



Steve Harvey’s voice echoed over the thunderous cheers and applause: “Take your first walk as Miss Universe!” Miss Philippines faced the ecstatic audience and walked into her new chapter as I turned the other way. My reign as Miss Universe had officially ended. My multi-faceted support team—security guard, stylist, manager, videographer, and social media manager—all rushed past me to attend the new Miss Universe. Suddenly, I had become part of the scenery.

That night, I left far more than the Miss Universe crown on stage. I left behind an identity I had tied to that crown—an illusion of confidence born from achieving a lifelong dream. As my reign ended, it felt like the rug was being pulled out from under my six-inch heels. The change was so sudden, it left me wobbling as I attempted to find a new sense of stability.

Have you ever faced uncertainty after thinking you had everything figured out—a stable income, the perfect partner, the Instagram-worthy vacation? And then a cut, a call, or someone’s actions forced you to reassess your path? Maybe a relationship ended, but your identity was tied to being a girlfriend, fiancée, or wife. Maybe an ordinary week was upended by a call from the doctor’s office.

It’s easy to label ourselves based on our circumstances, desires, or what others say about us. This week we’ll focus on identifying some of these labels that we have allowed ourselves to be defined by. Then we’ll look to God for a firm, eternal identity that gives true meaning and purpose!

PRAYER FOR YOUR DAY

Dear Lord, thank You for creating me and placing me where I am today. Help my eyes to be opened this week to the labels put on me by myself and others. Remind me this week how I am seen through Your eyes. Search me and know me, and let me see the lies I have believed so that I may rest in Your truth. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

YOU ARE NOT YOUR LABEL.



Identity can mean a lot of things, but it is primarily about how we see ourselves as a person. Oftentimes our life circumstances shape us into who we are. This includes accolades, titles, promotions, and relationships. While many of these are beautiful things that make life feel full and special, they can also become idols that keep us from fully trusting God.

Do you find your identity in any of these places? The problem with rooting our identity in our circumstances and relationships is that they are ever-changing, leading to a roller coaster of emotions influenced by low self-esteem, unanswered questions, and insecurities. An estimated 85 percent of people have experienced low self-esteem at some point in their lives.¹ It's no surprise that we struggle when we tie ourselves so strongly to things that can change.

I've learned that if I want lasting confidence in my identity, I'm going to have to root it in something *bigger than myself*, something *fixed, never changing*, and *always trustworthy*. What are you rooting your identity in? Is it something that meets those characteristics?

Does anything or anyone come to mind?

As much as I loved my Miss Universe crown and label, it was part of a temporary life circumstance. When it got stripped away, I was left grappling with an identity crisis. Maybe you've been there too. Who are you when the business you've built fails? When the career you've devoted decades to ends unexpectedly? When your most familiar role—as mother, daughter, friend—disappears? What do you do



when your daily purpose vanishes? Losing my title caused me to realize how much of my worth I had tied to it. You might not have been a pageant queen, but we all have roles or achievements we value deeply. We all have labels we attach to ourselves.

What are the positive or negative labels you have placed on yourself or others have placed on you?

How comfortable are you wearing those labels? What if they were to change overnight or you had to give them up?

Are any of those labels clearly false or flimsy when you consider how God looks at you?

PRAYER FOR YOUR DAY

Lord, thank You for establishing my worth and value long before I was born. Allow me to identify the false or fleeting labels this world places on me and look to You for the truth. In Jesus' name, amen.

YOU ARE NOT YOUR LABEL.



DAY 3

PLANT

Now that we've identified some of the labels that have gotten stuck to us, whether we like them or not, let's explore how to peel those labels off, one by one, without allowing any residue to remain.

Understand who God created you to be. We weren't meant to be chasing after false praise, shallow security, or selfish pursuits. We were made for much more. Ephesians 2:10 says, "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." God created us for *His* purposes, not our own. He invites us to participate with Him in what He's doing in our communities and the world. I've heard it said, "To love God is to serve God, and to serve God is to serve others." Our life's greatest goal should be a relationship with the One who created us. To be loved and fully known by Him. In turn, He will use our gifts, talents, experiences, and even our messy imperfections to point others to Him as we serve and love others along the way.

Identify how God made you perfectly unique. I used to believe that my life purpose should be connected to something rare or unconventional to be valuable. However, 1 Peter 2:9 reminds us that we are part of something incredibly special—"A chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for [God's] own possession" (ESV). Therefore, our identity is not dependent on our earthly accolades but on the unique gifts and talents God has



given each of us. I believe that our life's purpose and calling are often directly related to things we enjoy, appreciate, resonate with, and are naturally good at. Just as we are called "out of darkness into his marvelous light," we can use our specific abilities to glorify God.

When you peel off the false and fickle labels, you'll be able to put on the identity that He desires for you to embrace. You are God's workmanship, and you are uniquely called to His purpose. God has created you to do life with Him. He has blessed you with incredible talents to bring love, hope, and truth to others wherever you are. Be confident in what God can accomplish when you welcome His plan.

A PRAYER FOR YOU FROM ME

Dear Lord, thank You for the perfect purpose You have called this reader to. I ask that You give her the tools to peel off the labels she's been burdened with and give her the clarity not only to see but to walk in Your perfect plan. In Jesus' name, amen.

YOU ARE NOT YOUR LABEL.



Even when we know our God-given identity and our unique purpose, that confidence will be tested again and again throughout our lives. One of the ways I've fallen prey to self-doubt is through the pressures and expectations of other people. Even years after handing over my Miss Universe title, I've had moments when a comment or statement made me completely doubt myself. I've even let comments from complete strangers affect me.

One of those moments happened shortly after I got married, when I accompanied my husband, Tim, to a speaking engagement. Backstage, one of the sweet older ladies in the meet-and-greet line asked me, "Now what? Do you have any hobbies? How are you going to keep yourself busy on the road, seeing that you married such a busy man?" This lady didn't know me at all and likely didn't mean to hit a sore spot, but without her realizing it, she had slapped a great big label on my forehead that read "Tim Tebow's Wife."

Her words made me question myself and my role as a new wife. Was I so easy to sum up as one thing? Was this my new, all-encompassing label? It made me wonder if pursuing my own dreams was the right thing to do now that I was married. Anxious thoughts rushed through my mind as I tried to process this stranger's comment.

It's usually in vulnerable moments like this when our self-confidence is shaken the most. I was new at the whole wife thing and needed to remind myself what my identity was, with or without my new last name. Besides, that was the person Tim ultimately fell in love with



and decided to marry. But navigating a new identity takes time. Whether we've gained a new career or a new title, we're not always sure who we are in light of this change, leaving us vulnerable to external expectations.

Two of my life's greatest blessings are having found my life partner and getting to cheer him on every day. At that moment of self-doubt with this stranger, I realized that shifting my confidence and identity from my Miss Universe crown to my marriage wasn't going to give me everlasting purpose. Sure, shifting our roles from being a wife to a mom or from that corner office to that retirement package are all great things! However, no *one* identity is our *full* identity, and if we try to make it so, we don't leave room for our ultimate identity as God's beloved. The only label that truly matters is our God-given label, which tells us:

We are His royalty. (Romans 8:17)

We are His *masterpiece* in Christ. (Ephesians 2:10 NLT)

We are the *crown* of creation. (Psalm 8:5)

We are *wonderfully* and *fearfully* made, crafted with care and intention. (Psalm 139:14 NIV)

PRAYER FOR YOUR DAY

Heavenly Father, thank You for naming me Your daughter and giving me an eternal identity! In moments when the Enemy tries to blur my vision and make me rely on myself, remind me that I can instead rely on You. No earthly label will ever hold up to the eternal label of worth and value forever placed on me by You. Amen.

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DAY 5

FLOURISH

Today let's read, meditate on, and memorize 1 Peter 2:9. On day 2, we exposed the labels we've carried in the past. Let's swap those flimsy labels for lasting ones! God is given many labels in the Bible. Read through these verses before answering the next question: Exodus 15:11–13; 34:6–7; Psalms 27:1; 54:4; 86:15; Luke 6:35; Romans 5:8.

After meditating on the verses above, what labels would you give God?

Now, with God's power and love fresh in our minds, let's turn the attention to ourselves. Read through the following verses about how God sees us: Psalm 8:4–5, 139:14; Romans 5:8; 8:17; Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

What label does God give you as His creation?

If the 2 Corinthians 5:17 label is true about you, how would that affect how you interact with other people?

As a treasured daughter of the King, your trust and confidence in your God-given identity could help someone else find theirs!

A PRAYER FOR YOU FROM ME

Dear Lord, thank You for caring about the little details of our lives and calling us to a greater purpose beyond what the world sees in us. Do something new in this reader's life! Bless her as she walks with the label You give her and shares that beauty with the world. In Jesus' name, amen.

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