

Fresh Start Part 2: Who are we?

*(Proverbs 4:23 GN) "Be careful how you **think**; your life is shaped by your **thoughts**."*

✓ **We let culture define who we are.**

✓ **We let our past define who we are.**

(Romans 12:3 NIV) "Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you."

Highly - an improper view.

Sober - having a right mind.

Faith - assurance in someone who has the right view

"Don't have an unhealthy view of yourself, but rather be set free from that wrong view and let God give you right thinking, by being assured of who He is and what He believes about you."

Fresh Start With Myself

(Judges 6:11-24 NIV) "The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezwite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." "But sir," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian." The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" "But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." The Lord answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."...So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord is Peace."

"The Lord is with you mighty warrior."

"Go in the strength you have... Am I not sending you?"

1. See God correctly.

(Psalm 59:10 LB) "My God is changeless in his love for me."

2. See myself the way God sees me.

*(1 Peter 2:9 TLB) "But you are not like that, for you have been **chosen by God himself**—you are priests of the King, you are holy and pure, you are God's very own—all this so that you may show to others how God called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light."*

3. Get around people who see me the way God sees me.

*(Proverbs 27:17 NKJV) "As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his **friend**."*