

Journeying into Your Identity and Destiny

(Study Guide)

With Don Finto and Tod McDowell

A. Establishing Your Own Identity and Destiny

1. Why it's important

- a. Confidence—that we may walk forward in the confidence that only God can give us
- b. Authority—We only have as much authority as we have in our self-identity
 - i. Those who speak into our lives have the most authority over us
 - ii. When God speaks into our lives, He releases His authority into us
- c. Gifting
 - i. Each of us is singularly gifted.
 - ii. Understanding and embracing our particular spiritual DNA moves us into that gifting with joy

2. How it's done

- a. Affirmation from God
- b. Affirmation from others
- c. Inner witness

3. Why it's so difficult to embrace

- a. Our own self-perceptions
- b. The negative influences of life experiences
- c. Satan's assaults on our identity and destiny

B. Identity and Destiny in Scripture

1. Jesus always knew who He was (John 13:3)
 - a. He could wash feet because He was confident in His calling
 - b. He emptied Himself, but knew who He was (Philippians 2:5-11)
 - c. The agony in the Garden
 - i. Not only because of the horror of the cross
 - ii. Also because He knew that He would have upon Himself the sin of the entire human family
 - d. His words from the cross: "It is finished"

2. David
 - a. At the end of his life, after all his failures, God called him “A man after My own heart” (Acts 13:22)
 - b. The psalms help us see into his heart
 - c. David “Perceived that he was king”
 - d. He “Fell asleep” when he had accomplished the work God had chosen for him to do (Acts 13:36)

3. Jesus did not choose the rabbis of His day for His closest friends, but those who would not have been considered to be the best leaders by those in His society
 - a. Fishermen
 - b. A tax collector
 - c. A political radical
 - d. Later Paul, who was trained as a rabbi under the most influential rabbi of his day, was called. Even though he always went to the synagogues to speak to his people, his specific calling was to the Gentiles.
 - e. Not many influential are called, but the called become qualified. (I Corinthians 1)

C. Forming Our Own Identity and Destiny Affirmations

1. The use of life scriptures
2. Prophetic words spoken over us by gifted men and women of God
3. Our other father’s blessing (in those rare cases where godly fathers spoke blessings over their children)
4. Other men and women of authority who have affirmed us in various life situations
5. Learning to stand against the assaults of the enemy
6. Forgiving all who have sinned against us
7. Writing our own identity/vision/destiny statements, memorizing them, and continuing to rehearse them to ourselves and others
8. Upgrading the vision statement as needed from time to time

D. Receiving Blessings Through the Prayers and Blessings of Scripture

1. **The weary are meant to find rest** (Matthew 11:28-30)
2. **Our destiny is to become more and more like Jesus** (II Corinthians 3:18-20, Romans 8:29)

3. **God has spiritually raised us from the dead and has seated us with Him in the heavenly places** so that we can look down on our present situations knowing that all is well (Ephesians 2:4-8)
4. **He works everything for our good** (Romans 8:28)
5. **We can live hope-filled lives** (Romans 15:13-15)
6. **He can strengthen us with power through His Holy Spirit and do in and through us more than we can ask or imagine** (Ephesians 3:15-20)
7. **Jesus' resurrection power now resides in each of us** and can **give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation** so that we can know Him better (Ephesians 1:15-21)
8. **God has given us eternal encouragement and good hope.**
(II Thessalonians 2:16-17) May we receive this and walk in it continually!