

1-8-17 Message
ADJUSTMENTS ARE NECESSARY:
In My Thinking

Introduction:

●No one naturally knows how to view himself or herself p_____ but all tend to derive self-worth from one or more of the following:

1. Physical a_____
2. What others s_____ or think
3. A_____ or lack of them
4. S_____ of lack of it
5. R_____ - good or bad experiences

●If God is going to work through us, we must adjust our t_____.

This introduces the sixth scriptural pattern for experiencing God, knowing and doing His will. Here are the six patterns:

1. God is always at w_____ around you.
2. God pursues continuing l_____ relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to j_____ Him in His work.
4. God speaks to us by the Holy Spirit in the B_____, prayer, circumstances, and the church in order to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.
5. God's invitation for you to join Him in His work will always lead you to a crisis of b_____ that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major a_____ in your life to join God in what He is doing.

●Today, resolve to adjust your view of yourself to what God says about you, regardless of what you experience. There are two major problems we must avoid – thinking too lowly about yourself or thinking too highly of yourself.

What Is Thinking Too Lowly About Yourself? (Judges 6)

●Everyone wants to be a_____

1. Many seek acceptance by someone or a group by striving to live up to their ex_____.
 - a. How much weight do you give a NEGATIVE comment or status put upon you by a friend, family member, society? Circle your answer.
Zero, a little moderate amount a lot.
 - b. How much weight do you REALLY give GOD's comment or status put upon you? Circle your answer.
Zero, a little moderate amount a lot.
2. How I am accepted by others or society has nothing to do with my w_____ as a person. This was Gideon's problem.

●The lesson of Gideon

1. The situation
 - a. Israel was being oppressed by the nation of M_____.
 - b. Israel cried out to God to d_____ them
 - c. God responded by raising up Gideon
 - d. But Gideon wrongly viewed himself
2. God's first word to Gideon
 - a. In verse 12, God calls Gideon a valiant w_____ even though Gideon was a f_____ (see v. 11)
 - b. In verse 12, God assures Gideon of His personal p_____
3. Gideon's first word to God (v. 13) - "The Lord has a_____ us."
 - a. Gideon was thinking only in a c_____ sense (us)
 - b. Gideon failed to hear the p_____ message (the Lord is with you)
4. God's subsequent words to Gideon
 - a. God has given the task of delivering Israel from the Midianites in the s_____ of the Lord (v. 14)
 - b. God will be with Gideon throughout the task (v. 16).
5. Gideon's subsequent words to God
 - a. My family is the l_____ in Manasseh (a ½ tribe)
 - b. I am the y_____ in the family.
6. The rest of the story narrates how Gideon adjusts his thinking to God's and becomes the instrument of God in His work.

●Application

1. Standards of worth vary from society to society, person to person, culture to culture. (e.g. what is the standard of a beauty?)
2. Are you trying to prove someone wrong by a NEGATIVE word that they said?
3. Are you putting your worth in the hands of a fallible human being?

What is Thinking Too Highly About Yourself (Romans 12:3)

●Rom 12:3 warns believers not to think higher about ourselves than what we should.

1. This kind of thinking keeps us from exercising the f_____ God has allotted us.
2. The context of this faith is using our spiritual g_____
3. Pride makes the issue about m_____ instead of about God.

●What defines you?

1. Is it your career? (I am a carpenter, doctor, retired)
2. Is it your abilities? (I am an athlete, a poet, a scholar)
3. Is it your popularity? (I am well-liked)
4. Is it your looks? (I am beautiful, handsome, muscular, trim)

●Which is healthier – low self-esteem or being prideful? N_____

1. Both are a wrong search for s_____

2. Both emphasize m_____ rather than God.

Think of Yourself as God Thinks About You

●If you are a believer in Christ.

1. John 1:12 – a c_____ of God (your **identity** comes from your connection to Him)
2. Rom 1:7 – a s_____, which means “set apart” from the world to serve (your **purpose** is eternal)
3. Matt 5:13,14 – a l_____ to the world, and s_____ to others (your **behavior** is to be influential so that people will see Christ makes a difference)
4. 2 Cor 5:17 – a n_____ creation (your sinful past has been wiped clean and is not to hold you back).

●If you are not a believer in Christ

1. The bad news (Rom 6:23a) - You are under sin’s penalty and are destined to suffer eternally.
 - a. The identity you hold is temporary
 - b. The purpose you pursue is temporary
 - c. The behavior you practice is apart from Christ
 - d. You cannot make up for your wrongs.
2. The good news (Rom 5:8) – God became a man to suffer rejection, excruciating pain, and total abandonment to pay that penalty.
 - a. Receive that payment by loving Jesus, trusting Him to be that sin payment and to be the God of your life.
 - b. You will instantly become a new creation (a new person) in Christ.