

Chapter 3

My Identity

Name Study

Is your calling clear to you yet? If not, it's ok. You have more time to figure it out. Do you understand that God qualified you, The Called? Cool, now it's time to identify who you are to effectively walk in your purpose. Ask yourself, why is understanding my identity important when it comes to my purpose? Selah on that.... How can you get to where you're going if you haven't studied your makeup? And by makeup, I mean what makes you, you.

Three things you need to know when it comes to your identity are: Who you are now? Here you will go through the shedding process of letting go of past limitations. Then, who are you becoming? This is where you will experience the molding process as God shapes you for your purpose. Lastly, how to embrace God's design? Here you'll embark on the adapting process as you align your life with His divine plan.

Understanding who you are in the present empowers you to release burdens and walk in the freedom of God's love. Embracing the transformative journey of becoming involves discovering the profound meaning behind your name and embracing the qualities God instilled within you.

Let us begin by exploring the profound concept of a name study. At its core, a name study involves digging deep into the origin and meaning of one's name.

With every revelation, we gain a profound understanding of how God, in His boundless wisdom, has meticulously designed us with intention and purpose. Each name carries a story, reflecting the qualities, strengths, and destiny God has prepared for us.

Have you ever thought about the meaning behind your name? It's like discovering a hidden treasure that connects us even closer to God and His unique plan for our lives. Just as a skilled artist crafts a masterpiece, God has a special design for each of us. In Psalm 32:8, God promises, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you." This shows that God is actively guiding us, helping us explore our identity, grow personally, and find genuine happiness.

When we take time to study our names, it's like unlocking a source of renewed inspiration and confidence. Imagine feeling motivated and assured that your life has a purpose. In Jeremiah 29:11, God assures us, "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." This means that just like a cherished design, we are uniquely crafted by the Master Architect Himself. As we journey through this process, we discover a sense of empowerment, understanding that God has created us to be special and distinct, just like a beautifully designed work of art.

So, when you reflect on your name's meaning, remember that it's like a personal message from God, guiding you towards self-discovery, personal growth, and meaningful fulfillment. Embrace the assurance that you are part of God's intricate plan and that your life is a masterpiece in His eyes.

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In the middle of my journey through a business course designed for women of faith in business, a pivotal moment of divine guidance took place. It was during this time that God spoke through an accountability partner, impressing upon me the importance of undertaking a name study. The message struck a chord within me, communicating that through the depths of this quest, I would uncover the core essence of my identity. This directive from God revealed a path toward deeper self-awareness and purpose.

With this insight, I initiated the journey of deciphering the meaning of my name. The journey felt like finding a secret treasure, revealing insights that helped me grasp not just the plain meaning of my name but also its spiritual connection. As I dove into this study, something amazing started to unfold. Going through the different aspects of my name wasn't just about learning words; it turned out to be a powerful experience that made me feel stronger inside and sparked a fresh sense of faith.

My name is Shakima Yvonne. Shakima's origin is African, meaning beautiful one. Kima is of Swahili and African Dutch origin meaning love. And in German, it means established by God. Whew...that one had me stuck for a few minutes. Now, as for my middle name Yvonne, in French, it means being a female archer, beautiful, courageous amongst many more definitions. I dug deeper and a female archer is linked to strength and equality.

The reason for understanding the intent of why I was named Shakima Yvonne was because who God knew me to be when I was just thought, was soon enough to be born.

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And I thought my mom believed it was cute to name me after two aunts. At the time this word was released, God told me to keep to myself and not engage with certain people. It wasn't until I was hidden that my true identity was released.

Through the revelations gifted by my name study, I discovered facets of myself that had long been dormant. It was as though each layer peeled away was an unveiling of qualities and strengths I had yet to fully recognize. This process of self-discovery, ignited by divine guidance and fueled by my commitment, cultivated a deeper level of confidence within me. In addition, it helped me realize that I am part of God's divine plan, uniquely crafted for a purpose that matches my name's essence.

As I stated above, when understanding your identity, you have to ask yourself "Who am I Now?" I want you to begin by acknowledging the significance of understanding your current identity. You are a unique individual with a story shaped by experiences, both triumphs and challenges. Embracing who you are in the present is essential because it lays the foundation for your journey of purpose. When you recognize and accept yourself as you are now, it becomes easier to move forward with confidence and clarity.

Consider this: you are not a carbon copy of anyone else. You are a puzzle, formed by the pieces of your unique experiences, each contributing to the picture of who you are both the highs that brought joy and the lows that tested your resilience.

Each triumph and challenge has etched its mark, creating a unique narrative that belongs to you alone. Simply acknowledging this mix of experiences sets the stage for truly understanding who you are right now.

Think of your present identity like the sturdy base that holds up the magnificent structure of your purpose. It's similar to how a skilled builder ensures the foundation can handle the weight above. Just as you'd want a strong starting point for a journey, knowing who you are now is vital for your purposeful path. It's like having a map for an exciting journey – if you don't know where you're starting, finding your way to the destination becomes a real challenge.

Let's chat about the incredible strength that comes from embracing who you are right now. It's not about comparing yourself to others or getting caught up in past blunders; it's about wholeheartedly embracing the person you've become today. When you do that, you gain a boost of self-assurance and a crystal-clear view of where you're headed. Picture this: it's like putting on armor before stepping onto a battlefield – it shields you from doubts and hesitations, giving you the courage to march forward.

About a month prior to my separation, God sent me a warning. He said that on the path to discovering my true identity, there would be some people I'd have to let go of. Looking back, I see this as the shedding process, a time of releasing what no longer aligns with where God is taking me. Some of the relationships I had before were entwined with spirits that could potentially hinder my future.

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It wasn't easy to witness, but I saw jealousy seeping through from people I considered friends. Tears welled up in my eyes as I grappled with this reality, but in the midst of it, I knew I had to follow God's lead.

Let me tell you, those four months weren't a walk in the park. I often refer to that period as my hidden season. It felt like God had tucked me away, like a precious treasure he wanted to safeguard, shielded from anything that could tarnish his promises for me. Looking back, I see the wisdom in it.

He kept me hidden not because I was weak, but because he saw the strength in my obedience and trust. It's not an easy thing to let go of people, even when you understand it's necessary for your growth and purpose. But through those challenging months, I held onto my faith, leaning on God's guidance as I navigated the shadows.

Once I got a grip on who I was at that very moment, the real journey began: figuring out who I was destined to become. It's not just about now, it's about embracing the future version of myself that God had in mind even before I existed as anything more than a fleeting thought. This part of the process taught me that knowing who we're evolving into is like unlocking the map of where we're headed.

Think about it this way: imagine you're planning a cross-country road trip. You wouldn't just start driving without a destination in mind, right? Similarly, understanding who we're becoming is like setting the GPS for our journey.

It's about being aligned with the version of ourselves that God has painted in his plan for us. Every step we take, every decision we make, it's all part of this incredible transformation journey.

This phase of understanding our future self is like witnessing God's molding process in action. Just as a potter shapes clay into a beautiful vessel, God molds and refines us into the individuals we're meant to be. It's about recognizing that every challenge, every joy, every experience – they're all part of God's masterful crafting. Just as clay yields to the potter's hands, we yield to God's guiding hand, allowing ourselves to be shaped into vessels of purpose and impact. As we journey through this molding process, we can trust that every twist and turn is contributing to the masterpiece God is creating in us.

And now, as we absorb the essence of shaping our future selves, let's explore the final piece of the puzzle: embracing God's design. This phase is all about stepping into the adapting process, where we synchronize our lives with His divine blueprint.

Picture it like this: imagine you're trying on a tailor-made suit. It's not just about putting on the outfit; it's about adjusting and aligning every seam to perfectly match your body.

Similarly, embracing God's design is about aligning ourselves with His purposeful plan, ensuring that every facet of our lives resonates with His intentions for us.

It's like discovering a hidden treasure map that guides us through uncharted territories. This adapting process is our compass, helping us navigate the journey as we adapt, change, and align -

ourselves with God's grand vision. It's not always straightforward; just like the suit may need some alterations to fit perfectly, we too need to adjust, grow, and sometimes even let go of things that don't align with God's plan.

As we move forward in this journey, remember that this adapting process is about walking hand in hand with God. It's about entrusting ourselves to His guidance and being open to His promptings. Just as a ship adjusts its sails to catch the wind, we adjust our lives to catch the currents of God's purpose. It's a path of transformation and growth, where we embrace the changes, challenges, and blessings that come our way, knowing that every step is leading us closer to fulfilling our unique purpose in God's masterful design.

So, in this journey of self-discovery and purpose, we have explored the three vital aspects of our identity: who we are, who we are becoming, and how to embrace God's design. Beginning with understanding our current identity, we've learned that we are not just a collection of experiences; we are a unique tapestry woven with threads of triumphs and trials. Recognizing and embracing our present selves lays the foundation for the transformative path ahead.

Moving forward, we've explored the molding process, wherein we uncover the blueprint of who we are destined to become. Just as clay yields to the potter's hands, we let God shape us into vessels of purpose, trusting that every experience molds us for His divine plan.

And finally, we've delved into the adapting process, where we align ourselves with God's design. It's about tailoring our lives to match His purpose, navigating through changes and adjustments, all while walking hand in hand with Him. Just as a ship adjusts its sails to catch the wind, we adjust our lives to catch the currents of God's plan.

As we conclude this voyage of self-discovery and purpose, remember that the journey doesn't end here; it's an ongoing expedition of growth, transformation, and fulfillment. With every step, we uncover more layers of our identity, drawing closer to the purpose God has meticulously crafted for us. So, embrace who you are, embrace who you're becoming, and embrace God's design with open hearts, unwavering faith, and the assurance that you are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Remember, your journey toward your purpose starts right here, right now. It's all about accepting your uniqueness, learning from your experiences, and boldly embracing the person you are in this very moment. By doing so, you're preparing the ground for an incredible adventure where you'll uncover deeper meanings and satisfaction that are waiting just for you.

Tips for doing a name study

- **Set Intentions:** Set intentions for your name study, such as seeking personal growth, understanding your purpose, or deepening your connection with God.

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- **Research Your Name's Meaning:** Begin by researching the origin and meaning of your name. Look up its historical, cultural, and linguistic significance. Consider exploring variations of your name in different languages to gain a broader perspective.
- **Explore Biblical Names:** If your name has a biblical origin, delve into any biblical characters who shared your name. Reflect on their stories and how their experiences might resonate with your own journey.
- **Use Online Resources:** Utilize online name dictionaries or websites that provide name meanings and insights. These resources can offer a starting point for understanding the essence of your name.
- **Talk to Family Members:** Reach out to family members, especially older relatives, to gather insights into why you were given your name. Sometimes, family stories or traditions shed light on the significance of your name.
- **Prayer and Meditation:** Spend time in prayer and meditation, asking God to reveal the deeper meaning of your name and its connection to your purpose. Meditate on your name as you seek spiritual insight.
- **Journal Your Insights:** Keep a journal dedicated to your name study. Write down your research findings, personal reflections, and any emotions or revelations that surface during the process.

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- **Reflect on Personal Associations:** Consider any personal associations or connections you have with your name. Think about how your name has impacted your identity and sense of self.
- **Seek Spiritual Guidance:** Seek guidance from a spiritual mentor, pastor, or trusted friend. Discuss your name study with them and listen to their insights and perspectives.
- **Apply Insights to Your Life:** As you uncover insights about your name's meaning, consider how these qualities can be applied to your daily life and interactions.
- **Celebrate Your Identity:** Embrace and celebrate your name and its significance. Use it as a reminder of your journey toward self-discovery and purpose.