

SESSION 1



So ...
what are
you
wearing?

It's come as
you are. Your
personal tailor
will meet you
there.

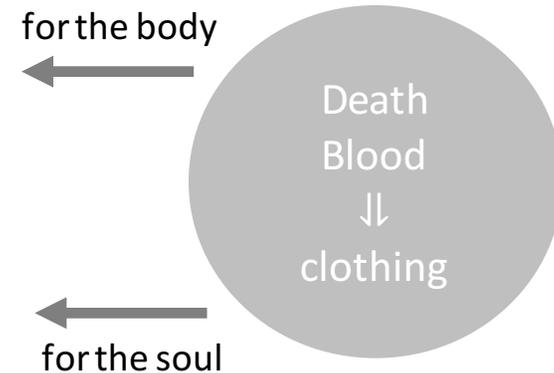
What are you wearing?

OUTSIDE clothes:

The Lord made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and he clothed them.

INSIDE clothes:

The Christ will suffer and rise from the Dead on the third day and repentance and forgiveness of sin will be preached in his name to all nations.”





GLASSES

What we see vs. Far-sighed, God-centered Vision

World-Sight and what it brings with it:

- Dilusion
- Shame
- Isolation
- Burden of doing in our own strength

Mind-Sight: it's not 20/20

Eternal-Sight: in LIGHT of Christ

Garden Glasses: perspective lenses





captivated thoughts



surrendered steps



*outward appearance &
supernatural strength*



manna-provision



SESSION 2



outward appearance
≡
supernatural strength



captive thoughts



Which door would you choose? Which would your friends, your kids, your family choose? Why?

The World's Winning Ways

Cosmo's annual Body Love survey

87% of readers call themselves F A T

Only 5% of responders never worry about your appearance – but a whopping 67% worried about it up to five times a day.

63% are trying to lose weight, and only 5% are happy with the way they look.

Almost 20% feel guilty every time they eat.

43% eat in secret.

The Washington Post

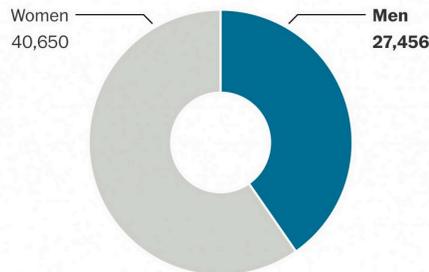
Number of cosmetic procedures in the U.S. jumped 115% from 2000-2015

Biggest winners: BOTOX, collagen/other fillers, breast implants, liposuction, buttock implants

Not just for girls ...

Breast reduction

For the first time, men accounted for more than 40 percent of breast reduction surgeries. Here are the number of procedures performed in 2015.



Do It Yourself Plastic Surgery

She's not gonna make it. We give her 24 hours.

Ever since she was a little girl growing up in Florida, Brown remembers being teased about having a flat butt. Growing up, she always wanted a fuller posterior and even had a mantra, "When I get me some money, I am going to get me some butt."

... while she was working on a new client's hair, she got her chance. The client happened to mention she did silicone injections cheaply. Little did she know it the silicone injections included bathroom caulk sealant.

Doctors had no choice. To save Brown's life, they amputated her hands, feet and the flesh around her buttocks and hips in 27 surgeries. Somehow, she survived.



God's Royal Wardrobe

OUTWARD APPEARANCE

- What we see vs. what the Lord sees (1 Samuel 16)

⁶ When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD."

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. *The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.*"

⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." ⁹ Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these." ¹¹ So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep."

Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."

¹² So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one."

- A few *Old-ies* but goodies: Sarah, Hannah, Ruth, Deborah, Abigail
(Job's wife, bought into the ways of the world)
- The *New kids* on the block: Elizabeth, Mary, Woman at the Well, who else?



God's Royal Wardrobe

SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH

- Left to ourselves, *good* luck. Paul in Romans 7

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do... So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

- It's never been about OUR effort/ability/strength

"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the LORD Almighty. (Zech 4:6)

- The power is found in the Secret Code-Words

"For **from** him and **through** him and **for** him are all things." (Romans 11:36)

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are my ways your ways," declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain & snow come down from heaven and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud & flourish ... so is my word that goes out from my mouth IT WILL NOT RETURN EMPTY but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. YOU WILL GO OUT IN JOY AND BE LED FORTH IN PEACE."



I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, **so that you may know him** better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his **incomparably great power for us who believe**. (Ephesians 1: 17-18)

God's Royal Wardrobe

What are you wearing?

- The fine line between fitness & health
 - Surrendered Wellness
 - Together – community
 - Where are my eyes (back to the glasses & what lenses I'm using)
- Our workout clothes look a lot like surrender and humility – our strength is in Him. He clothes us outside (provision) and in:

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. — Isaiah 61:10

Consider the verb tense

- Do we know whose we are and what that means

“Then he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.” (Luke 8:48)
- Do we know our personal tailor (eternal perspective informing today)

“Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Revelation 19:8)

“In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them.” Isaiah 61:8

Consider who is speaking



If we are faithless, he is faithful, for he cannot disown himself. (2 Timothy 2:13)

God's Royal Wardrobe



captive thoughts- living in light of eternity

Still – Be still and know that I am God – a directive given by the Lord himself in Psalms. Which comes with something HUGE on the other side of it that will shed some light on who your personal tailor is:

*The Lord says, "Be still, and know that I am God! I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth"*

THE WORLD

- The world will tell you you're only okay if...
- The world will tell you that you're defined by
- The world promotes busy, achieving, notoriety, ...

THE LORD

Instead let the Lord remind us of Truth

- YOU MATTER (*are seen, known by name, loved*)
- THE LORD IS OVER ALL THINGS
- THE LORD'S WAYS AND TIMING ARE **NOT** OURS

WHOSE ARE YOU & THE ETERNITY TEST

Live informed by eternity rather than the world - pressures, stress, hardship, expectations (BTW - almost all of these things find their life in comparison) are here, but not in heaven. Remember whose we are.

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

- Colossians 1:15-17



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a *new creation*. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

SESSION 3



Surrendered steps

Obedience: Shoes/Steps => Action



Importance of OBEDIENCE:

“Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings & sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.” 1 Samuel 15:22

Trust

In obeying, we trust the Lord over ourselves.

TRUST IN GOD

Full Knowledge
Creator of All
Knows All
He is Faithful
He is Good
Selfless – the definition of relationship
He cannot be counted on His Character

TRUST IN OURSELVES

Limited Knowledge
Limited sight
Lacking information at best (more than likely distorted or lies)
Motivated by self – self promotion/self preservation

Faith

- The best and worst gift all at the same time
 - he linchpin/the reason
- ultimate in intimacy – knowing without seeing
 - eyes on God, not on me



Obedience: Shoes/Steps => Action

Sneek Peek on Obedience/Doing From Haggai 1-2

- Ways of the world are fleeting
 - Our efforts are futile

The Lord's way => lasting S A T I S F A C T I O N

“I AM WITH YOU”

In obeying, we trust the Lord over ourselves.

KEY → KNOWING HIM

(read Scripture to know Him, not with a lens according to me)

What can I learn about the Lord through this passage

- He knows them/us by name
- He is Lord – over all, from the beginning of time to the present to the future
- He is in control
- He promises and fulfills His promise
- He NEVER leaves us
- He IS the strength (for I am with you) and guide, protector, ...
- the covenant => I am with you
(then it was a pillar of fire and a cloud, today it He is inside of us, clothing on the inside)

‘The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,’ says the LORD Almighty. ‘And in this place I will grant peace,’ declares the LORD Almighty.’



What If?

calculated steps to perfection = the world's standard.

Maybe even religion's standard. If I do x, y & z then I'm good. In which case, we base-line trust in the ways of the world.

surrendered steps to faith = God's standard.

Obey not to be perfect, but in order to increase our faith.

To obey his commands (genuinely obey from the heart – which is different than being compelled out of fear) is to trust him which can only happen if I know Him.

What if obedience is more about faith than results?

Doing/Steps/Obedience is the action point of Trust which can only come through Faith – that “I am with you” actually is.

Which in turn leads back to Romans 11

*For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be the glory forever! Amen*





Manna Provision

Splendor - defined by the World

The things that tempt us to think that with them we're okay, without them, not so much.

- Christmas Card = beautiful family
- Keys
- Fame
- An engagement ring
- A vacation home
- A job.
- A Trip
- A Team
- Achievement - Striving
- A clothing size
- ... what else?

The world's splendor brings with it a problem: **Elusive Enough**



Manna

The gift/the provision/the splendor IS GOD.

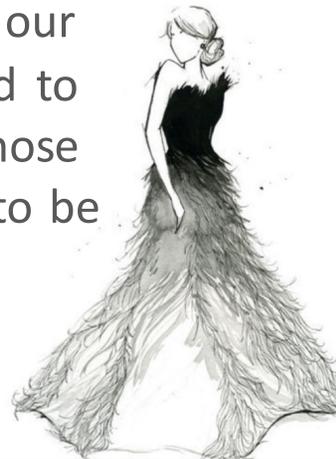
For when we love, we can only do so through Him because He IS love. When we are patient, we experience HIM because He IS patience and compassion and slow to anger. When we endure suffering, we experience HIM as healer. We literally experience manna – perfect provision each day – exactly what the day needs, no more, no less.



We have packages to open every day that will deepen our understanding of how real and true His manna-gift is.



Every time we open them, our intimacy with the Lord grows. And as our intimacy grows, the less we have to prove, the less our eyes are glued to ourselves, the more we can see the people traveling alongside us whose deepest desire on any given day, in any given moment is to be know, to be loved, to be accepted.



Sabbath Rest

Manna Provision

Independence through Dependence (on Him)

Gaining Everything by Giving Everything

Winning by Surrendering

Daily provision. Needs met.

On a need by need basis.

Never more, never less.

Manna.

and then...



“Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.”

- Revelation 2:17



SESSION 4



A New Identity

Identity - defined by the World

Identity

- By Group: By performance:
- By our family/kids
- By zip code
- By profession

Brand-You: the resume race. The more the better.

What we value:

- For kids → Fame
- In Washington → power
- In NYC → \$\$
- In Northeast → education/intellect
- In Northwest → green

Like the world's splendor, identity brings with it a problem:

Elusive Enough



Identity - defined by God

Do we know whose we are??

- Isaiah 60: (the Lord God speaking)
“**They are the shoot I have planted, the work of my hands for the display of my splendor.** The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the LORD; in its time I will do this swiftly.”
- Jeremiah 32: (the Lord God speaking)
“I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?
... I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety. **They will be my people, and I will be their God.**”
- Jeremiah 32: (the Lord God speaking)
“In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: **The LORD Our Righteousness**”



how are we known?

By a new name --- HIS NAME



Identity - defined by God

Just a few more – there are sooooooooooooo many

Jeremiah29:

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹²Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴I will be found by you,” declares the LORD,

Isaiah 43: 1-3, 5a

But now, this is what the LORD says—
he who created you, Jacob,
he who formed you, Israel:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters,

I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.

and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;

the flames will not set you ablaze.

For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;

...Do not be afraid, for I am with you;



Identity - defined by God

Gifts & Purpose **EVERYONE** has them

- **The Presence of Presents**

Giftedness is the unique way in which you function. It's the **inborn core strengths** and natural motivation you instinctively and consistently use to do things that you find satisfying and productive. **Your giftedness is not just what you can do, but what you were born to do, enjoy doing, and do well.**

- Bill Hendricks, President of the Giftedness Center

- **Where would we be without them?**

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesian 2:10

Everyone is gifted – but some people never open their packages!"

-Wolfgang Riebe

Identity - defined by God

HE is our personal tailor

New clothes:

Isaiah 61:

I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. **For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness,** as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

The things of this world are NOT the boss of us!

OVERWHELMED

Rather than be **OVERWHELMED** by life's pressures,

be **OVERWHELMED** by Truth

with all its

LOVE AND **GRACE** AND **PEACE** AND **HOPE**

and let our identity and self-worth be anchored there
as we accept & wear our Royal Wardrobe



Identity - defined by God



THE Tale as Old as Time

In a land far, far away in a time long, long ago, a Prince and Princess lived in peace and in the absolute completeness of love and joy. Every day brought with it wonder and happiness that surpassed the fullness of the day before. The good King lavished the young royals with all he had. But mostly he loved them, unconditionally.

...



Worth- defined by God



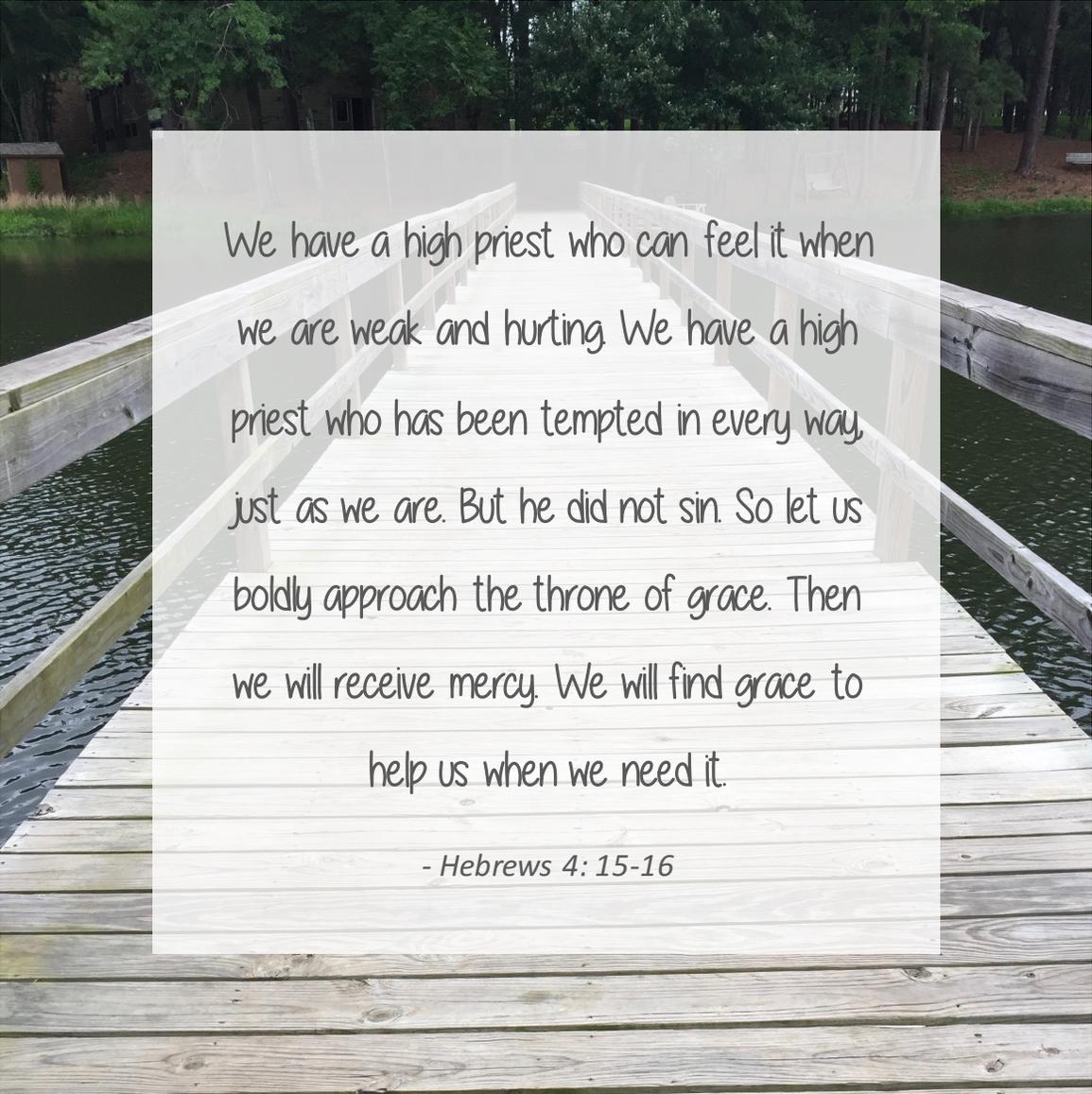
Identity - defined by God



Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

- Revelation 2:17



A photograph of a wooden walkway or dock extending into a body of water. The walkway is made of light-colored wooden planks and has a simple wooden railing on both sides. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding greenery. In the background, there are dense trees and a small wooden structure. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing text.

We have a high priest who can feel it when we are weak and hurting. We have a high priest who has been tempted in every way, just as we are. But he did not sin. So let us boldly approach the throne of grace. Then we will receive mercy. We will find grace to help us when we need it.

- Hebrews 4: 15-16