


TINY MATHEW

APPROVAL
OF *One*



5 PRACTICAL WAYS
TO FIGHT THE
ENEMY'S ATTACK
ON YOUR IDENTITY

APPROVAL
OF *One*

by Tiny Mathew

*5 Practical Ways to Fight the
Enemy's Attack on Your Identity*

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Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations
are from the NKJV Version of the Bible.

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INTRODUCTION

God wants to usher you into a new season, which is exceedingly above your expectations. But, in order for you to enter into it, you need to know who you are.

In the land of Promise (breakthroughs) that God wants to lead you into, you can't function with your old way of thinking. The only way the devil gets access into a child of God's life is by messing up with his mind. And, we easily give into it because we don't realise who we are in Christ.

When I was in my mother's womb, the doctors said I would be an abnormal child as I was a breech baby. My mother wanted a boy as she already had my older sister. I was supposed to be named 'Tony' (thinking I was a boy), but they named me 'Tiny' after they saw me.

There was a sense of rejection in my heart as I grew up, especially in my teenage years. There was a part of me that went out of the way to please people so that I could win their acceptance. This was until I started hearing God and realising what He thinks about me. When we know who we are in Him, we begin to function like Him. That's why I believe the most profound thing is to know who our God is, and, who we are in Him.

We are most attacked by the enemy in our identity or self-worth. He will do everything he can to make sure we don't see ourselves the way God sees us. Even when Jesus as a Son of man was tempted, the attack was foremost on His identity. The devil kept challenging Him, saying, "*If you are the Son of God...*" (**Matthew 4:1-11**).

That's why I wrote this book especially for you!

Sometimes we make wrong choices in life because we don't realise our worth, and who we are in Christ. Thankfully God still can turn everything for your good.

"Approval of One" will remind you of who you are and whose voice is greater over your life. It will also give you five practical strategies to fight the enemy's attack on your identity.

I pray that this book will open your eyes and give you the confidence and boldness to function like Jesus in every area of your life.

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tiny". The script is cursive and elegant, with a large 'T' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

PS: Do write to me at contact@tinymathew.com and let me know how the book blessed you.

LOVE YOURSELF

If you want to be rooted in your identity, this is where it starts - Love yourself.

Do you know that you are loved unconditionally by God and are very precious to Him? When God made you, He made you perfect and in His image. You are His masterpiece!

Sadly, most Christians have a mental knowledge about it, but at the heart level they don't really believe. That's why you look at yourself in the mirror and you are not happy. You don't feel confident. All the time you find flaws in yourself and you need constant affirmations from people. You feel there is no purpose to your life and that nobody loves you. And, because you don't love yourself, you are not able to love or accept others.

Child of God, you need to raise your worth in your eyes first! Learn not to be hard on yourself, but embrace the love of God. Learn to forgive yourself. Learn not to put too much burden on yourself.

See yourself how the father sees

The Bible says this about you in **1 Peter 2:9**: , *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”*

In spirit, which is the real you - You are perfect! And, you need to live your natural life from that overflow. Take the focus off you, and auto-focus on Him, and the way He sees you.

When God created you, He put the right colour on our skin, He put the right texture for your hair, He gave you those perfect features. But if you constantly keep looking at your body and finding flaws, that means you are telling God, what you have created is not good.

Listen daughters of God, instead of constantly comparing yourself with others and feeling insecure, why don't you embrace yourself for who God has created you to be? Each one of you is created uniquely, and with a divine destiny.

Proverbs 31:30 says, *“Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.”*

It is the fear of God that will make you shine bright in your generation, and people will be drawn to the God in you.

Insecurity is like a disease and unless you deal with it, you will never be satisfied. But when you spend intimate time with God, in His presence and fellowship with the Holy Spirit, all your insecurities will start leaving you.

Get to the root of the issue

As long as we live on this earth, we are a work-in-progress, but don't live life carrying the baggage of your past. Instead of constantly comparing yourself with others, isolating yourself, or attacking others, grow up. Ask yourself: Why do I get irritated? Why am I still hurting in this area? Why am I defensive on this topic?

Get to the root of your issue and seek God's grace in uprooting the lies of the enemy especially regarding your identity because if you are only healed at the 'surface level', the enemy can use people and situations to uncover your past wounds and hurts.

Remember, before David could fight a Goliath, he had to learn to kill the lions and bears in his private life. How will you overcome the big challenges of the Promised Land, when you have not yet gained victories over yourself?

So, embrace the process as God moulds and shapes you. Daily work on yourself, discipline your body, grow in your character and eliminate the things that hold you down.

CHAPTER TWO

RENEW YOUR MIND

One of the ways the enemy attacks a child of God is by attacking his identity and that's why you need to constantly renew your mind (change your thinking).

And, you do this by the Word of God.

God's instructions are clear:

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. (Joshua 1:8)

The more you study His Word, the more you will realise who you are and how God sees you. It's when you don't know who you are, you end up making wrong choices and doing things that you regret later for.

Know who you are. You are a son of God!

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. (Romans 8:14-17)

Learn to embrace His Word and what it says. That's how you stand tall in the spirit and become bigger than your problem. No longer attacks on your identity will then work.

God is wanting to speak to you always. And, the best way to hear God is through His Word. *All Scripture is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16)*. It starts with reading the Word, but you should not stop there. You need to meditate on the Word of God till you become 'one' with it. The more time you spend with the Word of God, the more you are able to hear God better.

Breaking addictions

Do you know the source of your addictions can be traced to a lack of knowing your identity? This is because if you knew who you are, you wouldn't waste your time watching worthless things on your phone, or doing things that harm you physically or emotionally.

When you come to a place of spiritually growing in your stature and in your understanding of who you are in Him, then these addictions will no longer have power over you.

FREE YOURSELF FROM PEOPLE'S EXPECTATIONS

I am sure there is no one who likes to be rejected, disrespected or disliked by people. But the problem is when "acceptance of people" becomes your identity. You expect so much from the people around you and when your expectations are not met, it breaks you.

You see, if you try to please everyone or satisfy everyone, sooner or later you will be left disappointed.

I will show you a better way. Live for the approval of ONE. Focus all your attention on the lover of your soul and seek Him and His pleasure.

Expectations always lead to disappointments. Sometimes we grow up with the need for affirmation and we look at it in the wrong places - from our leaders, parents, friends or spouse.

I see this happening in marriages all the time. When people get married, they put too much expectation on each other, and when their needs are not met, it can lead to huge disappointment.

Instead of putting 'unexpected expectations' on your spouses to fulfill the void in your heart, you need to focus on what is bringing in those feelings of rejection and deal with those issues.

I understand the pain when your loved ones never affirmed you, instead always criticized you. But if you hold on to that and don't allow the Holy Spirit to heal that part of you, you will keep seeking that affirmation elsewhere.

Look at our master Jesus!

Though He was the Son of God, He was rejected by His very own people.

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him (John 1:10-11)

And He faced rejection for you and I so that we might be accepted in Him (**Ephesians 1:6**). The love of Jesus is the greatest love that you can encounter in this world, and only, and only He can satisfy you. His love is complete and unconditional. Let this truth set you free.

Young people, know that your identity or self worth doesn't come from your parent's or friends' validation, but what God has to say about you. The desire to be loved and accepted has to be translated to the One who loves you dearly. And that is Jesus! Because His love alone can fill every vacuum of your heart.

Child of God, you need to grow in your identity to a point where now you are unmoved by what others say. This requires a lot of dying to affirmations.

The less you expect from people, the less you will get disappointed, the more you expect from God, the more you will be filled.

CHOOSE FAITH OVER FEAR

Child of God, life may not have been good for you, but know that God is good and He is working things for your good (**Romans 8:28**).

You have two choices - You can either blame your past, or your family or your upbringing (And I understand that the struggle was real. I am not denying that). Or, you can get up from whatever situation you are in and stop living like a victim.

Choose the latter.

I look at some believers and I feel sad, because years have passed, and yet when you meet them, they still are holding on to self pity. This is a victim's mindset that you need to get rid of and not allow it to define your identity. You got to choose for yourself: The way I was, 5 years ago, I cannot be now. I cannot act like a victim. I cannot live in bitterness, guilt or condemnation.

Be a thankful person

Shift your focus from being anxious and living in self pity to being thankful. It starts by changing the language you speak. When I know who I am, I don't want to talk the language that I used to talk before.

Hasn't the Lord been good and merciful to you?

The best thing to do is to think about the goodness of God and think what He has done for you. Think, how He delivered you from so many situations that could have gone wrong in your life and have an attitude of gratitude. If the Lord has brought you thus far, trust Him to lead you through. Yes, the struggle that you went through was real, but you cannot live like a victim anymore. Gratitude should be your ready weapon.

Voice of God is superior

Joseph in the Bible went through a lot of attacks, accusations and injustice, and that too first from his very own blood brothers. But he never lived like a victim. In fact he was an overcomer because of the vision that God had put inside of him. Joseph did not allow discouragement to defile his light. He kept shining. He knew that God believed in him, even if no one else did. And God kept promoting him. In fact, every attack from the enemy, caused an elevation in his life.

Can you allow the voice of God in your life to be superior over the voice of the enemy?

The battles you face, by now, should not move you, once you know who are you in Christ and who lives in the inside of you. You carry the light of God and I declare: Your light shall shine bright!

CHAPTER FIVE

RISE ABOVE YOUR EMOTIONS

One Sunday morning, I woke up feeling physically exhausted. I thought I might be late to church because I wasn't feeling my best, but I reminded myself not to focus on my situation or emotions. Instead I told myself, that I am a queen, I will dress my best and be found in the house of God praising Him.

You see, child of God, you are a royalty. The Bible in **Revelation 1:5-6** calls you a king and a priest: *To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Sometimes, you got to look at your situation and say out loud, "I am a king/queen and I got this!" You see, kings and queens always have a solution. They don't lose their dignity or peace of mind over trivial matters.

I understand some nights, some days, some weeks can be draining, but be intentional to snap out of your feelings, and start celebrating and thanking God, and God will honour that.

Learn to deal with your emotions everyday. Don't allow discouragement to overwhelm you. Disappointments are normal, but don't stay there. Don't allow your feelings to define you. Remember God is the lifter of your head. As David says in **Psalms 3:3 (ESV)**
But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.

You got to learn to praise God even when your feelings don't agree. Talk to yourself and say: NO, I am not going to be led by my emotions, but by the Holy Spirit. The lion of Judah is roaring inside of me and I am going to look at my situation and roar in praise.

Every time you go through rejection and negativity through words that come to question your identity, lay your tears at the feet of Jesus and embrace what the Word of God says about you. Weigh your emotions and anxious thoughts and see if it aligns with the Word of God. Cancel those negative words spoken over your life and declare out loud what the Word of God says about you.

Sometimes when your loved ones who are supposed to mould and encourage you are the ones to put you down and discourage you, it can be very painful. However, you need to forgive them and at the same time let your light continue to shine bright. Ask God for strategies to win them, and yet not expect any affirmation from them, but serve them out of the goodness of your heart.

Do it because you are a child of God. Also use wisdom as the Holy Spirit leads you in your dealings with them.

Through the Word of God and Spirit of God you can overcome every emotional battle. When your mind seems clogged, the only person who can help you is Jesus. The Bible says in **Isaiah 40:29**,
He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength

Jesus has the final say over your life, not your emotions. You are who God says You are and that settles it.



TM

*Thank you for
reading!*

Thank you so much for reading this resource. Please drop in a line at tiny@shyjumathew.com and let us know how this devotional blessed you.

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