



## BLP 30. Overcoming Insecurity as a Female Leader in Ministry

Mark Carter & Erin Nicole Thompson

Welcome to BLP. Today, Pastor Carter interviews Erin Nicole Thompson. She is a wife, mother, author, speaker, and leader alongside her husband and pastor, David, at The Chapel, a local multi-site church. Erin wrote the Bible study *Daughters: Your Identity Rescued, Your Value Restored*.

In this episode, they discuss overcoming personal insecurities, through grounding ourselves in our identity in Christ, and the repercussions this has on our leadership in and out of the church.

- **You have to know who you are in Christ.** // You may feel different from other people- whether it's taller, bigger... fill in the blank, but the reality is that this stems from a false sense of self. You can know in your *head* that Jesus loves you, that you're a child of God, but not feel it in your *heart*, leading you to feel like you don't belong. When what you know intellectually isn't connected to heart-knowing, it changes your perception of the world, yourself, and your contribution. It's important to know *whose* you are and *who* you are in Christ, how He sees you and how He feels about you. An underdeveloped identity in Christ fuels the enemy's lies that you wrestle with in your leadership roles- in church and family. Without that strong foundation, you may start to lead out of a place of the negative script you play in your thoughts and labels you believe about yourself.
- **We live in a visual culture, is this helping or hindering the way you see yourself and others?** // Don't compare your weaknesses to someone else's strengths. This happens in the church, on social media and plays into our insecurities if we are not sure of who we are in Christ. The comparison can be individually, or how you as a church are performing. Instead, reaffirm, Lord, this is the lane you called me to, I'm going to move forward one step at a time. Put blinders on, but don't disengage altogether, we can be a light to others.
- **Don't believe the enemy's lie that what you do is more important than whose you are.** // It's easy to go down a negative spiral when you experience defeat, which can lead to self-deprecation. When you know God has a life he's calling you to, one he equipped you for and envisions for you, one closely yoked to him... but you just can't find the time to abide in



Him, you may believe you're letting God down. You may see these discouragements as sins you're carrying, and think God sees this when he looks at you, but He doesn't. Isaiah 61:10 ESV *I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.* A robe is clothing, it's what people see first, it's what God sees first. You are free, to see yourself as He sees you, you are not letting Jesus down, and you're free to fail. Throughout the Bible, God uses imperfect people to do the immeasurable, because it's about Him, not about us. Jesus showed and answered what was wrong in Erin's heart through personal time with Him, 'Let me teach you how I apply this robe to you.' The enemy tries to keep us busy, so we're less likely to spend quiet time allowing God to speak over our particular wound. Standing in front of a mirror, wearing a white robe, 'If this is what God sees, then this what I should see when I look at myself and others.' Not the faults, "unforgivables", deficits, but instead, what's beautiful and purposeful, the potential in each other, use this to encourage that in one another.

- **Foster hearing from the Lord.** // If you have a negative sense of competition or compare yourself all the time, when you look around you're more critical than encouraging, it might be a symptom of insecurity coming from a form of an identity crisis. Spend time journaling, 'Dear Father, this is what I'm struggling with today.' Wait, listen and start to write as if he's writing to you. Sit in worship songs that speak to your identity in Christ. Look for scripture such as 2 Corinthians 6:18 (ESV) *and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.* Your identity is a son or daughter of the king, not what you bring to the church. Pray to the Lord as your 'daddy'. Look to resources such as Bible Studies such as Erin's study [Daughters](#).

When you know how to connect with God's love, all the other pieces start to fall into place.

