

September 8. Think of the names you have been called in your life. There have been nicknames, there have been put-down names. But there also have been names you've called yourself - not-enough, damaged, unqualified, depressed, overwhelmed. Have you ever wanted to trade those names for a new name? **Revelations 2:17. "I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it. A new God-given name engraved on a white stone?** We all should sign up for that one! Is it possible to trade in our old names for something new? Can we upgrade to far better names? We can. Because God is in the upgrade business. He isn't going to leave us in our old broken down, torn up lives. He will come alongside us to upgrade us to something fresh and new. Your name is Overcomer. Your name is Conqueror. Your name is Champion.

September 9. We have the best craftsman in the universe! We were made by God. Look at Isaiah 64:6, "We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags." We are banged up, messed up and beat up. We may feel worthless, but we're valuable. Look at verse 8, "And yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand." The maker of the universe crafted YOU. The One who had the creative vision to form the mountains and the valleys, the rivers and the canyons, the oceans and the plains creatively formed you as well. He chose the color of your eyes, the pigment of your skin, and the curl of your hair - or lack thereof. His fingerprints are on you. His signature is on your soul. You have value because your maker matters. Remember that value is determined by what someone is willing to pay. Someone was willing to pay a great price for you. Someone was willing to pay the ultimate price for you. You are so valuable to Jesus that, according to Phil 2, "He gave up his divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, He humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross." He gave up His divine privileges as the son of God, humbled himself, and died an excruciating death. You are so valuable that He was mocked, beaten and nailed to a cross. You are so valuable that He defeated the grave so you could be reconciled with the Father. That's the value you hold. Jesus has deemed you extremely valuable because he was willing to pay the price for you! You are not worthless. Your maker matters. Your value is determined by the great price Jesus was willing to pay. Your name is Valuable

September 10. In Exodus 3, we see a leader who was overwhelmed with his calling and the terror that he might not be the right man for the job—that he might totally mess it up. In just a few verses, God lays out His plan for Moses’s life (He would lead God’s people to freedom), and Moses protests that calling with a litany of excuses. Who am I? How can I lead? They won’t believe me. I’m not a good speaker. Send someone else. I’m not good enough. I’m not equipped. I’m not qualified. I’m not gifted. There are so many others better than me.

Then he’s met with these powerful words: “I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you” (Exodus 3:14, NIV). I AM the One who is sovereign. I AM the One who is all-knowing. I AM the One who is all-powerful. I AM the One who is so much bigger than any teeny-tiny box you might try to fit Me in. You tell them, I AM chose you, called you, sent you.

Do you believe God is sovereign? Do you think He knows exactly what He is doing? Even though you feel like you're not equipped, not qualified, and not gifted enough. Do you not believe that God knew exactly what He was doing when He chose you? Even though you worry you might mess this whole parenting or family thing up...do you not believe that God knew exactly who your family needed? Do you not believe that God knew the exact parent your children would need? Even though you may struggle with feeling like you’re simply not enough...do you believe God is sovereign? Do you believe the great I AM is more than enough? Then you can walk with your head held high, because your name is Enough.

September 11. Read Luke 8:43-48. In just a few short verses a desperate woman personally experienced Jesus and His incredible restoration work. No name was given. We only know she is referred to as the bleeding woman. Twelve years of constant bleeding. Unimaginable.

Deemed unclean and damaged, she sought out doctor after doctor. We can only imagine the horror she had been through given the state of medicine 2000 years ago. But then ... Jesus. With a throng of people pressing in around Him, Jesus walked by and she grabbed hold of Jesus, in an instant she was healed. The power that leapt out of Jesus restored her damaged body and healed her brokenness. She was put back together in the most beautiful and extraordinary way!

Whatever your damage, no matter your brokenness, you can be made whole again. Each one of us has been positioned right here, right now, to be the person God created to make a difference in the lives of those around us. If we are willing, God can use our imperfections and even our pain to bring more beauty into our own lives and to influence the lives of others. This world is broken in so many ways, yet at the same time God is doing a fresh work! And He wants to do the same in you and me. He wants to take our failures, fears and hurts and use them to make a difference. Don’t let your painful past, dings, cracks and damage keep you out of the game. Press into Jesus and allow Him to heal you from the inside out. Then, you will be a force to reckon with on this side of heaven for His glory, because your name is Restored!

September 12. We know the story of the Israelites as they leave behind their lives of slavery in Egypt. They have miraculously walked on dry land as God parted the Red Sea. God has led them by a pillar of fire and a cloud of smoke. Can you even imagine?! Amazing! But Numbers 11:1, “the people soon began to complain to the Lord.” The next part says, “The Lord’s anger blazed against them.” (vs. 1) Was this because they were experiencing hardships and troubles? No. It is because in those hardships and troubles they had an attitude of complaining. The Lord was angry. Absolutely furious. In the midst of blessing after blessing, the Israelites were bitter. They complained because, at the core, they felt the provision of God simply wasn’t good enough for them. As Numbers 11 wraps up, the Bible says God’s “anger blazed out against the people. He hit them with a terrible plague. They ended up calling the place Kibroth Hattaavah (Graves-of-the-Craving)” (vs.34 MSG) Graves of craving. What a powerful image! Are we building for ourselves graves of craving or are we living lives of gratitude? If I only had more friends. If I only had more money. If I only had more talent. If I only had more influence. If I only had more resources. If I only had more, more, more. Instead of building graves of craving, let’s live lives of gratitude. Let’s move our focus above our grievances, and instead remind ourselves of all we have to be thankful for. Your name is Grateful!

Adapted from www.mynameisvictorious.com