

Who OWNS YOUR Identity?

BY CATHY HOLLOWAY HILL



MOST OF MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY THOUGHT I SHOULD BE COMMITTED to the nearest psychiatric ward when I told them I was leaving my “cushy” high-tech career, in the midst of an economic crisis, to become a life coach and motivational speaker. While people were trying to hold onto jobs, they couldn’t believe I was abandoning mine to chase a dream.

For more than 20 years, I got up every morning to go into the corporate world. Beginning my technology career at IBM was a dream for me at that time in my life. I had landed a job at a global dynasty and felt the world was my oyster. What else could I possibly want? That question was answered years later when I began to notice that my work outside corporate America was the core of my passion; it was my reason for jumping out of bed each morning. The fuel for my soul consisted of mentoring youth and coaching individuals to take control and be their own “life architects.” I was a voluntary life coach, enjoying every minute of it; but my corporate job was paying the bills. I began to realize that I wasn’t walking my talk. My message for others was to take control and design their lives, or someone else would do it for them, and they might not like the results. Many people are unhappy in their jobs but remain there for various reasons. Not only was I one of those people, but I was allowing others to design my life by listening to their bad advice. I didn’t own my identity; everyone else did. I was living to please others. But how could I possibly leave the financial security behind? I struggled with this decision, went back and forth, prayed, meditated, asked for guidance. And one day I finally realized the answer was there—it had been there all along: Fear had been controlling me, so I missed the answer when it came. Prayer works when we work prayer!

I remember talking to my friend, Carri, at work, and when I told her how my energy soared and I would come alive in my coaching and mentoring work, she asked me a simple question: “So why are you still here in this job?” That was my lightbulb moment. Being in a situation doesn’t mean allowing the situation to be in you. I faced the fear, said,

“FEAR was holding me back, and once I released it, things began to align IN AN AMAZING WAY.”

“Goodbye, corporate America, and hello, entrepreneurship.” I walked through the door of my destiny.

Knowing what you want is critical to your success, but knowing why you want it is the ingredient to make it happen. Fear was holding me back, and once I released it, things began to align in an amazing way.

It was the best move I could have made. I immediately jump-started my new life and two years later, I have racked up an extensive list of clients and accomplishments that keep growing. I founded C. Holloway Hill Enterprises, and my mission is to provide personal and professional consulting to individuals, organizations and corporations, empowering them to achieve their objectives. I help others face their fears. Regardless of your situation, your age, your circumstances, previous failed attempts, pedigree to no degree, you can change your life!

I don’t look back in regret. There are no mistakes, only lessons. And there is no blame, only redemption. God said He would never leave or forsake me, and He never has. The strength to overcome is inside.

Knowing who I am and whose I am brought me here; so where are you, and who owns your identity?

—Cathy Holloway Hill is a life coach and career consultant who authored *Emotional Bailout! Nine Principles for Rising When Your World Is Falling*. She resides in Jeffersonville, Ind.