

WWWC MN 2018 theme: *WHO I AM*

I have recently gone through a significant trial in my life. As I was in the midst of the most turbulent part of it (at least I hope that was as bad as this trial will be!!!), I kept hearing the Holy Spirit whisper to me reminders of *who I am*. When my thoughts would digress to negativity, to doubt, to patterns from my childhood or even early adult years...or let's face it, to struggles I know I still have, HE would nudge me, and encourage me to remember my mission statement. He reminded me to take control over my thoughts, and to live my life the way HE designed me to be. Purposefully. Intentionally. Intelligently. Creatively. Tenaciously. After all, my thoughts determine my attitude, my mood, my actions, and how I interact with the world around me. Guess what happened? I was held. I was comforted. I experienced rich, deep, profound love. I didn't argue with my spouse or kids. I experienced peace in the midst of turmoil. The kind of peace that passes all understanding.

I believe God never allows the struggles in my life to be for my gain only, but rather to edify the body. When join together as one body, sharing what we are learning, watching each other struggle and prevail, it is then that we learn. God sees the big picture, we see only a sliver. I believe that sliver of a picture we see applies to our weekend to remind us to focus on our theme: *WHO I AM*. How did God uniquely knit you together? How did He design you? How does that unique wiring fit into the body. When we live as He calls us to be, we are walking hand in hand with Christ. To quote our theme song:

Fearfully

Wonderfully

Perfectly

You have made me

WWWC MN 2018 verse:

2 Corinthians 10:5 "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

WWWC MN 2018 Song: *Who I Am* by Blanca

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ihC9PNXQqYw>

Read through this passage in Colossians from the NIV Bible:

Colossians 3:1-14 NIV

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. **3** For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is your^[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. **6** Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.^[b] **7** You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. **8** But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. **9** Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices **10** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. **11** Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. **13** Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **14** And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

And now read the same scripture passage in this version from The Message:

The Message: He Is Your Life

3 1-2 So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, *act* like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from *his* perspective.

3-4 Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your *real* life—even though invisible to spectators—is with Christ in God. *He* is your life. When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you'll show up, too—the real you, the glorious you. Meanwhile, be content with obscurity, like Christ.

5-8 And that means killing off everything connected with that way of death: sexual promiscuity, impurity, lust, doing whatever you feel like whenever you feel like it, and grabbing whatever attracts your fancy. That's a life shaped by things and feelings instead of by God. It's because of this kind of thing that God is about to explode in anger. It wasn't long ago that you were doing all that stuff and not knowing any better. But you know better now, so make sure it's all gone for good: bad temper, irritability, meanness, profanity, dirty talk.

9-11 Don't lie to one another. You're done with that old life. It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire. Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete. Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ.

12-14 So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

Questions to ponder as you prepare for the weekend:

~How are your thoughts lining up with the Word?

~Do your thoughts about yourself/the stories you tell yourself align with your Mission Statement?

Our thoughts affect our attitude, our mood, our actions, and how we interact with others. Take them captive!!

To discuss with your prayer partner the week of July 30-August 5:

Reread the above Scripture passages.

LOVE, your basic, all-purpose garment. What does that stir in your spirit? Excitement? Shame? Hope? Peace? Determination? Conviction? Inspiration? ?????

When you read through the two versions of Colossians 3:1-14, what is the Holy Spirit saying to you? (Share this with your partner.)

Now consider this verse: 2 Corinthians 10:5 "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." How is your life different because of living out this verse by taking your thoughts captive? Or how do you think it will be different if you were to start living out this verse?

Pray for each other.

To discuss with your prayer partner the week of August 6-12:

Here is the YouTube link and the words to the song by Blanca:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ihC9PNXQqYw>

WHO I AM:

Another voice, another choice
To listen to words somebody said
Another day
I replay
One too many doubts inside my head

Am I strong
Beautiful
Am I good enough
Do I belong
After all
That I've said and done
Is it real
When I feel
I don't measure up
Am I loved

CHORUS

I'm running to the One who knows me
Who made every part of me in His hands
I'm holding to the One who holds me
'Cause I know whose I am,
I know who I am

I am sure I am Yours

Turning down
Tuning out
Every single word
That caused me pain
Unashamed
And unafraid
'Cause I believe You mean it when You say

I am strong
Beautiful
I am good enough
I belong
After all
'Cause of what You've done
This is real
What I feel
No one made it up
I am loved

CHORUS

I am sure I am Yours
I know who I am
I am sure I am Yours

Fearfully
Wonderfully
Perfectly
You have made me

I'm running to the One who knows me
I'm holding to the One who holds me

CHORUS

I am sure I am Yours
And I know who I am

What is your instant, gut response to the question "who am I?" Write down your instant, spontaneous responses...

Do you respond with performance abilities? physical attributes? Character qualities?

Pause, and ponder this question: Who do I think I am?

Wrote down those gut responses. Don't overthink this!

Now, spend time with God in prayer. What does He say about you? How does He describe you? Write His description down now...

After you have done this exercise alone, connect with your prayer partner. Listen to the song together, and then share your responses with your prayer partner. PRAY for each other.

Psalm 139:13-14 says "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, *I know that full well.*" I KNOW THAT FULL WELL!! *Hold that thought captive and challenge yourself and your partner to live it out this week!*

To discuss with your prayer partner the week of August 13-16:

Psalm 8:3-5 “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, who is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?”

Psalm 9:10 “Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.”

Zechariah 2:8 “... for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye.”

1 Corinthians 13:11. “When I was a child, I *talked* like a child, I *thought* like a child, I *reasoned* like a child. When I became a man (woman), I put childish ways behind me.”

Connect with your partner and share what these verses speak to you. How do they affirm what God has been saying to you these last few weeks? Is there a thought (pattern) from your childhood that is ready to stay (covered in grace) in your childhood as you step out even more boldly as the Woman Walking in Christ that you are today? Are there any specific thoughts you need prayer for from your partner over the weekend? The words from Blanca remind us: ***I am sure I am Yours***

And I know who I am.

Abundant blessings,

Sandra