I HAVE A NEW NAME

FORGET THE OLD NAMES.
ANSWER TO A NEW CONFIDENCE.
A NEW PURPOSE, & A NEW NAME.

HOSANNA — POETRY
Let’s get to the point.

Many of us have been answering to some old names for far too long.

Let’s just get to the point.

We do not need a book about those memories, past identities, or past names. We already know those far too well.

So let’s get to the point.

I don’t have the time, and you don’t have the time—we have wasted enough of our lives answering to our insecurities, answering to our fears, and answering to the limitations other people have put on us. We have wasted enough time settling for less.

We want more.

More joy.

More hope.

More purpose.

More confidence in who we are.

And isn’t that the point?

Why don’t we know who that is?

Certainly, people try to tell us all the time.

So why are we still unsure?

What has stood in our way?

Who has stood in our way?

What fears, insecurities, and lies still stand in our way?

How did we get here —
This place where, deep inside, we are not sure who we are when we wake up in the morning, and when we go to bed at night?

This place where we ask ourselves questions like—

*Who is this person in my mirror?*

*Do I like them?*

*Do I trust them?*

*Do I believe in them?*

Why don’t we know the answers to these questions?

How can we live a life of confidence, purpose, and joy without *knowing who we are*?

We can’t.

We need the answer.

This book was written to help us find it.

The world gives us a lot of names.

God gives us other names.

Together, let’s discover what is a lie, what is truth, and claim victory over our lives by answering to a new confidence, a new purpose, and a new name.

The Enemy’s victory *ends* here.

Our victory *begins* here.

God’s victory *is* here.

*And that is the whole point…*
PART I —

THE ENEMY’S VICTORY ENDS HERE
I have answered to a lot of names in my life.

Some I am proud of, and some I am not.

Perhaps you have too.

Perhaps, like me, you’ve wondered how so many names made their way in, and why so many old names are still a part of you.

It has taken me some time, but I realized the main reason why I have answered to so many of the wrong names is that I have spent years not going to the right sources.

And I’m not the only one.

Perhaps we each need to re-evaluate where our sources are coming from.

COPY AND PASTE

At some point in school, we were all assigned to write a paper on a book, a play, or a movie. Some of us read the book, went to the theater, or watched the film, and we wrote the essay. Others of us didn’t make the time, or have the desire to go through all the hassle, and some of us just didn’t care. We just wanted to pass the class.

So how did we get the information to write the paper?

We asked those who did read the book. What did they think of it?

We read reviews about the play. What did other people like about it? We looked online to see what random strangers said about the movie.
Copy and paste a few summaries… done! That’s good enough!

We used these other sources to piece together our own paper in hopes of fooling the teacher—and perhaps ourselves—that we had an at least semi-accurate picture of this work… without ever having personally experienced it ourselves.

When we did not have a personal encounter with the source, and instead, portrayed other people’s opinions as our own, we plagiarized.

When it comes to piecing together our identity, we are guilty of this same thing.

We ask people around us. What do you think of me?

We overhear what others say or listen to gossip. What do other people like (or not like) about me?

We look online and read comments, review likes, scan articles, and watch the news to discover what people say about us personally or about our age group, race, social class, interests, and the groups into which we’ve been categorized. Copy and paste a few summaries about me… done! That’s who I am.

We are walking around with plagiarized identities.

We are piecing together other people’s perspectives, copying and pasting other narratives, portraying others’ opinions as our own, and at times are fooling even ourselves into thinking we know who we are. Or, at least, that this patchwork version of ourselves is good enough.

And yet, we are not personally experiencing The Source ourselves.

We don’t know who we are because we are neither reading nor listening to what the original Author of Our Identity—the Creator of Humanity—is saying about us.

While we are looking to other people and other circumstances to define us, the Word of God, an entire book filled with truth after truth about who we are, sits on our shelves, under our beds, and in storage gathering dust. Our freedom is written upon pages unopened, buried by material possessions we’re in bondage to.

Maybe some of us don’t make the time, or have the desire to go through
all the hassle, and maybe some of us just don’t care. We’re just trying to make it through this life. We don’t need an A. We just want to pass, and have at least a semi-accurate picture of ourselves.

In literary and academic worlds, plagiarism is a serious ethical offense. In many sectors, it can constitute copyright infringement, and in many schools throughout the country, after a first or second offense, one could be expelled.

However, the penalty for a plagiarized identity is not expulsion, termination, or any type of legal repercussion. Instead, it’s greatest threat is that we could live an entire life that is filled with far less than what is available to us.

There is no summary, no hearsay, and no review that can compare with a firsthand encounter with the Original Source.

**LIFE ABUNDANT, NO LESS**

In John 10:10, Jesus says, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (ESV)

Ready to get wild? Here are two more translations of this same verse, just to go crazy and have some more fun—

“**My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.”** (NLT)

“I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.” (MSG)

Even though these versions translate the phrase differently, the Greek word each one is expressing to us is the same: *perissós*. This word means *greater, excessive, abundant;¹ beyond what is anticipated, exceeding expectation; going past the expected limit, more than enough;² over and above, more than is necessary, and superadded.³*

**Superadded?** I straight up love that word. Who knew that was a real word? It makes me think of choosing toppings for my frozen yogurt, adding an excess of Oreos, cookie dough, granola, and sprinkles (yes, all of that, take your judgement elsewhere), and then—praise be to God—adding *more* on top of it. Excessive, sure. But delicious. Probably holy.
Jesus’ main purpose was to give us a life that was extremely amazing, over the top and abundant, superadded, with all the excess toppings, more than we needed, past all limits, in colors we’ve never imagined, with joy we’ve never heard of, and overflowing with confidence, fullness, and exuberant joy that no one else can give us.

Of course the Enemy would want to convince you to have a life that’s “good enough.”

Of course the Enemy would want you to settle for “just passing.”

Of course the Enemy would search through all his best ideas, attempt any strategy he could think of, and brainstorm any plot that could steal, kill, and destroy anything in your life that would give you such abundance because that abundance is the very thing Jesus came to Earth to give you.

Put simply— every good thing that God wants to give you, the Enemy wants to snatch from you.

**KIDNAPPED**

Though many translations express John 10:10, and “life abundant” differently, every major translation maintains calling Satan— “the thief.” Many of us can attest to how true this title is.

What else refers to a thief?

The word plagiarism comes from the Latin word plagiarius, which means kidnapper. The word evolved in its Latin meaning to also refer to one who would steal words, as opposed to steal children. The origins of this word always meant that something was being intentionally taken away from its rightful origin, its original maker, and its original purpose.4

Our plagiarized identities are kidnapped identities.

At one point, we had a home.

At one point, we had safety.

At one point, we knew who we were and where we belonged.

Then the Enemy came to kidnap. He came as a thief. He came with
an agenda to steal, kill, and destroy us, to snatch us from safety, from our home, and from our peace. The Enemy came with the hope of plagiarism. He threw other sources at us to influence our identity and roadblock us from going to The Source—so as to keep our thoughts and ideas of ourselves at “good enough.”

He came to keep our names captive, hoping we’d never find our way back to who we are and where we belong—our over-the-top, extravagant, superadded, and excessively amazing home.

CITE YOUR SOURCES

Allowing any other person or any other circumstance to name us is allowing the Enemy—the Thief, the Kidnapper—to abduct us from our rightful origin, our original Maker, and our original purpose.

So who are these other sources?

Let’s create a Works Cited page of where we have learned all of our ideas about our identity.

Who are the people we have allowed to define us?

What are the circumstances that we have allowed to determine who we are?

All of the old names that we hear in our heads—when we wake up in the morning, when we look in the mirror, when we go on dates, when we go to work, when we parent our kids, when we go to bed at night—all of those names that tell us who we are—where did they come from?

Who said them?

When did they say them? And why?

What authority do those sources have to name us?

We can so often be plagued with old names, some of which we have answered to for a very long time, but rarely do we take the time to stop, think, and identify where these sources even come from. Yet, we have given them an authority that they have no right to. We have lazily become accustomed to a plagiarized identity. And we are living our lives settling for less than what God has for us.
We need to re-evaluate our Works Cited page.

Some sources may have some truth. Others may not. If these sources are not saying the same thing as The Source—the Word of God—then they have no right to contribute to our identity. We will not know what is true, and what is a lie, unless we have a personal experience with the Almighty God, and with His Book of Truths.

It’s time to cease and desist in accepting whatever names the world throws at us.

It’s time to stop accepting other people’s comments, reviews, and opinions, and portraying them as our own.

It’s time to personally research our true identity.

**It’s time to have a real experience with The Source.**

We can do more than just pass.

We can do more than get by.

We can do more than copy and paste from illegitimate sources.

**We can know who we really are.**

We can return back Home.

We can receive what is available to us: a life abundant, *no less.*
QUESTIONS

Why it is sometimes easier to listen to what other people say about us, instead of what God says?

What other sources have you gone to in the past, copying and pasting their opinions, and using them to define yourself?

What is a source that you are currently allowing to define you?

Are you content with the definition it gives you? What do you wish was different?

How often are you going to The Source, the Word of God?

What keeps you from going to The Source more?

How do you think your life would be different if you were more confident in who you are, and more certain of your identity?

ACTION

Throughout the course of this book, we are diving into The Source, exploring the names God gives us, and how we can fully, completely, and boldly answer to a new confidence, a new purpose, and a new name.

First, let's identify these old names, expose how the Enemy has kidnapped us, and cite our sources. Let’s create our identity’s Works Cited page.

Grab a pen and paper (or write in the margins this book; you do you). Take a quiet moment of reflection inside of yourself and answer these questions honestly.
What are the names you have heard in the past?

What are the sources of these names?

When were these names given to you?

How long have you chosen to answer to these old names?

Based on what you currently think about God, which of these names do you think line up with what God says about you?

Which of these names would you like to stop answering to?

Look at your list. What is this list teaching you? Throughout this book, we are going to take this list, these past sources of your identity, and see if they agree with The Source, the Word of God, and what God is saying about who you are.

THE ENEMY’S VICTORY ENDS HERE.