

November 13, 2013

# EXTREME FAITH

**Who are we?**

"Knowing who we are is knowing who God is and the community we belong to."



## Stop Feeling Small

## Know who you Are!

### WHO WE ARE

#### How do people make you feel about yourself...

Sticks and Stone may break my bones but words will never hurt me? We have looked at this before and well. If you believe that rhyme then you are well very special.

So here is the deal whether we like it our not people have an effect on what we think about ourselves. We live in community, now just because we live in community, does not mean that we live in a healthy community. I know that you have heard a ton about this, and that they bring it up all the time at school. But we are going to look at it as well. Bullying. So how do people make you feel about yourself? That is the question that we are going to be digging into. I mean we have had it all happen to us where we are having the best day ever and then all of a sudden everything changes. We are now having a crappy day! Why because someone broke a promise, or someone just targeted us and did whatever they could to make us feel like crap. Then all of a sudden we went from feeling on top of the world to feeling oh so small.

So who are we? that is another question we will be looking at. Yes we are children of God and God loves us no matter what! We Know that if God is for us who can be against us. But when you have been bullied by other kids, or even friends, that doesn't always pull

us through. So what are we to do? How do we feel better about ourselves when we really doubt ourselves. That's a tough one and I bet we all can say that we have been there from one time to another.

Let's talk about community, what about your community, do you hang with people that you trust and when you are cut down, and beat up do you turn to your community that will support you? We need this tight community to make it out there. We need to support one another, and watch out for one another. This is XGT, it is a community, look around the room, and ask yourself do you support the people in this room, do you feel supported by the people in this room?

Check this verse out, **Deuteronomy 31: 8 The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.**" God is with us and we will find His strength in our community, we don't have to run alone and we can depend on one another. Invest in this community, and learn how to know who you are by what your community says about you, not some stray person, who doesn't really know you!



We are strong!

How much can your stand? How much can you put up with and how much can you push away? We are strong, because our strength comes from the Lord! Our community gains it's strength from the Lord!

I know we have all been attacked and picked on and we have all felt small and doubted ourselves. This must end! We must show people who the Lord is and we can do that by believing who He says we are more than anyone else. Who are you how do you define yourself? From the words of others or from Your God, Your Father! We have to strengthen ourselves and depend on God and the community that He has given us. We must be seen as a force that responds and supports one another with Strength and Love.

# God is the power source

"Overflow" by Newsboys

"Overflow"

Livin' in this world can be like a desert  
It can leave me dry and alone  
Lookin' for safety, runnin' on empty  
Takin' all I have to go on  
But You-o-o  
You fill up my cup and I'm overwhelmed  
Yeah, You-o-o  
You give me a hope that never ends

There's no limit to the love that You give me  
I'd go swimmin' in the sea of forgiveness  
I know You're the only reason I'm livin'  
I overflow-o-o-oh

The love that I'm filled with, I can't help but give it  
I wanna see joy flood this world  
Watch all the nations return to the Saviour  
Bringin' heaven down to this earth  
But You-o-o  
You fill up my cup and I'm overwhelmed  
Yeah, You-o-o  
You give me a hope that never ends

It's over the top  
Your love never stops  
Rushin' through my heart  
I can't contain  
I get carried away  
In all that You are



This song is featured on  
The Restart Album  
by  
Newsboys

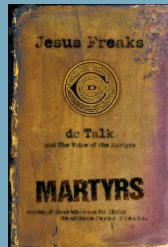
# Real Life Heroes

Peruvian Congregation  
Cano, Peru  
1991

Terrorists had killed their pastor the night before. His body was on the floor under a blanket with some candles around it. Terrorists had also burned the church and seventeen houses — all belong-ing to Christians. The people had no more church, no more pastor, no more houses. Yet, they continued to gather together fearlessly, about thirty of them. They stood in the muddy street to have their song service.

Stand united, singular in vision, contending for people's trust in the Message, the good news, not flinching or dodging in the slightest before the opposition. Your courage and unity will show them what they're up against, defeat for them, victory for you — and both because of God. Paul the Apostle Martyred In Rome, 65 AD (PHILIPPIANS 1:27,28 THE MESSAGE)

Featured Story  
from the book  
Jesus Freaks do  
Talk and the  
voice of the  
Martyrs



How would you stand if this happened to you?

How will you stand if someone challenges who you are and tries to tear you down?

We must stand as a community supporting one another in the power of Jesus!

This is important!

## CHARACTER

### EXTREME APPLICATION

Where did all this come from, I mean who really started all of this bullying and pushing people around... I mean to make yourself feel better about yourself, you have to make someone feel bad about themselves. What is your character? Are you strong enough to stand up to bullies, are you strong enough to protect others? Before you answer remember where our strength comes from! Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power! So yes you are strong enough!

### Think About it (Tension in knowing who you are)

Yes there is a tension in knowing who you are, because as soon as you know who you are and you live up to that and live in that you have peace. Once you have peace the world and the people in the world will try to take it away from you. Some people will say that you are stuck up and that you are a snob. That you don't care what anybody thinks. The list could keep going on and on. Here is the tension, how do you extend what you have to others. How do you allow others to know that your strength comes from the Lord, and that your power source is His strength. That you get your image and your attitude from Him...

Well try this, live like He did, live like you know He would want you to live. Now understand that it's not easy, but you can do it. You can know who you are because you ask Him and He will show you all that you are!

We must have a proper view of ourselves, we are to know who we are as children of God. The only way a child knows who they are is to be with their parents. We have to hang with God and know who He is and what He thinks of us. Then when people try to tear us down we must depend on Him and all that He tells us we are.

Who do you believe yourself to be and what do you back that up with? Do you back it up with what the people tell you, you are or do you back it up with God, with your family and your community? We are children of God and we need to know who we are and what God says about us. Check these verses out: **Psalm 139:13-14** For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well

Matthew 18:12-14 12 "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety- nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? 13 And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety- nine that did not wander off. 14 In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost. Think about these verses and know that is how God sees you. You are important, special and wonderful. No matter what anyone says!



# DIG IN

**Read: Deuteronomy 31: 8 The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."**

1. Do you have a nickname your friends call you?

What is it? \_\_\_\_\_

How did you get the nickname? \_\_\_\_\_

How does it make you feel? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How would you feel?

If you thought everybody was laughing at you?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you were a failure in front of your friends?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you were different from everyone else your age?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. It was a Friday and Jason got on the bus feeling really good. That night he was going to hang out and sleep over at his friend Bryan's house. It was going to be a great weekend. But when he got to school, things changed his good mood. In his first period math class, he found out that he flunked yesterday's quiz. To top it off, Bryan ignored him and cancelled their plans. Bryan was invited to Dawn's house for a party, and Jason hadn't been invited. Jason couldn't figure out what was wrong with him. He wondered if God cared—after all, didn't God want Jason to have fun?

Didn't God understand? \_\_\_\_\_

What advice do you have for Jason? \_\_\_\_\_

What would you say to Bryan if you were Jason? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think God understands Jason's situation? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do the statements below describe you? Write Y (yes, that's me) or N (no, that's not me).

\_\_\_\_ I feel good about who I am.

\_\_\_\_ I always compare myself to my friends.

\_\_\_\_ I often daydream I am someone else.

\_\_\_\_ I have trouble making friends.

\_\_\_\_ Most people are smarter than I am.

\_\_\_\_ I sometimes put other people down.

\_\_\_\_ I feel left out sometimes.

\_\_\_\_ I feel I am just as important as anyone else at school.

5. Wanna know how much God thinks of you? Check out the following Bible verses and jot down what you think he says.

Psalms 139:13-14 \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 1:21-23 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 18:12-14 \_\_\_\_\_

# UNDERSTANDING WHO WE ARE

## TAKE SOME TIME AND JOURNAL.

**Look it over, read the story again, dig into the questions and write out your**

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## Living life with

Extreme faith  
and  
Extreme vision

# EXTREME FAITH MAGAZINE

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