

# 1

*In Judges 6:6-16, we learn about the struggles Gideon had with the Midianites; they continually tried to oppress and afflict him. Gideon developed a victim mind-set due to his social and economic situation; as a result he had a hard time accepting God's assignment for his life.*

*Verse 6-16 says,* So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD. **7.** And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried out to the LORD because of the Midianites, **8.** that the LORD sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage; **9.** and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. **10.** Also I said to you, "I *am* the LORD your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites,

in whose land you dwell.” But you have not obeyed My voice.’ ”

*Notice: Before God does anything new, He has to remind us of His past intervention in our lives, and also reminds us to be confident in the Word.*

**Verse 11** Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the tere-binth tree which *was* in O-phrah, which *belonged* to Joash the Abi-ez-rite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide *it* from the Midianites. **12.** And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, “The LORD *is* with you, you mighty man of valor!”

*Notice: God’s prophetic word for Gideon was to not empathize with his condition but rather to focus on himself as an overcomer.*

**13.** Gideon said to Him, “O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where *are* all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.” *(Notice when we are resentful towards the Lord it becomes hard to hear what he has to say about our circumstance.)* **14.** Then the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?” **15.** So he said to Him, “O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan *is* the weakest in Manasseh, and I *am* the least in my father’s house.”

*Notice: Instead of using God’s prophetic word to validate who he already was in God’s mind and his future possibilities, Gideon allowed victimization to define him.*

**Verse 16** And the LORD said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.” (NKJV)

*Although Gideon struggled with God’s identity of who he was; in His mercy, God continued to believe Gideon was qualified for the job at hand.*

***Today, we will continue our topic on Becoming Who We Already Are in God***

*When it’s necessary to take action against hostile conditions we first must:*

- 1. Determine how we’re conditioned to think about ourselves.***

*2. Overcome perceptions others have of us.*

*3. Accept-who God already says we are.*

*Remember, it takes divine revelation to give a proper definition of who we are on the inside of our skin.*

*Becoming who we are, involves knowing who we're not.*

- *The one thing distinguishing us from others is a sense of our true identity and destiny.*

*Insecure people unsure of themselves often live life according to the philosophy of others, trying to be someone else. However, when we know who we are, we are protected from confusion, frustration, self-doubt, and wasted potential.*

## 6

*People with a healthy self-image know who they are; they are not easily moved or intimidated when asked about their identity, purpose, and destiny.*

*For example, John the Baptist was able to fulfill his life assignment because he knew who he was and who he was not.*

**In JOHN 1:19** Now, this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" **20** He confessed (*admitted the truth*), and did not try to conceal it, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."

***Notice:*** *because John knew who he was, he did not have to be competitive to become who he was not.*

***Verse 21*** And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the

Prophet?" And he answered, "No." **22** Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" **23** He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the LORD," 'as the prophet Isaiah said."

*Notice: John knew his life assignment and who he was; he never caved-in to the pressure to be someone other than who he already had become. (I am the Voice for the one who is to come.)*

*People who don't know who they are meant to be will live at a disadvantage when it comes to self-confidence.*

*The answer to these five questions verifies whether a person knows who they are with God.*

### **No. 1 Who Am I?**

*Can we answer this question? This is knowing about our true identity. Self-identity gives us significance and meaning for our lives.*

*Most people get off track in life because they've never answered this question.*

*We live in a world where people struggle with self-identity – all due to lack of spiritual connection.*

***In Acts 17:28, Paul says, "For in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'" (NKJ)***

***The second question to ask is Where Did I Come From?***



*We need to know and understand our true heritage. We will never know who we are until we discover where we came from.*

*Our ability to understand who we truly are is restricted when we limit our knowledge of heritage to simple traditions passed down from preceding generations.*

*Our true heritage must be traced back to God Almighty. Our heritage is not a geographical place on earth nor a tradition passed on from generation to generation.*

**Acts 17:26 says,** “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings” (NKJ).

## 10

*The place we are today is where God assigned us to make a difference in the world.*

*The third question to ask, Why Am I Here?*

*This is about knowing our purpose for being.*

- *When purpose is not known, abuse of one's self will be unavoidable.*

*Abuse means abnormal use; that's why so many of us are dysfunctional.*

*Ignorance about who we are on earth robs us of our potential. In the process, we harm others and ourselves.*

- *Life without purpose is a failed experiment.*

*The fourth question is What Can I Do?*

*This is about discovering and releasing our God-given potential.*

## *This means:*

- *Being all we can be but have not yet become.*
- *Doing all we can do but haven't done yet.*
- *Reaching beyond what's imaginable but have not reached enough.*
- *Accomplishing the impossible but has not accomplished it yet.*

*The possibilities of what we can do are locked in our God-given ability.*

*When God said to Adam, be fruitful and multiply, this implied potential was whatever God said Adam could be.*

*Turning our ability into a skill is the key to success in life.*

*In Matthew 25: 14-30 we find the story of the men with the talent – they took their talents and turned them into skills; they were rewarded in the process. But the one who did not turn his talent into skills lived at a disadvantage.*

*The fifth question to ask is, **Where Am I Going?** This is all about our hope; without hope, life has no meaning.*

***Our decisions:** impact what we do on earth.*

*Knowing and following the original plan for our journey unlocks the potential for success on earth.*

*Life isn't based on how long we live; it is based on the level of contributions we make while we are alive.*

*The Apostle Paul talks about his contribution and success this way:*

*In 2 Timothy 4:6 & 7, For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

*(He knew his purpose and his destiny.)*

*Most people die without knowing who they are; their true self never appeared on earth. Why? Because most people assume the role of an imposter, they live according to how others define their identity.*

# 14

*From childhood, we're often told to grow up to be just like somebody that our parents visioned us to be – instead of being our true selves.*

***Remember:*** *We are an original, not a copy. We are not the vision someone else has for us; we are unique and one-of-a-kind. Our originality comes at conception.*

*We spend too much priceless energy trying to be who we are not in order to fit the standards of society. Our energy needs to be spent on sharpening who we are meant to be.*

- ***No one can defeat or “beat us” us from becoming who we are already are – the only competitors we face are within us.***