

LIVE A FRUITFUL LIFE

+ REVIEW: LIVING OUT OUR IDENTITY

- There are three steps to living out our identity: 1) Receive God’s salvation, 2) Renew our mind, and 3) Execute God’s will.
- Because we belong to God, we have freedom, provision, resources, and inheritance. We should be like Jesus who “grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man” while he was on earth, we need to increase our health spiritually (SQ), emotionally (EQ), health-wise (HQ), and intellectually (IQ).
 - Our spiritual quotient (SQ) is measured by our relationship with God. If you know that He is God, the creator of all things, all powerful almighty God, yet he thinks you are important enough to send his only Son to save you, you will know your value.

+ MADE TO INFLUENCE

- Because of your faith in God, you are influential to the people around you.
- Story: Martina was the first one to receive Christ in her family. For a long time, her family thought she was weird and a bit crazy to go to church all the time. Then one day when her mom tried to give her valuable belongings, Martina told her mom to let her brother have them; her mom realized that she was different and becoming more like Jesus. From that time on, the siblings’ relationships began to get better. Because of Martina’s faith in God, love entered her family and increased the good bonding between family members.

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. (Luke 25:52)

- Like Jesus, we have the freedom, resources, provision, and inheritance to gain favor before God and people around us.
- David Pawson once said that men are created in God’s image even though we are made from dust, and that, wherever a man stands, there stands Jacob’s ladder, which connects heaven and earth. You are Jacob’s ladder, because you are created in God’s image. You have God’s mind, emotions, beauty, excellence, and immeasurable value and power.
- Nick Vujicic’s quote: *“The saddest thing in life is not being born without limbs, but not having hope and purpose to live for. What truly changes our destiny is not our circumstances, rather our attitude.”*
 - Vujicic gained his confidence from his life experience. Instead of becoming angry at his

circumstances, he chose to have hope in God and used his circumstance to bless others.

+ **MADE TO RULE**

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Read Genesis 1:26-31)

- Among all of the created things, only mankind was made in the glorious image of God. Only we were given dominion over all the earth. Just as God commanded, “Let there be light,” so he also commanded Adam and Eve to be fruitful, multiply and subdue the earth. We were meant to rule.
- God took pleasure in man and everything on earth. **“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.”** The Hebrew for “very good” can also mean the following: pleasurable, excellent, abundant, worthy, beautiful, kind, enjoyable, smart and successful.
 - This is God’s prophesy over man. He sees that we are “very good” to rule over the earth, and by His blessing He has given us the ability to do so.

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. (John 14:12)

- Even in the New Testament, God continues to prophesy over us to do great things in his power and blessings.
- *Read Genesis 2:7-22.* God cares for our happiness. In the Garden of Eden, Adam had everything he needed to sustain life, but he wasn’t happy because he didn’t have a partner. The Lord saw the desire of Adam’s heart, which was also His desire, and so he made Eve to become his partner.
 - Even before we ask, our Father in heaven knows our wishes. We should ask for the Kingdom, because He is willing to grant us anything that we need and desire. God is tender and caring toward us, so don’t be afraid. Simply believe in God.

+ **MADE TO BE FRUITFUL**

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. (John 15:1-2)

- God gives us small and big challenges in order to prune us, because He sees that we are bearing fruit. God prunes us because He wants to use us in even greater ways, e.g. ministry of healing, revival, or an increase of faith to give your time and money.

Because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (Romans 5:3-5)

- Sometimes God doesn't immediately come to your rescue because He is pruning you. Through pruning, God gives birth to many mature sons.
- Story: In "The Chronicles of Narnia," the trees used to dance and move around. Everything was alive. However, after the enemies invaded Narnia, eventually the trees retreated into themselves and stopped moving at all. They became lifeless.
 - This reflects the way some of us are living now. We have retreated so much into hopelessness that we no longer have any sense of purpose or passion. However, we must remember the purpose for which we were created, which is to be alive and fruitful.
- Story: There is a scene towards the end of the movie "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian," when the character Lucy finally meets Aslan. Aslan asks Lucy why she didn't come to find him before then, and she replies that it is because people didn't believe in her and she was afraid to be different from others.
 - Many times, we are like Lucy; we are afraid to be different and stand up for the things of God. Yet, God in his great mercy and patience continues to give us opportunities to help us, prune us, and discipline us until we are willing to be bold for Him. His meekness makes us great. Even if it takes a long time, He will never grow tired of us and will always help us to step up to our calling, as long as we are willing to be bold.
- If you are in a season of difficulty and/or you feel God's pruning, pray that the Spirit of wisdom and revelation will awaken your mind and heart to realize your true identity and potential in order that you may be fruitful, multiply, and rule—Rule over your sickness, your weaknesses, your environment, your relationship with others. Even during such difficult times, don't give up but persevere, knowing that God's love never fails. Believe that through perseverance, the characteristics of God will continue to mature in you, thus allowing His glory to fill you and flow through you.

+ ACTION PLAN

1. Pray everyday for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation to enlighten you to God's attentive love and the truth that you are "very good" (Genesis 1:31), i.e. you are: Enjoyable, Pleasing, Good, Excellent, Abundant, Valuable, Beautiful/Handsome, Desirable, Kind, Joyful, Smart and Successful.
2. After listening to this message, are you motivated to step out of your comfort zone in a certain way? Please choose one area and begin praying for it and acting upon it, e.g. evangelism, tithing, taking up more responsibility, or mending a relationship.
3. Please continue practicing the areas of SQ, EQ, IQ and HQ that you want breakthrough in.

+ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you want to believe that God created you to be enjoyable, excellent, abundant, valuable, desirable, joyful, smart and successful? In the areas of work, ministry, and family, how would you evaluate yourself? Are you willing to believe that you have great potential to reach accomplishments in these areas?
2. In John 15, what is the purpose of God’s pruning? Did anything unpleasant happen to you recently? In what way(s) is God pruning and molding you to become a mature son?
3. In “The Chronicles of Narnia,” the trees used to dance, but after retreating, they became lifeless and entered into a deep sleep; they lost their original capacities. Have you ever experienced something similar?