

## IDENTITY

## PRECEPT

## ROMANS 7:15-25

<sup>15</sup> I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate.<sup>16</sup> But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good.<sup>17</sup> So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.<sup>18</sup> And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't.<sup>19</sup> I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.<sup>20</sup> But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.<sup>21</sup> I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.<sup>22</sup> I love God's law with all my heart.<sup>23</sup> But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.<sup>24</sup> Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? <sup>25</sup> Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord...

## PROMISE

Most of us have a new year's resolution every new year, but the sad truth is that 92% of new year resolutions will be gone before Valentine's Day. The reason people abandon their resolutions, goals, or dreams for the year is identity. Identity affects our ability. Our identity gives us inspiration to achieve our goals, if our identity isn't clear we are sitting on a weak foundation, we will lose motivation to achieve our dreams for the year. The reality is that people with high self-esteem are more likely to persist through challenges and setbacks in achieving their goals. People who are secured in their identity have a better performance in achieving their goals. "Who am I?" must be answered before "What do I want to do or to be?" Goals are external motivation and identity is internal motivation. It's good to have goals, but it is not a driving force to become better; it's how you see yourself and how you believe in yourself in the game changer in achieving your goals. Identity is connected to our actions; how we think ourselves dictates how we act in life. We give up because of life's challenges, unachievable dreams, and how they see themselves. Paul in Romans said that Jesus is the answer. The way Jesus thinks of you is more important than how you think of yourself. You are not failure or a loser but a winner because Jesus is a winner. You are loved, accepted, and valued. Forget about your past, it doesn't matter who you were or what you did because Jesus makes all things new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" As you set your goals this year, start it right. Your identity should be your driving force behind your habits, which will dictate your progress towards your goal. Finding your identity in Jesus and putting Him first will change how you start your new year. Remember that you are fearfully and wonderfully made by God, and what Jesus thinks of you matter more than what you think of yourself. As you start this new year don't be afraid to dream, to set goals, and to become better. You are with Jesus, you are created to become better than before, so fly, grow, develop good habits, and succeed.

## PRACTICE

**1. Identity.** Are there any changes in how think of yourself? What are those changes?

**2. New Years goals.** What are your goals/dreams this year? How can we help you to be encouraged and pray for you regarding this?

## PRAYER

## I. Worship Service

- Pray that we will all be proactive in inviting our friends and families.

## II. Members

- Pray for our community to grow in relationship with God.

## III. Disciples

- Pray that we will reflect God's love and grace as we obey God in making disciples.

## IV. Pastors

- May God's favour rest upon them and may He establish the work of their hands always.

## V. Leaders

- Pray for protections and provision for our elders, leaders, and coordinators.

## VI. Gospel

- Pray that we will consistently study the gospel and share it to the people around us.

## VII. Family

- May all families experience Jesus and His breakthroughs.