



Shiloh Messenger

July 2017

Identity, How We View Ourselves (pt.6)

Growing in Identity:

Growing into your Identity is a journey you have to travel for yourself. It is something that needs to be written on who you are—a revelation that goes to the very core. As such it is not something that I can give you simple instructions about, but rather something you must seek the Lord for. It is a process that you must choose to embark on, but I want to give you a few pointers and suggestions.

So, what actually changes us as we grow in identity? As we discussed before, it is a process of renewing our mind so that we can see ourselves the way we actually are, but what empowers and enables that process? Again, the answer is God's Grace. Paul points to this dynamic in a verse that many of us know by heart:

For by Grace you have been saved through faith. Ephesians 2:8

Remember that *Salvation* is a holistic term in the Bible. It means roughly "to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction, heal or make well." It is an encompassing term that means to be put right in every aspect of our lives. In this light, it becomes clear that what heals us, what secures our eternal destiny, what delivers us, and what makes us whole is God's Grace. Grace does all those things. No wonder the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Grace (Hebrews 10:29).

So, what brings us to wholeness, what renews our mind is God's Grace. How is that Grace accessed? Through faith. Faith provides the runway for Grace to land in your life. Grace, like the Kingdom, has already come. It is already present:

For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; Grace and Truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:16-17

Grace is here. Jesus brought it. What needs to happen is that Grace needs to affect transformation and wholeness in our lives. The way that happens is through faith. Faith provides the channel for Grace to flow and change us. This is the process of renewing the mind. Our mind isn't renewed through learning; it's renewed by Grace. That Grace is accessed through faith.

This brings us to the difference between revelation and information. Revelation is more than supernatural information; it is supernatural information with Grace on it. Have you ever noticed that? When revelation comes, it has on it the Grace to empower the change you see. Without Grace on it, that information only has the power to show you what you should be; not change you to get you there.

Revelation releases an impartation and leads to transformation. Knowledge releases information and leads to education. Revelation releases in the heart the capacity to live out what the mind is seeing.

Our journey in renewing the mind is a journey of revelation; this is why you have to embark on it yourself. I can give you all kinds of pictures and teachings that describe it, but all of that is just information. If you want to live out identity (which is the whole point), it has to become a conviction in your heart, and God has to release the revelation to you for that. So, engage with Him. Ask for the revelation of who you are in Him. He promises to give good gifts to those of us who ask (Matthew 7:11). Blessings to you all, in Jesus name!!

New Dorm to House More Men

Over the past couple of years we have had a waiting list for potential students. With a waiting list comes consequences. Many men have to wait for 90 days & we often lose them after that period. We do have a referral list of other ministries, but most of them insist upon being put on our waiting list. They tell us it is our success in ministry to others they know or it is them visiting our website that they choose to wait. The Lord spoke to me last year and told me He wanted another Dorm built. We complied and began construction last fall. We now have a 45 by 75 Ft. exterior building, that needs completion on the inside. This includes, Sheet Rock & mud, Paint, Insulation, & Ceiling Tile, 2 five ton Air Conditioning Units, Stained Concrete flooring, Showers and Plumbing (toilets, faucets, shower heads & valves).

The approximate cost remaining for completing the Dormitory is \$23,500.00. We ask that you pray about what The Lord would have you do to help us in restoring His most valuable and precious asset, "People." With your financial gift, it will make possible for us to quickly complete the Dormitory project, so we can mentor more broken men, for The Glory of Christ!!!!

Thank you again, to everyone who co-labors with us in reconciling men with God, so restoration can begin.

We love you,

Rocky & Debbie Fondren

(Shiloh Ministries is recognized by the IRS as a 501c3 charitable organization. All financial gifts are tax deductible at the end of the year)

Graduates Testimony

Hello, my name is Santos Portales and I am 49 years old. I was born in Mexico; at the age of three we came to Houston, TX. I was introduced to Christianity during my early years. In 1987 I graduated high school and was faced with a decision, I could work and try to save up to go to Bible School or join the US Army. I became intimidated by the thought of speaking in front of a lot of people from the pulpit, so I allowed fear to drive me away from my true calling, being a Minister of The Gospel. I decided to join the U.S. Army. It was an honor serving my country, but soon realized I made a mistake in not pursuing my true calling. Guilt, then caused compromise and then bad decisions. Eventually, living without God became my normal. In Germany, far from God's presence, I turned to smoking hash to numb my pain. Alcohol and whiskey also began to open doors to fleshly desires that created an overwhelming demonic influence in my life. Once you open those doors you can't shut them on your own. In 2016, The Lord brought me to Shiloh Ministries. It was here He met me as soon as I stepped onto the property and I immediately felt His presence. I began to experience God's love and grace. The Holy Spirit has become my teacher and lives inside of me—the Comforter that Jesus left for us. He has changed my life and broken all the chains of addiction I used to have. Since graduating Shiloh, I came back to serve as an intern for a short time, but now have moved on assisting other Ministries. I would like to thank everyone who supports Shiloh Ministries. It is because of your love and obedience to God that you gave Prodigal Sons like me and my brothers a place to grow and come to know God as our Father intimately. I love all of you and grateful!!



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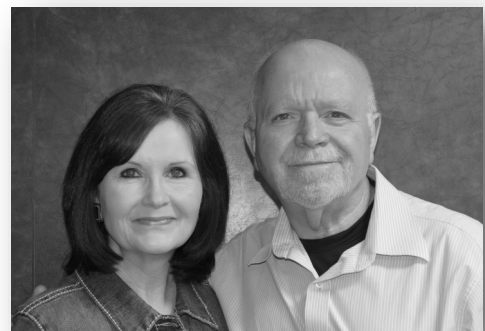
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**Rocky & Debbie Fondren
Founders & Sr. Leaders, Shiloh Ministries**