believe you can
the power of a positive attitude

John Mason
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Introduction

God’s creation of you put a smile on His face. Yes, that’s what Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians tells us. Why, then, do so many people not accept the way God made them? And, even more incredibly, why do they try to change their identity?

God made you on purpose for a purpose. He has a job for you that no one else can do as well as you. Out of billions of applicants, you’re the most qualified.

It’s been said that the biggest enemy of great is good. The biggest enemy most of us will face is ourselves, the nagging voice that says, “Be like him; you’re not worthy; do what she does; go where the crowd is going.” You see, when you’re trying to be like someone else, the best you can ever be is second best.

It’s time to get our eyes off of others and onto God. People will detour you, but God will always keep you on track. To become the person He intended you to be, use what He has given you. Follow your unique plan: Resist imitation and live the unlimited life.

If You’re Not You, Then Who Are You Going to Be?

A middle-aged woman had a heart attack and was rushed to the emergency room. On the operating table she had a near-death experience; seeing God, she asked if this was it. He said, “No, you have another forty-three years, two months, and eight days to live.”

Upon recovery, she decided to stay in the hospital and have a face-lift, liposuction, a tummy tuck, the whole works. She even had someone come in and change her hair color, figuring that since she had so much life remaining, she might as well make the most of it.

She was discharged after the final procedure; however, while crossing the street outside, she was killed by a speeding ambulance.

Arriving in God’s presence, she fumed, “I thought you said I had another forty-plus years.”

He replied, “I didn’t recognize you.”
Believe You Can—The Power of a Positive Attitude

Be yourself. Think about it: Aren’t most of the discontented people you know trying to be someone they aren’t or trying to do something they’re not supposed to do? A Congolese proverb asserts, “Wood may remain ten years in the water, but it will never become a crocodile.” Jeremiah asks, “Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots?” (13:23). Julius Hare advised, “Be what you are. This is the first step toward becoming better than you are.”

The curious paradox is that when I accept myself just as I am, then I can change.

Carl Rogers

Frederic Klopstock remarked, “He who has no opinion of his own, but depends on the opinions of others, is a slave. To only dream of the person you are supposed to be is to waste the person you are.” Nobody is as disappointed and unhappy as the person who spends her life longing to be somebody else.

The person who trims himself to suit everybody will soon whittle himself away. If you don’t have a plan for your own life, you’ll only become a part of someone else’s. Never wish to be anything but yourself. Andre Gide counseled, “It is better to be hated for what you are, than loved for what you are not.”

Until you make peace with who you are, you will never be content with what you have.

Doris Mortman

There is only one life for you—your own. The person who walks in someone else’s tracks never leaves his own foot-
If You’re Not You, Then Who Are You Going to Be?

prints. Most of our challenges in life come from not knowing ourselves and ignoring our true virtues. John Stuart Mill observed, “All good things . . . are the fruit of originality.”

Most people live their entire lives as complete strangers to themselves. Don’t let that happen to you. Leo Buscaglia admonished,

The easiest thing to be in the world is you. The most difficult thing to be is what other people want you to be. Don’t let them put you in that position.

The opposite of courage is not fear but conformity. Nothing in life is more exhausting and frustrating than trying to live it as someone else.

Consider these words from one of history’s greatest artists:

My mother said to me, “If you become a soldier you’ll become a general; if you become a monk you’ll end up as the pope.” Instead, I became a painter and wound up as Picasso.

No one ever became great by imitation: Imitation is limitation. Don’t be a copy of something. Make your own impression. Dare to be who you are.