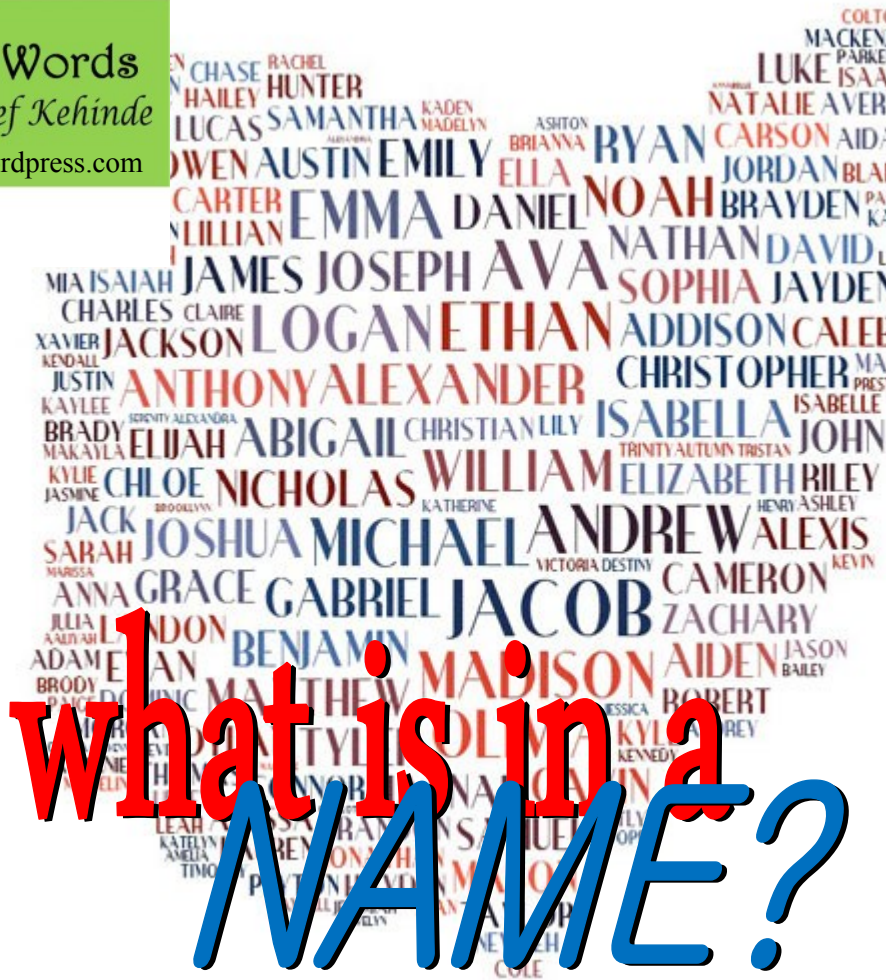


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Inked Words
 Tosin Josef Kehinde
<https://inkright.wordpress.com>



Meriam-Webster’s Dictionary of English defined name as “a word or phrase that constitutes the distinctive designation of a person or thing OR a word or symbol used in logic to designate an entity OR a reputation OR a family, clan...”

Dictionary.com defines a name as “a word or a combination of words by which a person, place, or thing, a body or class, or any object of thought is designated, called, or known...”

Kabalarian Philosophy defines a name as “the grouping of several letters of an alphabet, or other symbols, which represent the identification of a person or an object.” It noted, “The power of a name and its value has long been immortalized in prose, poetry, and religious ceremony. Everyone recognizes himself or herself by name.” It goes further to ask a critical question: “what does a name mean and how does a name influence a person’s character?”

A name as a form of identity transcends the facial and physiological features of an individual. From the above definitions, we see that a name can [and does] act as a representative of an individual. Thus, it is safe to say that the significance of a name transcends the physical identification. It has even greater meaning in the spiritual. Moreover, we know that the physical is controlled by the spiritual.

In the book Macbeth by William Shakespeare, Juliet posed a question, “What’s in a name?”

The unique thing about the inquiry is not the question itself but the outcome of the question.

The names that we call things are just randomly assigned by us. Just because people named something a billion years ago does not mean that’s what it is. Names might not hold any significance at the beginning, but over time, they become relevant and indispensable.

Have you ever wondered why a horse was named a horse and not a cheetah? Some might argue that names are just arbitrary and random combination of alphabets and symbols and so we should not read so much meaning into them. There is no distinct reason a horse should be called that initially.

If I should say a horse is the fastest animal on earth (when I meant a cheetah), I would be regarded as an unserious or insane individual. Thus, we see that traits and characteristics can be attached to a name for plants, animals and humans and these are what really define a person.

We usually come across this phrase when people argue that a name does not really matter. After all, we are only interested in the use of something, not its name. This might apply to designer brands. What is in a name anyway? You can buy the made-in-Nigeria replica far way cheaper and still have a dress or a purse or whatever. Why should we assign so much meaning to a name or label in the first place?

Father Abram had 318 trained servants in his house! These did not include the women and children. Indeed, he was an ‘exalted father’. It was not until his name was changed that he became a father indeed. Jacob lived according to his name [deceiver] until God effected the change and the deceiver became a prince.

Jabez was headed in the wrong direction because of the name he answered to until he decided to effect the required change. Thus, we see that a name does not just identify a person; it defines the course of his/her life.

However, there are some painful exceptions to the rule.

Ananias is a Greek name that means *Jehovah has been gracious*. Sapphira is an Aramaic name that means *Jewel* or *beautiful*. This couple ended their lives in shame and without any glory or beauty.

I-chabod, translated the glory has departed, was the grandchild of Eli the Priest of a family who should have been relevant. However, we observe that aside the record of his birth, nothing more was heard about him.

We should not hide under the canopy of grace and allow complacency or acquiescence to rob us of the promises due us.

Lest we forget, God knew AND called us by name before we were born [Isaiah 49vs1]. If we end up with another name aside that particular one, due to one circumstance or the other, there would be dire consequences. Recall John the Baptist. Recall our Lord Jesus Christ. The list is endless...

Friend, there is a whole lot in a name.

What is your name?

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The Prevailing Word

Tosin Babalola

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Identity crisis simply means a feeling of uncertainty about who you really are and what your purpose in life is. An example of someone who may have had an identity crisis in the Bible is Moses (although this is not recorded).

IDENTITY

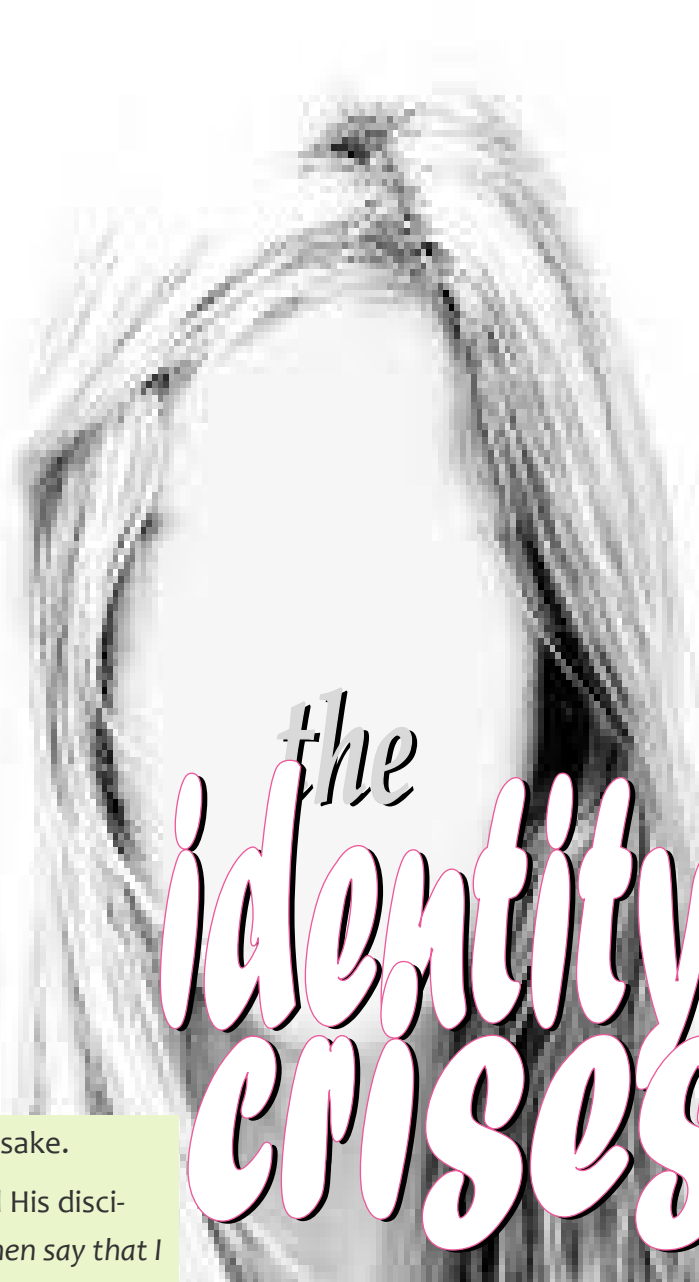
Exodus 2:10-11 tell us that he grew up as a Son to Pharaoh's daughter, in the Palace, learning and internalizing all the ideologies of being a Prince. His mannerisms and comportments may not have been different from that of a Prince. He may have had certain rights and privileges to enjoy. Although all of these happened to Moses, he never lost sight of who he really was. As we could evidently see later on in his life, he tried to identify with his own brothers by killing an

Egyptian for their sake.

Jesus Christ asked His disciples; "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" (Matthew 16:13-17 KJV). The striking thing is there was no uniformity in all they said. This means that when you allow any other source (apart from the Word) to define you, all you will get are varying opinions. In the end, only Peter gave the correct and required answer and

that by the Spirit of God.

Some of us have lost sense of our identity. We have allowed people around us (friends, family and fans) to define us. Some people are born into royalty and they see themselves as such, some into slavery, some into wealth et cetera and all have acted in accordance to the acceptable norms and values of such settings.



There is a danger in allowing people or your social environment to define who you are. Human beings are not stable in their ways, their minds and their judgments. They give you a particular attribute today and tomorrow they give you another. This is why the Bible warns us not to put our trust in man.

It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. Psalm 118:8 KJV

Man can never give an accurate description of who you really are because he did not create you. Only the Ancient of days, the One who knew you before you were formed and made you with His own hands can accurately describe you and guess what!- His judgment is forever the same, He will never change His mind on whatever He says you are. His word can never fall, fail nor falter,

for Jesus does not change—yesterday, today, tomorrow, he is always totally himself. (Hebrews 13:8)

The question therefore is ‘Who am I?’ Never try to avoid this question. If you do not answer it soon enough, the devil will tell you lies about it. Circumstances of life will ask you this same question, as it did the seven sons of Sceva, “*Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?*” (Acts 19:15 KJV) I bet you do not want to wait until then.

The definition of who you are is not far-fetched. It is right there in the Word. You are a new Creation.

Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it! (2Corinthians 5:17 The Message)

Because of this, there are certain things that have been made available to you, God labeled you with them (as your identity) and they are called New Creation Realities'.

One lesson you must learn at this point is; do not allow anyone to define you. Your true identity lies in the Word of God. On the physical, it may not look like it but the Word of God is ever true. It takes faith to walk in all that we have been given through it.

that's why we live with such good cheer. You won't see us drooping our heads or dragging our feet! Cramped conditions here don't get us down. They only remind us of the spacious living conditions ahead. It's what we trust in but don't yet see that keeps us going. (2Corinthians 5:6-8 The Message)

Always give thanks to God because He alone has designed your Identity Card and has put it in the Bible. He also promised that He will never alter anything in it forever – not your ever superior position, not your status. Hallelujah!

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