

# GAME CHANGER

THE SEVEN QUESTIONS  
THAT WOULD TRANSFORM  
YOUR LIFE, RELATIONSHIP,  
CAREER AND FAMILY

**KAYODE OGUTA**

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## **Dedication**

*This book is dedicated to Col Sylvester Mamudu Oguta (RTD), my late dad, who when he wants to chastise me would ask me a question so I can see the foolishness in my actions.*



# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	VII
CHAPTER ONE .....	1
CHAPTER TWO .....	25
CHAPTER THREE .....	39
CHAPTER FOUR .....	49
CHAPTER FIVE .....	59
CHAPTER SIX .....	67
CHAPTER SEVEN .....	79
CONCLUSION .....	91
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	93



# INTRODUCTION

Many years ago, during my final year studies at the University of Ilorin, my professor was teaching Toxicology, and made mention of something that a three-year-old already knows, that we take in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. The challenge for me was among all the atmospheric gases, why does the body take in oxygen and how does the body get to know that it is oxygen that it should take?

Now we all know that oxygen is not the only gas in the atmosphere and since there is also carbon dioxide in the atmosphere why oxygen and not carbon dioxide? It was a question that I had battled with for a long time and finally got the chance to ask. Not only was I relieved, I also noted that my classmates were enlightened. We had taken it for granted and never questioned things - don't forget these were the days before the founders of Google thought of entering Stanford University.

Questions are powerful. They enlighten us. They break barriers, they are transformational. And many times, we trip in asking the right questions. A good question would take us out of the false pretenses into a world of joy. If the questions were

between good and bad, then our sense of morality would come into play, but life rarely trips us on morality grounds.

So, if life is a result game, then questions would be how it is played. If it as is popularly agreed that decisions or the quality of your decisions determine the direction and quality of your life then the variable is how do you make good decisions? If we could alter the factors responsible for making decisions then we could ultimately determine the quality and beauty of your life, for this would open you up to a life of wonder and joy.

My contributions to your making better decisions in life is such that instead of instructing you on what to do, I want to build in you how to think. These seven (7) questions are rightfully called game changers; they are the essential questions that would open you to a life of growth and living life fully. The quality of your life is the quality of your thinking and these are determined by the quality of your questions, for questions are the driving force behind great thinking.

To be successful in life, one needs to ask the essential questions that can transform your life, focus your energy and maximize your impact and also offer you a regret free life. There is one thing every successful person knows; life doesn't consist of having all the answers but asking the right questions. This skill differentiates the extraordinary performers from mediocre and the earlier you understand it the better for you.

Life can be uncertain, unpredictable, and irrational but the ability to ask great questions would ground us in the principles that would keep us from drifting, giving us a catalytic property that would channel our pursuit into greatness. These seven questions, in my opinion, would transform the game that you

are playing and have the ability to facilitate a transformational shift in how we lead our lives.

The questions are

1. Who am I? The Question of Identity
2. Why am I here? The Question of Purpose
3. What is driving me? The Question of Motivation
4. How can I be useful? The Question of Value
5. What is the Wise thing to do? The Question of Wisdom
6. What does Love Require of Me? The Question of Relationship and Love
7. What Story am I writing? The Question of Legacy

When you ask these questions, your life would change tremendously! Now for those trying to scan this book, let me pose my favorite questions, how do you respond to your 10-year-old daughter asking to drive a brand-new Ferrari?

There are three options:

- Permissive?
- Passive?
- Protective?

Asking what does love require of me? Means that you can answer her differently other than someone else who also asks the same question. There is room for flexibility and adaptability to respond to the occasion.

These questions, I have gleaned from my studies of the Bible, and some of life biggest thinkers and leadership mentors.

I do not take ownership of them, but my pulling them together is such a great life changer that I called this book *The Game Changer*.

Now let's go....

# ONE

*When I discover who I am, I'll be free*  
*Ralph Ellison- Invisible Man*

**W**hat do you think can answer the following questions appropriately?

- Is there a question that can disproportionately drive your success in life?
- Is there a reason why people think and behave inferior?
- What is the real cause of low self-esteem in the midst of the promises of heaven?
- Why is change so difficult?

Yes, change is tough. There are so many reasons why people find it difficult to change. There are so many reasons why people interpret things despite going through the same things, differently. There is a mental blueprint that we carry that makes us behave in certain ways, sometimes out of tune with reality.

And until we discover such, then the victory and happiness that we seek would only be assumed never assured.

One of humanity's greatest quests that has persisted in all generations is a search for truth and identity. The philosophers bring it up by saying "know thyself". If this quest is not satisfied, relationships and marriages can be at stake, careers can be destroyed, meaning would never be achieved, and happiness would be a mirage. This has made the quest to answer this question one of the most important favors you can grant yourself, and do you know what it is?

## **Who are you? The Question of Identity**

This is the first question that must be answered to have the kind of life that you have been promised by God and to fulfill all the potentials that your Creator put in you and to know the process through which you can attain your purpose!

If you don't answer this question, there is no need to answer another question!

So, what is identity? The definition of identity is who you are, the way you think about yourself, the way you view and are viewed by the world, and the characteristics that define you. An example of identity is a person's name. Another example of identity are the traditional characteristics of a people - for example, someone says I am an American, or Nigerian, or Japanese, deriving his identity from his nationality.

We all live in a very difficult and complex world, the rate of suicide and depression is alarming. People want to become something and when they become it, they hate what they have

become and you wonder: why is the world so full of illusions? Why are so many lives empty?

When I think about the question that can most impact a life, be transformational in its effects and have the ability to take hold of God's promises for your life, no other question comes to mind than this one that you need to answer - the Question of your Identity.

In many parts of the world, due to economic challenges people find themselves in careers that they never planned to have. And at such times they want to use such careers to define their identity. In fact, I say to our local church that Nigeria is a funny place to be. Someone may have read Banking and Finance in the University, passed with distinction and maybe even a first class, and such a person would be in a secondary school teaching commerce. Whereas, someone else read Yoruba Education, in the same University, might find themselves as a General Manager in the bank.

Life could be funny because of such distortions. You now ask someone who works in a bank, maybe even in the legal Department of the bank, who are you? Do you know the likely answer? The person would say I am a Banker!

Okay, not a problem, so who are you outside of the bank?

Does your identity change if your career changes, or when you have a significant life event, or if you change the place of your abode? So is your identity a function of circumstances that you have no control over, or the revelation of who your Creator made you to be?

The Question "Who are you" is probably the foundation for any life that can achieve and become everything that God said the life should be. This question is the one you must

answer to be able to take hold of God's promises for your life. I tell you today, the answer you give to this is more powerful than the promise God has made for you - for your answer can make you negate God's promises for your life, or would make you achieve it.

Many people answer this question by their jobs or careers (which is subject to change anyway), finances (whether they have money or not in their bank accounts), the car they drive, or the people they hang around with. Some answer it by their disadvantages or their challenges. The truth is, not answering this question properly **would place a limit on everything that you can become**. It would distort you, it would limit your results, and it has the capacity to stifle the hand of God in a person's life. It's a question you must answer to become everything that Christ has purchased for you.

This question is the real game changer. The one that will change the game that you and I are playing in life and would drive your happiness, that will make you successful, for if there is a question that you can answer that will help your marriage to become better, if there is a question that can give you freedom especially from the greatest bondage in the modern area (you know the greatest bondage in the modern era is the pressure to conform, you want to be like every other person). If there is a question you can answer and that you must answer, and in answering would make you more successful, if there is a question that can take bitterness out of your life, would you be willing to answer that question?

If you get this question right your life will not be driven by your humiliation but by your hope, neither would your triumph drive your life but your life will be determined by the

throne of God. This is a question that anybody who says there is no God cannot answer successfully, (the only person that can answer this successfully is a person who says there is a God), for machines cannot help you answer it.

Do you know that if you answer this question, your potential will be unleashed but if you don't answer this question your greatness will be caged, if you answer this question your possibilities and everything about you will be magnified. The strange thing about this question is that even God Himself has to help you to change your answer to this question before He can help you and we would see it in the bible - it is the fundamental question of life.

## **Identity Drives Behaviour**

Our identity drives our behaviour and as a Christian the greatest battle you will face is the battle of believing what the Word says about you because we are like Jacob we have two natures inside of us: which one would you believe? Jacob had the Jacob nature, he also had Israel so he had both Israel and Jacob inside of him.

*Our identity drives our behaviors: we act in the way we see ourselves*

I remember when I was much younger, I had this challenge: *allergic chronic rhinosinusitis*. Chronic sinusitis can be caused by an infection, growths in the sinuses (nasal polyps) or swelling of the lining of your sinuses. The signs and symptoms

may include a blocked or stuffy (congested) nose that causes difficulty breathing through your nose, and pain and swelling around your eyes, cheeks, nose or forehead. Since there was swelling around my eyes, my classmates always called me Oju! The local parlance for eyes. I was always identified with my big swollen eyes.

It was my name in primary school and secondary school and was very taunting. One day a friend asked me if blood leaves my body when I was called. Once I answered him no, he counselled that I should respond favorably to those who called me that. I noticed my friends stopped calling me by that taunting name once I stopped minding them. They were apparently interested in working me up and once that failed, they lost the energy.

Then something happened! During my A Levels, a friend told me about a mutual friend's deep love for my eyes. Oh she said, they looked sleepy. Hah, the same eyes that had been the source of pain to me have now become the attraction of one of my schools' most beautiful girls. How it made me different. My sense of identity changed. My eyes were no longer a source of pain and mockery.

How you identify yourself determines how you approach life; am I an artiste, an accountant, a teacher, a mother, a winner? Are you all the things you have done right or am I defined by all things have done wrong? Am I a saint or a sinner? What about what others think of me, am I all of these things or none?

If I don't know my identity, then outside factors would define it for me, but if I get my identity from my Heavenly father, then I am who He says I am.

## **A Strange Notice**

When the global Pandemic hit the world in early 2020, I noticed that the reactions of many people in the church were not different from those outside the church. The people were scared, no one knew if it was the Rapture the Christian world had been waiting for. Were we going to survive?

God calls you His child. He says you are wise and that you are a brand new creature in Christ. He says, you are holy and God calls you His masterpiece! You are loved by God and when you see yourself the way God sees you, you walk in confidence because you trust the One who helped you answer the question about your identity? That's how faith in Him is birth.

## **The Challenge of Definition**

The challenge for most of us is that we derive our identity from other sources. Some of these sources are gender, race, social status, or achievement. But there is always a problem with such identification.

When people define themselves by their gender, they open up themselves to certain challenges. One of the ways the enemy has had it over Africans is that they always picture themselves from the prism of gender. So culture makes it happen that gender has stereotypes. The stereotypes ensure that the man behaves in certain ways the woman behaves in certain ways. An example of this is when they say men don't cry. So men carry such emotional turmoil and never discuss with anyone for men should not show emotions. Same things with women,

women are not permitted in many climes to be ambitious for she is a woman.

For a man who loses his job, and can't become the primary source of income for the family, because he doesn't have the capacity to provide for his wife, would begin to think he is a nobody. He becomes suicidal because he is no more a man. Men provide for their family. His identity was gender based. What he lost was not just a job, he has lost his primary source of identity.

Ditto for a woman getting her identity from her gender. This can be such that women must be the ones to manage a home, should not further their education, their place is in the other room, and hence cannot be ambitious. This is the reason why in many climes, girl-child education is such a big deal. The role of women is to give birth to children. So if a woman has the challenge of conception, does it make her less of a woman? So because of such gender based identification, women are seen as lesser beings in the face of such challenges. That's certainly not right. That's the power of gender based identification.

Another type of Identification is Achievement based identification. People see themselves as champions or Not Champions, hence they feel inferior. One day I saw a video of Mike Tyson, former World Heavyweight Champion. He looked at all the belts and trophies and said they are all trash to him. Tyson had seen that life terms are different. He has stopped identifying himself with how many world titles he won, but on the impact of his life.

So, have you seen someone identify themselves as an Olympic Champion? Who cares! I am sure you don't know who won a gold medal in the Olympic games like 20 years

ago, you can't remember! You may be remembered for the moment five years from that year! I recall Michael Phelps had such great turmoil about his identity despite winning more than 20 Olympic medals. He too virtually became suicidal and had to be helped. Despite winning so many gold medals, more than many African Countries combined together, he had no identity outside of swimming. In fact he was said to have an athletic identity. Athletic Identity is an issue many in sports struggle with. The developmental process of Athletic Identity takes years to build and even longer to manage. Athletic Identity can produce associated problems such as depression, isolation, negative behavior, and suicide. And Phelps was suicidal.

You see why the need to have your identity sorted really matters. To win battles when they come and have the answer that puts you in a position to win, you must answer who you are.

A cat that knows how to swim is not a catfish. So what you know doesn't define you. Neither does your success or failure be allowed to define you. This is the fundamental question that you need to answer.

It is such a natural tendency for people to be defined by their challenges. Even in the bible, many biblical writers define people by the limitations of their lives. We hear of blind Bartimeaus. The Harlot Rahab. The woman with the issue of blood.

## **Back to the Bible**

Let's quickly look at the bible to see a story that you have probably heard before. The story is found in *Numbers 13:1-2*

*“And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, everyone a ruler among them.*

Now listen to me, who was telling them to go and send someone to Canaan? God!

What was the land of Canaan? This was the land that God had promised them, and He asked them to go look at it, for what you can see can help you pay a price to get to your destination.

*And Moses by the commandment of the Lord sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the children of Israel. And these were their names: of the tribe of Reuben, Shammua the son of Zaccur. Of the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat the son of Hori. Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh. Of the tribe of Issachar, Igal the son of Joseph. Of the tribe of Ephraim, Oshea the son of Nun. Of the tribe of Benjamin, Palti the son of Raphu. Of the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel the son of Sodi. Of the tribe of Joseph, namely, of the tribe of Manasseh, Gaddi the son of Susi. Of the tribe of Dan, Ammiel the son of Gemalli. Of the tribe of Asher, Sethur the son of Michael. Of the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi the son of Vophsi. Of the tribe of Gad, Geuel the son of Machi. These are the names of the men which Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Oshea the son of Nun Jehoshua. That means there was Joshua and Caleb. And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, Get you up this*

*way southward, and go up into the mountain: And see the land, what it is, and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many;*

You have to understand what's happening here. God had told them to go and possess the land He promised them, telling them that he will be with them. These are the same people that had seen the mighty hand of God upon the Egyptians, when God visited their enemy with the ten plagues. They had seen the Red Sea part and also saw the entire Egyptian army swallowed up by the sea, they had seen the mountains moved. So do you think they should doubt God?

If you are like me- all I need is one miracle, a supernatural intervention and that can keep me going for ages. But this people saw more than one: In fact they saw many, some daily yet they could not lay hold.

*And what the land is that they dwell in, whether it be good or bad; and what cities they be that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strong holds; And what the land is, whether it be fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land.*

Whenever God tells you to be courageous it means what? That there is trouble ahead but do not be afraid He is with you.

*Now the time was the time of the first ripe grapes. So they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Zin unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath. And they ascended*

*by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Abiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the children of Anak, were. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)*

*And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs. The place was called the brook Eshcol, because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence. And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.*

So it tells you that from where they are to that place and back is forty days, so that means it should be at least twenty days maximum. Let's assume that it was just go and come but the truth is that they searched the land but they might probably have used five days to search the land. But what should have taken them normally twenty days it took them forty years because of what is going to happen now;

*And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land. And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.*

Therefore God is not a liar because He has promised them He was going to take them to a land that is flowing with milk and honey so they knew surely God is telling the truth.

*Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.*

*The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.*

*<sup>30</sup> And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.*

*Let us go there at once. Let's not waste time, let's not think about it, But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, the land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.*

That was why God wanted to give you the land, now listen to what happen, *And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight*

Did you get that? They saw themselves as grasshoppers? Men that had been helped by God? Men that destroyed the greatest army of that era? Grasshoppers? So it means that how you see yourself is the way it is transmitted to the world of who

you are so people do not see you. So whenever anybody sees you as a slave it is because you are seeing yourself as a slave.

***AND WE WERE IN OUR OWN SIGHT AS GRASSHOPPERS, AND SO WE WERE IN THEIR SIGHT.***

So let me ask you something: can God help grasshoppers? What do you do with grasshoppers? You step on grasshoppers? This was the reason why they saw themselves as grasshoppers; they could not see themselves as giant killers. But Caleb did not see himself as a grasshopper.

God cannot help you beyond how you see yourself, for if God wants to intervene in your situation he has to change how you see yourself. God wanted to bless Abraham. Do you know the first thing he did to Abraham? He changed his name. Your name shall no longer be called Abram but Abraham because now you can be a father of many nations. Now imagine he is ninety years old and everybody started calling him father of nations! Even he himself will be embarrassed but what God was saying came to pass.

The question is when you come to church everybody comes beautiful but when you wake up in the morning and you see the mirror what do you tell yourself? That the Pastor cannot change behavior because your identity drives your behavior when you wake up in the morning and you behave in a certain way there is nothing anybody can do to help your behavior, He has to change the way you look at yourself before he helps you.

In Judges Chapter 6, God's Angel went to meet Gideon and said to Gideon "you are a mighty man of Valor Gideon" but Gideon says no! He went on a tirade- I am the least in my father's house. God has to take him through a process

of changing who he was so that he can begin to make him a mighty man of valor.

How do you see yourself? You know if I tell a young lady today and say if you see yourself as a queen, someone of royalty, will you sleep around with any idiot? No. You won't because of the way you see yourself.

### ***The Greatest Battle:***

The greatest battle a Christian faces in life is the battle to know who he is as the world tries to define you! But if you do not know who you are you will fall for anything. The only fact that can change your game in life is to understand who you are.

Who am I? In Mathew chapter 16: verse 14-16 the bible was talking about Jesus Christ when he asked his disciples who do the son of man say I am? I have walked with you but having walked with you doesn't mean you know who I am. So who do men say I am and they told him, some said you are Elijah, some even said you are John Reincarnate. Then Jesus asked them, whom do you say I am? And Peter said you are the Christ the son of the living God, Christ was so excited Christ also revealed to Peter who Peter was.

Do you know it takes a revelation to really know who you are? You are not your strength, you are not your ability. You are not the functions that you perform. You are who the Creator says you are.

The day you know yourself then you don't need anybody's validation. His validation is enough. He told Jesus at His baptism, this is my Son hear Him. Once you know who you are,

circumstance doesn't threaten you again. Lack doesn't define you. Success also does not define you. Where you are presently doesn't define you.

Knowing who you are means that you cannot compromise when challenges come. Challenges only trip you if you have an identity crisis, there would be a difference between your potential and your behaviour. I realised that nations also have identity crisis.

The question of identity is the key to all kinds of breakthroughs be it spiritual, physical, mental, financial, social. It also helps people understand their difference in my opinion. It is the source of happiness, satisfaction and progress.

When you know who you are you can take decisions. Knowing your identity, helps you take decisions in life because it forms your thinking *John chapter 3:6* most of you quote it very well the bible says

*You Are Born of the Spirit*

One of the ways to begin to see yourself is not just the human dimension you are a spirit having a human experience.

*That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him*

Majority of us, all that we want to do is great things, how

do we do great things with our life? How do we do mighty things in our life, how do we do things that we make us to achieve greatly? So everything was about doing, we now see the miraculous no man can do this miracle except God be with him he felt that the doing is a function of God been with you. Verse 3

*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

It's in your being that you can have your doing so a goat will give birth to a goat so if you want to see a goat all you need to do is to be a goat then you will birth a goat. So Jesus was saying that to see something is not in the doing but is in the being so it's in the being that I can now do all those things. So it's in who do you see yourself, who are you, what's your being like? So that was what Jesus said to him and that's the secret of the message that Jesus preached, so number one out of our seven things is our identity drives our behaviour, we act in the way we see ourselves.

Whenever people are captured in war the first thing they to do is to try to change their identity of who they are, they change their language as it happened to Daniel. Every time it happens like that they try to change your identity. Even God himself when he wanted to change someone's identity, like Abraham, he changed his name and told him to look at the stars and count them. Abraham now understood that God was trying to say something to him if God wants to change you, He has to change the way you are seeing yourself.

I have come to realize that you can have the whole money in the world and you could still be unhappy, you can have all the friends in this world and you can still be unhappy so is not by friendship is nor by money neither is it by position. You are wandering if I have a hundred million dollars what will I do, I will go to the Jumeirah just sleep for like two weeks, but does that make you happy? People that have it, some of the worlds richest couples go through divorce; if money makes you happy will divorce would not come to the worlds richest couples.

## **Our Identity Reveals Our Limitations**

Our identity also reveals our limitations because our identities drive our limitations. For instance if you tell someone you are a banker, it tells me that you cannot work in any other industry. Also if you tell me that you are an artist you are telling me you cannot work in any other place other than artistic environment. So your picture of yourself is the determinant of your limitation. All of us have limitations, it is just that some limitations are progressive while some limitations are wrong.

## **Our boundaries are also a function of our identities**

The things we say yes or no to, the things we accept or reject is a function of our identity. Do you know that for instance, if a Yoruba man stands here and I come and greet him as Yorubas do, do you know why he will accept it? Because he is a Yoruba

man. Do you know that for instance if it was maybe a Briton he might react as if you are worshipping him? Now his identity is what is driving his boundaries, what he will accept, what he would not accept.

Now every day of your life the way you see yourself will determine the boundaries in your life. For instance recently you know all of us like selfies, I was reading in the papers that Princess Kate, went to the supermarket to buy something just before Christmas and everybody was happy. Somebody walked up to her and said that they wanted to take a selfie with her but she said that was not permitted. Because she is a princess, she cannot just take selfies with everybody. But you can take pictures with anybody, anybody that you see on the road, you will say come and snap me, you will do this because you do not understand who you are or your boundaries. For instance, the day you see yourself as a king, do you know you can never wear bathroom slippers outside your house again, do you agree? Do you imagine President Buhari wearing bathroom slippers outside Nigeria or outside his house? So your boundary will determine what you would accept.

Our identity is what drives our boundaries. One of the reasons why I said that if you are not a Christian you cannot answer the question I asked earlier is that the boundaries for someone who is not driven by God are chaotic enough. But for someone who is a child of God, we know our boundaries is found from the scripture, from who we are in Christ Jesus so the things you will do and the things you will not accept and the things you will accept to do and not do is based on who you are, what have formed your boundaries.

## **Identity is the filter with which we judge ourselves and others**

The fourth one is that our identity is the filter in which we make judgement of ourselves and others in this world. You remember the story in Numbers 13? How did the spies see themselves? As grasshoppers. So if you see yourself differently what happens? You will act differently. Now David saw Goliath he ran towards Goliath the others saw Goliath what did they do? They ran away so it wasn't Goliath that was the problem; what was the problem? It was what they saw about themselves. Goliath as far as David was concerned was just Goliath. David saw the circumcision, David saw the covenant of God. Saul saw the mightiness of Goliath but David saw who he was in God and he ran towards Goliath. The question I want to ask you again is this: what filters are you using to judge the world?

## **Identity Drives our Sense of Meaning and Fulfilment**

Our sense of meaningful fulfilment and happiness also derives from the way we see ourselves;

## **Sins Greatest Power is Identity Change**

Every question is irrelevant until this question of identity is answered because if you don't answer this question, then there is no need to answer any other question. Now can I just end with

this, the greatest thing about sin is what it does to identity - it changes us. When Adam sinned what did he do? The bible said when God was coming he ran away from God's presence when God asked him his whereabouts. He said I saw myself naked. That means that his identity had changed even though God did not bring that up.

When David was a young man he could do anything, kill the lions, bear and giant. But after he slept with Bathsheba, his son was pursuing him. His identity has changed. Sin's greatest power is that it changes, it alters our identity of who we are and that is why we must not give in to the deceit of sin. Sin has the power to alter how we picture ourselves and that is why whenever we commit one sin, it is easier to commit the next and ultimately it changes our picture of ourselves.

## **A New Picture of Identity**

The biggest battle we all face is in the place of identity. Identity is actually the key to all spiritual breakthroughs, between you and the promises of God. Many people actually derive their identities for their lives by the failures, fears, family, finance, but there is a better way God wants to describe you. He calls you by your future. Remember the story of Gideon, how He called Gideon a mighty man of war, someone who was fretful, someone who had a low self-esteem, someone who had given up on life but God called him by the future that He had planned for him. The same way God calls you by the future not by your pains, not by your past but by His promises. Knowing

who God says you are is very liberating, and anchoring your life on that revelation would bring you into new realms of success.

The greatest blessing that someone can give to you is to give you a new sense of identity. It has the power to change your perspectives, give you a new belief and propel you into a new journey in life.

So when God wanted to start with Abram, He gave him a new name 'father of Nations';

He gave Sarai a new name so that she can be 'the mother of nations'.

He gave Peter a new name so that He could by the revelation to build a new church.

God always changes identity to transform lives, He changes your picture so that you can see new possibilities. Our picture of ourselves is the picture we are transmitting to the world, so what picture are you giving to the world how are you seeing yourself ultimately? The question I have to ask; you are not your race, you are not your gender, you are not your social class. Have you ever heard people say they are a rich person? They derive their identity from their wealth but what if the money vanishes?

*2 Corinthian 5:17 says you are a new creature old things have passed away 2Peter 1:4 says that you are partaker of the divine nature.*

When you are partaker of the divine nature that means that you have divinity residing inside of you *Ephesians 2:20 says that you are complete in him.* You don't need anybody to make you complete, you are who the word of God says you are; not what

the world says about you. As I urge you to ask, God who am I? The reason why I am living? It is not an empty question, that is why I want to challenge you to make up your mind to talk to God and as you are talking to God let God speak to you and reveal who you are because the day he reveals who you are then you will know your assignment on earth.

For instance, a fish will never find its geniuses unless it gets inside water, a bird will never find how beautiful it is unless it flies in the air, a monkey's place is the trees, where is your own place?

### **Questions to ponder on**

1. Are you living your life based on reasoning or revelation?
2. What is driving your identity? Is it your failures, fears, family or finance?
3. What can you do, now that you know who you are in Christ Jesus?
4. By the Blood, do you see yourself as worthy of divine Intervention?

