

IDENTITY



REMEMBER WHO
YOU ARE – AND
WHOSE YOU ARE

TheSecondActMinistry.com

From My Story: Why Identity Is More Than a Buzzword	3
Introduction: This Is Personal	5
CHAPTER 1 – I: Image-Bearer	7
CHAPTER 2 – D: Daughter / Son	9
CHAPTER 3 – E: Empowered	11
CHAPTER 4 – N: New Creation	13
CHAPTER 5 – T: Temple	15
CHAPTER 6 – I: In Christ	17
CHAPTER 7 – T: Trusted	19
CHAPTER 8 – Y: Yours	21
BONUS CHAPTER – Live From It, Not For It	23
One Final Word: Walk Like It's True	25
One Last Declaration I am who God says I am. I will no longer shrink to fit old lies. I will not earn what I've already been given. I will walk boldly in my identity — and help others do the same. I am chosen. I am changed. I am commissioned. I am His.	25

IDENTITY

Who God Says You Are Changes Everything
A Second Act Starter by Kalan Paul

From My Story: Why Identity Is More Than a Buzzword

Before I ever wrote a book about identity, I lived the fight for it.

I was a kid who moved 22 times before I graduated high school. Changed schools 12 times. I didn't grow up with certainty — I grew up with chaos. And then, just a week before one of my birthdays, my father died in a car wreck. That loss didn't just shake me — it shaped me.

By 16, I was living alone. Not because I was grown — but because life didn't give me the luxury of staying a kid. I knew how to survive. But I didn't know who I was.

And that right there — that's where the enemy does his work.

When you're young and unanchored... when you're hurting and unheard... it's easy to start believing lies. That you don't matter. That you're on your own. That you're too broken to belong. And those lies don't stay in childhood — they grow up with you.

I carried those questions into early adulthood, into marriage, ministry, and moments where I should've felt confident. But I didn't. Because no one can live secure when they don't know whose they are.

Then came the moment everything really fell apart.

We walked through infertility for thirteen years. Lost income. Lost clarity. I watched my dreams slip through my fingers, and with them, my sense of purpose. I felt like I was failing as a man, a husband, a believer. And somewhere in the middle of the shame, God whispered something I'll never forget:

“You're not on trial. You're in the family.”

That sentence rewrote me.

We later adopted four siblings in one day — four kids from hard places who reminded me what it means to live without identity... and what it looks like to finally receive it.

I've seen what happens when people forget who they are. I've lived it. And I've seen what changes when they remember — really remember — that they are chosen, sealed, loved, and sent.

So when I say this book matters, I'm not speaking from theory.

I'm speaking as a son who had to learn his Father's voice.
As a man who had to rebuild from ashes.
As a dad who has looked into orphaned eyes and said, "You're mine."

This message is personal. It's urgent. And it's yours now, too.

So lean in. Not just to the teaching — but to the truth.

Because who you are in Christ? It's more secure than you know.
And when you live from that place — everything changes.

Introduction: This Is Personal

I didn't write this book because identity is a trendy message.

I wrote it because it's a battleground. Because I've lived it. Because I've fought for it. And because I've seen — both in my life and in the lives of others — what happens when we forget who we really are.

I'm an adoptive parent to kids from hard places. I've watched what happens when children don't know who they belong to. I've seen what fear, trauma, and confusion do to the heart of a son or daughter when they don't feel safe in their own story. And it's taught me something I'll never forget:

If the enemy can confuse your identity, he can control your destiny.

If he can convince you that you're just barely accepted... that you're only as loved as your last success... that you're still the sum of your past...

Then he doesn't have to get you to sin wildly. He just has to keep you small. Silent. Stuck.

I believe that's the real strategy of hell. Because the moment you remember who you are — really are in Christ — you become dangerous.

You stop shrinking. You stop striving. And you start walking in what God called you to do with clarity, authority, and freedom.

This book is about that moment. The one where you finally stop performing and start standing. Where you throw off every old name, every false label, every orphan-hearted lie — and step into your identity like someone who knows:

“I am chosen. I am sealed. I am sent. I am loved. I am His.”

Because that's when the second act begins.

Let me tell you how I know this is true.

As an adoptive parent, this message of identity isn't just theory to me — it's personal.

My wife and I adopted children who came from hard places. They were young, scared, and wounded. But when we felt led to make them part of our family, their lives changed — and so did ours.

I'll never forget that moment in the courthouse. We stood before the judge with our four kids, and as he signed the adoption papers, she looked up and said:

“It is final.”

And that's exactly what happens when we give our lives to Jesus. It's not a hope. It's not a maybe. It is final. It is official. It is decreed in Heaven: You are part of God's family.

My children received a new name — my name. Their bloodline changed hands. They moved from instability to security. From surviving to being seen. From lacking love to being lavished in it.

And when they messed up — especially when they were small — I didn't look at them with anger or judgment. I saw those little squishy faces, and the moment they said, "Sorry, Daddy," it was already forgotten.

I'd pick them up and say: "It's okay. We all make mistakes. Let's try again."

That's the Father's heart for you.

As imperfect parents, we get it wrong. But even in my broken love, I caught a glimpse of something holy:

God always sees you like that — loved, held, secure. He's not waiting to punish you. He's ready to pick you up.

So when the enemy tries to make you question your place... when shame tells you you've been disqualified... remember what the Judge said in that courtroom:

"It is final."

You are His.

CHAPTER 1 – I: Image-Bearer

You Were Made to Reflect the Heart of God

Word Picture: The Mirror

A mirror doesn't invent your reflection — it reveals it.

Your identity isn't something you create or achieve. It's something you stand in front of and remember.

When God made you in His image, He gave you a reflection that already holds value, beauty, and purpose. The problem? The world hands us distorted mirrors — warped by shame, fear, or lies.

But when you stand before the mirror of God's truth, you see clearly:

“You look like Me. You carry My design. You matter.”

The world offers funhouse mirrors — warped and unstable.

God offers clarity: *You reflect what I made — and I don't make mistakes.*

You Don't Have to Earn What You Were Born With

You didn't get your worth when you got saved.

You didn't earn it with good behavior.

You weren't handed it when someone finally noticed your gifts.

You had it the moment God breathed life into you.

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

— *Genesis 1:27*

Bible Character: Adam & Eve

Created in God's image, Adam and Eve walked in perfect identity — until shame distorted it. But even after the fall, God came looking for them, covering their failure with grace.

My Story: Where This Became Real

For a long time, I measured myself by what I could do.

If I was producing, I had value. If I was performing well, I felt good. If I failed, I felt like I was the failure — not that I made one. I lived in a loop of performance, perfection, and pressure... and it left me exhausted.

I remember a moment when I was quietly asking God, “Am I enough?” — but honestly, I was expecting Him to say something I needed to fix.

Instead, I sensed Him gently whisper:

“You’re already Mine. You bear My image. You don’t have to earn what I already placed on you.”

That moment didn’t just encourage me. It started healing me.

From then on, I stopped trying to prove my worth and started reflecting the One who gave it to me.

Reflection:

- What mirrors have you been looking into that distort your God-given image?
- Where do you most need to see yourself the way God sees you?

Declaration

I am an image-bearer of God. I reflect His heart, His design, and His purpose. My worth is not up for debate. It was decided in the beginning.

Activation

Look in the mirror today and say out loud:

“I reflect God’s image — on purpose.”

Then write down the biggest lie you've believed about your worth. Ask God to give you a truth to replace it — and speak that truth every day this week.

CHAPTER 2 – D: Daughter / Son

You Weren't Just Forgiven—You Were Adopted

Word Picture: The Courthouse

Adoption isn't a feeling — it's a legal change. A declaration that says, "You belong. You're covered. You're home."

In Christ, you weren't just forgiven — you were adopted. Not tolerated. Not barely accepted. Chosen.

When a judge finalizes an adoption, it's more than paperwork. It's an identity shift. A child who had no name, no stability, no inheritance — suddenly receives it all. That's what the Father did for you.

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

— *John 1:12*

Bible Character: Mephibosheth

Once a forgotten descendant of Saul, Mephibosheth was brought to King David's table, not for what he'd done, but because of covenant. He was given a place of honor — just like us.

My Story: Where This Became Real

The first time I stood in a courtroom to adopt, I was trembling.

Not because I didn't want it — but because I knew how big it was. These kids were coming from trauma, chaos, and confusion. And now, with the stroke of a pen, everything was changing. Their name. Their legal standing. Their forever.

The judge looked at us and said, "Do you understand what this means? These children will now have full legal rights as your children — as if born to you."

I nodded, tears filling my eyes. And then she said:

"It is final."

I'll never forget that.

When I walked out of the courtroom, I realized something: That's exactly what God said about me. I wasn't an orphan trying to earn my place. I was already seated at the table.

Reflection:

- Do you ever feel like you're just barely accepted by God?
- What would it look like to live like you're fully adopted — with full rights as His child?

Declaration

I am not just forgiven — I am adopted. God chose me. I have a place at His table. My identity is secure. My adoption is final.

Activation

Write the words: “It is final” on a sticky note or card and place it somewhere you’ll see it often this week.

Every time you feel unworthy or uncertain, speak this aloud:

“I am a child of God. My place in His family is not up for negotiation.”

CHAPTER 3 – E: Empowered

You've Been Given Everything You Need

Word Picture: The Backpack

Imagine being handed a fully packed backpack before a major hike — one with food, water, tools, and even a map. Now imagine forgetting it was strapped to your back the whole time while you struggled through the journey.

That's what it's like to live as a believer without realizing the power and authority you've been given in Christ.

“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him...”

— 2 Peter 1:3

You don't have to manufacture strength. You don't have to borrow someone else's gifting. You've been equipped — fully.

Bible Character: Peter

Peter was impulsive, loud, and even denied Jesus... yet he was chosen to preach at Pentecost. Why? Because Jesus empowered him through the Spirit. What he lacked in perfection, God filled with power.

My Story: Where This Became Real

I used to think boldness was for the platform. That spiritual power belonged to pastors, missionaries, or those who had it all together. But I'll never forget the moment God used me in a setting I didn't expect.

I was sharing what seemed to me like a past failure while giving my testimony at a small group gathering in The Czech Republic.

Afterwards the translator and her son came over and talked with me. She said I went through a similar experience and thought my chance to minister to others was over, I was disqualified.

Hearing your story and how God was and is still using you encouraged me that I'm not disqualified and he can still use me.

It wasn't eloquence. It wasn't a stage. It was obedience. And it taught me something:

Power is for every believer — not just the ones with microphones.

Reflection:

- Where have you felt unequipped or under-qualified?
- What would change if you really believed God has already empowered you?

Declaration

I have been empowered by God. I lack nothing needed to live boldly and love deeply. His Spirit is in me. His grace is enough. I am ready for every good work.

Activation

List one area where you've been hesitating — waiting to feel "ready."

Now ask God, "What step can I take in faith today, trusting You've equipped me?"

Then take it. Even if it's small. Even if you're scared.

Because obedience is often the spark that ignites empowerment.

CHAPTER 4 – N: New Creation

You Are Not Who You Used to Be

Word Picture: The Birth Certificate

When a baby is born, a certificate is issued — a permanent record of new life. It marks a beginning. A new name. A fresh start.

That’s what happens spiritually when we come to Christ. You are born again. Not rebranded. Not repaired. Reborn.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

— *2 Corinthians 5:17*

You are not a slightly improved version of your old self. You are made new — completely.

Bible Character: Paul

Formerly Saul, a persecutor of the church, Paul’s identity was radically transformed. His past was intense, but God used it to showcase radical redemption.

My Story: Where This Became Real

There was a season in my life where shame had me convinced I was just a cleaned-up version of my mess. That God had saved me, but I’d always carry the stain of who I had been.

Until one day, I was talking with someone from my past — someone who knew the old me. After we talked for a few minutes, they said, “Man, you’re not the same guy I used to know.”

At first, I took it as a simple compliment. But as I walked away, God whispered:

“That’s because I didn’t patch you up — I made you new.”

Tears came to my eyes. It wasn’t just a spiritual concept anymore. It was personal. My birth certificate had been rewritten — by grace.

Reflection:

- Are there parts of your past you still let define your present?
- What would change if you truly believed the old has gone and the new has come?

Declaration

I am a new creation in Christ. My past no longer has power over my identity. I am not who I used to be. I have been made new — fully, freely, forever.

Activation

Take a blank sheet of paper. Write the words: “NEW CREATION” across the top.

Then list the old labels or lies you’ve carried.

Now, cross them out boldly. And under each one, write what God says is true about you now.

This is your spiritual birth certificate. Keep it where you’ll see it. You are new.

CHAPTER 5 – T: Temple

God Lives in You, Not Just Around You

Word Picture: The Home

Think of a house that's been fully furnished and occupied. It's not just a shell — it's someone's home. They live there. It's where they rest, work, and stay.

That's what your life is like to God.

He doesn't just visit you. He dwells in you.

“Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?”

— *1 Corinthians 3:16*

Your body, your life, your heart — they've become His home. He moved in, not just to observe, but to transform.

Bible Character: Solomon

When Solomon dedicated the temple, the glory of the Lord filled it so powerfully that no one could stand. Today, that same glory lives in you — not in a building, but in your spirit.

My Story: Where This Became Real

I remember standing in a quiet worship service once, feeling completely empty. I had just come through a hard season — emotionally drained, spiritually disconnected. I was trying to engage, but everything felt distant.

Then the worship leader said something that hit me in the chest: “You don't have to fight your way to God. He's already in the room — in fact, He's in you.”

Tears welled up. I didn't feel holy. I didn't feel worthy. But right there in that moment, I remembered:

I am His temple. He lives in me. And He hasn't left.

That truth carried me through. Because when you know God dwells in you, you stop chasing His presence and start hosting it.

Reflection:

- Do you believe God really lives in you — not just visits you?
- How would your day look different if you lived from that reality?

Declaration

I am God's temple. His Spirit lives in me. I carry His presence everywhere I go. I don't have to strive to be close — He's already here.

Activation

Pause right now. Take a deep breath. Say aloud:

“God, thank You for making Your home in me.”

Then spend five minutes simply being still. No requests. No fixing. Just awareness. Let that quiet become holy.

You are not alone. You are His dwelling place.

CHAPTER 6 – I: In Christ

Your Position Is Permanent, Not Performance-Based

Word Picture: The Passport

A passport grants access based on citizenship — not performance. You don't have to prove your worth to use it; you just have to show you belong.

Being “in Christ” means your identity is rooted in your position, not your perfection. You belong. You're covered. You carry the name.

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...”
— *Romans 8:1*

The world may still try to accuse you. But your location is secure. You are in Him.

Bible Character: Noah

When Noah entered the ark, he was surrounded by God's provision and protection. The flood came, but Noah's position in the ark saved him. Today, Christ is your ark — your refuge.

My Story: Where This Became Real

During one of the hardest ministry seasons of my life, I began to feel like a failure. I hadn't “fallen” in the ways people fear — no moral breakdown — but I was tired, discouraged, and wondering if I had disappointed God.

In my journal one day, I wrote: “God, am I still in Your will? Did I mess this up too badly?”

I flipped open my Bible and my eyes fell on Romans 8. And the first line hit me like a wave:

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Right then, I felt the Holy Spirit whisper: “You're not outside. You're in Me. That hasn't changed.”

It was like breathing again.

I realized that being in Christ meant I didn't have to earn my spot each day. I was already seated in heavenly places — not striving for position, but living from it.

Reflection:

- Where do you feel like you're striving to stay “in good standing” with God?
- What does being “in Christ” make permanently true about you?

Declaration

I am in Christ. My position is secure, not based on performance but on grace. There is no condemnation over my life. I live covered, called, and complete in Him.

Activation

Take a moment today to read Romans 8:1–2 slowly, out loud.

Write the words: “In Christ = No Condemnation” on a notecard or your phone background this week.

Every time shame tries to speak, answer it with: “I’m in Christ. That’s not who I am anymore.”

CHAPTER 7 – T: Trusted

God Doesn't Just Save You — He Sends You

Word Picture: The Keys

Imagine being handed keys to something valuable — a house, a vehicle, a ministry. You don't give keys to just anyone. Keys mean trust.

God hasn't just saved you from something. He's trusted you with something.

“We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.”
— *2 Corinthians 5:20*

You carry His message. You represent His name. You are trusted.

Bible Character: Esther

A young woman from obscurity, trusted with a position that could change history. She risked everything — and saved a nation. Her identity became her assignment.

My Story: Where This Became Real

When we adopted our kids, we were given keys to a new life — not just for them, but for us. It was overwhelming. We felt unequipped, underprepared, and totally out of our depth.

But as the days turned into years, I realized something. God didn't wait until we were flawless parents to give us that responsibility. He trusted us with the assignment — and grew us in the process.

That truth changed the way I saw calling.

God's trust isn't a reward for perfection. It's an invitation into partnership.

He hands you keys before you feel ready. Not to set you up for failure — but because He sees what He placed in you.

Reflection:

- Where have you felt unworthy of God's trust?
- What would shift if you saw your calling as an entrusted assignment, not a test?

Declaration

I am trusted by God. He has placed gifts in me, a calling on me, and purpose through me. I carry His authority as His ambassador. I will walk worthy of the trust He's placed in me.

Activation

Find a literal key and carry it with you this week. Every time you see or feel it, let it remind you:

“I am trusted. I carry something sacred.”

Write down one area where God has entrusted you — in family, work, ministry, or influence.
Then ask Him how to steward it with faith and boldness.

CHAPTER 8 – Y: Yours

You Belong Completely and Eternally

Word Picture: The Seal

In biblical times, kings sealed letters with a signet ring — proof that the message carried their full authority and identity. Once sealed, the contents were protected, and the destination guaranteed.

That’s what God did with you. When you gave Him your heart, He sealed you with His Spirit.

“When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit...”
— *Ephesians 1:13*

You don’t belong to the world. You don’t belong to your past. You are His — sealed, seen, and sent.

Bible Character: Ruth

A foreigner with no status, Ruth’s loyalty and humility led to redemption. Boaz didn’t just provide for her — he claimed her as his own. Her story didn’t just change — her name and legacy did, too.

My Story: Where This Became Real

One night, after a long, emotional day with one of our kids — one where things went sideways fast — I sat alone wondering if we’d ever be enough for them. Would they ever feel safe? Would they ever believe they really belonged?

As I prayed, I sensed God ask me a question:

“Do you ever feel like that with Me?”

Tears fell. Because yes — I had. I’d wondered if I was too much or not enough. I’d wondered if I’d ever really feel like I belonged. And in that moment, I felt Him whisper:

“You’re mine. You always have been.”

Something broke in me. Not in a bad way — in a beautiful one. Because the longing to belong isn’t weakness. It’s a signal. And it leads us home.

Reflection:

- Are there places in your heart that still feel unsure about whether you belong?
- What would it look like to live from the assurance that you are fully God’s?

Declaration

I am God's. He sealed me with His Spirit. I am not striving for a place — I already have one. I belong, fully and forever.

Activation

Write the word “YOURS” on your hand, a notecard, or phone lock screen.

Every time you see it, pause and say:

“God, I’m Yours. Fully. Forever. Thank You for choosing me.”

Let that word become your anchor this week — and your anthem going forward.

BONUS CHAPTER – Live From It, Not For It

Identity Was Meant to Be Worn, Not Earned

Word Picture: The Jacket

When you wear something that fits you well, you walk differently. You don't have to think about it or earn it — it just fits.

That's how identity works. When it's real, it doesn't have to be forced. You don't perform for it. You live from it.

“You were taught... to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

— *Ephesians 4:24*

Your identity isn't just a truth to understand. It's a wardrobe to wear. And it changes the way you carry yourself.

Bible Character: Joseph

Joseph's father gave him a robe — a visible sign of favor and identity. Even when life stripped it away, the call remained. And eventually, Joseph wore royal robes again, this time with authority and purpose.

My Story: Where This Became Real

I used to think I had to earn my way back into God's good graces every time I failed. I'd mess up and instantly start performing — trying to pray more, read more, serve harder. As if my effort could clothe me again.

But over time, God began to teach me something different.

My identity wasn't removed every time I messed up. Grace didn't vanish. The jacket still fit — even when I forgot how to wear it.

And one day, in prayer, I sensed God say:

“Son, stop trying to dress yourself in shame. I already clothed you in righteousness.”

That moment changed the way I lived. Not for identity, but from it.

Reflection:

- In what areas are you still performing for identity instead of living from it?
- What would it look like to rest in the truth that you're already clothed in Christ?

Declaration

I live from identity, not for it. I have been clothed in righteousness. I don't have to prove my worth — I wear what God placed on me.

Activation

Choose one piece of clothing (jacket, bracelet, necklace) to wear this week as a reminder.

Every time you put it on, say aloud:

“This fits. Because I am clothed in Christ.”

One Final Word: Walk Like It's True

You've walked through every layer of the word I.D.E.N.T.I.T.Y. You've reflected, declared, and activated. But the most powerful transformation comes not in the knowing — but in the living.

So this is your charge:

Don't just remember who you are. Walk like it's true.

Let your words, your decisions, your relationships, your risks — all flow from a heart anchored in God's truth about you. When doubt comes, go back to the declarations. When fear comes, revisit the reflections. When lies rise up, shout louder:

“I know who I am. I am His.”

You are an image-bearer. A child. A new creation. A temple. Empowered. In Christ. Trusted. Sealed. Sent.

You are not who the world says you are. You are who Heaven says you are.

So go. Live it. Speak it. Stand in it.

Because identity isn't just something you carry — it's something you release.

And the world is waiting for the real you to show up.

One Last Declaration

I am who God says I am. I will no longer shrink to fit old lies. I will not earn what I've already been given. I will walk boldly in my identity — and help others do the same.

I am chosen. I am changed. I am commissioned.

I am His.

Salvation Prayer: "Dear Lord Jesus, I acknowledge that I am a sinner in need of your forgiveness. I believe that you died on the cross for my sins and rose again. I confess my sins to you and ask for your forgiveness. I invite you into my heart and life to be my Lord and Savior. Thank you for your grace and mercy. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Scripture References:

- "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." (Romans 3:23, NLT)
- "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." (Romans 5:8, NLT)
- "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9, NLT)

Baptism is an important step in the life of a believer, symbolizing the washing away of sins and the beginning of a new life in Christ. After accepting Jesus as your Savior, it's recommended to follow His command to be baptized. Baptism is a public declaration of your faith and commitment to follow Jesus. It's an outward expression of an inward change. Seek out a local Christian community or church where you can be baptized and continue to grow in your faith with fellow believers.

I recommend that you get plugged into a local church or home group that follows Biblical teaching.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

WHO YOU ARE CHANGES EVERYTHING.

You weren't created to wonder who you are —
you were *created to walk* in it.

In a world full of identity confusion, *IDENTITY* invites you to rediscover the unshakable truth of who God says you are. This short, story-driven resource helps you move from insecurity to clarity. from striving to standing, from "what if" to "I am."

An image-bearer with purpose
A son or daughter with full rights
A new creation with a fresh start
A Spirit-filled temple of God's presence

You don't have to chase identity. You've
already been chosen.

Let this be the moment you stop performing
and start living — as someone loved,
called, and completely His.

Part of the Second Act Starter Series

For more tools to live boldly in your calling, visit:

TheSecondActMinistry.com

