

MINIBOOK

YOU ARE GOD'S
BRIGHT IDEA



LET HIM EMPOWER YOUR
BRILLIANT LIFE.

C A R O L Y N S M I T H



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WELCOME TO IDENTITY

God is LOVE. He has made you in His image, so you are meant to thrive in His love and express it. When you act in love, you showcase God's essence and bring a piece of heaven to earth, The Lord's Prayer says, "May Your kingdom come and will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Does this seem like a tall order? It's not. With JESUS, all things are possible! You will look like Jesus to the rest of the world as you live out your purpose and calling from a place of abiding in Jesus Christ, your Savior who deeply loves you and everyone you meet.

This booklet is written to help you abound in your God-given identity, embrace who you are in Jesus Christ, and live out that truth with confidence, purpose, and joy. Here are four steps to help you fully step into your true identity as God's beloved child...and live it out loud!



YOUR BEST FRIEND

Your best friend is Jesus! God created you in love, and in His image. God is love, and He is loving. He made you with wonderful things in mind! Although the world is imperfect, God is flawless and kind. He wants to walk with you through life, guide you, in special relationship with you.

Have you made a mistake? We all have. God calls our mistakes sin. Sin is serious, and it separates us from God. Just like your hard work deserves wages, the wages for sin is death. Death and permanent separation from God. That sounds horrible, but God loves you so much that He would rather die than live without you.

So, He did. Jesus took the burden of our sins by dying a painful death on the cross for them...so we can be forgiven and have a living relationship with God forever. We only need to respond and receive Him. **If you want that, pray this prayer:**

Heavenly Father, I know I have sinned, and sin deserves punishment. I understand Jesus is Your Son, and He has already died to pay the price for my sins if I will confess them and call Him my Lord. I do! Please forgive me of my sins. I surrender my life to You, making Jesus my one and only Lord. Thank You! I forgive everyone of what they have done to me, because You have forgiven me of all I have ever done. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I give my life to You. **Amen!**



ABIDE IN JESUS

CONGRATULATIONS! You have accepted the forgiveness and lordship of Jesus, your Maker. This is a new life in God. If you do not have Jesus, this booklet cannot help you. But if you do, this will be your favorite short guide to Christian life, and you are welcomed to share it freely. Now, let's learn who you are, what makes you special, and how to express it in your life. First, ABIDE!

ABIDE. When you pray, you open yourself to God. He is always speaking and wants to connect. Right now, simply quiet your heart, and tell God you submit to Him, under His authority. Ask Him to place you in the center of His love (you are there, but this helps you experience Him because He is love). Ask Him to help you understand His love, how He thinks, and all He wants to share. Isn't it refreshing? Make this a regular part of your day.

The Holy Spirit has been given to every believer as an earnest for the glory to come. He marks you for God, showing you belong to Him! He will lead you into understanding what you need to know about God, yourself, others, and so much more! Take notes on what God tells you, and follow up on His direction for your life. If you tell God you want Him to lead these conversations, He will lovingly direct you in His ways, and walk you into a greater understanding of His heart for you and what He has for you to do. When you come to know you are a child of God, come under His authority and the authority of heaven, seeking Him for why you were born for this time in history...signs and wonders will follow you and demonstrate your identity.



READ & ACT

READ & ACT. Read the Bible every day, and think about what it says about God, His followers, His promises and guidance. The Bible expresses God's love for you. It points to His plans for you in a good, wholesome, holy life.

An engaging way to begin reading the Bible is to join a Bible study group at a local church or ministry. You can learn how to read, memorize, and put Bible verses into action. You will find people who may partner with you in accountability and growth, and find lifelong friendships to enjoy.

You can also just dive right in! Luke or John are great Bible books for beginners, because they are short and tell many of Jesus' miracles recorded in the Bible. Whatever you choose, put the Bible into action in your own life, so you will grow like Christ, Who has fashioned you for His unique, holy purposes.



CONNECT & STRENGTHEN

CONNECT & STRENGTHEN. People are social by nature, and that is a good thing! Something you may notice as a believer, is that the rest of the world doesn't usually act like we see God wants. The world is dark...but we are the light of the world, because we carry JESUS! We are a beacon of hope and morality to the families, jobs and people groups we inhabit. And, we make a difference. It would be hard to do this alone, so community helps.

Believers need each another. Christian community works with prayer and Bible study to grow and develop each of us into the mature, strong Christians we can become. With this strength, we each step into society to shine the light of Jesus to others in the way we do our jobs and interact with excellence.

Where can we connect with other believers? Church services, small groups, Bible studies and other social gatherings are all options where people can hang out, talk about God, and grow strong in the Lord together.

SHARE & IMPACT

SHARE & IMPACT. What if you learn everything you can about fishing? You learn about water, habitat, weather changes, fish behavior - all of it. Perhaps you learn about rods and reels, bait, seasonal changes in bait and fishing techniques. Maybe you watch endless hours of videos on boats, jigging, trolling, flip casting and more. But...*you never go fishing*. Are you a fisherman? Nope. You're just interested. The same goes for a dynamic Christian life. You can't live out your calling without taking action.

You were made a new creation in Christ when you accepted Jesus as your Savior and Lord. It was the very best decision you have, or ever will, make. Tell others about your decision so they can have eternal life, too! They will be forever grateful! Be sure to invite them to church and social groups. And, faithfully pray for them as you spend time with God.

Likewise, God has been speaking to you very directly and clearly about what He likes about you, what is important to Him about you, and how that takes action. If you don't feel that way, please ask Him to do so. He is willing! Take notes on everything He tells you. Ask Him 1) what He wants; 2) how that looks; 3) what He wants you to do about it; and 4) how that should look, too. When you stay in constant communication with God and follow Him in what He wants you to do (not assuming anything), you will begin to live out your identity and purpose in a dynamic way. And as you learn God's will and spend time with Him, you take on His ways - what He thinks and feels about things, and what He values, how He acts. At that point, you adopt His ways and His will flows effortlessly from your life as an expression of His love.

WANT MORE?

I hope you have enjoyed this eBook on Identity and Purpose. Want more? Dave Hauer and I coach people to rise into their callings. Whether you want to delve further into identity and purpose, are ready to start a business or non-profit, or would like to explore global evangelism, we have a track for you. Please reach out at carolyn.smith@undertheinfluenceministries.org for a 30-minute consultation. For more growth resources, click below:



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