

DNA Part 1: Jesus First

Circumstances don't determine **success**.

*"Keep vigilant watch over your **heart**; that's where life starts." Proverbs 4:23 MSG*

You were made for Jesus first.

*"But I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be **corrupted**, just as Eve was deceived by the **cunning ways** of the serpent." 2 Corinthians 11:3 NLT*

*"You happily put up with whatever anyone tells you, even if they preach a **different Jesus** than the one we preach, or a **different kind of Spirit** than the one you received, or a **different kind of gospel** than the one you believed." 2 Corinthians 11:4 NLT*

✓ **A different Jesus.**

✓ **A different Spirit.**

✓ **A different Gospel.**

*"But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the **right to become children of God**." John 1:12 NLT*

*"A gang of cynics can upset a whole city; a group of **sages can calm everyone down**." Proverbs 29:8 MSG*

1. I surrender to the authority of God's Word.

*"God means what he says. **What he says goes**. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey. Nothing and no one is impervious to **God's Word**. We can't get away from it—no matter what." Hebrews 4:12-13 MSG*

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen." – Reinhold Niebuhr

*"Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. **You're not in the driver's seat—I am.** Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how."* Luke 9:23 MSG

2. I affirm who I am in Christ.

*"My heart overflows with a good theme; I address my verses to the King; **my tongue is the pen** of a ready writer." Psalms 45:1 NASB1995*

*"Do not let kindness and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the **tablet of your heart.**" Proverbs 3:3 NASB1995*

3. I am grateful to God.

*"Be **thankful** in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18 NLT*

4. I am prayerfully expectant.

*"Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But **with God everything is possible.**"" Matthew 19:26 NLT*