

Focused Living:

How you live is determined by who you are!

Life is hard. This is not breaking news! Each stage of our lives presents its own challenges. At times, whether young, middle aged, or older, life may seem not simply *hard*, but *too hard to handle*. How can we live in such a world in which we find ourselves? God has the answer!

Today: Rejoice in your identity!

A good prayer to begin our study:

Dear Heavenly Father, use your Word to teach me who I am in you, and lead me to rejoice in the identity you have given me. Amen.

Humbly list one or two of your personal strengths.

Honestly list one or two of your personal weaknesses.

Read  **Colossians 3:12-14.**

Pride is a sin we fall into when we rest our identity on our own strengths. Despair is a sin we fall into when we rest our identity on our own weaknesses. Remind yourself again of the identity God gives you in Colossians 3:12-14.

In our last Bible study in this series, we saw how the clothes God gives us allow us to relax in life. The clothes God gives us also prepares us for a rich and meaningful life lived to God's glory—a good reason to rejoice in your identity!

God gives you a beautiful outfit to wear in the specific places in which you live, with the family and friends you have, among the people you encounter, with the specific strengths and gifts God has given you. How does this make you feel?

It is probably easier to see how God uses your strengths than your weaknesses. Look again at Colossians 3. How does God use your weakness?

The blessings God gives others through your identity in Christ is sometimes big and noticeable. Maybe you will get your own statue someday! More often, though, God works through what we might consider “little things.” Read through  **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**. How much does God notice the little things in your life? How much does God care about the little things?

The Bible is filled with many examples of people thought they were unprepared for a task or challenge, and yet God equipped them and helped them through it. Can you think of some examples? Check out these Bible sections to add to your list of people:

- Exodus 3-4
- 1 Kings 19
- Genesis 39
- Daniel 6

God continues to help you grow and develop your gifts when your identity is in him. What are some ways you are developing your gifts right now?

How can you help people who find their identity in Christ develop their gifts and abilities?

Homework: Say a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the identity with which he has clothed you. Rejoice! Then tell a fellow believer about how God has used their blessings to bless you.