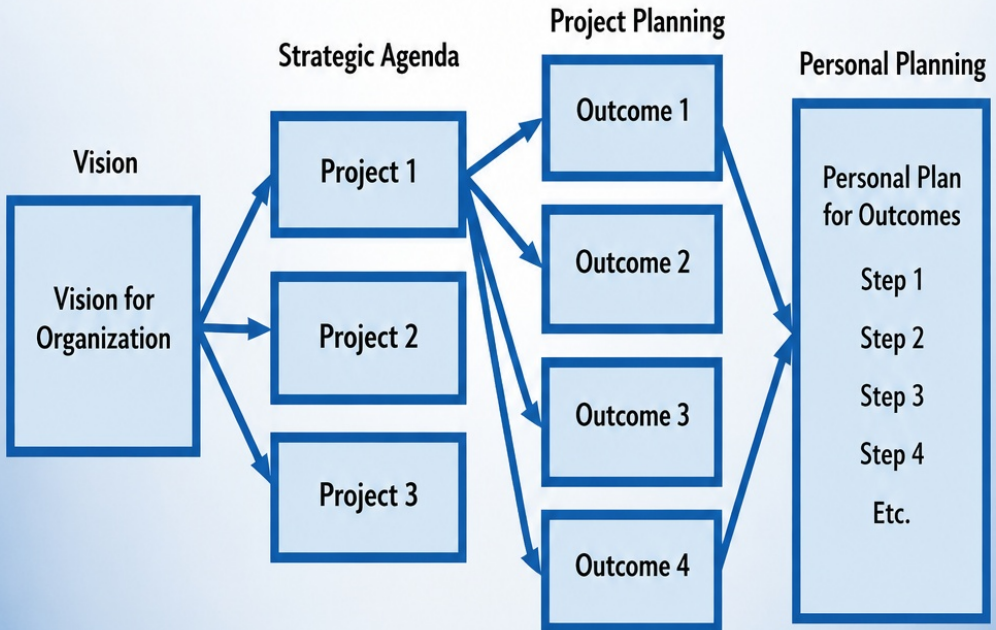


# PERSONAL SIGNIFICANCE

*Discovering Your God-Given Value and Purpose*



Booklet 9

*“Effective Christian Living Series!”*

By Ron G. Christian

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1.

*"CAN I EXPERIENCE HUMILITY WITHOUT HUMILIATION AND DIGNITY WITHOUT PRIDE?"*

*"O God, help me to hold in the eye of my reverent imagination the picture of the person you mean for me to become. Human evaluation of me is unrealistic, variable, fleeting, and incomplete. Use my sanctified imagination to pull me out of the mire of my inferiority complexes. In Jesus' powerful name. Amen."*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*Humble we must be, but humiliated we need never be, for we are messengers who are communicating the greatest news that mankind can ever hear! We are voices in the wilderness of earth's weary ways, telling lost men to 'make straight the way for the Lord', telling people to make their lives right with God through genuine repentance! To help prepare people for the coming of Christ into their lives! No greater role can any of us fulfill than that of being a voice for God in a world that desperately needs to hear something other than the mere opinions of men!*

*To bring Christ and a sinner together is the greatest privilege that can be given to a human being. Only Christ is the Bridegroom, only Christ is the center of attention; but to be the friend of the Bridegroom is the greatest privilege known to man. Trying to take the place of the Bridegroom constitutes the grossest of sins, and is the epitome of pride. There is no place for pride, trying to be something we are not meant to be. But if there is no place for pride, there is also no need for humiliation in the Christian life.*

*What is the basis for dignity in the Christian life? Realizing the importance of the role of the messenger of the Master or the friend of the Bridegroom. These roles give us dignity, a sense of importance, a sense of significance. We are not wonders, claiming to be something we are not (claiming to be the Message, claiming to be the Master, claiming to be the Bridegroom). No, to claim these positions of uniqueness, or acting as if we were the Message, or the Master, or the Bridegroom is to claim positions that belong to God Himself. This is the epitome of pride, and pride is the grossest of sins for it is the sin of presuming to be*

*what God alone is inherently! Pride tries to usurp the place of God Himself.*

*Pride is the worst of all sins, for it is the sin that blindly claims inherently to be something we are not. We are not the Message, we are not the Master, and we are not the Bridegroom. Those positions are solely and uniquely Christ's! Therefore, those who claim to be something they are not, will be brought down. Says the Scriptures about the proud or haughty men: "God saves the humble but brings low those whose eyes are haughty."*

### *TIME FOR A PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"Dearest Father, Your Son is the only One who is perfectly 'balanced' in His possession and in His expression of all the Holy virtues of being. As the Perfect God-man, living here on earth, He showed the human race how to live, by living His life daily before humans. Without the transforming 'touch' of your grace, O God, we humans cannot begin to live a wholesome, pure, and balanced life. But You are a merciful God, and You remember that we are 'made of dust'. All of us humans are members of a 'fallen race' - and the characteristic of*

*every unredeemed human is 'self-centeredness' (wanting to do our own rebellious will, rather than God's Will). Father, through Your power, destroy all self-will in my life—each day, and bring my will into conformity with Your Will. Make me a God-Centered person! Without you, I can do nothing! Thou art the 'POTTER', I am the 'clay'. Mold my life, to honor you! Let me properly understand those 'pictures' that reveal my dependence upon you. I am the 'bride'; you are the 'BRIDEGROOM'. I am a child; you are the FATHER. I am the 'branch'; You are the 'VINE'. I am a 'stone'; you are the 'CORNERSTONE'. I am 'subject'; you are the 'KING'. I am only a 'cell'; you are the 'HEAD' of the Body. I am a 'sheep'; you are the 'SHEPHERD'. I am a 'sinner'; you are the 'SAVIOR. I am a mere 'creature'; You are the 'CREATOR'! I am mortal, you are IMMORTAL. I am transient, you are ETERNAL. I am physical, you are CELESTIAL. Knowing who I serve gives me, at one and the same time, a sense of profound humility and a sense of profound dignity—for Jesus was both humble and dignified! Thank You."*

*TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*Always remember, it is not who we are, but whose we are, that gives us a basis for dignity. We are nothing within ourselves; therefore, there is no basis for haughty pride. We are something significant within Christ; therefore, there is a solid basis for healthy self-esteem and dignity.*

2.

*"WHY CAN'T I GAIN MY SELF-ESTEEM  
FROM THE PHYSICAL WORLD?"*

*Self-worth based on human evaluation has many drawbacks! If one bases his self-worth on the praise he gets from his peers, he is looking to an unreliable and variable source for support. The praise of peers is changeable and is often based, not on the facts, but upon the whims of changeable people. The praise of peers so often is conditional - 'if you do this, then I will accept you.' There is no 'for better or for worse' commitment to the person himself, but commitment based only upon performance. Jesus himself refused to value himself and his mission on the basis of human evaluation and praise.*

*The person who bases his self-worth on material things will be destroyed for '**...the world passes away**'. (1 John 2:17)*

*The Bible tells us not "**...to set hopes on uncertain riches but on God who richly furnishes us with everything to enjoy.**" (1 Timothy 6:17)*

## *TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*Don't set your hopes and build your sense of self-esteem on friends, for friends may leave you or forsake you.*

*Don't build your sense of self-worth on your physical beauty, for such beauty is only 'skin deep' and it fades like the autumn leaves. There are adults still hanging on to the symbols of youth—fads and fashions in clothing—as an attempt to maintain a crumbling sense of self-worth.*

*Don't set your hopes and build your sense of self-worth on popularity, for the world's popularity is elusive and passing.*

*If one bases his sense of self-worth upon the evaluation of human categories like we have described, he is left with aching void. A deep sense of self-worth cannot be found in any of earth's possessions or relationships—however good they may be.*

*Only God can affirm you at the deepest level of your being. There are those who are constantly seeking to be affirmed by others, but who find that even those who are nearest and dearest cannot fill the inner void in their lives. God alone can give one a lasting sense of value.*

## *TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*Pride is the will of man centering on the self rather than on the Savior! Humility says: "Glory to God in the highest", not "Glory to man in the highest."*

*CHRIST alone is the Message! CHRIST alone is the Master! CHRIST alone is the Bridegroom! CHRIST alone is the Wonder of God! However, if we are not Wonders, neither are we Worms! If there is no place for pride, there is also no need for humiliation! Humility - Yes! Humiliation - No! There is a basis for dignity! We are the messengers, preparing the way for the coming of Christ into people's lives. With greatest humility, and yet with greatest dignity, we can say, **"I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"** (John 1:23)*

*There is a basis for dignity! We are the disciples of Jesus. We may not feel worthy to even stoop down to untie the shoestrings in the shoes of our Master; nevertheless, we are disciples of Jesus. We are not the Master, but we are the servants, and to be a servant of the Master is a great privilege, a privilege that gives esteem, and dignity, and significance to our lowly lives!*

*To serve the Master – what greater role can a human fulfill!*

*There is a basis for dignity! We are not the bridegroom, but we are the friend of the Bridegroom. The role of the friend is to bring the Bride and the Bridegroom together. The role of every believer is to bring the sinner and God together. We are ministers of reconciliation, bringing unholy men and the holy God together. To serve as a liaison between man and God is the greatest privilege possible. Knowing that we are a friend of the bridegroom should give us a sense of importance, esteem, value, significance, and dignity. No place for selfish pride, but a wonderful place for dignity and self-esteem.*

3.

*"IS THERE ANY ALTERNATIVE TO MY  
PERSONAL LIFE OF DISILLUSION-  
MENT?"*

*There may be pleasures in sin for a season, but the way of sin is the way of sorrow! There may be occasional sorrows and heartbreaks in the Christian life, but the way of repentance and faith is the way of abiding love and abounding joy.*

*Just as Jesus grew in favor with God and with man, so the man whose heart is broken and whose spirit is contrite will find himself favored by God and loved by his fellowmen.*

*Sorrow because of repentance will last for a while, but sorrow will give way to 'joy that is unspeakable and full of glory'. Abiding love and abounding joy is the eternal inheritance of God's people.*

*Is it any wonder that God's people are urged to rejoice and to shout!*

*"So rejoice in him, all those who are his, and shout for joy, all those who try to obey him." He who is forgiven much will love much, and he who loves the Lord deeply*

*will rejoice exaltedly.*

### *TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*The person who practices sin will eventually become disillusioned with life. Satan offers happiness, but he can only deliver misery! The result from one's sinning is like wishing for the wind and getting the whirlwind (tornado); like expecting a harvest of wheat and getting a harvest of tares instead; like spitting into the wind; like kicking the pricks; like expecting a refreshing rain on a cloudless day; like going to your birthday party and finding out that no one is there; like building a beautiful house and having it soon destroyed by fire; like being engaged to a beautiful girl, and then having her break the engagement a day before the wedding date; like thinking you have purchased a diamond ring, and finding out that the ring is made of cheap material; like investing in a growing company, and having all your money 'disappear' because of fraud in the company; like coming to your long-awaited retirement date, and then your passing away the first day of your retirement; like having your long-time friend reject you because of a misunderstanding, never to speak to you again! Dis-*

*illusionment! Disillusionment! Disillusionment! That is what happens too many times in the every-day events of life!*

*These experiences of life are very hurtful, bringing untold sorrow and great disappointment. But the spiritual losses are far more devastating than any great physical-type losses! Because of the deceptive nature of sin, there are many who believe that sin pays great wages—pleasure, power, prosperity, popularity, etc. But, while it is true that there are "pleasures in sin for a season", the season of pleasurable sin eventually (and sometimes very soon) comes to an end, only to leave the sinner with emptiness and shame and regrets and a sense of lostness and guilt! No sense of meaning and direction! No sense of close community with people who truly love and care! No sense of motivation and energy and personal discipline to achieve worthy goals and realize exciting dreams! Sometimes not even physical health and stamina, since the acts of sin can bring dissipation and destruction to the human body! Sometimes the bondage of hurtful habits (like drugs and alcohol), which have the power to cause an early death!*

*TIME FOR A PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"O God, you are a God of righteousness (you are opposed to all wrong and evil of every kind). You are a God of justice (you do all things fairly, with no prejudice or favoritism). You are a God of integrity (you never lie, but you are totally trustworthy in your character, speaking nothing but the truth in all circumstances). You are a God of holiness (you are totally pure in your motives, and totally separated from all sin, and you cannot look upon any sin with favor, but with a holy hatred). You are a God of peace, (committed to unity among all persons, regardless of race, color, or nationality, and you hate discord and disharmony and disunity among all persons). Above all (and foundation to all the traits and attributes of God Almighty) you are a God of Perfect Love (you have an unconditional love for every person, and you desire that all be saved, because of Christ's provision for Salvation). In contrast to You, O Loving God, is Satan (your arch-enemy) who hates mankind and who wishes to destroy every human being. He is a liar, a thief, a murderer, a master deceiver, an 'accuser of the brethren'. He offers so*

*much to gullible persons (pleasure and power and positions and popularity and wealth), and those who accept his deceptive offers, find that they finally lose everything! Satan baits them with high expectations, but Satan has no good (lasting) thing to give anyone! Misery and personal bondage! But, Jesus came to destroy the works of Satan, and to set the ‘captive free’! Jesus is the Victor over Satan, and those who place their trust in Jesus as Savior, become brand new persons—free to embrace the ‘abundant life’ that Christ came from heaven to earth to give willing hearts! Praise my gracious and powerful God! Hallelujah!”*

#### *TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*You will never ‘unravel’ all the mysteries, inequities, and injustices which obviously will bring questions to your mind and sadness to your heart, but, because you serve a God who is righteous, just, honest, holy, peace-loving, and full of holy love, you can rest assured that all will turn out well for you in the end of your life (if you keep trusting), and you will not become disillusioned!*

4.

*"UPON WHAT BASIS SHOULD I BUILD A  
RELIABLE FOUNDATION FOR SELF-  
WORTH?"*

*Self-worth based on human evaluation has many drawbacks!*

*If one bases his sense of self-worth upon the praise he gets from his peers, he is looking to an unreliable and variable source for support. The praise of peers is changeable and is often based, not on the facts, but upon the whims of changeable people.*

*The praise of peers so often is conditional — 'if you do this then I will accept you.' There is no 'for better or for worse' commitment to the person himself, but commitment based only upon performance. Jesus himself refused to value himself and his mission on the basis of human evaluation and praise.*

*The person who bases his self-worth on material things will be destroyed, "...for '...the world passes away'! (I John 2:17) The Bible tells us not "to set hopes on un-*

*certain riches but on God who richly re-furnishes us with everything to enjoy." (1 Timothy 6:17)*

*Don't set your hope and build your sense of self-esteem on friends, for friends may leave you or forsake you.*

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*If one bases his sense of self-worth upon the evaluation of human categories such as we have described, he is left with an aching void. A deep sense of self-worth cannot be found in any of earth's possessions or relationships—however good they may be. Only God can affirm you at the deepest level of your being. There are those who are constantly seeking to be affirmed by others, but who find that even those who are nearest and deepest cannot fill the in-*

*ner void in their lives. God alone can give one a lasting sense of value.*

### *TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*Because of what God has done for us, and because of the way God treats us, we can have a wholesome sense of personal dignity and significance. We must see the basis of human dignity and worth, from God's perspective.*

*Man is the "Crown of God's Creation", qualitatively different from all the other creatures which God made. Man is an eternal being who lives in a temple of clay. Man has a body, but he is a spirit. A never-dying soul! A creature that is overbuilt for time!*

*Man is not an accident of nature or the product of a long process of evolution. Rather, man is the creation of a loving God whose care of man is infinite and wonderful.*

*"You (God) made all the delicate, inner parts of my body, and knit them together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous—and how well I know it.*

*You were there while I was being formed in utter seclusion! You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your Book!" (Psalms 139:13-16; Living Bible)*

*One of the building blocks in the foundation of dignity and significance is the fact that God has given every person special talents and abilities. The most obscure, least talented, ill-educated person has a place in the Kingdom of God. In God's eyes, there is no merely "common person". There is a custom-made 'yoke', which God has specially designed for each person. Each is given the potential of doing something very well! This is a basis for dignity, not for pride or for arrogance.*

### *PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"O God, I am beginning to understand that there are many 'building blocks' in the 'foundation' for properly building 'self-esteem'. I am the product of your special Creation! I am a God-breathed creature, one who is made in your own image, unique from all the animals of the world. If I have been made with an eternal spirit, a spirit that outlasts my wonderful human body,*

*why then should I sometimes depreciate myself, downgrade myself! You made me, therefore, it is wrong—totally wrong—to despise myself and to consider myself as worthless and unimportant and insignificant. You, O God, make me and I am made for you—for a special reason and purpose! Therefore, with a heart of humility and gratitude, I can stand tall in my world with a wholesome and attractive dignity! Humility without humiliation and dignity without carnal and ugly pride! All because you, O God, created me ‘in your own image’. I am made to be, in some ways, like the One who created me! So amazing! And not even the fact that I am a ‘fallen creature’, can keep me from enjoying the dignity of being a human being!*

*Why can’t sin drag me down to the pit of despair? For only one reason—because I am the object of divine love—the love that was shown on the Cross of Christ! All because of Christ’s purchased gift of forgiveness (made possible because of the Cross) I am a redeemed soul, a soul set free from sin, a soul full of peace and of pardon and purity and power! Therefore, because I am the object of Calvary Love, I have dignity and wholesome self-esteem!*

*No pride, just a sense of worth, value which Christ gives to me! Hallelujah! Thank You, God, I Love You!"*

*TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*Call no man common, unclean, or worthless, for whom Christ has died! Every person is worth more than the entire world's money!*

5.

*"CAN I DERIVE A PERSONAL SENSE OF  
WORTH FROM MY CREATOR?"*

*Seeing yourself as God sees you is realistic, for God knows everything about you!*

*One who gains a sense of self-worth from God will have a deep inner happiness, regardless of the outward circumstances, for God's evaluation of a person is unchanging and loving. One who allows God to love him, feels constantly loved, and in turn loveable and loving.*

*Further, God's evaluation is constant and permanent. As Mary sat at the feet of Jesus, (*"And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word."* Luke 10:39) her self-worth was greatly enhanced, for she learned of God's love which is permanent and unchanging.*

*We may come boldly before the throne of grace without intimidation, for God's estimate of us will never change. He loves us with 'no strings attached.' His dealings with us are always consistent with his permanent love for us. His constant, unflinching presence and companionship is what*

*gives life value and worth.*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*Deriving a sense of worth from God, takes care of several things:*

*(1) Deep feelings of inferiority—for you are important to God and loved by God, regardless of what you are and regardless of who you are. You are seen to be so important to God that He gave His Son to die for you personally. Your soul is of more value to God than the value of the entire world's wealth. You are unique—no one else can take your place. You are so important that God knows you by name, knows the number of hairs in your head, and knows your future!*

*(2) Takes care of Guilt. Your worth is so great to God that God wants you to live as a forgiven, restored, healthy, and happy child of God! You are a soul for whom Christ died! Greater value than that cannot be placed on anyone! He loves you so much that He is willing to cast away your sins in the "sea of His forgetfulness!"*

*(3) Takes care of relieving anxiety—because we have one with us who is totally capable and able to deal with all of life's*

*perplexities! You are worth more to God than any other thing in the world, and God has promised to take care of you!*

*(4) Deals with hostility against one another. We can be relaxed toward one another because we are loved by God. There is no need for carnal competition against one another. You don't need to compete for God's attention, for the Heavenly Father is capable of giving personal attention to each of His children. God loves you as if you were the only one to be loved in His family!*

#### *TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"O God, pull me out of the mire of my own self-despising. Let me stand erect before the world, chin up and eyes focused upon you and the needs of others. Surrendering my false ego to you just now, I am willing to allow you to love me. Love me into loving others with the security of a secure ego, cleansed and made whole through the blood of Christ. Amen!"*

#### *TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*You are a 'sinner saved by grace', and you (as a member of a 'fallen race) are not worthy of the 'least of His favor' - therefore,*

*walk ‘humbly before thy God’ all the days of your life! But also, you are ‘redeemed by the blood of Christ’ and you are God’s child who has been gifted by the Spirit and given an important mission in life—therefore ‘walk confidently before thy God’!*

6.

*"WHY SHOULD GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY  
GIVE ME A SENSE OF IMPORTANCE?"*

*"O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your  
name in all the earth!" (Psalms 8:1)*

*"O Lord" - Yahweh. Yahweh means "I am  
that I am". That is, God is the uncreated  
Creator, the Ground of all Being, the Eter-  
nal One, the Uncaused Cause, the One who  
is before all things and the Creator of all.  
In Him alone all creatures live and move  
and have their very being. He is the sus-  
tainer of all things.*

*The tri-une God, known as Yahweh in the  
Old Testament, "...was before all else be-  
gan and it is his power that holds every-  
thing together." (Colossians 1:17, Living  
Bible}*

**TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!**

*"Our LORD - 'ADONAI' - 'ADONAI' means  
ruler, king, and sovereign of all life. God is  
in control of all things. God has everything  
under control. He knows the end from the  
beginning. He is the One who is the per-  
fect Judge, the One to whom all creatures  
are responsible. Nothing happens that is*

*independent of God's will or God's permission.*

*The galaxies move at His command, the creatures of earth respond according to their God-created instincts, and every man with all of his God-allowed freedom can make no moral decision without God's knowledge and permission.*

*As Sovereign, God makes even the 'Wrath of men to praise Him'. 'Though The Wrong Seems Oft So Strong, God Is Ruler Yet!'*

#### *TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"O thou uncreated Creator and mighty Sovereign, I am so amazed that you have chosen to fellowship with a finite creature, such as I! You have chosen to reveal yourself to mankind. Yes, wonder of wonders, mankind in general, and I in specific, are recipients of your special self-revelation, objects of your personal love – both in our original creation and in the redemption of our souls (through your suffering Son)! The Creator who is separate from His creation is He who has chosen to befriend His special creatures—mankind. I can't 'wrap my mind around these glorious realities', but I, nevertheless, affirm these matchless truths*

*with all my heart and soul! Such knowledge is too wonderful for me to perceive, but, while I can't comprehend such knowledge intellectually, I determine (with gratitude) to enjoy Your loving presence personally! Hallelujah! Yes, praise Your Holy Name! Amen!”*

**TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!**

*God's self-revealed character, as seen in His names—Yahweh and Adonai—calls for unceasing praise from the lips and from the lives of God's created order. “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” (Psalms 8:1)*

7.

*"AM I A PERSON OF TEMPORARY  
EXISTENCE OR ETERNAL SIGNIFI-  
CANCE?"*

*The contrast between the Bigness of the universe and the smallness of man could result in a Contemptible view of man!*

*Indeed, many who have abandoned any belief in a personal and caring God, have adopted a view of man that is both ignoble and tragic.*

*Stated atheist Bertrand Russell, "Brief and powerless is man's life. On him and all his race the slow, sure doom falls pitiless and dark. Blind to good and evil, reckless of destruction, omnipotent matter rolls on its relentless way."*

*How tragic is Mencken's impious creed: "The universe, a gigantic wheel in rapid revolution; man, a sick fly taking a dizzy ride on the rim thereof; religion, the fly's illusion that the wheel was constructed to give him the ride."*

*One cynic stated that man is "a boisterous bit of organic scum on one small planet."*

*Another said, "Man is but a rash on the epidermis of the Universe." All statements from atheists!*

### *TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*It is easy to see why one would become cynical if he did not believe in God or in God's special creation of mankind. It is true that, in light of the magnitude of the universe in contrast to the puniness of man, it would be easy to conclude that man is totally inconsequential and a creature that will inevitably perish in total oblivion. He who abandons belief in a personal God and in a unique creation has no alternative other than despair and cynicism. But he who believes that God created man in the divine image, investing special honor and worth and meaning in mankind, is the one who, like David, is filled with wonder. Said David, "You (O God) made him (man) a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him (man) with glory and honor." (Psalms 8:5)*

*Every person is of incalculable worth to God, the crown of God's special creation, the object of God's special love, gifted by God's grace. Man is a God-breathed creature, a tri-unity—i.e., one who is created*

*with a body, with a mind, with a spirit. Man is capable of thinking rationally, of feeling deeply, of acting purposefully. Man is capable of thinking God's thoughts with his mind, of feeling God's compassion with his heart, of fulfilling God's plan with his will. Because God created man in his own image and because God redeemed man by His Son's blood, man is capable of working as a co-laborer with Almighty God to fulfill God's redemptive plans for His world! Man is an eternal being, built in his soul to live for God on this planet and with God eternally in heaven!*

### *TIME FOR A PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"O God, I thank you for your amazing creation of human beings, including me. There is much about myself (and other persons) that I will never understand. Because you are the eternal and infinite God, life is filled with much mystery. Your ways are higher than my ways, as high as the heavens are above the earth, and so are your thoughts greater than my thoughts. But you, in your mercy, have condescended to reveal some important truths to the human race. We humans are created in your 'own image'! We are unique, above all of your other crea-*

*tures. We have 'lost our greatness' because of our willfulness (sins), but you have come to "restore our greatness" through the life and death of your Son. Bowing low (in repentance and faith) at the 'foot of the Cross', we now can stand tall and confident (through Christ) in the face of all of life (both in the 'storms' and in the 'sunshine')! We have dignity and honor and strength and competency to live in peace with ourselves, and to live with kindness with everyone around us. Not self-centered, but Christ-centered! Not self-preoccupied, but others-oriented! Not selfish in personal pursuits, but generous in love projects. Not worshipping the gods of the world (materialism, sensualism, etc.), but worshipping the one and true living God! Humility without humiliation, dignity without pride! Thank you for 'breathing' worth into me, human and fallible as I am! I love and praise You! Amen!"*

### *TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*Yes, it is true that you are not worthy of the least of God's favor. If human beings received what they deserved (because of gross sin), all would perish! But, God so loved the world that He gave us a Savior!*

*Because of your special creation and because of your amazing redemption by Christ — you can hold your head high—without hurtful pride!*

8.

*"WHAT ARE MY UNSPEAKABLY GREAT BLESSINGS AND BENEFITS?"*

*Wrote Isaiah, "Then I heard the Lord asking, Whom shall I send as a messenger to my people? Who will go?" And I said, 'Lord, I'll go! Send me.'" (Isaiah 6:8, Living Bible)*

*Because God has a special call for every person, each one should feel very special to God.*

*To know that God wants to use every one of us as tools and instruments in His hands, ought to give each of us a sense of significance and dignity! What is the proper response to God's will to use us as tools? It is the surrender of our will to cooperate with God as a co-laborer with Him!*

*As believers, we are to treat our bodies with respect, for our body is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Also, we are to reverence and to respect the Holy Spirit who indwells our bodies. Being sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit is the result of maintaining a sense of life's dignity because of the presence of the Holy Spirit in*

*our inner being. Why, for the believer, is life so significant and so dignified? Because the believer is an heir of the eternal glory of Christ! Whatever belongs to Christ also belongs to the follower of Christ! If Christ is God – which He is – then it is a great privilege to be identified with Christ even in His sufferings! To be a part of the “company of the committed” is a rare and wonderful privilege! Is it life on this earth elevated to the highest heights when it is vitally attached to the King of the Universe?*

#### *TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*The fact that God has promised that believers will someday enjoy the delights of heaven and the glory of a new body, patterned after Christ's resurrected body, should bring a sense of great significance to the present earthly existence.*

*Wrote Paul, “...I am comforted by this truth, that when we suffer and die for Christ it only means that we will begin living with Him in Heaven. And if we think that our present service for Him is hard, just remember that someday we are going to sit with Him and rule with Him.”*  
(II Timothy 2:11-12, Living Bible)

*How significant is this earthly existence for one who anticipates God's favor resting upon him forever! Life for one on this planet is filled with dignity when he realizes that "it is the Father's great pleasure to give the eternal kingdom to the children of men"!*

*What is the proper response of the believer who is told about these future possibilities? He is filled with "wonder, love, and praise." These promises seem to be too good to be true, but the Christian believes them even though they boggle his imagination! The wonder-filled believer knows that God is lavish in His gifts of grace. The Bible says, "It has not even entered into the mind of man what God has prepared for those who love Him!"*

### *TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"O God, if I could count all my blessings—the blessings and benefits which you have bestowed upon me – it would take me considerable time to count those blessings! And it would take me much more time to describe all those blessings to anyone who would like to listen! Daily and hourly you bestow those blessings upon me – and*

*many of those blessings (unfortunately) I am either unaware of, or I insensitively 'take them for granted'! Forgive me my sin of ingratitude - a great sin when I realize that you, O God, alone are the 'Giver of all good and perfect gifts!' Jesus declared the truth when he said that 'without Him I can do nothing!' In thee, O God, I live and move, and have my being! Without You, I could do nothing, and I would be nothing! Born in sin (a sinner by nature), and tragically a deliberate participant in sinning (breaking Your Holy Commandments), I know I do not deserve the least of your favor! But, instead of reaping my just judgment and punishment for my rebellion, You, O God, have granted me a 'free pardon' - as a result of Jesus' Sacrifice on the Cross, and as a result of my personal (faith) acceptance of Jesus' offer of Salvation! I can never repay you for your 'grand gift' of eternal life, in place of my just condemnation to eternal death! And thank you for all the other blessings! Amen!"*

### *TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*May you be 'lost in Wonder, Love, and Praise' as you think of God's lavish gifts to you!*



9.

*"SHOULD I PURSUE PERSONAL SIGNIFICANCE THROUGH STRONG COMPETITION?"*

*Everyone needs Personal Significance Through Strong to feel Important and all persons need to feel accepted and recognized by others. But power struggles, strife, competition, envying and jealousy are the results of a person who is driven by selfish ambition!*

*"For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work." (James 3:16)*

*The Bible commands Christ-followers to put others before themselves, to honor others, to defer to others, and even to consider others better than themselves!*

*The way of humility and self-forgetfulness, rather than the way of pride and self-advancement and self-centeredness! Being 'servant' to all, with no desire to control or to manipulate others for your own advantage!*

*No Competition! No Comparison! No attempt to be the 'top dog' and yourself as the focus of others' attention! Letting God build Your Self-esteem!*

### *TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*One famous psychologist believes that the motivating drive of all human beings is the drive to power. It is true that the 'will to power and popularity' is very strong in many persons.*

*Of course this drive is selfish and thus sinful, but it needs to be recognized that this powerful drive is a perversion of a God-given instinct—the instinct to be known and accepted by others. Selfish pride is a perversion of the self-esteem urge.*

*How do we find ourselves? How do we guarantee that we shall have lasting identity?*

*Is it through the method of fighting for our own advancements, looking out after Number One (Self)? No! A resounding No!*

*Said Jesus, "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it". (Matthew 10:39)*

*We gain by losing, we find ourselves by giving ourselves away!*

*TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"O God, help me to always realize that my inner desire for significance is not fulfilled by seeking the approval of my peers, and it is not found as a result of my satisfaction with my own performance. I like to be liked by others, and I like to feel satisfaction in my excellent performance in my work, but the only solid foundation, O God, for my significance is found in your unconditional love for me. Because you created me, and because your Son redeemed me on the Cross, I am permanently significant to You, my loving God. Your love for me is the reason for my love for You, dear God—and this love relationship is eternal. It is what gives me a powerful motivation to wholeheartedly serve people—with little thought given to myself. I am significant because I permanently and solidly belong to you, my dear Heavenly Father. Centering on You and on the needs of others, I am lost in 'HOLY LOVE', and I automatically have significance and self-esteem! Loving You Supremely and loving others sincerely, I discover that I possess a wholesome 'self-*

*love' (not self-centered love)! Wonderful to be delivered from my 'bondage to self and self-consciousness'! True liberty through Christ's powerful love! Thank You with all my heart! Amen!"*

*TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*It is not by asserting yourself, but by surrendering yourself to God and to others, that you truly find SELF-ESTEEM!*

10.

"CAN I BE ASSURED THAT GOD WILL RESPOND TO MY SEEKING HEART?"

*"My heart says of you, 'Seek His Face!' Your face Lord, I will seek. Do not hide Your Face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper do not reject me or forsake me, O God My Savior." (Psalms 11:8-9)*

*The condition for finding is seeking wholeheartedly. The reward for diligently seeking God is the glorious discovery that the face of God is a smiling and a compassionate face.*

**TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!**

*The better instincts in one's life which encourage him to seek God, must be obeyed as reflected outwardly in a life that actively seeks God's face and His divine acceptance.*

*Every man, in his better moments, knows he ought to seek God, not merely to seek material possessions or physical security or professional achievements. The wise man obeys those inner spiritual stirrings in*

*his heart and his conscience, and he translates the wholesome impulses of his heart into outward striving for God.*

*When your inner soul instructs you to seek the Lord, don't squelch those tender stirrings of your heart. Activate those feelings and yearnings, and allow those God-inspired instincts and judgments to direct you actively and outwardly and earnestly to seek the Lord God Almighty!*

#### *TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"O God, you have assured me that my inner impulses which compel me outwardly to seek you, will be met by an accepting God — God who, if I take one step towards Him, will take a thousand steps toward me. "Draw near unto God, and He will draw near unto you." I do not fear that God will turn His face away from me in anger. He will never reject me or forsake me. He is a saving and accepting Savior. It is His nature to save, not to destroy; to accept, not to reject! He will never leave me nor forsake me. He who planted a desire within my heart to seek the Lord, is He who will gladly welcome me when I act upon my in-*

*ner impulses and actually and outwardly seek Him."*

*TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*Perhaps, man has no greater fear than the fear of rejection. No one can be promised he will never be rejected by his fellow men, but the honest seeker after God can rest assured that he will never be rejected or forsaken by a loving and a merciful God!*

11.

*"CAN GOD TURN MY PERSONAL TRAGEDY INTO SOME KIND OF REAL TRIUMPH?"*

*If God can transform a 'Black Friday' into a 'Good Friday' because of bright Easter Sunday morning, what do you think he can do with your 'Black Fridays' or your 'blue Mondays' or your 'weary Wednesdays'?*

*God has the power to turn a tragedy into a triumph, and He is able to resurrect your buried dreams and your shattered hopes!*

*The Christian answer to suffering is not to explain it or to explain it away, but to allow God to receptively use suffering. It is possible to take broken pieces of colored glass and to shape a beautiful colored cathedral window. It is possible for God to take the broken pieces of man's life—his broken dreams, disappointments, tragedies, losses—and to produce a beautiful life.*

*God is able to transform tragedy into triumph, to change a Dark Friday into a Good Friday, to make a Death produce Life, to*

*turn a despised Cross into a Cherished Symbol.*

*Through the fearful death of crucifixion, God cleansed away fear and brought life.*

*"For as much then as the children (human beings) are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them, who thorough fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." ((Hebrews 2: 14, 15)*

#### *TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*Be thankful that God can use any of your experiences...good or bad...to advance the cause of Christ and to encourage the lives of other Christians! Be thankful that God can enable you to get the best out of the worst!*

*If Paul's prison experience resulted in Roman pagans being converted, in timid Christians being encouraged, and in the Gospel message being spread, what do you suppose your 'prison' experiences could result in? Look up and be thankful for God's providence during trials!*

*Someone once said to a gallant soul who*

*was undergoing a great sorrow: "Sorrow fairly colors life, doesn't it?" Back came the reply: "Yes, and I propose to choose the color".*

*Problems and suffering, successfully met, can perfect character. Great spiritual vision of God is oftentimes the product of great sorrow. Someone said, "The vision of God can be seen more clearly through a tear". Trouble, sorrow, and suffering can cause one to depend more fully on God's power. God's strength is made perfect through human weakness. God's power is only available to the one who knows that he is weak and powerless.*

*One of the most important 'secrets' to experiencing personal renewal is to develop positive attitudes towards 'setbacks' and 'problems' and 'trials'. We must never forget that God specializes in things that are thought to be impossible, and that God can use anything we face to benefit us and to produce growth within us!*

*Always remember: God loves to bring surprises, not only to 90 year-old Sarah's, 100 year-old Abraham's, but to you as well! Knowing this fact will keep you on your tip-toe with joy and anticipation! Be constantly expecting miracles, and eventually you*

*will be the recipient of one! This is the 'secret' of daily renewal!*

### *TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"O God, in one sense, all of Life (including 'routine' life) is a 'miracle'. The creation – the product of your creative power – is most 'wonderful'! I look at nature (with its amazing variety), and I look at the human body (with its complex, interworking parts), and I look up at the night sky (with its breath-taking display of beauty and splendor and magnitude). I look out at the world of human beings (which contains variety in race, gender, talents, personality, and obvious marks of a special God-breathed image and intelligence), and I look backward in history (with its display, not only of 'fallen' man's evil acts but also of 'redeemed' man's remarkable acts of compassion)! O God, in every direction I look, I see Your hand of creativity and love – that is, your intervention in all of life! I can't help but declare that, in spite of life's many inequities, injustices, mysteries, you are a God of Miracles! I believe that I (even I who feel insignificant) am a recipient of your love all the time! All that you offer me is miraculous (that is, your mercy and power in my little world!). O God, in your own time, and*

*way, would you turn my tragedy into a triumph? Turn the bad (evil) towards me into something good (for my benefit, but more as a demonstration of your mighty Power and Eternal Love!) Thank you! Amen!"*

***TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!***

*The One who turned water into wine has the power to turn your tragedy into some kind of Triumph! Wait for God's perfect timing!*

12.

"IS MY HAPPINESS SOLELY CONNECTED WITH MY MAINTAINING A CLEAR CONSCIENCE?"

Remember, *"If we confess our sins to him, he can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong because Christ died to wash away our sins."* (1 John 1:9, Living Bible).

Be daily accountable before God. Let the 'blood of Jesus' cleanse you every day.

When the Holy Spirit pricks our conscience, and convicts us of wrong, it behooves us quickly to confess our sins to God and to 'plead the atoning blood of Jesus'.

Wrote John, *"My little children, I am telling you this so that you will stay away from sin. But if you sin, there is someone to plead for you before the Father. His name is Jesus Christ, the one who is all that is good and who pleases God completely. He is the one who took God's wrath against our sins upon himself, and brought us into fellowship with God; and he is the forgiveness for our sins, and not only ours but all the world's."* (1 John 2:1-2, Living Bible)

One of the 'secrets' to maintaining a vital relationship with God is to develop a tender heart and to maintain a sensitive, Spirit-controlled conscience.

### TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

Listen to the Apostle John's wise advice: *"My children, let us love not merely in theory or in words—let us love in sincerity and in practice! This is how we shall know that we are children of the truth and can reassure ourselves in the sight of God, even if our own conscience makes us feel guilty. For God is greater than our conscience, and he knows everything."* (1 John 3:18-20; Phillips)

Suppose the condemnation, which you feel, is because of real sin in your life, and is not the result of false guilt? Then recognize that the Sovereign mercy and love of God is still 'greater than your heart'. *"...in whatever our heart condemns us, for God is greater than our heart and knows all things."* (1 John 3:20) God knows your heart and can judge rightly. Whatever the source of condemnation – be it false guilt or real guilt – God is greater than the condemnation and can restore the believer to true confidence!

*Remember, Christ is greater than our hearts, and He will stand guard over our hearts to deliver us from all guilt – both real guilt and false guilt! Committing all of our guilt daily to Christ's cleansing blood is one of the big 'secrets' to maintaining vitality in the Christian life. A great 'key' to daily renewal in the Christian life!*

***TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!***

*"O God, I want you daily to shed abroad your love into my heart, for I know if I am seeking to love you Supremely, then I will truly desire also to love my fellowman sincerely and wholesomely. God's indwelling love enables me to desire nothing but the best for both my 'friends' and my 'foes'. I will be able (by your indwelling Holy Spirit) to pray for my 'enemies', even for those who despitefully use me! I must hate their sins (which have hurt everyone – God and others and themselves also), but I will be able to 'wish them good', and I will be able to have 'pity upon them' because of the bondage which their sins have brought to them! And, my God, if I know (by your grace, and by my sincere efforts) that I have sought consistently to care for all persons (with no envy and no selfish pride and no resentment towards persecutors*

*and offenders) - then I have the 'confidence' that I am 'pleasing to you'! I know I am pleasing to you because I am living a consistent (though imperfect) life of loving everyone (friend and foe)! So, dear Lord, if (in my feelings and moods and physical condition) I sometimes have doubts and feelings of 'guilt', I will learn to cast away these 'nagging thoughts' and reclaim my confidence in your promises and provisions! If my heart falsely accuses me of wrongs and seeks to take away my peace and confidence, I will boldly declare that "God is greater—than my heart and He knows all things!" No need for doubt if I am living by love. Amen!"*

### *TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*Can there be a greater gift on earth than a 'Clear Conscience' - sensitive to 'Right and Wrong', and committed to 'pleasing our Mighty God'?*

*Booklets Of  
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