

## Are You Who You Want to Be?

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.  
As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and  
my thoughts than your thoughts."*

**Isaiah 55:8-9**

Call me old-school, but one of my favorite songs is *Switchfoot's* "This is Your Life." Okay, so it's not *that* old, but it has been a few years. Go ahead, look up the lyrics or pull out that old dusty CD and listen to it. I'll wait. . .

"This is your life. Are you who you want to be?" It's just so thought provoking! There have been many times throughout my short twenty-one years when I've just sat and evaluated the person I have become. I've thought to myself: *If I were six or seven years old, would I look up to the 21 year old version of myself? Would I want to grow into that person one day?* What about the 18-year-old high school senior? Did I meet all the goals and expectations for myself that I had a few years ago? Have I become the person I thought I would be?

At times I smile and think I've done a pretty good job. I'm proud of my accomplishments, the direction my life has taken, and all the experiences – good and bad – I've had over the past 21 one years. But there are other times I shake my head in disgust and wonder why God hasn't given up on me yet. I've made so many mistakes and fallen so many times, yet He's always been there, encouraging me to get up, gently nudging me in the right direction.

God definitely doesn't want us to become self-absorbed with ourselves and our personal accomplishments or failures, but I do think it's important for us to take an evaluation of our lives every so often. In the midst of life's chaos, it's easy to let yourself go through the motions month after month, putting one foot in front of the other, until one day you look up and realize you've ended up miles off course.

Now let me ask you this: This is your life. Are you who HE wants you to be? Are the decisions and the actions you make every day things that will lead you in the right direction and help form the person God wants you to be? Or do you look in the mirror and wonder who that person is staring back at you? Sometimes His plans aren't always your plans for what you have in mind for you rlife, but take it from someone who has been there and knows: once you line up what *you* want with what *He* wants, you will always be able to find joy. Of course, it won't always be perfect, and you'll still face difficulties and frustrations along the way, but when you reach your destination, you'll be able to turn around, see where you started and how far you come, and know that you've truly become someone to be proud of.