

ACCELERATOR

Part 2: Identity Change

MAKING CHANGES IS NOT THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

A. The layers of change

1. Outcome - changing results. Losing weight, reading NT, becoming grateful
2. Process - changing habits, systems, behaviors. Dieting, devotional time, journaling
3. Identity - changing beliefs, perspectives. Who are you, what do you believe about yourself

B. Changing the order

1. Starting with the outcome - I want these results...
2. Starting with identity - This is who I am. So this is what I will do, act like

C. The believer's advantage - our connection with God

1. John's answer (*John 1:22-23 NIV*)
2. John found what God had said about him and identified with that
3. God reveals who we really are

CONTRASTING IDENTITIES (*Judges 6:11-16 NKJV*)

A. Hiding in the winepress

1. A sure sign Gideon did not believe he had an answer for the Midianite problem

B. Gideon's Identification

1. Skeptic - Unwilling to believe good news
2. Victim - God had abandoned Israel and caused these problems
3. Incapable and Unappealing - weak family, weak link in the family

C. God's contrasting identification of Gideon

1. Empowered - God's declaration of His presence and power
2. Strong warrior leader - valor meant strength for battle and influence
3. Victorious deliverer - twice he is told he will defeat the Midianites and deliver Israel

D. Gideon begins to change his process / actions

1. Takes a series of small steps that validate his being the strong empowered warrior and leader

ADOPTING A DIFFERENT IDENTITY

A. What do you say about yourself?

1. All of us have beliefs about who we are
2. We have the freedom to chose a different identity (who we want to become)

B. Take small steps that validate who you are becoming

1. Every small step validates your positive ID - a vote for your new identity

C. Discover and agree with God's identification of you

1. We are too often much like Gideon - our beliefs based on fears, failures, weakness and error
2. We can base our identity on what is eternal and powerful (*Ephesians 2:10 NIV*)