

SRMBC Family Bible Study

OVERCOMER

WHAT DO YOU ALLOW TO DEFINE YOU?

October 30, 2019

Reverend Thomas A. Keys, Pastor

Session 4 You Surrender

Emotions are incredible gifts from God. He bestows them for His pleasure and to give us ways to know and express ourselves and relate to others. Unchecked, however, emotions can become barriers to our true identity. Sometimes our senses and feelings deceive us, leading us to believe lies and establish an identity that deviates from God's promise for our lives.

It's one thing to know your identity is in Christ. It's another to be prepared for the attacks that will come. We learned from Peter that being firmly rooted today doesn't guarantee success tomorrow.

Watch Movie Clip: You Declare (3:55)

The Hannah we see in this week's clip is decidedly different from the young girl we encountered two weeks ago. Armed with faith in Christ, Hannah confidently begs for the question, ready with her answer. Hannah is certain of her worth because her identity is no longer rooted in the father who deserted her, the asthma that plagued her, the sin that followed her, or the sport that defined her. She now boldly declares her relationship with Christ and her citizenship in heaven. Her identity is wrapped up in Jesus.

Group Discussion.



Movie Clip: "You Declare"

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Armed with faith in Christ, Hannah is certain of her worth because her identity is no longer rooted in the father who deserted her, the asthma that plagued her, the sin that followed her, or the sport that defined her.

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Questions

- How is Hannah different? What changed?
- What spiritual truth revealed by Hannah in this segment do you resonate with most?
- What do you think Christians are still wrestling with in regard to identity?

Read Philippians 3:3-14

1. Name the reasons Paul considered himself the ideal Jewish leader in verses 4-6

Reasons	Remarks
Confidence in the Flesh – Self Confidence	Confidence in the flesh.... I more so – More confident than anyone else around (“I am all that – and you’re not!”)
Obedience In the Flesh - Self – Religious	Circumcised on the 8 th day – (“Sprinkled” as a baby; I was born “saved”)
Dependence in the Flesh - Self Reliance	Family Background – Stock of Israel, the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews (Trump, Biden...) My Title – A Pharisee
Exuberance of the Flesh - Self Righteousness	Zeal/Passion – Even judging the church because my walk is “perfect” (especially when compared with the rest of you)

2. Describe Paul’s new goals in life, outlined in verses 7-14.

- To renounce his old ways of living and thinking – for the new life and knowledge of Christ.
- To have a greater experience and appreciation for the righteousness provided and imputed on my behalf via faith Jesus Christ.
- To Know Christ more and more and to be imbued with His Resurrection Power.
- To join Him in the sacrificial life and suffering for the sake of the Gospel.
- To press and to give my all in the pursuit of the life and eternal rewards Christ gave His life for me to obtain.
- To not get stuck over the guilt and shame (or earthly success/pleasures of the past) but to strive for better eternal goals.
- To Fulfill my calling (what God has created and gifted me to be and do) – to hear Jesus say, “Well Done, good and faithful servant!”).

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new (II Cor. 5:17)

3. What are some good, even God-honoring pursuits people find their identities in?

- **Missionary/Church Work** – Some people give their all to serve in other Countries/Places in order to feel good about themselves. They secretly love the accolades and admiration people give.
- **Job/Occupation** – Some find their identity in the Work that they do. While it is God-honoring to work to earn a living and provide for our families, jobs cannot be our identity.

- **Home/Possessions** – It is good to have a nice house, home car etc. Some people put too much of their identity in the things they have rather than their position/possession in Christ (She-Shed...)
- **Appearance** - Looking good is important and even Godly - We can spend too much time on the outside – instead of our identity on the inside.

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you (Matt. 6:33)

4. What labels are used in the church to elevate people over simply being crucified with Christ?

- **Church Titles** – Apostle, Bishop, Prophet, Reverend, Most- Right - etc.
- **Spiritual Titles** – Anointed, Spirit-Filled, Psalmist, Visionary, Mand – of God
- **Organizational Titles** - Board President, Charter Member of the Church, Church Mother
- **Relational Titles** - First lady, Son/Daughter In the Ministry, Preacher's Kid (PK)

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Gal 2:20)

Read Acts 28:30-31.

Paul spent two years under house arrest in a rented house for the express purpose of declaring God's goodness in providing salvation through His Son, Jesus. Once you find that treasure, you can have joy even in the worst moment.

5. What do you think it means to live a life that declares faith "with all boldness"?

- To live with a supreme confidence in the Power, Plans and Purpose of God in the Gospel of Christ.
- To know that all things in my life – good or bad will work together for my good and God's Glory.
- To be a demonstration of Holy Spirit living in me that people can see Jesus in my everyday activities.
- To be ready at a moment's notice to effectively present the Gospel to anyone and everyone the Lord brings across my path.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes... (Rom. 1:16)

6. What does it mean to have no hindrance?

- Having God's power in me that overrides my fears and shortcomings.
- To have the peace of knowing that my past failures and my eternal future is covered.
- To know that even under the worst of Satan's attacks, they will not prevail and in the Gospel, I/we will always be victorious.
- Through fervent prayer God's power and provision are always readily available.

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it (Matt 16:18)

Read II Cor. 12:8 – 10

Though developed in difficulty, Paul's faith was rooted in his confession of faith in Jesus Christ, birthed from his life-changing encounter with the risen Lord.

7. Who's more inspiring to you—believers fervently following Jesus with no scars or marks of their trials or believers with deep wounds who remain radically faithful.

- **Believers no scars or marks:** - Sometimes it might be harder to continue in fervent service to the Lord when everything is easy and comfortable. Persevering with Christ in easy times is commendable.
- **Believers with deep wounds:** - Those who suffer through trial and persecutions are particularly commendable. Believers who remain faithful through suffering are examples to rest of the Church.

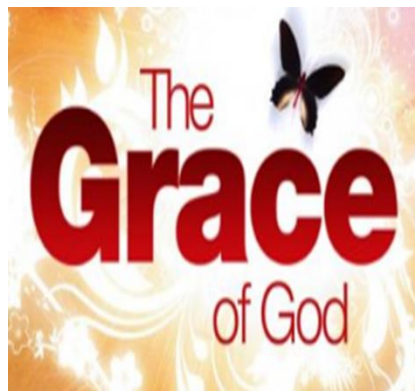
I don't think that there are any Christians that are without scars or marks from trials as they are walking with Christ. As we follow Christ there is a Cross that each of us has to bear.

...In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things, I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Phil. 4:12 – 13)

8. Highlight each word that conveys hardship. What is relationship and purpose of God's grace in our times of hardship?

- (This) Thing
- Pleaded
- Weakness
- Infirmities
- Reproaches
- Needs
- Persecutions
- Distresses



- The greater the trial/hardship – the more Grace God provides.
- The greater gift/revelation a person is given, the greater the hardships – but God provides more Grace.
- God's Grace helps us to depend totally on the Lord for the work of ministry assigned to us.
- God's grace helps us put our trials and hardships in the proper perspectives.

Thank God for the life change you've experienced through faith in Jesus Christ. Pray that in the future, the way you see yourself and the way other people see you will be impacted by Jesus.

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Session 4– Supplement: You Surrender

Read Philippians 3:7-14

Review the descriptions of the goals of Paul’s new life in Christ. What are some practical ways you can live these out in your own walk with the Lord?

Paul’s Description of New Life in Christ	Practical Applications
To renounce his old ways of living and thinking – for the new life and knowledge of Christ.	
To have a greater experience and appreciation for the righteousness provided and imputed on my behalf via faith Jesus Christ.	
To Know Christ more and more and to be imbued with His Resurrection Power.	
To join Him in the sacrificial life and suffering for the sake of the Gospel.	
To press and to give my all in the pursuit of the life and eternal rewards Christ gave His life for me to obtain.	
To not get stuck over the guilt and shame (or earthly success/pleasures of the past) but to strive for better eternal goals.	
To Fulfill my calling (what God has created and gifted me to be and do) – to hear Jesus say, “Well Done, good and faithful servant!”).	