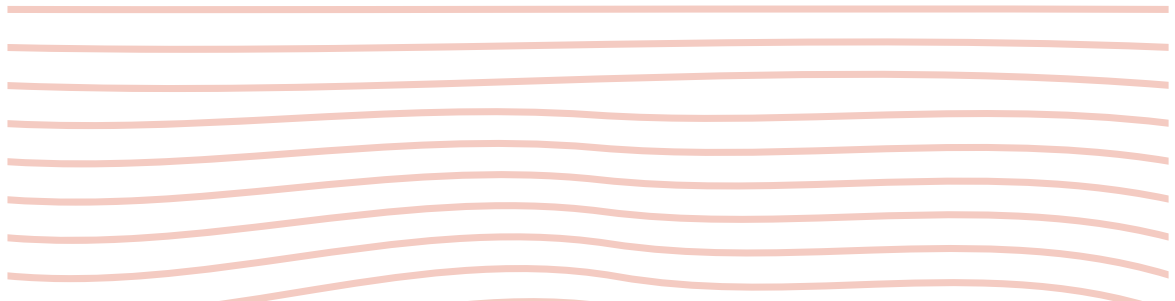


IDENTITY IN THE BATTLE

a study of Ephesians



INTRODUCTION

Gospel Spice Ministries is delighted to welcome you to a deeper experience of “Identity in the Battle: Spices from Ephesians.”

There is no better time than now to equip yourself with gospel weapons. In today’s world we hear of wars, rumors of wars, famine, earthquakes and other birth pangs that prepare the way for our Savior’s second coming. Now is the time to train yourself, to become solidified in your true identity, to become disciplined in God’s ways—in truth, in grace, in love.

Learn how to stand firm before the forces of evil and how to kneel humbly before our King. You belong in this battle.

We have several exclusive bonuses for you, including printable cards to help you remember the truth from Ephesians. Consider printing and cutting them, and then placing them in different places to remind you of the truth: your mirror, your car, your fridge, etc! Also give them away to friends as reminders of God’s love for them.

Come, taste & see that the Lord is good!

Love, Stephanie

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Episode 409	_____	Page 2
Episode 411	_____	Page 8
Episode 413	_____	Page 14
Episode 415	_____	Page 20
Episode 417	_____	Page 26
Episode 419	_____	Page 32

EMBRACE YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST: LIVE OUT YOUR CALLING & PURPOSE DAILY

Ephesians 1:1-12 ~ Our identity in the battle

Ephesians at a glance

Chapters 1-3: our identity IN Christ

Chapters 4-5: what we are called to do as a result of our identity in Christ.

Chapter 6: how are we supposed to do that?

Ephesians 1:1-12 in two words: “In CHRIST” and “ADOPTION.”

IN CHRIST.

- “Embracing your calling and identity in Christ takes a lifetime.”
- Discovering
- Accepting
- Let it change you
- Live it out daily

ADOPTION

Three prerequisites for adoptions:

- Come from another family
- Come into a new family
- Legal transaction, official announcement

Two consequences of adoption:

- Give up your old family
- Receive the rights of your new family.

“The freedom of children is their newfound inner spiritual freedom to choose to love God with all their strength, mind, soul and spirit and love one another as themselves.”

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Our true identity is found in Christ, not in worldly factors such as appearance or social status.
2. Embracing our identity and calling in Christ is a lifelong journey, involving discovery, acceptance, transformation, and daily practice.
3. Believers are invited to experience deep intimacy and union with God through surrender and belonging to the family of God, where purpose is always found in Christ.

QUESTIONS TO GO DEEPER

Instructions:

1. Please take your time to reflect on the key topics discussed in the episode.
2. Use the following questions and activities to reinforce your understanding of your identity in Christ, adoption into God's family, and the deep intimacy and guidance available through surrender to Christ.
3. Feel free to journal your responses or discuss them with a friend or small group for deeper insight and encouragement.

Section 1: Identity in Christ

1. Read and reflect on Ephesians 1:3-14. What does this passage say about your identity in Christ? Write down three key phrases or verses that stand out to you.
2. Consider the worldly factors that often influence our identity, such as appearance, status, or others' opinions. How can you intentionally shift your focus from these factors to your identity in Christ in your daily life?
3. Reflect on a time when you felt pressured to conform to worldly standards. How might embracing your identity in Christ have changed your perspective or response in that situation?

Section 2: Adoption into God's Family

1. Review the analogy of adoption from the episode. How does the process of adoption into God's family parallel your spiritual journey?
2. Think about the announcement of adoption being made to the powers and authorities in heaven, the old family of wrath, and to the recipients. What significance does this announcement hold for you personally?
3. Consider the transformative process of shedding sin and embracing the rights and identity as a child of God. In what areas of your life do you sense the need for transformation and acceptance of your identity as a child of God?

Section 3: Surrender and Purpose

1. Reflect on Stephanie's personal experience and the importance of surrendering to Christ for realizing one's purpose. Have you experienced moments when surrendering to Christ has led to a new purpose or direction in your life?
2. Can you relate to the concept of surrendering your desires and plans to belong to the family of God? How does this perspective align with or challenge your current aspirations and priorities?
3. Identify one practical step you can take this week to live out your identity and calling in Christ. How can you engage with a supportive community or seek guidance in this endeavor?

In conclusion, take a moment to pray and thank God for your identity in Christ and His guidance in your life. Ask for His strength to live out your calling as a child of God and seek opportunities to share the truths about identity in Christ with others.

Remember, embracing the fullness of your present identity in Christ is a lifelong journey, and each step taken in surrender and obedience brings you closer to the abundant life God has prepared for you.

May you be filled with the confidence and joy that come from knowing and embracing your identity in Christ!

CONCEPTS TO PONDER AND REMEMBER

1. Find your identity in Christ, not in worldly measures.
2. Draw strength from being sealed by the Holy Spirit.
3. Embrace your chosen status in Christ, regardless of worldly standards.
4. Recognize the importance of being grafted into God's family.
5. Understand the necessity of coming from a different family before being adopted into God's family.
6. Acknowledge the legal transfer before the Judge as part of your new adoption in Christ.
7. Surrender to the process of shedding sin and embracing the rights and identity as a child of God.
8. Embrace the freedom from the law and sin as a child of God united with Christ.
9. Discover awe and wonder in pondering the words of God.
10. Experience true inner spiritual freedom and intimacy with God.

These truths are intended to guide listeners in living out their identity and calling in Christ on a daily basis, emphasizing the transformative process of shedding sin and embracing the rights and identity as a child of God.

B O N U S

additional study guide based on this episode

1. How does the book of Ephesians provide insights into our identity in Christ and the significance of being predestined and adopted into God's family?
2. Why is it important to draw our identity from being in Christ rather than from worldly factors? Can you share personal experiences or reflections on this idea?
3. In what ways can surrendering to God and belonging to His family shape our understanding of purpose and calling? How does this differ from pursuing our own desires and ambitions?
4. What practical steps can we take to discover, accept, and live out our identity and calling in Christ on a daily basis?
5. How does the analogy of adoption provide a powerful illustration of our spiritual transformation and belonging to God's family? In what ways does it resonate with your own journey of faith?
6. What does it mean to experience deep intimacy and union with God through the Holy Spirit? How can we tap into this intimacy in our daily lives?
7. How does the theme of identity in Christ relate to the broader concept of spiritual warfare, as mentioned in the upcoming episodes of the "Identity in the Battle" series?
8. Can you share a time when you felt the guidance and forgiveness of God in a deeply personal and transformative way? How did this experience shape your understanding of your identity in Christ?
9. In what ways does the book of Ephesians challenge the cultural norms and values that often shape our sense of identity? How can we actively embrace our identity in Christ amidst these challenges?
10. What practical steps can we take to remain grounded in our identity in Christ and resist the pressures to conform to the world's standards? How can community support play a role in this process?