

**Abundant Life Church**  
**Pastors Steve & Tabby Finton**  
**July 23, 2017**

Series: ***Who Do You Think You Are?***

Title: ***It Comes From the Heart***

Are you trying to *get* your way or trying to *find* your way?

Basic question of this series: Who am I?

Article Tabby wrote for *Bridging the Gap*: <http://mnbtg.org/articlesfaithwhats-your-major/>

If you don't know who you really are, you may sell be selling yourself short.

When you know *who* you are, you will know *what* to do.

To discover who you are:

1. Be honest about the past

*I think we are well advised to keep on nodding terms with the people we used to be, whether we find them attractive company or not. Otherwise they turn up unannounced and surprise us...* Joan Didion

*Satan is very serious about his victimization of the human race because we are made in the image of God and he hates that image.* Rick Renner

2. Trust God in the present

Proverbs 3:5 (NKJV)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding...

Brokenness in our past or present doesn't disqualify us. God loves to work through broken things and broken people. The Bible is full of misfit heroes.

Proverbs 4:23

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

*It is not your experience, knowledge, or skills. Your heart is your most important leadership tool.* Michael Hyatt

3. Lean on God for the future

Proverbs 3:6 (NKJV)

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

*There is a real battle going on for the strength of your soul. It is time you took your place in this world.* Lisa Bevere

Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV)

As a man thinks in his heart so is he.

**Abundant Life Church**  
**Pastors Steve & Tabby Finton**  
**July 23, 2017**

Luke 6:45 (NKJV)

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Do I believe in a God of abundance?

- God exists and cares
- God is working his plan
- Everything is according to his purpose

or

Do I believe in a God of scarcity?

- God only shows up for big people or big events

What happens to people's behavior when resources are scarce?

Abundant thinking: I believe the best and I know God has a plan!

If my thoughts are God's thoughts then I'll live in the automatic operation of God's power for my life!

Psalms 139:23 (NKJV)

Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties.

Were you anxious about anything as you walked into service today?

Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV)

Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

Jesus gives the motivation and power to make it through life's issues.

Psalms 84:5-6 (NKJV)

Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, Whose heart is set on pilgrimage.  
As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a spring; the rain also covers it with pools.

Performance versus Service

Performance is for the sight and approval of others.

Service allows us to do our best, knowing that God's approval and appreciation of us is secure regardless of our performance.

*Service allows us to do simple, humble, and menial tasks — the “little things”— knowing that the peasant Jewish carpenter we worship equally appreciate them both.*  
Mark Driscoll

**Abundant Life Church**  
**Pastors Steve & Tabby Finton**  
**July 23, 2017**

What is your identity?

False identity is at the heart of most of our struggles.

James 1:17-18 (NLT)

Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.

Dead Man Walking Prayer:

Ephesians 2:4-6 (NKJV)

But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus

Safe in God's plan

Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

God's plan is not finished; it gets better!

Ephesians 1:9-11 (NLT)

God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. 10 And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan.

Prayer keeps us from grumbling and gossiping.

Prayer is not about pretending that everything's okay!

Be honest with God and work it out with him because he can handle it!

Ephesians 3:16 (NLT)

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his spirit.

Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV)

As a man thinks in his heart so is he.