

What is Your Identity?

Drew Brees was an outstanding high school quarterback and popular at school because of his success on the football field. His peers looked at him as a future pro football player. Then, it happened. A severe knee injury put his athletic future in jeopardy. A junior in high school, without football, he was nothing. As he sat in church, a sermon changed his focus. He gave his life to Jesus Christ that day, and his identity changed. He was no longer an injured athlete but a child of God. He lived for Jesus Christ.



The dictionary describes our identity as “the distinguishing character or personality of an individual.”¹ If our identity is in worldly endeavors, it can be taken away from us in a heartbeat. We can lose a job, suffer a debilitating injury, or face financial ruin. If our identity is on earthly things, when it is gone, we are no longer relevant.

As a child of God, Brees learned that his identity is not what he had accomplished, but what God has gifted him to do. There is nothing greater or more fulfilling than being in union with God. The term “born again” refers to being prepared for a higher purpose and headed to a higher world because we put our lives in God’s hands. It is the pathway for security, significance, and satisfaction.² Being a child of God helps us to flourish in a messy world, transformed by the Gospel.

What did God gift Drew Brees to do with his life? Drew Brees recovered from the knee injury, and God led him to a Hall of Fame football career. As a football player, Drew Brees was well-known for his Christian faith. His Christian faith led him to become a supportive teammate for every team on which he played. He encouraged others – not only on the field, but in their Christian walk. God used his extraordinary football skills as a platform to spread the Gospel and win souls for Christ. His heavenly purpose was not to win football games but to help build a bigger heaven.

How about you? How has God gifted you? Where has God placed you? Who has God placed in your path at work, in your neighborhood, and in your network of friends? What are you doing to make a difference in the lives of others? How has God gifted you to give you that opportunity? Is there something about you that people admire and that might open the door to sharing your faith with them?

If we identify ourselves only by our abilities, we will miss the opportunity to encourage others in the faith. Those abilities might be taken away from us in a crisis. Then, what would we have? When you have a relationship with God, you have so much more. You have an eternal future, and the opportunity to lead others to theirs.

As Drew Brees stood at the podium for his Hall of Fame induction, he thanked the people who helped him achieve success in life – not just as a football player, but in life. Most of all, he thanked God. How many people had Drew Brees led to faith? Someday, thousands of people will come up to Drew Brees in heaven and tell him that they are there because of him. That is his identity. It is bigger than a Super Bowl win or a place in the football Hall of Fame. It brings others with you on the path to victory – the victory that Jesus Christ won for us all.

The Bible Says: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

¹ Merriam-Webster dictionary

² www.desiringgod.org