



# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

## PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

### “IDENTITY CRISIS”

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“Who are you?” It sounds like an easy question, but it really isn’t because not so many people can immediately answer the question. We wear so many masks and costumes living the game of perception because we want people to think that we are somebody or we are not somebody. We often get lost in the masks we wear and the roles we play that we end up not knowing who we really are anymore. Identity crisis can lead a person to self-pity, self-abasement, suicide or even copy or compare oneself to others. The first step to abundant life is to figure out who we really are and work out that life because God has a wonderful plan for all of us (Jeremiah 29:11).

#### **1. Having an abundant life starts with the answers to the query “Who am I?”**

1.1 We should ask God to show us who we really are-the person He created (Psalm 139). God can help us embrace the good and bad and to refine the bad in us for His glory (Psalm 8:5-7).

1.2 We should know who our God is (Psalm 139) – the all-knowing (omnipotent) and ever-present (omnipresent) God (Isaiah 59:1). David was known as a man after God’s own heart. We, too, can know God in Jesus because He is the expression of God’s love for us to others.

1.3 We should know our purpose in life (Jeremiah 1:5; 29:11). If we leave out God in our life, we will never fulfill what we were born for. The truth is that He can guide us to a better life.

#### **2. Before God could use us for His mighty works, we need to undergo several tests and trials.**

2.1 To prove worthy of God’s assignment, we have to be tested of our love, endurance, faithfulness, patience - the fruits of the holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

2.2 God will also test our character in all areas of our life because we need to be strong and firm

just like what He did to Moses. God asked Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to the Promised Land (Exodus 3), but he offered four excuses/queries that were very revealing.

##### 2.1.1 “Who am I?”

Many times, our answer reveals the truth about ourselves whenever we are given a task to serve. Our inferiority complex, feelings of inadequacy, traumatic experiences take a toll on our self-confidence. Our failure or rejection wears away our facility to bounce back. We begin to guess all our decisions and feel as though we are not capable of success at all.

##### 2.1.2 “I don’t know who you are.”

The real question Moses asked was that who would be his source of authority. God answered him in Exodus 3.

##### 2.1.3 “What if I fail again?”

Moses’ doubt must have gone deep within his spirit. God was holding his future and wanted him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to the Promised Land. We should remember that nobody is perfect, realize that failure is not final and recognize its benefits (Romans 8:28)

##### 2.1.4 “I am not able.”

This should not be an excuse whenever we are assigned to a task because God is able to do more than what we are expecting.

#### **Conclusion:**

God wants to use all of us in spite of our weaknesses (2 Corinthians 12:10). He wants us to balance self-confidence with His confidence (Philippians 4:13).

Moreover, He knows that we can overcome the negative results of rejection (2 Timothy 1:7-8) to prepare us to face greater challenges despite our failures.

#### **Reflection:**

1. Are we ready to go back to our Egypt to set free the captives who may be a family member, neighbor, co-worker?

2. Who might be our pharaoh?

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