

Discovering Who I Am in God's Eyes Francis Chan

I was working in my office, and had a distress call. We have many folks who are coming out from prison, or other difficult areas of life and we mentor them. Usually our mentors can handle disputes, but I was requested to come and help. One of our guys needed help. He needed to know what to do with the anger in my life. I asked, "Do you really believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on that cross and He paid for that sin. Are you sure of your eternal security?" He said, "I believe the first part." "Don't you know that Jesus is crazy in love with you. Are you secure in His love? I'm going to pray that you are so secure in his love and that all these other things and will change your heart. It starts with security in Jesus. Let me pray for you."

Tonight, don't give the answer you are supposed to give, that if Jesus would return right now, that you know you are His. Is that in you?

This isn't natural for me. They gave me topic "Obedience Birthed by a Proper Identity." Why did they give me this topic? This is hard. I go up and down with this. I understand the fear of God. I've been looking at the countdown clocks while I'm speaking, and I think what if this is the countdown clock of my life. I see the clock, and I want my words don't matter to you, but I need to answer to God.

I want truth out of these lips. I don't want to fear people. Enjoying my identity? I try to earn something, never measuring up. I waver back to that. Pleasing my Dad is a struggle. Insecurity is a child feeling.

My wife and I are finishing up this book together. I go to a friend's house. It's next to my favorite Chinese restaurant. I'm working, eating. My food was 2/3's gone, and I don't remember eating this. What a waste! I just wasted 2/3 of this precious food. I block out everything and just eat this food. No other thought in my head. I didn't care about my phone, work. Stop and taste and see the Lord is good. Stop doing stuff and enjoy your salvation. Force yourself to forget anything else from today, your stress, shut the laptop and let's enjoy our salvation. Taste His goodness. In Psalm 23, He made me lie down in green pastures. "Stop and enjoy me." I'm not going to ask you to do anything else, and just enjoy Him.

Those of us in leadership, we hate Easter. We know that it's our chance, twice a year to reach people. Enjoy Holy Week. The most touching part of Scripture is Jesus in the garden. It has ripped me. Mark 14: 34 Jesus said, "My soul is very sorrowful even unto death." Jesus the Son of God, left His glory-"my soul, I feel like I'm going to die right now." Going on a little farther, He prayed that "Abba Father, all things are possible with you. Remove this cup from me."

Some of you have children. When you look at your son, what do you feel if your son doing that? Sweating drops of blood. Doing this three times. "Remove this cup from me." Three times, He says, yet not what I will, but what You want."

Isaiah 53:10 "It was the will of the Lord to crush Him." So that you will be the guilt offering to them. So you have many offspring.

When is the last time you thought about that? Jesus says, "That's your will? That's what you want." "For the joy set before me, I will endure the cross." Philippians 2

On the cross, 2 Corinthians 5:17, He made Jesus sin, who knew no sin, so that we become the righteousness of God."

If you trust in your works, good luck. Paul says in Philippians 3:8 "indeed, I count everything as loss...and count them as rubbish....depends on faith.

In order that...we have to count our works as manure, that we may be found in Christ.

If you think you have done good, Paul said I have done more than you. I have to throw it all away. The word rubbish is manure. Hand it to God, "would this work?" My works, guilt-driven, fear-driven. Depending to go to our knees. Don't try to earn something. Rest in the work of Jesus. Count it as crap to be found in Christ.

I am going to rest on the cross. It was your will to crush him. "You did it all on the cross." I deeply depend on the cross. I don't want to be found in my own righteousness.

I've been reading these articles about depression. How many people feel hopeless. A lot of it is because of Facebook. They see others on Facebook and they say, "I will never look that good,' I will never have as much fun as these other people."

It's interesting. Since the internet, in ministry people go through depression, and you can see all the things that Rick Warren is doing. You can see all the things that Tim Keller know and you don't. I feel that way. Why didn't you give me those gifts? All I am is sexy...

There is envy. Here we are in this room. Envy...is it enough to know that you are known. When I read Jeremiah 1:5

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
Before you were born I sanctified you;
I ordained you a prophet to the nations." NKJV

The God of the Universe, is saying "I knew you before you were ever formed in the womb, I knew what I was making. I made you exactly how I wanted you. "This guy is going to be a prophet." God knew what He was making. Rest in my gift of my Son. Come into my presence that you are loved by me.

We sometimes saw Gideon and disdain Him. But his tests showed Gideon that God was with Him. He was able to trust God for three hundred. "God, whoever you give me, I know that you are with me and you will win." We are searching for what we are doing right. I want to add to this army, rather than the security of knowing that I'll go by myself.

2 Chronicles 16:9:

⁹ For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of *those* whose heart *is* loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars." NKJV

If you look at the context, He was talking to King Asa. Before He says that, It's a story of where King Asa reigned for 36 years and everything was great. Then Israel was coming to fight against him, He tried to get other kings (King of Syria) to recruit to help him fight. God says, "You have done foolishly.'

When those bigger armies came, I can fight them, because you relied on Him. Now you are trusting in all your king buddies. For that reason I am not going to support you. As long as God is with you you are okay. That's all you need. He is all you need.

Know that He is God, and He saved me. He will return and He will be glad to take you in His arms. Can you rest in that for a little bit?

One other Scripture, 1 Thess 4:17-18.

¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words." NKJV

He is talking about the return of the Lord. When does anyone encourage someone with Christ's return. You are not promising the right things. Don't worry. Christ is returning. Yeah, she's sick. She might go and be with Jesus soon.

One minute 53 seconds to go....

Jesus loves me. I know it. I know He made me for something. He created me perfectly for what I am doing. I want to be found in His righteousness.

God. Pick me. I believe you are going to return.

I used to enjoy gambling. It was before I really got a grip on the sovereignty of God. My wife and I, would go. It was really more her fault. We'd play roulette, \$40. Once we won. I'd give it to my wife. Cash it out. Don't give it back to me. I cannot lose. I am using house money.

God wants us to live life, everything is secure. Who cares? Idea of total freedom. I'm already ahead. I'm already on borrowed time. Anxiety goes away.

Let's pray and meditate on the cross....
I am going to read Ephesians 2:1-9. Soak it in.

“And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins,² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” NKJV

<https://youtu.be/GIJwPnx2IMs>