**6. Insecurity**

*Insecurity prevents young artists from ‘flying’ and older artists from being ‘down to earth.’ Young artists should work on their confidence and the older ones on their humility.*

*-Igor Babailov, Russian portrait artist*

*As long as we keep running around, anxiously trying to affirm ourselves or be affirmed by others, we remain blind to the One who has loved us first, dwells in our heart, and has formed our truest self. But we can also open our eyes. We can see a new way forward.*

-*Turn My Mourning Into Dancing* by Henri J.M. Nouwen

*Insecurity: not sure or certain; doubtful...uncertainty or anxiety about oneself; lack of confidence.*

God knows that we are insecure. Anxieties can take over. If you lack confidence you’ll have to find your worth and value somewhere else. Even Spirit filled believers are prone to the insecurities.

However, God gives believers unlimited personal security because of our relationship with Jesus Christ. God’s love, forgiveness and acceptance of us refutes any lies we hear, such as “I’m not good enough..”, “I am not pretty enough...”, “I just don’t have what they are looking for...”, “I need far more training and technique to attempt that…”

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

- EPHESIANS 2:10

A major component of insecurity is pride. Pride says, “I know better than the One who made me”. Surrender to the fact that God knows you far more than you could know yourself. There is nothing to be insecure about when you realize you are accepted, known and created to pursue great things by God, the Master Designer. That is the recipe for great self-esteem.

**THINK:** What does it mean to look to God for security? For value? For worth? What does it mean to rest in the calling He has given you as an artist and move forward with confidence? Do you believe that He has equipped you to be just what you need to be moment by moment? How will you perform as an artist and keep your focus on your Creator?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. How have you struggled with insecurity as a person? As an artist?

2. Who do you confide in, who will walk through this with you to get to the other side?

3. What truths would be good to remember when you are in season struggling to have more confidence?

**ENGAGING WITH OTHERS:** Satan thrives in darkness. Every friend that you have is insecure about something. Ask them about how they cope with insecurity or lack of confidence. Share how God has redeemed your insecurity or is in the process of healing you. May insecurity be your common ground to talk about the great person of Jesus. Even though you may have the same insecurities, know that you have the greatest eternal security in the world...one that is grounded in Christ.

**PRAYER:**

O God, our Heavenly Father, who created us beautifully and wonderfully, may we always look to you for our value and worth, remembering that we are a unique expression of your infinite love, care, and creativity. Help us, O Lord, to see ourselves as you see us-- objects of your extravagant love and tender affection. Through Christ. Amen.

-JLB

**REFLECTION:** Do you feel confident when you work or make art? Don’t be a perfectionist. Don’t judge it. Learn to play. Think of Jesus... His goodness. Think of the unique ways in which He created you. Thank Him for how He made you, whenever you feel unconfident or insecure. Create in response to the fact that God made you in His image.

**OPTIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL:**

“So Long Insecurity; You’ve Been a Bad Friend to Us.” by Beth Moore

A study on Moses and his leadership in the midst of insecurity and doubt: http://crupressgreen.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/reluctantleader.pdf