

DO IT FOR A DAY

DAY 11 – KNOW YOUR NAME

"I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it."

Revelation 2:17, NLT

"When Diana Nyad was nine years old, she stood on a beach in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Looking out at the ocean, he asked his mother an innocent question: "Where is Cuba?" Nyad's mother pointed to the horizon. "It's right there," he replied. "You can't see it, but it's so close you could almost swim there."

That sentence was destined to become Nyad's life story. It was more than an impulse. It was the reward that Nyad would spend much of his life seeking.

Twenty years later, Diana Nyad would attempt to swim from Cuba to Florida. She swam seventy-eight miles (75 km) in forty-two hours, but was stopped short of reaching the finish line by strong winds. The dream of becoming the first person to swim across the Florida Straits would lie dormant for three decades."

"On the morning of August 31, 2013, Diana Nyad, 64, would make one last attempt. Fifty-three hours later, he swam ashore in Key West. His tongue was swollen from the salt water, but his message was loud and clear: "We should never ever give up," he said. "You are never too old to achieve your dream."

Nyad's dream goes back to the day she turned five. It is a day in which decades pass.

Her father called her into his office and made a proclamation in his thick Greek accent: "I have waited a long time for this day. Now you have five. Today is the day that you are ready to understand the most important thing that I am ever going to tell you." He opened an extended dictionary and showed him his name.

"Your last name is Nyad. –First definition, from Greek mythology, the nymphs who swam in lakes, oceans, rivers and fountains to protect the waters for the gods. Listen to me, honey, because this is the most important part. **–The following definition,** a girl or woman swimming champion. Baby, this is your destiny!

If I were to ask you, "Who are you?" how would you answer the question? We have many identities: race and religion, gender and geography, political party and marital

status. I am the husband of Lora and the father of Parker, Summer and Josiah. I am a pastor and writer.

All of those identities are pieces of my puzzle, but none of them represent my primary identity. **My primary identity is who I am in Christ.** The phrase "*in Christ is found*" **174 times** in the Pauline epistles.

It is the key that unlocks our identity, our destiny and our authority.

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, much of the first chapter is a poem. There are twelve verses in the Spanish version, but only one sentence in the original language. **It is the longest prayer in the Bible.** You will never see yourself the same way again. **Flip the script by revealing who you are and to whom you belong:**

You are blessed with every blessing in Christ.

You were chosen from before the creation of the world.

You are blameless in the eyes of God.

You are adopted by the heavenly Father.

You are redeemed by the blood of Christ.

You are sealed by the Holy Spirit.

You are made in the image of God. "Ephesians 1:3-14"

In the beginning, *God created us in his image.* Since then, we have created God in our image. This is how we end up with false identities, false stories and false assurances. Identity issues are idolatry issues. **"The heart of the human being," said Juan Calvino, "is a perpetual factory of idols."** An idol is something you love, something you trust, or something you praise more than God. For some it is fame and fortune. For others, the profile on LinkedIn, the size of their bank account or the number of followers they have on social networks.

Identity problems can be caused by low self-esteem, without a doubt. The hardest person to forgive is yourself. You are not your failures. Of course you're not your hits either!

"In Judaism, naming rights are a sacred responsibility and a prophetic privilege.

It is not just naming what something is. It is naming what can be.

Appointment has the power to alter identity, alter destiny.

Jacob received a new name that became a nation: *Israel*. A rather hot-headed disciple named Simon was given the Rock name, *Peter*. When God wants to rewrite our history, he often gives us a new name.

“Do you remember the priestly blessing that was released on the people of Israel?

*The Lord bless
you and keep you;
may the Lord look at you with pleasure
and extend his love to you;
The Lord show you his favor
and grant you peace.*

I love this blessing. I even wrote a book about her, Double Blessing. I treasure few privileges as much as pronouncing this blessing to people. It's just as powerful now as it was then, but the best part is the epilogue:

And they will put my name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them. Num 6:27

What name did the priest give over the people? The name of God! There are over four hundred names for God in the Scriptures. Which one was the priest supposed to put on them? The answer is all names!”

HOW DO I MAKE IT A HABIT?

Fake it until you make it!

In Judaism, there are four dimensions of discipleship. When someone follows a rabbi, the first responsibility is to memorize his words. —The second is to adopt his unique interpretation of the Scriptures, called a yoke. -The third is to imitate their way of life. –The fourth is to disciple others in the same way that you were disciplined. You change the script by changing the blessing! Discipleship is cultivating another's tree."

I eat? If you wait to interrupt the pattern until you feel like it, you're going to be in the waiting room for a long time! Actions don't follow feelings as much as feelings follow actions. Do you remember what Jesus said?

"Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also. Matthew 6:21.

“Keep on keeping on! At some point, the script will flip.

If you keep running, you'll become a runner.

If you keep leading, you'll become a leader.

If you keep writing, you'll become a writer.
Fill in the blank with whatever it is you want to become. Eventually you will own that identity and that identity will own you.”

Excerpt From
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