

## OVERCOMING IDENTITY THEFT

### *Stolen Identity*

#### **I. One Satan's most prevalent areas of attack is a man's image of himself, his self-identity or how he sees himself; ultimately how a man sees himself will determine who he is in life**

- A. Prov 23:7, Mt 8:8,13, 9:18-25,12:33,15:19, 3 Jn 2, Prov 4:23-Satan works this principle
  - 1. EX: The Eagle and the Chickens
  - 2. No matter who you really are, if the enemy can distort your view and get you to see yourself in a different way, he can keep you from being who you really are and walking it out in your life
  - 3. God can say something about you, but if you don't believe it you won't walk in it
- B. Adam-Satan knows they are like God, but if he can get them to believe they're not he can keep the God-like identity from coming to pass in their lives
  - 1. Genesis 1:26-28-Who was Adam? He was a man created like God
  - 2. Genesis 3:5-They believed they weren't like God and eating of the tree would make them like God
  - 3. They had the self-image/identity that they were not like God and that's exactly what came to pass in their lives
- C. Jesus-Matthew 4-Satan knows Jesus is the son of God, but if he can get Jesus to believe he is not the son of God, he can keep that from manifesting in Jesus' life
  - 1. Satan's Plan: If Jesus would have tried to turn those rocks into bread he would have failed because he wouldn't have been acting on the words of God in faith, but on the words of Satan in fear; if he failed then the next thing that would have begun is him questioning his identity; maybe I'm not the son of God because the son of God should be able to turn rocks into bread; he wouldn't have fulfilled his ministry and maybe would have worked as a carpenter all his life, while the whole time he really his the son of God, but the enemy would have stolen his identity
- D. We can be like God, the righteousness of God, redeemed from the curse, joint-heir with Jesus, have authority over the devil, but if Satan can get us to see ourselves differently, then he can keep all of that from coming to pass in our lives

#### **II. Satan's main concern is not who you are, but how do you see yourself**

- A. Who you really are becomes irrelevant when you see yourself a different way; the real you won't show up
  - 1. Satan does not have the ability to change who you are; however through deception he can change your self-identity
- B. The children of Israel had an identity crisis
  - 1. If Satan can steal our identity, he can keep our potential from manifesting

- a. Exodus 33:1-4-Their potential is to possess the land, but if their identity is stolen, this potential will not manifest
- 2. As long as your identity is unknown your potential will be unmanifested-when you don't know who you are you won't know what you can do-Mark 4:35
  - a. Their identity: Let us pass over to the other side---Their potential: Nothing could stop them
  - b. The storm came, but they didn't know who they were and consequently the potential they had to stop that storm was never released
  - c. Jesus knows who he is and because he did his potential was released and he stopped the storm
  - d. Somehow in their minds they got the image that the storm was bigger than them, but when Jesus spoke those words, he gave them their identity and their potential
- 3. Satan used those 10 spies to reflect and a distorted image to the people (Num 13)
  - a. They saw themselves as not being able to take that land
    - (1) That's not really who they were, but that's how they saw themselves
    - (2) They got their identity from the wrong source/mirror
    - (3) Numbers 14-They died in the wilderness with the potential to go into the promise land, but that potential remained locked up because they didn't know who they were
  - b. Religious correctness will always have a voice that's trying to shape your image and keep your potential trapped
    - (1) When people who know who they are encounter people who don't know who they are they'll get mad
    - (2) They got mad at Joshua and Caleb (Numbers 14:7-10)
    - (3) They got made a David (1 Samuel 17)
      - (a) 28,33-Voces trying to shape his image; trying to get him to believe that he is something other than what God said he was to keep the potential that he had to defeat Goliath locked up
      - (b) 26-David knew who he was, knew who his enemy was
      - (c) The reality was every one of those men could have done what David did, but the potential stayed locked up because they didn't know who they were
    - (4) They got mad Jesus (John 10:34-38)
  - c. Josh 14:7-Caleb was still running with the image of who God said he was
    - (1) They looked in the right mirror and knew who they were and their potential was unlocked

### **III. Your view is distorted and your identity is stolen when you look into a funhouse mirror**

- A. The word is likened to a mirror and to find out about me I look into the mirror (Js 1)
  - 1. A mirror reflects back to you who you are right now

- a. Whatever the mirror says you are, you are; You might feel a different way, but the mirror will never lie
  2. The process of change says: you see yourself as an unrighteous, condemned sinner, but then you look into the mirror and it reflects back to you that you really are the righteousness of God and you continue to look into that and as you do you believe it more and more and you start acting like that
- B. We got to find ourselves in the scripture (John 1:22, Luke 4:16)
- C. Who told you that? Don't get your image from a distorted mirror – Genesis 3:11
1. God is supposed to be the source of our knowledge
    - a. God didn't tell Adam that so he wanted to know where he got that
    - b. Adam got that knowledge through his five physical senses and his senses told his mind and his mind told his spirit and now he believes he's naked because of what his senses said
      - (1) He's living from the outside in when before his spirit was getting in from God and his spirit was telling his mind what to think and his body what to
  2. Where are you getting your knowledge (about you) from?
    - a. "I'm depressed, I'm unworthy" – The mirror didn't tell you that
    - b. You believe that about yourself and as you think in your heart so are you
  3. Your feelings will distort who you are, but the mirror never lies
    - a. Stop feeling to find out who you are and start looking in the mirror
    - b. Some believers need to take a good long continued forever look in the mirror
    - c. EX: Women don't feel to see if their make-up is good, they look in the mirror