



## Named and Claimed Series

### Day 3: “Show Me Your Company, and I’ll Tell You Who You Are!”

*This was one of the great sayings of our late matriarch, Mother Vadzie Rebekah Pryce.*

#### Key Scripture:

“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)

#### Context: The People Around Us Speak to the Person Within Us

From the beginning, identity has never been formed in isolation. Adam had Eve. David had Jonathan. Ruth had Naomi. Jesus had the disciples. And you? You have people around you who are either watering your identity, or wilting it.

The people we walk with help shape how we think, believe, behave, and even how we see ourselves. We may say we belong to Christ, but if we’re constantly surrounded by confusion, compromise, or contradiction, it’s only a matter of time before that seeps into our identity. As leadership expert Jim Rohn famously said, *“You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with.”* That’s not just psychology - it’s spiritual reality.

- **Environments influence identity.** Where we spend our time shapes how we think, speak, and behave. If we stay in a negative, unhelpful, or unchallenging environment, it becomes harder to stay true to who we really are, or aspire to be.
- **Proximity can be prophetic.** The people we stay close to can influence the direction of our life. Being around those who speak truth and walk with purpose helps us stay focused on our own calling.
- **Association often reveals alignment.** Who we regularly spend time with shows what we value, believe, or allow. Our company can say more about us than our words do. Who we walk with doesn’t just reflect who we are, it can redefine us if we’re not careful. If we want to protect the name God has given us, we need to guard the crowd we’re walking with.

#### Why this matters now

Because we are not only shaped by Scripture - but we’re also shaped by company. Even the strongest sense of calling can be weakened by the wrong community.

We start to absorb language that doesn't match our identity. We entertain behaviours that don't align with our beliefs. We settle into relationships that drain our spiritual clarity.

This matters because the enemy doesn't always come to steal our name directly, sometimes he sends people who speak against it, little by little. But when we walk with those who are wise, godly, and aligned, our identity is reinforced, not erased.

## **Why We Can Struggle with our Circle**

We don't always realise how much influence our company has - until it's too late. Here's why we often struggle with the idea that our circle shapes our identity:

- **We confuse loyalty with wisdom.** We stay connected to people out of history, not health. But just because someone's been there a long time doesn't mean they're meant for your next season.
- **We underestimate silent influence.** It's not always the loud voices that shape us. Sometimes it's the quiet comments, the casual compromises, or the shared habits that slowly pull us off course.
- **We think we're the exception.** We believe we can stay strong while surrounded by dysfunction. But even the strongest light dims when left in darkness long enough.
- **We fear being alone.** So, we settle for unhealthy company rather than risk temporary solitude. But isolation with God is often where clarity is born.
- **We don't connect their presence to our patterns.** Sometimes we're stuck in cycles not because of what's inside us, but because of who's around us.

## **Verse Breakdown: Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)**

- **"Whoever walks with the wise..."** This isn't passive. Walking implies closeness, direction, and shared pace. Your company determines your path.
- **"...becomes wise."** Identity is contagious. Wisdom multiplies in the presence of those who already walk in it.
- **"But the companion of fools..."** Fools don't just lack sense - they reject godly instruction. And their proximity brings weight, not wisdom.
- **"...will suffer harm."** It's not just about who they are, it's about what happens to us. The cost of the wrong company is our peace, clarity, and sometimes our purpose.

## Key Themes

- Identity is shaped by proximity - who we walk with matters.
- Godly community protects and strengthens your spiritual name.
- The wrong company doesn't just distract - it can derail.
- You can't walk in purpose while surrounded by people who resist it.
- Protecting your identity requires guarding your circle.
- God often speaks through people - but so does the enemy.

## Practical Application

- **Do a company audit.** List the five people you spend the most time with. Ask: Do they reflect where God is taking me or where I've been stuck?
- **Set boundaries.** If someone consistently draws you away from who you are in Christ, create space. Peace is proof of wise pruning.
- **Pursue godly friendships.** Join a small group, mentoring circle, or accountability group with believers who speak life, truth, and destiny.
- **Check your influence, too.** Are you the wise friend others should walk with - or are you pulling people out of alignment?
- **Pray for divine alignment.** Ask God to place the right people in your path for this season of your calling.

## Prayer

Father, open my eyes to see who I'm walking with. Help me recognise the voices shaping my identity, and give me the courage to walk away from anything that weakens what You've spoken over me. Surround me with people who call out my purpose and reflect Your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.

✦ **Final Takeaway:** You can't walk in your divine identity while staying connected to what's trying to contradict it. Your circle speaks to your calling. Choose company that strengthens what God said, not what the world whispers. Because who you walk with, is who you will ultimately become.