

**Walking Out Your Identity**  
**Sunday September 1, 2024**  
**Dr. Pete Norris**

Fill up and complete my joy by living in harmony and being of the same mind and one in purpose, having the same love, being in full accord and of one harmonious mind and intention. Do nothing from factional motives [through contentiousness, strife, selfishness, or for unworthy ends] or prompted by conceit and empty arrogance. Instead, in the true spirit of humility (lowliness of mind) let each regard the others as better than and superior to himself [thinking more highly of one another than you do of yourselves]. Let each of you esteem and look upon and be concerned for not [merely] his own interests, but also each for the interests of others. Let this same attitude and purpose and [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: [Let Him be your example in humility:] **(Philippians 2:2-5 AMP)**

Your attitude will decide your altitude. Attitude has its roots in words and its fruit in actions. The things we say not only reflect our attitude, but help mold our attitudes. Sooner or later the attitude will erupt in action.

And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude **(Ephesians 4:23 AMP)**

Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]. **(Romans 12:2 AMP)**

When you change your mind, you change your attitude. Your behavior is directly connected to what you believe in your heart. What you believe is your attitude. Attitudes are never content until they are expressed. You can hide them for a while, but they will find a way out. You can't just ignore them. You must change them. Your attitude will take you where you want to go, or it will keep you where you are. Attitude is your best friend or worst enemy. A bad attitude might seem to be justified, given the way you have been treated or the

hardships you must endure, but it is still a bad attitude, and it will affect your future. Your attitude will draw people to you, or it will drive them away.

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. **(1 Peter 4:1 NIV)**

Attitude is the library of your past, the speaker of your present and the prophet of your future. Your attitude talks much about your past experiences. Attitude is also a measure of maturity. Your attitude comes out in actions, mouth, and thoughts.

So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents. And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob. **(Genesis 25:27, 28 NKJV)**

See the childhood of Jacob. He grew up in a home with considerable insecurity. His Father loved his brother Esau more than him. Jacob's brother hated him so much, he wanted to kill him.

Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God. And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You." **(Genesis 28:20-22 NKJV)**

Jacob promised to start tithing. He finally went to his father-in-law Laban who was his employer and complained.

And it came to pass, when Rachel had borne Joseph, that Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own place and to my country. Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, and let me go; for you know my service which I have done for you." **(Genesis 30:25, 26 NKJV)**

He was making a proposal to his boss. Have nothing to show for all my work, I'm tired of wasting my time! Want to get out of here!

Then he said, "Name me your wages, and I will give it." So Jacob said to him, "You know how I have served you and how your livestock has been with me.

For what you had before I came was little, and it has increased to a great amount; the Lord has blessed you since my coming. And now, when shall I also provide for my own house?" So he said, "What shall I give you?" And Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything. If you will do this thing for me, I will again feed and keep your flocks: Let me pass through all your flock today, removing from there all the speckled and spotted sheep, and all the brown ones among the lambs, and the spotted and speckled among the goats; and these shall be my wages. **(Genesis 30:28-32 NKJV)**

He decided to do something different, take a few chances, change some things, and give God something to bless. Jacob said, " just give the speckled cattle, you don't want them anyway. Jacob peeled some bark from tree branches and put it in front of the animals watering troughs. God blessed Jacobs' obedience, efforts, and the flocks bore speckled and spotted young.

Thus the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks, female and male servants, and camels and donkeys. **(Genesis 30:43 NKJV)**

Now Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, "Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has acquired all this wealth." And Jacob saw the countenance of Laban, and indeed it was not favorable toward him as before. Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you." So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field, to his flock, and said to them, "I see your father's countenance, that it is not favorable toward me as before; but the God of my father has been with me. **(Genesis 31:1-5 NKJV)**

And it happened, at the time when the flocks conceived, that I lifted my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the rams which leaped upon the flocks were streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted. Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.' And He said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.' **(Genesis 31:10-13 NKJV)**

Jacob overcame his past by starting to think differently. He gained a new perspective on his life. Later he attributed the change to a dream. Jacob looked

for ways to change his position and God blessed him. Your position is your possession!