



# Our True Identity

April 2015

by Steve Gwyn

**Adopted - this was the word that quietly defined a lot of my growing up. I don't remember my birth mother and never met the man she became pregnant to. I grew up in a loving family and was given a great shot at life, but like so many of us my life was plagued by fears and questions of who I really was. I was defined by a huge sense of rejection, abandonment and loneliness, that seemed at odds to my surroundings. I had what is known as an orphan spirit - the mindset of someone who doesn't know their identity and the value that God has placed in them.**

# THE INSIDE RUNNING

Our strength and confidence in who we are should be firmly based on our true identity as sons of God. That is where we need to dwell. It is a place of spiritual power and freedom. It gives us an inheritance as well as a legacy.

It's no wonder the devil launches an all-out assault on our God-given identity. Add to that attack our natural tendencies and you can see how some strange things happen in the minds of men.

For example, when I was in my 20s I knew of several men in their 60s who had stashes of porn. I wondered why older guys were like that. As I have grown older I have realised that no matter what our age, we often think like we are young adults. Eventually the ageing body demands that we acknowledge the truth!

People tend to look back a few years instead of looking forward a few years. This imbalance can mean that the past has undue influence over our future. Instead of looking back on what we have done, why not focus forward on what God has ready for us to step into?

With gratitude



*John*

John Subritzky



You are more than what you have become

As a young man, fear and insecurity began to break as I opened my life to others who demonstrated God's love. I was delivered powerfully from rejection when a friend and brother prayed the words of John 1:12-13 over me, *"Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God - children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."* Everything began to change as I encountered Father God and began to believe my identity was found in **who He is.**

knowing our true identity often leaves us with doubts about whether we are loved and valued. When fear, insecurity and uncertainty is the environment of our heart, it will drive much of our life, regardless of what we say we believe.

**Who you are comes from the One who created you! He made you like Him**

Gen 1:27 says, *"So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them."*

Maybe you take after your parents in some aspects, but who you are comes from the One who created you! He made you like Him - intelligent, creative, unique in the universe, and

Our identity is part of the foundation of our life, and without God we are always searching to know who we are. Things like our culture, heritage, social setting and upbringing are important, but only give us a limited and sometimes twisted view of who we are. Not

with the capacity to love and be loved. Ask yourself, does God Himself have worth and value? Everything God does comes out of **who He is.** He doesn't create anything with no value!



My kids love *The Lion King* movie. Simba the lion cub wants to be like his dad, Mufasa, the lion king. When his father is killed by Uncle Scar, Simba blames himself and runs away. He grows up fatherless, with a sense of shame. Believing he can never return and claim his inheritance, he settles for the life of an exile. He forgets about who he is and begins to live a life much less than what he was born for. Later in a vision his father says to him, *"You have forgotten who you are and so have forgotten me. Look inside yourself, Simba. You are more than what you have become. You must take your place in the circle of life. Remember who you are. You are my son and the one true king. Remember who you are."*

Many of us live with a sense of guilt and shame from the past. We forget who our Father is and can end up, like Simba, living a life less than who we were born to be. But the royal family has access to the King's inheritance, passed from father to child. Did you know that you are royalty?

Recently I left my iPad on a plane. Back home, I realised and quickly called the airport. Fortunately they had found it and I was able to collect what was rightfully mine. But when I went to claim it they asked for my identification. Without my true identity being revealed, I could never gain access to what was mine!

Rom 8:17 says, *"And since we are His children, we are His heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory."*

God has a great inheritance for us, the blessings that come with being a son of the King. Salvation, love, faith, hope, power, authority, peace and joy are just some of these. To live in the fullness of these today it's time to believe who He says we are, and start a journey to discover our true identity!

# What's on the DVD



**FEATURED SPEAKER: Kevin Forlong - Called by Name** Kevin is always a highlight when he speaks at PK. We are thrilled to feature him on this issue as well as often including his articles in the resources section of the DVD. Kevin writes a weekly e-letter of wisdom and success principles, and is passionate about empowering and inspiring people to walk in their God-given destiny. 25 min

**DRAMA: Identity** 5 min

**BONUS FEATURES:**

• **Power of a Name** - Gary Colville & Iliafi Esera give a couple of incredibly powerful illustrations of how their names have affected their lives. 5 min

• **Power of Sex** - Paul Monahan talks honestly about how addictions affected his life. 3 min 30

**Build character!** • **Men's Ministry** - Paul Monahan explains how his wide experience, especially with Men's Ministry and PK, equips him to help churches as a consultant with Promise Keepers. 3 min 50

• **PK Music** - Indescribable 3 min 30

• **GO 2015 Event Promo** 1 min 20

• **Mana Silisili Samoan Event Promo** 5 min

**HUMOUR CLIPS:** Bear interrupts filming; Dog helps cat; Human wrecking ball; Caravan mishap; Man-made gas explosion 4 min 30

**BETTER WORK STORIES: Everything Earthmovers** 8 min 40

**DVD EXTRA RESOURCES** Access these using Windows Explorer (PC) or Command F (Mac)

**ARTICLES:** Including Pat Morley *A Man's Guide to Mother's Day*; Francis Frangipane *A Thankful Heart, The True Foundation*; Kevin Forlong *New Year New Start, Realising Your Hidden Potential*; Nikki Bray *Training Your Teens*; Mark Buchanan *Fighting Words*; Derek Prince *Hope in Christ Pt 1*; Bill Subritzky *Our Authority in the Name of Jesus Christ*; Tom O'Neil Stance Blogs *What is Success?, God's Covering & Protection*

**RESOURCES:** Including *Weekly Studies* for Men's Groups with Facilitator Guidelines; *Men's PK Stories* CHC 2014; GO 2015 Event *Advance Brochure*; GO 2105 *Group Leaders' Resources*; Kevin Forlong *Study Questions*; *Bible Reading Plans* and more...

**MP3s:** Including Derek Prince *God's Plan for Your Money* 102 min; Stuart Briscoe *Holiness Without the Halo* 45 min; **PK Canada:** Phil Callaway *Quest for Significance* 22 min; Nate Larkin *Honouring Your Wife* 19 min **PKNZ Classics:** Mike Griffiths *Known by Name* 34 min Tak Bhana *Designed for a Purpose* 32 min

Tell someone you know!

# mana silisili

Talia soo se alii

**Fallauga:** Ps Viliamu Mafoe, Michael Jones, Nick Tuitasi, Ps Kuki Aloalii, Eroni Clarke

**Aso Faraile 19 Iuni - Aso Toonai 20 Iuni**

**Promise Keepers – helping Samoan men become mighty men of God!**

**A Samoan Language Men's Event Ph: 0800 826 262 www.promisekeepers.org.nz**

**PROMISE #2**

A Promise Keeper is committed to pursuing vital relationships with a few other men, understanding that he needs brothers to help him keep his promises.

**Next Issue: SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES**