



Does God Like Me? | Shawn Johnson | 10.10.21
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

What is one thing you would like to do during this fall season?

SHARE

Welcome back to Group! This week, Shawn continued our new series “Vantage Point” by reminding us of **who** we are because of **whose** we are. But before we dive in, choose one or two people from your group to share their story using the following questions as prompts.

- 1. Tell me about your upbringing. What are a few of the significant life events that shaped and molded you?**
- 2. Have you ever had a moment where you realized God is real and loves you? If so, tell us about it.**
- 3. How have you changed in the last five years?**

GROW

Read 1 Peter 2:4-9

How does God reveal His character through this scripture?

This week Shawn reminded us of the deep love and affection that God has for us and how we can live out of this Truth and stop living from any other word spoken over us. He took 1 Peter 2:9 and broke it down to help us have better understanding of WHO God's says we are in this Scripture. Shawn did this by touching on each truth by explaining what it means when it says, we are *chosen people*, a *royal priesthood*, a *holy nation*, and God's *greatest possessions*.

Let's take a closer look at each of these Truths that God speaks over our identity.

- **God's chosen people:** God chose us for this time, this place and for his purpose. He chose us from before the beginning of time. It says in Ephesians 1:4-6, "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight in love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves." This is based on God's sovereignty and deep love for us and has nothing to do with human effort. We are loved because He chose us, and we can live this life worthy of this calling and out of this truth! This is good news friends! We can all take a deep breath! God loves us just because of WHO we are not because of what we can or cannot do.

When you hear that you are *chosen* by God and for God, what does this mean to you?

- **God's royal priesthood:** In short, we look first to the Old Testament. The Israelites, God's people, relied on a priest to connect with God. These people could not come to God the way you and I can come to him now. They had to go through a priest because they were considered unworthy to be in the presence of God. Fast forward, to the New Testament, in God's sovereignty and perfect plan, Jesus makes way for us all! He does this through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And because of this sacrificial act of love, we are now able to "approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

Do you find it difficult to approach God's throne with confidence? How does knowing this truth shift your heart posture?

- **God's Holy Nation:** Romans 3:29 says "...is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too." You see, Israel saw themselves as the "Holy Nation" and some Jewish followers saw that this was just for them but because of Jesus this is for everyone! There is no divide when it come to the Gospel. No one is too far gone or unworthy to receive this free gift from God. In Acts 2:21 it says that "EVERYONE who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." As followers of Christ, we are considered God's Holy Nation.

As followers of Christ, how does knowing this truth give you a new vantage point for others around you?

- **God's greatest possession:** We read in John 3:16, "God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." God sees you and I with a deep love and affection that he would die for us. Stop for a moment and take this in.

Using the same scenario that Shawn shared, if your home was on fire, what would be the reason or thing that you run back in to save even if your life was at stake? Why?

A.W. Tozer writes, "God enjoys His creation. The Apostle John says frankly that God's purpose in creation was His own pleasure. God is happy in His love for all that He has made. We cannot miss the feeling of pleasure in God's delighted references to His handiwork. Psalm 104 is a divinely inspired nature poem almost rhapsodic in its happiness, and the delight of God is felt throughout it. "The glory of the Lord shall endure forever: The Lord shall rejoice in his works." We are God's greatest possessions and when he looks at us, he takes great delight in us (see Zeph, 3:17).

What stirs in your heart when you hear that you are God's greatest possession? That He enjoys and delights in you? That He rejoices in His work in you? Do you think that God sees you this way? Why or why not?

MOVE

This Weeks Challenge:

- Shawn gave us a list of Truths of who God says we are. Print them out and put them all over your home and in your car and at your desk. Wherever you will need to be reminded of these truths this week, post them there.
- Read aloud the Scriptures this week and ask God to help you live out of these truths.

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...
-Revelation 12:11