

IDENTITY

By God's Design
January 26, 2020

Introduction: Life is a continual process of arrival into the person God created us to be. This process is often a series of tests and trials designed to shape and mold our character – our nature. Many of us spend a lifetime in search of our true identity without capturing the exact essence of how God uniquely designed us. But what if... what if it was possible to identify one's unique God-designed life – that "One Thing"? Would we be willing to do the hard work to be shaped and molded into the person God created us to be? I hope so.

"Everyone has his own specific vocation or mission in life; everyone must carry out a concrete assignment that demands fulfillment. Therein he cannot be replaced, nor can his life be repeated, thus, everyone's task is unique as his specific opportunity to implement it."

– Viktor E. Frankl

Scripture: Habakkuk 2:2–3

I. Is There an Urgency to Our Lives?

¹⁰ *But the day of the Lord will come **like a thief**, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, **what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness?** (2 Peter 3:10–11).*

NOTE: Wherever we are in this process, we are called to holiness and godliness.

II. My Identity – Three Questions

A. How do I see me?

¹³ *...**formerly I was** a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. **But I received mercy** because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and **the grace of our Lord overflowed for me** with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 1:13–14).*

B. How do others see me?

¹ *"Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For **with the judgment you pronounce** you will be judged, and **with the measure you use** it will be measured to you (Matthew 7:1–2).*

¹¹ *The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, '**God, be merciful to me, a sinner!**' (Luke 18:11–13).*

C. How does God see me?

Blessed... chosen... predestined... saints... adopted as sons and daughters... holy... loved... redeemed... forgiven... filled with wisdom and insight... graced, his possession... sealed with the Holy Spirit... have an inheritance... people of hope... (Ephesians 1:1-14).

III. Where is Your Compass Pointed?

*A man's steps are from the Lord; **how then can man understand his way?** (Proverbs 20:24).*

A. Inventory

***Examine yourselves**, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you fail to meet the test! (2 Corinthians 13:5).*

***Let us test and examine our ways**, and return to the Lord! (Lamentations 3:40).*

C. Implementation

*...**be doers of the word**, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves (James 1:22).*

*If you know these things, blessed are you **if you do them** (John 13:17).*

B. Inscription (It sets in between A & C)

² *And the Lord answered me: "**Write the vision**; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. ³ For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; **it will surely come**; it will not delay"*
(Habakkuk 2:2–3).

1. Passion – What fuels you the most?
2. Ability – What can I do the best?
3. Context – Where is my impact the greatest?

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Scripture: Habakkuk 2:2–3

I. Is There an Urgency to Our Lives? (*2 Peter 3:10–11*)

Wherever we are in this process, we are called to _____ and _____.

II. My Identity – Three Questions

- A. How do I see me? (*1 Timothy 1:13–14*)
- B. How do others see me? (*Matthew 7:1–2*) (*Luke 18:11–13*)
- C. How does God see me? (*Ephesians 1:1–14*)

III. Where is Your Compass Pointed? (*Proverbs 20:24*)

- A. _____ (*2 Corinthians 13:5*) (*Lamentations 3:40*)
- C. _____ (*James 1:22*) (*John 13:17*)
- B. _____ ('B' sets between A & C) (*Habakkuk 2:2–3*)
 - 1. _____ – What _____ you the _____?
 - 2. _____ – What can I _____ the _____?
 - 3. _____ – Where is my _____ the _____?