

*Top three areas we place our worth/identity:*

I am what I do

I am what people think/say about me

I am what I have

Not a single thing on this list is a representation of who we are and what God has created us to be.

This has been a scheme and tactic of the enemy forever. He feeds us lies and tempts us when it comes to our identity.

### **Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness**

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. **Matthew 4:1-11**

In this passage, Satan presents three different temptations that can be tied back to identity. The first is Satan tempting Jesus with doing.

Next We see him tempting Jesus with the attention from people around him.

Lastly, we see him tempting Jesus with possessions

If you look at each of these, doing, status, and possession. These are all temptations that the enemy still uses on us today. His tests and tactics have not changed.

We have to remember that he was also Human just like us, and felt these temptations just as deeply as we do. Hebrews 4:15 says: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Before Jesus went to the wilderness, he already knew his belovedness.

The same God that called Jesus his Beloved son calls you his Beloved as well. Who you are, to your core is a Beloved child of God.

At the end of the day, the only thing that matters is we are so deeply known and loved by God.

“From the moment we claim the truth of being Beloved, we are faced with the call to become who we are. Becoming the Beloved is the great spiritual journey we have to make.” - Henri Nouwen

Becoming the beloved means letting this truth become enfleshed in everything we think, say, or do. It quite literally means we need to build our lives upon the fact we are loved by God.

Henri Nouwen describes this journey of becoming Beloved in four words: Taken, Blessed, Broken and Given.

To become Beloved we first have to claim that we are Taken. (Chosen)

God loves you so much that he created and chose you, he created every intricate detail. You were and have always been on his heart and mind.

Once we know we are chosen, we have to claim it. We need to hold onto the truth that we have been set apart and are loved by God.

The moment we allow our identity to be found in anything else is when lies and rejection creeps in. Feelings of worthlessness, comparison and traps of the enemy start to rule our life.

Once we've claimed that we are chosen, we need to claim our blessedness.

As beloved sons and daughters of God, we are blessed.

It's times like this we need to claim our blessedness. Being Beloved and Blessed go hand in hand.

There's going to be many times on this journey where the blessings feel far away, but we can never forget all the Lord has done for us and give him praise.

Along with recognizing our blessedness, we need to recognize that we are also broken.

We live in a fallen world and are all broken people in need of a savior.

Once we know we are chosen, and we recognize that we are blessed and broken, we can then be given.

This final step of becoming Beloved is recognizing this love that the Lord lavishes upon us is meant to be given to others.

All of this, claiming our choseness, recognizing that we are blessed, and giving ourselves to others is the beautiful process of becoming who we truly are. Beloved sons and daughters of God.

How do we live our lives in a way that we are placing our identity in Christ and as his Beloved children?

We need to remind ourselves we are Beloved

We need to remind others they are Beloved

We need to thank God for calling us his Beloved