

A white dove is shown in flight, its wings spread wide. The wings are illuminated with a bright, ethereal light, giving them a glowing appearance. The background is a dark, starry night sky with numerous small, colorful stars. The overall scene is surreal and evokes a sense of the supernatural.

the super- natural life

FRANCIS ANFUSO

In PRAYER, don't look to
get ANSWERS. Look to
GET TO KNOW GOD.

The SATISFACTION we
are LOOKING FOR will
NOT COME from GOD
ANSWERING PRAYERS.

It comes from LEARNING TO
TRUST HIM REGARDLESS
OF HIS ANSWER.

We DON'T PRAY to GET
GOD'S ATTENTION.

We pray because GOD
HAS FINALLY GOTTEN
OUR ATTENTION.

Acts 1:14



answered prayer

My heart goes out to every
MOTHER and FATHER who has
a Broken Relationship with their
CHILD. Don't stop praying and
believing for their salvation.

A MOTHER'S PRAYERS

My heart goes out to every mother with a child far away from God. Please don't give up on them. I read about a mother who prayed for her son for 60 years. One week before she died, he called saying he'd given his heart to Jesus. My own mother prayed fervently for all her children. I was especially lost, a vehement atheist, and laughed as she prayed over meals. But she had the last laugh. Thousands of miles away, I wandered into a little country church and received Jesus on Mother's Day. Immediately, I knew it was because of her prayers. Never ever stop praying for your children!

**P. U. S. H.
Pray Until
Something
Happens**

**Our PRAYERS don't fuel
God's Heart. It is GOD'S HEART
that FUELS OUR PRAYERS.**

"HAIL MARY" PASS PRAYERS

Before receiving Jesus, after many devastating setbacks, I found myself genuinely searching for God. On the Hawaiian island of Molokai with a friend, we knelt and prayed, "Jesus, Krishna, Buddha, we've studied your teachings, and know you're not the same person. Please reveal yourself to us." A Hail Mary pass was thrown into the cosmos! But God heard it. Afterwards, my friend began chanting to the Hindu god, Krishna. Soon, he was losing his mind. He then walked into his childhood Christian church and had a powerful experience with Jesus. After hearing about it, I received Jesus, too. A little prayer, from a sincere heart, my life was changed forever.

DESCRIBING A BEAUTIFUL PERSON

I was privileged to minister monthly to twenty young women with emotional scars who lived in a wonderful restorative community. They were asked to describe someone beautiful and say why. One young lady said, "What makes people beautiful is that they're always real and not afraid to be who they are—sharing their real emotions, feelings, thoughts, and ideas. They're confident and uncomplicated.


We all strain to see Actual Life, Honest Humility, and someone who is really WALKING THE TALK.

They never play mind games and are always honest and candid. When I see a person living this way, it makes me yearn to live my life that way also and gives me the confidence to believe I can do so." Jesus, make me that kind of person!

WHAT WE THINK ABOUT GOD

What Americans think about God is quite revealing. A survey determined 28% believe in an "AUTHORITARIAN GOD," who's angry at humanity's sins. 24% believe God is "DISTANT," a cosmic force that launched the planet, then left it spinning on its own. 21% say He's "CRITICAL," having a judgmental eye on the world; unwilling to intervene. Sadly, only 22% believe in a "BENEVOLENT GOD," who is forgiving and accepting of anyone who repents. So, the challenge for all who have a relationship with our "BENEVOLENT GOD"—JESUS—is to represent Him in an authentic and genuine way. Because the only way someone can see the Person of God...is in His people. cheering angels.

RELIGION is "Wait & See" watching Reruns. RELATIONSHIP is "Come & See" God Move!



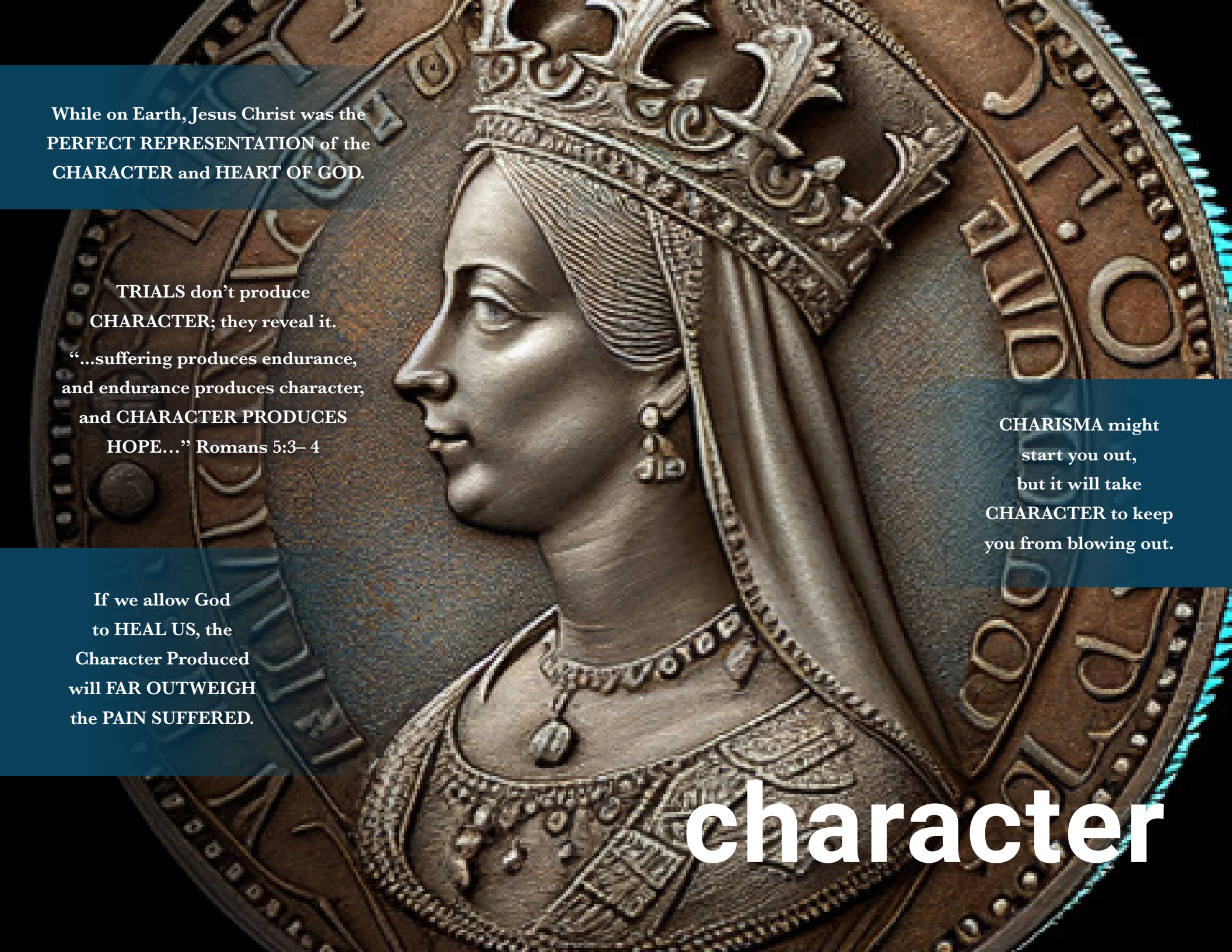
AUTHENTIC has been defined as,
“conforming to fact and therefore
worthy of trust, reliance, or belief.” Are
you an AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN?

More and more people are
CONFESSING they are BORN
AGAIN, but FEWER ARE LIVING
DIFFERENTLY.

GENUINENESS requires
being whole-hearted... a
passionate focus on peeling
back layers of repetitive
behavior for a FRESH
EXPERIENCE WITH GOD.

Is our relationship with
JESUS SO REAL, so
authentically factual, that
those around us want to
TRUST and BELIEVE in
the GOD WE FOLLOW?

authentic



While on Earth, Jesus Christ was the
PERFECT REPRESENTATION of the
CHARACTER and **HEART OF GOD.**

TRIALS don't produce
CHARACTER; they reveal it.
“...suffering produces endurance,
and endurance produces character,
and **CHARACTER PRODUCES**
HOPE...” Romans 5:3- 4

If we allow God
to **HEAL US**, the
Character Produced
will **FAR OUTWEIGH**
the **PAIN SUFFERED.**

CHARISMA might
start you out,
but it will take
CHARACTER to keep
you from blowing out.

character

WE REFLECT OUR INSIDE

Before there were mirrors, there were puddles. We will always, in some way, reflect what is around us. Additionally, who we surround ourselves with, we will eventually reflect. That's why the Bible challenges us when it says, "...stop fooling yourselves! Evil companions will corrupt good morals and character." (1 Corinthians 15:33, TPT) What we say flows from what's in our heart. (Luke 6:45) To stay aware of what's inside me, I must take seriously the life and death admonition of Scripture, "Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life." (Proverbs 4:23, NLT) "Jesus, let the puddles in my heart reflect You!"

**CHARACTER
is SEEN IN
the GREAT
MOMENTS of
life, but it's
FORMED IN the
SMALL ONES.**

EXACT EXPRESSIONS

Who has God created me to be? Is my life engraved with my Creator's image? Striving to be someone else is a waste of time and misrepresents God's heart. The New Testament Greek word for "character" describes Jesus as the "exact expression" of the Father. The Bible says, "The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God..." (Hebrews 1:3, NLT) This is the word used when kings stamp their images on coins. We're each created to be an exact expression of God...to reflect Him as sons and daughters. God wants to imprint on us this image of Himself. Even when painful, it's always worth it!

**GOD NEVER
TIRES of
trying to
FORM HIS
ETERNAL
CHARACTER
in us.**

**God doesn't
want us to
ADMIT our sin...
He wants us
to CONFESS it.**

VITAMIN GRIT!

A common response to life's struggles is blaming others for our poor choices. The truth is, I alone am responsible for my weak character. When I accept this, I allow God to give me what I need most. I call it, Vitamin Grit. Grit is defined as "An indomitable spirit, incapable of being overcome, subdued, or vanquished; unconquerable." I need Vitamin Grit added to my diet daily! When tempted, I need the Grit to find God's way of escape. In weak moments, I need Grit to rely on God's strength. "Jesus, make me the unconquerable person You envisioned me to be. For that alone is my destiny."

UPFRONT ARMOR

Have you ever thought: "If I'm wearing the armor of God, why do I feel so beat up?" Note this! Armor protects only your front, not your back, while facing battles head on. There's no victory without a battle and no protection in merely knowing about your battle and armor. Victory came to David as he fearlessly ran to meet Goliath, as Daniel boldly prayed with open windows, as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego courageously defied the King's mandate. God blesses faith, not fear, courage not cowardice. We're made for war, and called to be victorious, but armor only works going forward, not backward. Face your battle head-on with faith, not fear!

**Bowing to
FEAR is the
least safe
thing to do.**

While one person is **RUNNING AWAY FROM BIG WAVES**, another person is **WAXING HIS SURFBOARD**.

We all need to know **WHEN TO RUN** and **WHEN TO WAX**.

You can't move forward unless you **TAKE A RISK**.

Abraham **NEVER WAVERED** in believing God's promise.

In fact, **HIS FAITH GREW STRONGER**.


Romans 4:20

The last thought we need right now is. **"I DON'T NEED TO STEP UP, I'LL DO IT LATER."**



Being **BRAVE** means being **COURAGEOUS** five minutes longer or five seconds sooner than everyone else.

courage



The Cultural goal of “FINDING OURSELVES” is an ILLUSION. Spending your life pursuing it is the ESSENCE OF the PROBLEM.

All five years attending a secular University I was an ATHEIST, HEDONIST, and ANARCHIST. Only by GOD’S GRACE and my MOTHER’S PRAYERS did I SURVIVE.

The most UN-SCIENTIFIC THOUGHT ever conceived by man is that, “Without an Intelligent Designer, SOMETHING CAME FROM NOTHING.”

Genesis 1:1

In an age of MORAL COMPROMISE, surrounded by Evil, our Culture is increasingly OVERREACTING, UNDER-REACTING, or just plain “ACTING.”

culture clones

SOCIETIES DRIFTING

As society drifts further away from reality, only God's Word contains the truth to set someone free. When people create their own version of right and wrong, good and evil, or truth and lies, it's simply repackaged deception. Far from being profound or liberating, it's the perfect recipe for deception... "man playing God." From rebellious anarchists to pleasure-seeking hedonists... selfish capitalists to naïve socialists...lack of discernment always leads to destruction. Unless our hearts are transformed by surrendering our will to Jesus, we will get further away from God and why we were created. Jesus prayed in John 17:17, "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth." Stop Playing God.

Resist the Temptation of being Recast into the Image of a FLAWED CULTURE that has Lost Much of its Eternal Uniqueness.

Unless Jesus to be our Lord, the INSIGNIFICANT FASCINATIONS of Earth will eventually possess us.

CULTURE CLONES & MORAL ZOMBIES

Are you struggling with an addiction? When unfulfilled, we gravitate to whatever means of comfort, entertainment, or even alter-identity that's available. If we don't embrace what God designed to inspire us, we'll eventually embrace what the devil intends to destroy us. Like the strongman, Samson, how many have lost their strength in Delilah's lap? Or, like King David, how many have freely surfed the Internet, only to be enticed by Bathsheba? Unless we allow God to make our lives exceptional, we'll be stranded in history's long line of moral zombies and culture clones—false reflections of fallen humanity, not flawless incarnations of Christ-like morality. Look in God's Word and remember who you really are.

CONQUERING DISAPPOINTMENT & FAILURE

What if a principal goal in life's journey is learning to conquer disappointment and failure? God created us to be "...more than conquerors through Him who loved us." (Romans 8:37) Conquer means "to gain control of, to overcome, to reach the summit by climbing." I long to be a conqueror. I hate wallowing weakness. God has never pitied me. He sees me through the eyes of His original intention: strong,

If you value your PRIVILEGES above your PRINCIPLES, you'll soon lose both.


bold, humble and brave. The moment our eyes and heart open to His heart for us, we can leave the selfish land of "poor me" and journey into the "overcoming land" of conquering disappointments and forgetting our failures.

ETERNAL FAITH

We've all been seduced by the worthless, what lasts for a moment, and ignore the priceless: what God created to remain forever. Everything we see with our natural eyes is temporary, while all that is eternal is invisible, and accessed only by faith. Invisible faith gives us the victory to overcome the seductions in this world (1John 5:4).

Genuine "...faith is being sure of what we hope for, being convinced of what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1, NET) For only by faith in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection are we able to receive not just everlasting life, but access to the abundant life Jesus promised, right here on Earth.

If you are going to THRIVE in the PRESENT CULTURE, you will have to LEARN TO SNORKEL in a SEPTIC TANK.



It's not an accident that
THOSE WHO ARE MOST
USED BY GOD... are MOST
HATED BY THE WORLD.

Jesus had BOLD COURAGE
to say what had NEVER BEEN
SAID, to LIVE LIKE NO ONE
HAD EVER LIVED, and to
DIE A DEATH LIKE NO ONE
BEFORE HIM.

I will turn my cheek, not due to
COWARDICE, but because I've
received the COURAGE God gives
to all who BOW TO HIM ALONE.

How many ADVENTURE
MOVIES do we have to watch
before we begin to LIVE THE
ADVENTURE GOD HAS
PLANNED for us?

culture warriors



Repackaged for the times,
DECEPTION STRUTS ON STAGE

acting as if what we've been
waiting for has finally arrived.

Never underestimate
DECEPTION'S ABILITY
to embrace a **FALSE**
CONCEPT as an
ABSOLUTE TRUTH
— to explain away the
simplicity of God's reality.

CYANIDE, smells like Almonds,
yet kills you dead. "For the lips of
the adulterous woman drip with
honey... Her feet go down to death..."

Proverbs 5:3,5, NIV

One of the ways I keep
SPIRITUALLY SANE
is by **FEARING** the
EXORBITANT COST OF
SIN more than sinning
and being caught. If you
refuse to respond to **PRE-**
SIN CONVICTION, you'll
have to live with **POST-**
SIN REGRET.

deception

SEVEN WAYS TO DIE PREMATURELY

All of us would love to live long, blessed lives. But the Bible shows at least seven examples of why people died prematurely. Unless we guard our hearts, they could happen to us. 1) Rebel against God-given authority, as Absalom did. 2) Form close relationships with ungodly people, as King Solomon did. 3) Fight a battle God didn't ask you to fight, as King Josiah did. 4) Be filled with pride, as King Herod did. 5) Refuse to acknowledge your deception, as Judas did. 6) Resist the conviction of the Holy Spirit, as Ananias and Sapphira did. Lastly, 7) don't take your physical health seriously, as so many Americans do.

**The GREATEST
DECEPTION
the DEVIL EVER
PERPETRATED
was CONVINCING
PEOPLE THAT HE
DOESN'T EXIST.**

FORGET SELF-CONFIDENCE

This is truly a treacherous, upside-down world, riddled with deception. From the moment, "The serpent said to the woman, 'Surely you will not die'..." Satan continued to spew lies. Those who say they know the truth, often live a lie. Those who hate the most, often call others "haters." Those claiming higher moral ground give in to immorality. Two scriptures sum up the danger of hypocrisy. "Claiming to be wise, they became fools." (Romans 1:22, ESV) And here's how The Message describes 1 Corinthians 10:12. "Don't be so naive and self-confident...You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. Forget about self-confidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence."

**Every day, fully
imbedded within
the SURFACE
MORALITY of
our culture, the
DEVIL OFFERS
GODLIKENESS
DEVOID OF GOD.**

Though most people BELIEVE IN THE DEVIL, they LIVE AS IF HE DOESN'T EXIST.


TEMPTATIONS DRAW US TO THE WORD

When Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, He knew His only hope for remaining safe was clinging to the promises of God's Word. Therefore, He addressed each temptation with, "It is written ...". Christ's strategy when tempted must be ours as well. Growing a harvest takes time and preparation so plant God's Word in your hearts for the battles ahead...have that reservoir to draw from. David wrote, "I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." (Psalm 119:11, NLT) Writing the Word of God on our hearts is the only pathway out of darkness into the safety of His will.

IS GOD'S PROTECTION REALLY ANY DIFFERENT

When King Sennacherib sent his Assyrian army to capture Jerusalem, he mocked God's people for trusting the Lord. He boasted about the nations he'd already conquered saying, "Why are you any different?" Great question! Why should God's people be different with calamity at our door? When the Bible says that God "...gives His sunlight to both the evil and the good and sends rain on the just and the unjust alike" (Matthew 5:45), it's NOT saying everyone receives the same judgment; it's saying we receive the same blessings. But, for those trusting Jesus, it says, "The godly face many dangers, but the Lord saves them from each one of them." (Psalm 34:19, NET)

If you DON'T THINK YOU NEED GOD TO DELIVER YOU FROM EVIL, it's because EVIL IS WINNING in your life.




The ENEMY of our soul is NOT
OMNISCIENT. He knows far more
about his own future than he does
about ours.

Drive the DEVIL out
of your life before he
convinces you HIS
MOTIVE IS AS GOOD
AS GOD'S.

One of the GREATEST
JOYS IN LIFE is seeing
all the devil meant for
evil TURN OUT FOR
GOD'S GLORY AND
MY GOOD.

The DEVIL doesn't
have to get me to GO
BACKWARD, all he has
to do is STOP ME from
GOING FORWARD.

deliverance from evil



Each day, I'm learning to love my
vision for my life less, and GOD'S
VISION FOR MY LIFE MORE.

A key to FINDING YOUR
PURPOSE is REMEMBERING
what is most true about WHO
YOU REALLY ARE.

If I lose touch with GOD'S
ORIGINAL DESIGN
for me NO OTHER
IMAGINED INTENT
can satisfy WHO I AM
CREATED TO BE.

LIVING BENEATH
my GOD-GIVEN
POTENTIAL would
not be a novel
experience.

destiny

FINISHING WELL

Do you ever think “I’ve got this!” when putting great effort into accomplishing something important? Only to realize later that, “I don’t got this!” I’ve seen it happen in my own life, but also in sports where, at the last second, someone scores a basket, makes a hit, or stretches across a finish line ahead of someone who thought they’d already won. That’s why Jesus said, “You must love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind.” (Matthew 22:37, NLT) Ecclesiastes 9:10 says, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might...” Be “ALL IN”! Finishing well is always more important than starting well.

There’s no shortage of people who feel as if they’re drowning. But RESCUERS ARE RARE.

We get to decide, are we going to end up a DOCTOR or a PATIENT.

BUYING INTO YOUR FUTURE

In Jeremiah 32, God told him to buy land in Jerusalem shortly before it was captured by the Babylonians. Jeremiah knew this calamity was coming, but God still had him invest in the future of His people. When Suzie and I received Jesus in the early 1970’s, America was in great turmoil. As new Christ followers, we discussed the viability of marriage and children. But we remembered Jesus said, “Occupy till I come...” not be preoccupied. He said, “Go into every nation...” not hibernation. If God says, “Get married! Have children! Buy the land!”—Obey Him! The future belongs to only those who trust and obey God.

TWO UNIVERSAL CHALLENGES

I was talking with a gifted baseball player, a catcher, who was headed for the major leagues. I asked what his most difficult struggle was in playing baseball. He said, despite continual improvements in the catcher's mitts' padding, pitchers throw the balls so fast, the catcher always feels pain. The second struggle was that he usually didn't get on base and had to sit down after failing to get a hit. It reminded me of two universal challenges we each face: Pain and Failure.

**No one can trouble
your heart and
mind. ONLY YOU
CAN DO THAT.
John 14:1**

Learning to survive these assaults against our peace of mind, and thriving in spite of them, will allow us to live victorious lives.

FRUSTRATIONS

Are you frustrated?

Frustrations are actually doorways to our destiny.


Until we see our lives from God's perspective, we'll never understand the good that's possible within these frustrations. If we

obsess over their pain, we'll

miss their entire point. Our lives are intentionally shrouded in secrecy; our true purpose is often disguised in a maze of problems. 2 Corinthians 12:10, even tells us to take pleasure in our pain!

Complaining about setbacks only distracts us from receiving the truth behind the mystery. The key to life is to not stop at the surface of a problem, but to dig deep enough to uncover the reason and value behind each trouble.

**CRISIS is
meant to
show that
YOU HAVE
ANOTHER
GEAR.**

A person wearing a dark jacket and a large backpack is climbing a wide, stone staircase. The person is seen from behind, moving upwards. The background is a bright, hazy sky. The overall scene suggests a journey or a challenge.

GOD WILL CONTINUE TO SHAKE
all that can be shaken around and
within us, so that only **UNSHAKABLE**
THINGS WILL REMAIN.

Hebrews 12:27

In life, things **ONLY WORK OUT**
for **TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE:**

1. Those who love God
2. Those who are committed
to His purpose alone

(Romans 8:28)

We want God to make our lives
EASIER, but He wants to make
them **HARDER**. For our good!

1 Kings 18

The **DIFFICULTIES** in our
lives are the greatest shapers
of our **DESTINY**; not our
abilities or giftings.

difficulties



If you are genuinely “dying to self”
stop crawling off the altar.

Galatians 2:20

The outer portion of
the OLIVE is called the
“FLESH.” When our
FLESH IS CRUSHED, the
OIL OF ANOINTING can
come forth from our lives.

God will never ask us
to do WHAT COSTS US
NOTHING.

2 Samuel 24:24

CHRISTIANS should
be those who KNOW
HOW BEST TO DIE.
DYING DAILY to our
Own Desires and
Wants.

dying to self

VALUE OF NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES

Want to learn to rely on God and not yourself? The Bible has a surefire plan. Expect to die and watch God rescue you. Apostle Paul said, “We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life...” (2 Corinthians 1:8, NIV) He expected to die. But suddenly, he experienced the incredible value of the entire challenge. “But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.” (2 Corinthians 1:9, NIV) So, if you’re experiencing a catastrophe, a priceless life lesson may be right around the corner—learning to rely upon God and not yourself!

**If JESUS HAD
TO DIE to get
RESURRECTION
LIFE. So do we.**

TRIMMING WHAT’S DEAD

Have you noticed anything dead in your heart? Let Jesus prune it away, trimming off what’s useless, with no lasting value. It only weighs you down. Soon you’ll rebound from your winter, basking among the beautiful flowers and sweet fruit of a fully surrendered life. God is committed to establishing our internal, long-term health. Therefore, He cuts away what we’re attached to on Earth, even what appears to be somewhat healthy, in order to produce what’s eternal: His destiny for our life. Be attached only to Jesus. The Bible says, “As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as His own children.” (Hebrews 12:7a, NLT)

**You know you
are DEAD TO
YOURSELF
when you
CAN’T BE
OFFENDED.**

FAITH GROWS in the GREENHOUSE of TRUST.


FAITH MUSCLES

There's no one who wants to reward us more than God! Therefore, His primary goal is bringing us into the fullness of the person He created us to be. For this to happen, we must develop faith muscles! Supernatural maturity comes as we respond with faith to life's challenges and disappointments. Everything in life is designed to grow us into the stature of the fullness of Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 4:13) Answered prayers won't produce this majestic effect. Only unquestioning trust, irrespective of our life experiences, is the secret sauce that transforms us. Jesus developed faith muscles (learned obedience) through all He suffered (Hebrews 5:8), and so must we.

TALK TO YOUR MOUNTAINS

Are you facing mountains of pain and discouragement? Does misery threaten to bankrupt your investment in God? Don't let it! "Stop telling God how big your mountains are, and start telling your mountains how big your God is." Life always comes down to a showdown. A standoff! Who will blink first?! If God is God, then trust and believe Him! The Bible says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God." (Hebrews 11:6, NIV) What are you going to believe? How big your mountains are? Or how BIG your GOD is? Even with faith as little as a mustard seed, your mountains can be moved. God is always able!

**FRUSTRATION
doesn't move
mountains.
FAITH does!**



A PARTIAL FAITH in
God is really DISTRUST.
God's did not bring you
this far to fail, but to
finish well.

There is ONLY ONE
WAY TO FOLLOW
GOD. BY FAITH!


Unless you walk by
faith, one day you
will find you are not
following Him at all.

Our GREATEST
DANGER is NOT
STRONG WINDS...
but WEAK FAITH.
“O, you of little faith,
why did you doubt?”

Matthew 14:31

DOUBT is SPIRITUAL
SCHIZOPHRENIA.
It literally means: to
be SPLIT IN TWO.

faith



FEAR OF MAN is the
GREATEST TEMPTATION
lying in wait for the End
Time Church. Giving in will
lead to **COMPROMISE** and
DISAPPOINTMENT.

Let the **FEARS OF**
YESTERDAY be
dissolved by the **FAITH**
OF TODAY and the
HOPE OF TOMORROW.

If we give in to fear and
personal preference, we
will misinterpret the most
important decisions in life.

TRUSTING GOD
eliminates the
FEAR OF MAN.

Psalm 56.4

fear

ADDICTED TO FAMILIARITY

When Moses went up on Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments, after a long wait, the Israelites thought he wasn't coming back. Fearful, they constructed a golden calf, a former idol that gave them a false sense of comfort. It's a tendency we all have. We backslide into the familiar, rather than pressing forward with faith into God's glorious unknown.

Moses ground the idol into powder, making them drink it. Thousands died. Their gold was in ashes. Idolatry is a bitter pill that accomplishes nothing, leaving us with pain and regret. Familiar addictions always bring loss, while believing for a faith-filled future is a prayer God always answers.

**FEAR
IS A
FRAUD!**

The CURE for FEAR is TRUST!

OVERREACTING TO CONCERNS

Have you ever felt that what you've been promised and are believing for is slipping through your fingers? If we overreact and begin moving in our own strength, we can create Ishmael's and Golden Calves—giving in to fear, not faith. God intentionally keeps us in relational dependence upon Him, not in how we think our life should be sequenced. Jesus affirmed this by saying, "without Me you could do nothing." True wisdom and lasting favor come only from God. They aren't things we inherently possess, but must be received as gifts from God, and will be tested in moments when we mistakenly believe God is not coming to our rescue.

FEARLESSLY “LAUGHING” AT LIFE

Would you like to laugh at life’s challenges with no fear of the future? The Old Testament speaks about the virtuous godly woman in Proverbs 31. “...she laughs without fear of the future.” It’s not a wild thought; it’s God’s desire for each of our lives. Hebrews 13:6 says, “The LORD is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?” Nothing! There’s nothing worth being afraid of. Our future is bright because God wrote the script. I’m choosing to laugh at fear and walk in faith, whenever difficulties tempt me to bow to fear.

What can man do to me?


**FEAR GOD...NOT EVIL.
PSALM 23:4**

FEARLESS FIGHTERS

The Gurkhas of Nepal are renowned, fearless fighters. During a war, they were asked if they’d be willing to jump from airplanes into combat.

The Gurkhas didn’t fully understand, but bravely said “Yes” asking only that the planes fly slowly over a swampy area and no higher than 100 feet. When told their parachutes wouldn’t have time to open at that height, they replied, “You didn’t mention we’d have parachutes!” That’s commitment! It makes us brave; willing to give everything, even our lives. Paul said, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” He was committed. The question is... are we?

**GOD’S
PEOPLE
FLEE
FORWARD!**




God, raise up FEARLESS WOMEN
like Queen Esther who said, I will go
in to see the king. IF I MUST DIE,
I MUST DIE.” Esther 4:16

FAITH ADDS WINGS
to your feet, FEAR
ADDS WEIGHTS. You
were made to FLY, not
to FALL.

When you FACE YOUR
BIGGEST FEARS there's
NOTHING LEFT TO FEAR.

As Christ's followers, we
should LIVE FEARLESSLY
ON THE TIP OF THE
ARROW... Not safely back
in the feathers.

fearless



GOD'S DREAM for me is infinitely better than MY DREAM FOR ME.

When I realized this, I began to fully enjoy the life He gave me.

I don't know what's BEST FOR ME never have, never will.

I don't even know enough to have a STRONG PERSONAL PREFERENCE.

Whether we understand it or see it, GOD HAS CHOSEN THE BEST POSSIBLE OPTIONS for each of our lives.

WHY is the wrong question to ask God. WHAT is the right question. "God, WHAT are you trying to show me?"

God knows best

NOT GOING THROUGH A PHASE

Did you ever wish a season of your life would be over and then realized it wasn't a phase? This IS your life! For all practical purposes, Joseph was a slave from his youth until his death at age 110. This phase you think you're in may actually be your life. So, don't let your hopes for the future be based on your circumstances being changed. That's wishful thinking, and a waste of time. God knows what's best for your future. He doesn't need your advice. Pray in faith, trusting that the God who loves you has already chosen the best options for your future. Access His best by leaving the choice with Him.

**God gives
each of us
THE LIFE
HE KNOWS
WE NEED.**

BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE OPTIONS

If only we could know and trust God's perfect motive and qualities, like goodness, kindness, mercy, and complete forgiveness. And, if only we could believe God is madly in love with us with these liberating perspectives: how we see God, and how He sees us. We'd then realize that God's plan for us is the best of all options. What script would you write for your children? It pales in comparison to the one He's already written for you and them! Embrace God's will, and you'll never be disappointed. You may be temporarily sad, but you'll be blessed for eternity. That's the great riddle of Earth. Those who believe it...WIN.

**God ALWAYS
GIVES HIS
BEST... to those
who leave the
choice with
Him.**

**When GOD'S
PRESENCE
FALLS, look
for HIS
REVELATION.
Numbers 11:9**

KNOWING GOD'S WILL

Just because our life experiences are difficult, doesn't mean we've missed God's will. As a young Christian, many of my emotional impressions about God's will were actually not His will. And if it was God's will, it often wasn't His timing. God alone knows how long a season should last. I was once asked to pastor a Christian community and promised it would only be for six to nine months. It lasted 52 months. The older I get, and the more I step out, the less confidence I have in my impressions, but the more confidence I have in God leading me. If you desperately want God's will, He will make sure you know what it is.

PERMISSIBLE ISN'T ALWAYS PREFERABLE

In 1 Samuel 24, David had a chance to kill his archenemy, King Saul. God allowed David to find him alone and unprotected in a cave. Instead of killing Saul, he cut off a part of the king's robe. Later, David's conscience was troubled. God had convicted him for dishonoring Saul, and David repented. The story challenged me about being careful that, even when I feel I have the right, it doesn't mean God has given permission. What's permissible isn't always preferable. Never presume to know what God wants you to do. Commit to asking Him first, unattached to having any preference, and God will show you His will.

**KNOWING
GOD will
always come
down to
FLOWING
WITH GOD.**

Jesus will never
inspire you to be
more devoted to
what He wants,
than to Him.


God only SATISFIES
WHAT HE CREATES.

If you created
something, then
you're going to have to
try and satisfy it.

As I lay prostrate and wept
in the presence of the Lord, I
asked God what was on His
heart. He spoke clearly
"I don't want to be led!"
Let God lead! Only He
knows where you are going.

Are you asking God to
BLESS YOU or DIRECT
YOU? It will make all
the difference.

God's will



At times, the only
person open-minded
people SEE AS EVIL,
is the PERSON WHO
INSISTS THAT GOOD
AND EVIL EXIST.

Compared to knowing
God, the CRUEL
DRUDGERY of
Earth is a PAINFUL
HALLUCINATION, a
throwback to an ANCIENT
REBELLION that long
since failed.

We may create our
own version of good
and evil, truth and lies
... but in the end the
GOD OF TRUTH WILL
JUDGE US ALL.

Lucifer, the defrocked
chief musician of
heaven, twisted the
expression of ECSTATIC
ADORATION into
SENSELESS IDOLATRY
and SELF-WORSHIP.

good & evil

DISCERNMENT DEFINED

Ours is the age of little discernment. Compare Noah Webster's 1828 American Dictionary definition of the word 'discern.' He wrote, "to see or understand the difference...between good and evil, truth and falsehood." Tremendous! Unfortunately, the 2015 version of Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines 'discern': "to recognize or identify right from wrong." No longer is it "to see or understand the difference... between good and evil, truth and falsehood." With that eliminated, we're left with personal preference, and no resemblance to absolute truth. Ironically, this supposed, "new and improved" definition of 'discern' completely lacks discernment. Jesus admonishes each of us, "See that no one leads you astray." (Matthew 24:4, ESV)

**Men love
DARKNESS,
yet God
STILL
LOVES MEN.**

**The root of all REBELLION is
DEMONIC. "...rebellion is as the sin
of witchcraft..." 1 Samuel 15:23**

WHEN THE DEVIL CALLS ON LINE TWO

In the Book of Acts, the disciples feared that Saul, then called "Paul," a notorious persecutor of Christians, was only pretending to follow Christ. The Spirit of God cut through their fear, bluntly saying, "Go, and do what I say." This models God's direction in my life. Just Obey! Go and Do! Faith requires passionate action, not passive reflection. No debate; just unquestioning obedience. Oftentimes, when God calls me on Line One, the devil calls on Line Two, to undermine what God asked me to do. Elijah challenged the people, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him..." (1 Kings 18:21, NIV)

AIMING AT HEAVEN

This traveling maxim is so true: “We arrive at the destination we’re going to.” Or: “You only hit the target you’re aiming at.” C.S. Lewis comparably wrote, “Aim at Heaven, and you will get Earth thrown in; aim at Earth, and you will get neither.” I’ve aimed and hit some targets I wish I’d missed. Others, I’m eternally grateful to have hit. We each have the same number of minutes in a day, so our time and opportunities are always aimed at something. The Bible says, “Make good use of every opportunity you have, because these are evil days.” (Ephesians 5:16) Your life is a flash! Make it memorable!

**Desperate acts of FAITH
unleash HEAVEN.
Mark 2:3-5**

PLEASURES THAT SATISFY

If pleasure’s your goal, you’ll live unfulfilled. The devil’s happy to give us the pleasures of Connecticut and Vermont Avenues, if he gets Boardwalk and Park Place. But, as in Monopoly, Connecticut and Vermont Avenues are essentially worthless, while Boardwalk and Park Place seem priceless. The devil offers counterfeit intimacy—shallow, momentary pleasure without eternal satisfaction—a forgery of what we’re created for: a personal relationship with God. “You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of Your presence and the pleasures of living with You forever.” (Psalm 16:11, NLT) The only pleasures that truly satisfy are the pleasures that comes from God.

**Remember
ETERNITY in
your DECISIONS.**

The FULFILLMENT OF
HEAVEN provides the
greatest protection from
the SEDUCTIONS OF
EARTH.

Everything GOOD on
Earth is in some way a
reflection of Heaven.

Everything BAD on
Earth is in some way
Heaven distorted.

If Jesus lives in us,
then our LONGING
FOR GOD... is a
LONGING FOR
HEAVEN to come
to Earth.

When HEAVEN touches our
lives... We always LONG
FOR MORE. When EARTH
distracts from Heaven, we
SETTLE FOR AS
LITTLE AS POSSIBLE.

A golden archway with intricate carvings stands in the center, leading to a bright, cloudy sky. A couple is walking away from the viewer through the archway. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The archway is flanked by two tall, ornate pillars. The overall atmosphere is one of hope and transcendence.

heaven

If we believe
HOLINESS is
unattainable... then
we will always give
up too soon on
doing what is right.

Don't let HOLINESS
be a "Have To."
Make it a "Get To."
It doesn't just mean
being separated
from sin... but being
SEPARATED TO GOD.

We CANNOT BE HOLY
without the fear of the Lord.

*"...perfecting holiness in
the fear of the Lord."*

2 Corinthians 7:1



There is always a
TENSION between
the DESIRES of
our FLESH and the
HOLINESS of God.

holiness

FEELING UNWORTHY?

Do you ever feel unworthy of God using you because of past sins, even those you've committed as a Christian? I have. Then I remember the original apostles. One denied Jesus. The rest abandoned Him in His greatest hour of need. Paul the Apostle not only persecuted Christians but stood by at their death. Which Bible hero would feel worthy before God, without receiving His forgiveness? So, the next time you believe your past sins disqualify you, let the blood of Jesus wash over your soul. Jesus never called perfect people to follow Him, He only called those who knew their imperfection. If you fit those criteria, then welcome! The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to you.

**The CURE for
SELFISHNESS
is HOLINESS.**

**You know
you have the
heart of Jesus,
if it is EASY TO
RECEIVE WHAT
HE SAYS.**

HOLY SEEDS IN STUMPS

Are you ever overwhelmed by the devastation happening around you? Isaiah 6 talks about destruction coming to Israel because of their poor decisions. But a silver lining in it gives me hope. "Every tree a stump, a huge field of stumps. But there's a holy seed in those stumps." (Isaiah 6:13b, The Message) Everywhere I look there are stumps. Things that once had life but were cut down because of their own foolishness. I used to be one, sowing the wind and reaping the whirlwind. But God, in His mercy, planted a holy seed in my stump, and once I surrendered my heart to Jesus, life began to flourish.

HOPE is being freely offered, every moment of every day, but ONLY ON GOD'S TERMS.


WHAT'S UP AHEAD?

As we age, we either look forward to the future or dread it. Without encouragement from God's Word, I tend to have less hope for my future. I must intentionally reflect on what God has already done in order to see what He promises to do. We read about Jesus' first miracle in John 2:10, "You have saved the best wine for last." Because I believe my best days are ahead, and not behind me, I look forward and embrace what requires the most faith... my future. Having faith to believe God will provide for our future needs is the new wine we each need to believe for.

PRAYING FOR "MY WILL BE DONE"

Recently, as my prayer life seemed to be increasing, I began thinking God would answer my requests in the affirmative. I was wrong. When I considered how I was praying, I realized some of my prayers sounded like, "Lord, I see clearly what's needed. Thank You for answering my prayers." Much of my disappointment in prayers not being answered came from me playing God, asking Him to sign off on what I believed was best. I now call it praying "My will be done." My disappointments came from not receiving what I hoped for, instead of trusting that God alone knew what was best for me.

From the Tower of Babel to the Titanic, facing the unexpected without the God of Hope leads to Hopelessness.




Genuine HOPE is produced
and dispersed from only one
source: the RIVER OF LIFE,
flowing from the THRONE
OF GOD in Heaven.

A closer examination
of MAN-MADE HOPE
reveals mere WISHFUL
THINKING... a
dreamscape of
humans playing God.

Let us HOLD TIGHTLY
WITHOUT WAVERING to
the hope we affirm, for God
can be trusted to keep His
promise. Hebrews 10:23

Tabasco Sauce is bottled
in one place: Avery Isle,
Louisiana. So too with
ETERNAL HOPE! It is
produced in one place
alone: HEAVEN!

hope



If I am to become like a
LITTLE CHILD, I must
UNLEARN MANY THINGS.

When we are stubborn,
we worship ourselves.
“STUBBORNNESS is
as IDOLATRY..”

1 Samuel 15:23

Only those who know
their SPIRITUAL
POVERTY can become
TRULY RICH.

HUMILITY is being
certain that it is more
likely that you are wrong
than someone else.

humility

THE GIFT OF BEING LEAST

Oftentimes, we think God can't use us to do something significant for Him. There's no problem thinking we can't do it, as long as we believe God can. God loves choosing the insignificant. Gideon felt he was the least in his family. (Judges 6:15) Apostle Paul considered himself "...less than the least of the saints." (Ephesians 3:8) When Saul thought he was the least, God made him king of Israel. Jesus said, "...the one who is least among you is the one who is greatest." (Luke 9:48) The key to being used by God is learning to stand in weakness and walking by faith. Yet, believing God created you for a marvelous purpose.

**REALITY is by its very nature...
HUMBLING.**

**I will NOT BOW TIMIDLY to man!
I will YIELD IN HUMILITY to God!**

SEEING WITH GOD'S EYES

Are you embracing the season you're in? If not, you're missing God's best for you. I've squandered wonderful days, in magnificent places, with fascinating people, because I didn't wrap my heart around what was happening, instead I longed for what was not. I'm committed to not repeat that mistake. It's dangerous to have a favorite season. People hate winter when everything lies dead or frozen. Frankly, our best season should be the one we're presently in. It's a matter of perspective! Believing yesterday wasn't great means I missed what God was trying to do in me. Today, see with God's eyes! Let today be the best day of your life!

WHY WAS I BORN?

Ever walk through Home Depot and wonder about the purpose of certain items? How about you? Do you know why you were born? 84% of Americans say they know they were born for something, and yet 74% say they don't know what it is. It's no wonder, so many people have little or no purpose in life. How heartbreaking! The Bible says you were created for one primary purpose, "To be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ." (Roman 8:29) That's it. To be like your Creator. It will take a lifetime, and you'll never feel you're acing it, but Christ in you—your magnificent hope of glorifying God.

We can FOCUS on WHAT WE'RE NOT, or we can PURSUE who and WHAT WE ARE CALLED TO BE.

SOME PEOPLE ARE JUST AVERAGE

I was once trying to encourage a friend that God had a bright future for his life, but to receive it, it required him believing that God had a wonderful call on his life. Struggling to believe my words were true, he responded "Francis, some of us are just average." It was a telling moment. He'd spoken one of the greatest lies of the enemy: that we're "just average." God doesn't make "average"! As there are no average flowers and babies, so, too, there are no average people. Each of us are given a one-of-a-kind deposit of what no one else has. Have you found it? First, you must believe, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139:14, NIV)

If I FORGET who I am CREATED TO BE, I'll always BECOME someone LESS THAN GOD INTENDED.

We need to get our
IDENTITY from WHAT
WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN
BY GOD... not what we
do for Him.


At times we
have to HATE
what we HAVE
BECOME
in order to
EMBRACE what
we are MEANT
TO BE.

Getting your IDENTITY
from man, rather than
from God, is equivalent
to walking through life
next to a CARNIVAL
MIRROR.



The charade of IDENTITY SHOPPING
says: since I don't know who I am, and you
seem to know who you are, why don't I try
being like you for a while.

identity



God has already
thought through EVERY
POSSIBLE SCENARIO
for our lives and has
chosen the FINEST
OPTIONS.

When it comes
to doing
the impossible...
GOD DOESN'T
NEED OUR HELP.
HE NEEDS
OUR TRUST.

God doing the
Impossible gives Him
MORE GLORY.
1 Kings 18

Want to know WHAT
GOD LOVES TO
DO MOST? ...the
IMPOSSIBLE!

impossible

LIVING OPTIMISTIC

Are you optimistic about your life, or pessimistic? Long ago, I settled in my heart to live as an optimist, enthusiastically wading through disappointments. Apostle Paul was also an eternal optimist, writing, "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ..." (2 Corinthians 2:14a) No aspect of our lives has ever been an oversight to God. The psalmist wrote, "My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret..." (Psalms 139:15) God has never made a mistake concerning our lives. "...I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." (Psalms 139:14a) We've each been given infinite potential by a gracious God. Let's live it!

**Prayer is awesome!
But prayer BELIEVING for the IMPOSSIBLE is BEST.**

PURSUING THE IMPOSSIBLE

There's nothing more enjoyable than seeing God do the impossible! But waiting for it can be nerve-racking! I haven't pursued anything that was possible in years. Meaning, God only asks me to do what seems impossible. So, how do we navigate pursuing the God of the impossible? It's essential to confidently rest in God's ability to do the impossible, while simultaneously resisting the temptation to assume I know what His ultimate will is. Sometimes I feel like I'm walking across a deep ravine on a terrifying tightrope. In more faith filled moments, it feels like I'm soaring above unbelieving Earth fully confident in the God of miracles.

Unless we are "BORN AGAIN" it is impossible, to DO GOD'S WILL.

We long for our first love, the One Who loved us first. The same One Who loves us most.


PROOF BEHIND THE RESURRECTION

The Christian faith hinges on one event being true: the Resurrection of Jesus. The Resurrection proves or disproves everything Jesus claimed about Himself. That He was God. That He died for the sins of the world. That He could give people eternal life. All of it hung on the Resurrection. Those closest to Jesus insisted they'd seen Him after His resurrection. Would you be willing to be brutally killed for something you knew was totally false? For a scam? For a hoax? No chance! That would have been the end of it! Yet, because they knew it was true, his closest followers were willing to die proclaiming it.

HAVE'S AND HAVE NOTS

There's a great battle that's been going on for thousands of years. A conflict in the Spirit realm, between the "Have's" and "Have Not's." Between those who receive what Christ's death accomplished for them and those who instead focus on the death others try to put on them. It's between those blinded by their own hurt and wounding, and those healed by the blood of Jesus, willing to forgive and live rather than resist the love of God and die. Today, ask God to open your heart to see what He's really given you, and remove the blinders of deception keeping you from living the abundant life Jesus promised.

**JESUS +
Nothing =
Everything**



ABIDING is NOT OPTIONAL in
the Christian life Jesus gives us a
graphic choice... ABIDE in Him
and LIVE or WITHER and DIE.


John 15:6-7

Don't make CONVERTS TO
YOUR POINT OF VIEW make
CONVERTS FOR JESUS.

We are made for one Person:
JESUS. One place: HEAVEN.
Longing for both isn't wrong.
IT'S GOD'S WILL.

If Jesus is asleep in your boat,
you are NOT perishing.
“And they went and woke him,
saying, ‘Save us, Lord; we are
perishing.’” Matthew 8:25

Jesus + nothing



Without embracing God's perspective for our lives, we will eventually fall into DECEPTION.

Never underestimate DECEPTION'S ABILITY to embrace FALSE REALITIES as an INEVITABLE CONCLUSION.

There is
no God

Repackaged for the times, DECEPTION struts on stage acting as if what we've been waiting for has finally arrived.

God will not let reality be contaminated by DELUSION. He will protect what He alone knows is REALITY.

lies we believe

ONLY GOD CAN CREATE LIFE

We can't create or redefine life without deforming it. In today's world, deformity is being called normal. But only what God intended is normal. Man's imagination produces a mangled misrepresentation. You can redefine your gender and sexual identity, but from God's point of view, you're not a mistake. You are fearfully and wonderfully made, in the image and likeness of a loving Creator. Man playing God ends badly—a short-lived mistake, fueled by pride and rejection of reality. None of us are everything we want to be, but we're each given all that we need for living a healthy life and becoming like God, as He intended. (1 Peter 1:3)

**SATAN
has never
produced
anything of
ETERNAL
VALUE.**

**We Cannot Create REALITY — Only
COUNTERFEIT DECEPTION.**

ALIENS COMMUNICATING FROM DEEP SPACE?

I recently heard on the news that aliens from 500 million years ago may have been sending out radio waves. WOW! How life changing! I'm always amazed at how excited people get about absurd speculations over actual realities. The reality is that Jesus Christ has transformed hundreds of millions of lives today, including mine — proving that everything He said was true by rising from the dead. Hundreds saw the resurrected Jesus, even giving their lives affirming this truth. No one would do that if Jesus was a fraud. Today, ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins, and be the Lord and God of your life.

DRAWN TO THE LIGHT

I was hiking up a mountain road at 7,000 feet in a beautiful National Park. It was amazing how many beautiful wildflowers grew along the roadway. But it wasn't until heading back down that I noticed all the flowers were facing the Sun and valiantly stretching up to receive its light and vitality. It affirmed again that the entire creation is drawn to the light. We all naturally want to grow, and only the light and life of Jesus can satisfy us. We are all likewise drawn by the Spirit of God to look to Jesus and be filled to overflowing, every day, with His wonderful life.

If we can learn to LIVE IN the LIGHT, we won't FEAR the DARKNESS.

BECOMING LIGHT

The Bible teaches that as we fall in love with Jesus, we become more like Him. Ephesians 1 says, "...that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance..." (Ephesians 1:18, NIV) We can be enlightened, even becoming, "...the light of the world," (Matthew 5:14) if we let Jesus' light shine in our hearts. But this can only happen if we allow Him to be who He said He is, "...the Light of the world..." (John 8:12) in our own lives. "Jesus, let Your light shine so brightly in me, that Your life may be evident for all to see."

We may be the ONLY LIGHT PEOPLE EVER SEE.



LIGHT always outshines DARKNESS.

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

John 1:5

WE ARE THE LIGHT OF
THE WORLD!

Light illuminates!

... destroys darkness.

... melts what's frozen.

... shows what's beautiful.

... causes life to grow.

As LIGHT preceded
God's Creation, so
REVELATION from God
must precede what we
build as well.

We are created to be a Spiritual Light Show!
“...let your LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS,
so that they may see your GOOD WORKS and
give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

light & darkness



You are not a FOLLOWER OF JESUS
until you refuse to be a FOLLOWER
OF THE WORLD.

Either we return to being
under the rulership of our
Creator, or we eventually
compromise every
dimension of our lives.

The WORLD says,
“Be in control.” The
WORD says, *“Give
God control.”*

In the End, we are
each Living for an
Audience of ONE!

Lordship of Jesus

NOT CREATED TO BE A CLONE

We can always tell we're not being led by the Lord when we want to imitate someone else. When the Israelites lost their relationship with God, they begged the prophet Samuel for a king to lead them like other nations had. (1 Samuel 8:20) How tragic! God anointed them to be a unique people, yet they wanted to clone someone else. "Jesus, it's Your kindness that allows us to have a relationship with You, Your Word that tells us we have a one-of-a-kind call on our lives, and Your love that continually draws us to look to You first, so our lives can be truly blessed."

God is NOT assisting us. We are JOINING HIM.

ATTRACTIONS and DISTRACTIONS

We were made to worship. We all worship someone or something. Think back and you'll see that the greatest revelations you've ever had surfaced during worship. In worship we discover who we really are, and we hear His voice more clearly. Our spiritual health is always determined by what attracts or distracts us. The price tag of worshiping anything other than the One true God is incomprehensibly tragic. It's a temptation trying to seduce each of us, so God commanded, "I am the Lord thy God...you shall have no other gods before Me." (Exodus 20:2,3) It's the first commandment for a good reason. Worship God alone and live blessed.

I need to WALK WITH JESUS. Before I can WORK FOR HIM.

**“There’s so
much to
LOVE ABOUT
PEOPLE.”**

**Philip
Goudeaux Jr.**


LOVE COMPELS US

A missionary in Africa was asked if he really liked his ministry. His response was shocking. “No. My wife and I don’t like dirt. We don’t like crawling into vile huts through goat refuse. We don’t like heat and disease. We don’t like being away from loved ones and the conveniences of home. But... are we to do only those things for Jesus that we like to do? Liking or disliking has nothing to do with it. We’re called to ‘Go’... and we go. Love compels us.” God is love. And whatever He asks us to do will be motivated by His nature... His love. What’s God asking you to do today?

THE GIFT OF REPULSION

It’s hard to see the value of things that repulse us. Even if they are a part of our own lives. But God allows them for a greater purpose. Apostle Paul had a repulsive eye disease, but it didn’t stop believers from loving him: the man who once persecuted and killed Christians. The love of God transcended it all. Mother Teresa tells of a dying man she cared for, who was eaten with worms. The smell was horrendous. He looked at her, saying, “Why do you do this?” She replied, “Because I love you.” God, give us Your heart of love, even for those whose lives may in some way repulse us. 5:21—No one has ever loved you like Jesus!

**With a great
enough
anointing,
EVERYONE IS
REACHABLE.
John 4**




If the world could see in us the love
and care their hearts are longing for,
they would then want to meet the God
we claim to know.

Love people until they ask “Why?”
THINK: Woman at the Well.
John 4

May we each have the GRACE
to see what others ARE.
Without being DISTRACTED
by what they're NOT.

EVERY RACE God
created is EXCEPTIONAL.
Their magnificent flavors
permeate the Earth.

loving others



Moses had a DEAD STICK...
But God had a LIVE MIRACLE.
Exodus 4:1-4

Like Moses' staff,
what appears to be
mundane in our own
sight, when yielded
to God, emerges as a
Miracle from Heaven.
Exodus 4:1-4

If I'm LIVING A
DOUBLE LIFE, my
duplicity will bring a
far greater reproach
than any miracle I
may ever do.

Your Miracle will be
as big as your Faith.
At the miracle of Cana,
Jesus told them to fill
the water pots to the brim.
John 1:7

miracles

WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND?

God gives each of us what we need to see a miracle. Perhaps it's even in your hand. Jesus turned water into wine. Moses threw a rod, and it became a serpent. David grabbed a stone and slew Goliath. Samson took the jawbone of a donkey and killed a thousand Philistines. Esther put on her favorite dress to turn the king's heart. So, what's in your hand? Your responsibilities. Your spouse. Your children.

Start with what you have. Jesus could have filled the wine pots Himself, but He invites us to participate in His miracles. Today, take what's in your hand, obey Jesus without question, and watch a miracle take place.

Unless we are willing to do the RIDICULOUS, we may never experience the MIRACULOUS.

Tell your children about the MIRACLES God has done for you.

WHEN MIRACLES REFUSE TO DIE

While in university, I was an in-your-face atheist who didn't believe in God or miracles. Today miracles are mostly considered far-fetched, beyond belief, unscientific. Science is god. Religion is outdated and superstitious; for the weak and simple-minded. But the Bible says, "Someone living on an entirely human level rejects the revelations of God's Spirit, for they make no sense to him... they are only discovered by the illumination of the Spirit." (1 Corinthians 2:14, TPT) Openness to miracles happens when we experience something not possible without intervention from something beyond our understanding. Then, not only are we unable to explain miracles away, but we can't get them out of our head.

THE ARENA OF EXPECTATION

One of the silliest ways I get tripped up emotionally is from my expectations of what I anticipate happening in my life. My perspective of my future is often won or lost in the arena of expectation. Why? Because

When my life was UPSIDE DOWN, Jesus turned it RIGHT SIDE UP.

I can't place my hope in God yet have a secret stash of hope in me. I must depend completely on the only Person capable of


fulfilling my greatest hopes. Therefore, I focus my attention on following God's Spirit daily, expecting that Jesus will guide my life into a future filled with hope. "My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him." (Psalm 62: 5, NASB)

ONE BENEFIT OF GETTING OLD

One of the great advantages of getting old may surprise you. As people age, they often feel they're losing more than they're gaining.

Yet, this scripture is true throughout our lives. "...when I am weak, then I am strong," (2 Corinthians 12:10, ESV) As I age, I rely less on my physical strength or my memory and ability to communicate. My inadequacy provides a backstage pass to enter into depending on His sufficiency and asking for Jesus' help. So, I draw closer to Him, not further away. This is an answer to prayers I began to pray when Jesus became the Lord of my life, a half century ago.

The only Person who can completely handle your CHAOS is Jesus.



You can reach people who have
no desire for God IF YOU KNOW
THEIR NEED. Exodus 2:4-6


An oppressed people who
LEAN ON GOD are infinitely
healthier than those who
have no need of God.

“Did not our heart
burn while He (Jesus)
talked with us...”

Souls Revived! Bodies
Nourished! Spirits
Burning! Luke 24:32

We are so prone to wander that we
must **DAILY BE REMINDED** of
our need for God.

needing Jesus



Lot lifted up his Eyes to
see the Land he wanted.

Abram lifted up his Voice
to the God he wanted.

The Fruit we Hate to eat are
the ones we need the most!
“...long suffering faithfulness,
self-control.” Galatians 5:22,23

SEEDS OF OBEDIENCE, planted
over decades, have grown into healthy
emotional limbs shading me from
many of life's uncertainties.

The freed Israelites
turned an
11-DAY JOURNEY into
their Promised Land into
a 40-YEAR TREK.

OBEDIENCE is
the SHORTCUT to
your SPIRITUAL
INHERITANCE.

obedience

UNATTACHED OBEDIENCE

A primary way I've been tricked after being obedient has been assuming my efforts will bring a desired outcome. I've often wasted time waiting for a ship that was never coming. Obedience and outcome are completely different. And attachment to a specific outcome can undo blessings God intended. I go from following Him to trying to be Him. From kneeling before Jesus in full submission, to bowing before my dreams in full deception. "Jesus, my obedience requires no specific response from You. Doing Your will brings its own reward. Whether I receive it on Earth or in eternity makes no difference. You've already chosen the best of all possible options for me."

If you really have received a WORD FROM GOD, then some ACT OF OBEDIENCE will be required.

God's Not Asking For Our INITIATIVE He's Asking For Our OBEDIENCE!

MICRO-OBEDIENCE

What elevates spiritual giants? I believe it's their micro-obedience: "doing God's will as He asks, not merely what's convenient." While we might balk at the slightest prompting of the Holy Spirit, the unction of God was the very spark that propelled these spiritual giants forward into saying "Yes," whatever the cost. In practicing micro-obedience, the primary nature of God we'll encounter is His love. But when operating in macro-obedience, the primary quality of God we encounter is His patience. He hasn't given up on us, but our actions are un-blessable. Do the Word of God; don't just hear it! Revivals are birthed in micro-obedience! Only then can we experience Heaven's maximum blessing.

**PEACE IS
ALWAYS
GROUNDED
IN TRUST.
John 14:28**


OUR GREATEST ADDICTION

Want to know one of life's greatest addictions that's easily overlooked? Our addiction to understanding what's going on before we're willing to believe. God wants to take us beyond our understanding to a place called "peace," only accessible by faith. In Philippians 4:7, God promises "...the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding..." He guarantees peace if we're willing to do one thing: refuse to "...be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let (our) requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6, ESV) Break free from addiction to understand what's going on, pray, and God promises to give you His peace.

WHAT GOES "OUCH" IN THE NIGHT

Is it difficult for you to shake off nagging thoughts that trouble you? Joseph's brothers treated him horribly, selling him into slavery and telling his father he was dead. Years later, when God supernaturally reconnected Joseph's brothers with him, even before realizing he was Joseph, they began reflecting on the wrong they'd done to him. God's conviction remained until they were willing and able to get it right. I've called many people over the years to ask forgiveness for a word I've spoken or an action I've done. It's always hard, but worth it. What convicting thought is troubling you? Make it right and God's peace will follow. "good news"...good.

JESUS NEVER RUSHED.

A white dove is shown in flight, its wings spread wide, against a dark background filled with small, colorful stars. The dove is positioned centrally, flying from the upper left towards the lower right. The text is overlaid on the image in white and yellow boxes.

God has made LACK OF
PEACE IMPOSSIBLE TO
IGNORE... and coming to
Him the only cure.

Any LACK OF PEACE or
CONFUSION is a clear
indication to NOT DO
SOMETHING.


Simply stated, WHEN IN
DOUBT DON'T!

There is NEVER A NEED
TO RUSH to leave the
peace of God for the sake
of EXPEDIENCY.

“Seek the Peace of the
city... and pray to the Lord
for it; for in its Peace, you
will have Peace.”

Jeremiah 29:7

peace



One of the great indications
of SIN'S ABILITY TO
DECEIVE is that people are
MORE CONCERNED ABOUT
BEING CAUGHT... than the
CONSEQUENCES OF SIN ITSELF.

Live as if, everyone in the
world will EVENTUALLY
KNOW EVERYTHING
YOU EVER DID.

If you are presently involved in
SIN, the question is not if your sin
will be EXPOSED... only when.

Until I can freely admit I
HAVE BEEN WRONG... I
merely FIRING BLANKS
in my Christian life.

repentance from sin

PERMISSIBLE ISN'T ALWAYS PREFERABLE

In 1 Samuel 24, David had a chance to kill his archenemy, King Saul. God allowed David to find Saul alone and unprotected in a cave. Instead of killing him, he cut off a part of the king's robe. Later, David's conscience was troubled. God had convicted him for doing this dishonoring act. So, David repented. The story challenged me about being careful that even when I feel I have a right to do something, it doesn't mean God has given me permission to do it. What is permissible is not always preferable. "Jesus, please show me the difference?"

**Don't ALLOW
ANYTHING TO
GROW in your
life that you
DON'T WANT
TO TAKE
OVER.**

**Conscious Repentance Leads to
Unconscious HOLINESS!**

GREATEST PRAYERS EVER PRAYED

Is it possible that the greatest prayers ever prayed were never recorded in Scripture? Consider this! Christ's disciples failed to believe the two greatest events in history: the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. All their boasting had done was bring 120 broken and disappointed disciples to an Upper Room of embarrassment and repentance. Cries of humiliation birthed tears of joy as they transparently acknowledged both their failings and God's faithfulness. What asking of forgiveness took place? What revival launching prayers were prayed? Only eternity will tell. "Jesus, lead us to Your upper room of repentance and revival, for only there will You have all of us fully surrendered to all of You."

I'M PERFECT & HAVE NO PROBLEMS

I'm perfect...have no problems...and am always like Jesus. Do these comments give you confidence in me? Of course not! I need a Savior! Unless people see my struggles...not just my victories, they'll never understand how to be a genuine Christ follower...in an incredibly disingenuous age. Everything good in my life is only because of God's grace. Jesus was the most authentic, genuine person who ever walked the face of the Earth. If we have any hope of representing God well, our lives must model that same level of humble integrity Jesus modeled. Christ in you...it's your only hope of glorifying God. (Colossians 1:27) I not only long to see God. I long for others to see God in me.

**"SOMEWHAT AUTHENTIC"
IS AN OXYMORON.**

WHAT HAVE I BECOME?

You're not what you think you are. You're not what others think you are. But, if you refuse to believe who God knows you are, then you'll become someone He never intended you to be. One of my most challenging thoughts is imagining this is my last day on Earth. What would I be doing? Thinking? What would I have become? I was created to be like Jesus. That was God's original intention. Have I pursued and fulfilled that very best version of myself...the one who God knows I am? Only God knows, but I don't want to lose sight of that prize... the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

**My life was
Transformed
when I
saw JESUS
GENUINELY
REFLECTED
in a PERSON
I TRUSTED.**

Many Christians, after being Born Again, REMAIN SILENT both about their STRUGGLES and the ASTOUNDING BLESSINGS they have been given.

Am I willing to LAY DOWN MY LIFE so that I will be an ATTRACTION THAT DRAWS... NOT A DISTRACTION THAT REPELS?

The whole-hearted ACCEPTANCE of GOD'S GRACE is the BACKBONE of AUTHENTICALLY REPRESENTING JESUS.

If we are not STEPPING-STONES, HONESTLY REPRESENTING JESUS, we will eventually become STUMBLING BLOCKS.

representing Jesus well

GOD'S FIRE needs nothing to
feed on. Think Burning Bush -
Exodus 3:2

The TWIN REQUIREMENTS for
REVIVAL are PRAYER and UNITY.

Acts 2:1-4, Ephesians 4:4-6

FOUR REVIVAL CONDITIONS:

1. Past Must Be Clear
2. Everything Doubtful Must Be Removed
3. Obedience to the Holy Spirit
4. Public Confession of Sin

Evan Roberts, Great Welsh Revival of 1904

ARE WE REALLY READY FOR REVIVAL?

*“At one time I saw at least Five Hundred
Swept Down in a moment as if a battery of a
thousand guns had been opened upon them
and then immediately followed shrieks and
shouts that rent the very heavens.”*

1801, Cane Ridge Revival, Kentucky

revival

NOTHING COMPARES TO REVIVAL

A friend shared how, during the Jesus Movement, he was living in a Christian community house. People got saved so often, they had a running game on how long it would take new people coming in to receive Jesus. Shortly after, a self-proclaimed atheist came in, but in 18 minutes he prayed to receive Jesus. Once you've seen God move in a supernatural revival, nothing else compares to it. It's been 51 years since I experienced a revival, and I long for it every day. "Jesus, please send a spiritual revival again to revive the Church and awaken our weary and lost nation. We so desperately need You."

**TEARS are
the RAIN
of REVIVAL.
Psalm 126:6**

**If you are willing
to DIG OLD
WELLS. GOD WILL
GIVE YOU NEW
ONES.
Genesis 26:18-19**

STAYING IN REVIVALIST'S HOME

In 2012, my wife Suzie and I went to Wales to make a film about the Welsh revival of 1904, often considered the greatest spiritual revival ever. Within two years, 90,000 people were converted and crime vanished. We spent a night in the home of Evan Roberts, the 26-year-old Bible student and coal miner who spearheaded this planet-shaking move of God. We stayed in the bedroom where he had a three-month long, nightly visitation with Jesus. The next morning as I prayed, God reminded me of this verse "the Kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21); that Christ in me is my only hope of glorifying Jesus. "Lord, revive us as we seek You!"

**God is always speaking!
OUR LIVES ONLY CHANGE WHEN WE LISTEN.**


SMALLER SEEDS BRING BIGGER HARVESTS

We all long for more. More love, more joy and more peace. But it takes more faith to plant a smaller seed, which often yields a bigger harvest. The Shunammite woman thought she had too little. God knew she had more than enough. (2 Kings 4:1–7) God felt Gideon had too much and reduced his army by 99%. When King Saul stayed humble, he did big things for God. The natural mind can't understand spiritual things. But Jesus said, "...if you had faith as small as a mustard seed, you'd say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible." (Matthew 17:20, NLT)

SURVIVING SHIPWRECKS

Do you feel like your plans have been shipwrecked? In Acts 28, the Apostle Paul was on a ship that was shipwrecked on an island. Everyone on board was spared because of Paul's obedience and relationship with Jesus. Once safe, God used Paul to pray for the island natives to be healed. He'd been through a nightmare, and yet was filled with faith. One of our greatest challenges is believing that extraordinary victories and supernatural breakthroughs are around the corner from terrible losses, if we can just remain focused on God's promises more than Earth's perils. Never forget: "Faith Alone Makes God Smile and the Devil Tremble."

Be more attached to MOVING WITH GOD than being MOVED BY GOD.



I know Who's leading
me, though I don't
know where I'm going.

*"... those who are led
by the spirit or sons of
God."* Romans 8:14

If God is NOT THE AUTHOR
OF WHAT I AM DOING.

I'm wasting my time.

Now, at the climax of
the age, MORE PEOPLE
BELIEVE IN THE
SUPERNATURAL AND YET
BELIEVE LESS IN GOD.

God's people should never
be the last ones to figure out
what's going on, or what's
about to happen. *"God does
nothing without first telling
His prophets."* Amos 3:6-7

supernatural

As long as you think you NEED
SOMETHING TO SATISFY YOU
...you will NEVER BE ABLE
TO GIVE IT TO GOD.

OUR WILL IS ALWAYS
THE BATTLEGROUND.

I have too much to lose to
Hide. That's why I TURN
MYSELF IN at every
appropriate opportunity.

If you are
QUESTIONING
GOD about the
Season you are in,
you are NOT FULLY
EMBRACING IT.

surrendering

OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

My twin brother, Joseph, founder of Forward Edge International, perceptively writes, "Whether we know it or not, our lives have been leading up to one significant moment: our first encounter with Jesus." This begs the question: have you had your first encounter with Jesus? If not, the most significant relationship you'll ever have is still waiting. Jesus wants an intimate connection with you! Your first encounter with Him will begin your journey of finding why you're alive. We're created for one purpose: to become like our Creator. This happens only if we completely surrender to the One who loves us most. If you haven't done that, Jesus is a prayer away.

**SALVATION
cost God's
Son His Life.
Sanctification
will cost me
mine.**

**If I'm more immersed in where I
Want To Be then Where I Am...
I'M DISTRACTED.**

HOW TO CONQUER EVIL THOUGHTS

Self isn't the cure for sin, it's the root. Colossians 2 speaks of three attempts well-meaning leaders make to help people get free from sin. It says, they "...may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person's evil desires." (Colossians 2:23) These efforts focus on self, what we can do, not on what Jesus accomplished for us when He died and rose again, defeating sin and death. Devotion, Denial, and Disciplines must accompany surrendering our will to Jesus, in order to receive His victorious power over evil temptations. "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." (James 4:8)

WHO WOULD YOU WANT TO BE?


If you could pick any person who ever lived, aside from Jesus, who would you want to be? With one caveat. Along with their high points, giftings, accomplishments or blessings, you'd have to absorb their struggles, sorrows, pain and sickness as well. Likewise, every revelation or breakthrough God has ever personally given you and every vestige of God's plan and purpose for your life would cease to exist. Upon reflection, I've concluded that a loving God had already perfectly tailored every aspect of my life with my best in mind. And my wisest choice is to believe there's no life better than the life God designed for me.

**We TEST
God in our
DESERTS.
Ps. 106:14**

JUST HANGING ON

Do you feel like you're barely hanging on? God didn't bring you this far to fail, but to finish... and to finish well. Paul the Apostle was "...certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." (Philippians 1:6, NLT) Allow God to finish what He's started in you and be amazed with the results! "GOD blessed Job's later life even more than his earlier life." (Job 42:12) You may have had a rough start, even a troubled middle, but above all else, be committed to surrender fully to God and finish well.

**Our
LACK Will
ALWAYS
TEST Our
TRUST.
Numbers
13:27-33**




I want to be *“exceedingly
JOYFUL in all...
TRIBULATION.”*
2 Corinthians 7:4

God TESTS us for our
GOOD to help us GROW.
Satan TEMPTS us for our
BAD to make us FALL.

Why do our hearts
flinch when tested?
Is it because we
FEAR the Unknown,
or because we FAIL
to TRUST the God
Who Knows All
Things?

Whenever GOD
ASKS A QUESTION,
IT'S ALWAYS TEST.

tests



Rivers are persistent. So are ocean waves. But still bodies of water become polluted, unless they are Pure, Protected, and Poured Out.

The very nature of the Gospel (the need to submit our will to a Holy God) will always offend the unregenerate mind.

Galatians 5:11

I'm TRAINING MY SOUL to WRAP MY ARMS AROUND every second of my "GOD-INTENDED LIFE."

TRAIN YOUR SOUL in the way that it should go and when you are older YOUR SOUL WILL NOT DEPART from the path of life.

training your soul

TRAIN YOUR SOUL

You may never train a lion, but there's one thing you need to train: your soul! Each day I try to train my soul to embrace every second of life that my perfect God has flawlessly crafted. If I'm attached to my dream for my life, it will slip through my fingers. But, if I embrace God's plan, I can begin to live the pleasures of eternal life right now. Train your soul: your mind, will and emotions to embrace the long-term value of every life circumstance. A soul without self-control blinds us from seeing life as God intended. There are no accidents. Only divinely crafted opportunities!

With
**DISCIPLINE,
IMPULSIVENESS
can be
TRAINED INTO
INTUITION.**

LIVING LIKE YOU'RE ALIVE Benjamin Franklin said, "Some people die at 25, but are not buried until 75." How chilling! How can I live a fully awake life? One healthy habit I've maintained since I was a young Christ-follower is to front-load my day with God. When I was younger and more nocturnal, my time with Him was at night. For the past 25 years, it's been early in the morning. He gives me the clarity and conviction to do His will for the rest of the day... getting me where I really want to go. Front-load your day with Jesus. You'll be sowing your best, and God will bless your life and future.

**REWARDING
IRRESPONSIBILITY
is like trying to
put a fire out by
pouring gasoline
on it.**

TRUST ALWAYS BRINGS DELIVERANCE


While in a Roman jail, Paul wrote, “For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance. For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed... whether I live or die... For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.” (Philippians 1:19–21, NLT) Instead of hoping for a “Get Out of Jail Free” Card, Paul embraced an eternal “supernatural” experience, as an absolutely greater reality. May we, too, be fully persuaded that, if we fully trust in Jesus, whether we live or die, our life is always a “Win-Win?”.

**If I can't
grow where
God plants
me... I
can't grow
anywhere.**

WHY ME GOD?

Instead of asking, “God, WHY is this happening to me?”— ask, “God, WHAT are you trying to show me?” It will always be of eternal value. Paul the Apostle says, “...it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13, NKJV) Though in prison, Paul still saw how God graciously used—for good — what Satan meant for evil. Focusing on the positive, Paul wrote, “...what [has happened] to me has actually only served to advance... the good news.” (Philippians 1:12, Amplified) What a marvelous way to view life the way God intended! Trust Jesus!

**My Heart
Being Troubled
is always a
symptom of
Not Trusting in
Jesus. John 14:1**



We know we are **TRUSTING GOD**
when we **STOP ASKING** Life's Most
Asked Question, "**WHY IS THIS**
HAPPENING TO ME?"


I've **DRIVEN OFF A CLIFF**
and paid good money to
RIDE CRAZY RIDES IN
THEME PARKS.

But I **WOULDN'T PAY** a
penny to **REDO THE 1ST**
EXPERIENCE, for one
reason: **TRUST.**

As Jesus was able to
WALK ON WAVES
and **NAVIGATE THE**
CHAOS OF LIFE,
so can we, **IF WE**
TRUST IN HIM.

I can invite
DISCOURAGEMENT
for Breakfast, take
HOPELESSNESS out to
Lunch, join **DESPAIR** for a
CANDLELIGHT Dinner...
or I can **TRUST JESUS!**

trust



The reason we DO NOT
TRUST GOD is because we
DO NOT KNOW HIM.

You know you're TRUSTING
JESUS, when all HELL is
assaulting you on the outside
and yet HEAVEN is carrying
you on the inside.

*“Lord, help me TRUST
the PLAN I CAN'T
SEE... MORE THAN the
CIRCUMSTANCES I CAN.”*

The reason people DON'T
LOVE the LIFE GOD'S
GIVEN THEM is because
they DON'T KNOW and
TRUST the GOD WHO
MADE THEM.

trusting God

LIVING IN NEVERLAND

Walt Disney created an imaginary place—NEVERLAND—where Peter Pan, Tinker Bell, Captain Hook, and Lost Boys lived. It reminds me of the faraway place many of us feel like we're living in since the pandemic, and economic and cultural upheavals. We're in free fall. "Free fall" can be defined in three words: "Rapid Uncontrolled Decline." A free fall, where we seem to never land. What if we each have to learn to live in this new normal of Neverland, to grow in Neverland, even to thrive in Neverland? God will meet us there. If we trust Him, over time, the New Normals that seem so foreign, may even become dear friends.

**TRUST GETS GOD'S
ATTENTION. Isaiah 26:3**

**The more you KNOW GOD
the more you TRUST HIM.**

MY "ALL-IN" MOMENT

Whining about a troubling situation, I quipped, "God, what do you want from me?" He quickly responded, "Only what's best!" Unclear, I sheepishly said, "What would that be?" His inner voice was immediate. "Out of all possible options for your life, it's the perfect future you'd hope for, if you knew what you really needed." I loved the thought of a perfect future, so added, "How will I know what that is?" Sensing He was about to reveal the secret of life, I listened with anticipation. One word was revealed. "Trust." Hmm? I was stuck. The only way I could see what was in His hand was to be "All In" myself.

CHANGING YOUR BOUNDARIES

The Old Testament describes how Ancient Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Their method of overpowering a city was called “The Siege.” They would surround a city and choke the life out of it. That’s exactly what’s happened to America. We’ve changed the boundaries of right and wrong, of truth and lies. We’ve changed moral boundaries, destroying innocence, embracing impurity, and loving evil. We’ve changed the boundaries for marriage. We’ve changed the boundaries of what is real and what is unreal.


We mistakenly believe we can DODGE DECEPTION by entertaining HALF-TRUTHS.

We have become experts in “The Siege.” May you return to the safety of the protective, healthy boundaries found first and foremost in the Word of God.

MYTHOLOGICAL MORALITY

The problem with humans playing God is that we’re really bad at it. The only kind of morality we can create is mythological, founded in fantasy. All “new” mythological morality can do is repackage “old” immorality—delusional presumptions that have destroyed past civilizations. The wages of sin is always death. Paul the Apostle wrote, “I say this so that no one will deceive you with persuasive [but thoroughly deceptive] arguments.” (Colossians 2:4, AMP) The Bible’s safe and healthy morality has always been considered outdated and dangerous, and in the years to come, probably “Hate Speech.” “Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools.” (Romans 1:22, NLT)

Ideologies that CONTRADICT the WORD OF GOD should be DISCARDED AS INTELLECTUAL CANCER.




OPEN-MINDED PEOPLE get most
upset when SOMEONE ASSERTS
THERE ARE ABSOLUTES, NOT
JUST RIGHT & WRONG, but
TRUTH & LIES.

If we CAN'T SPEAK the
TRUTH IN LOVE, what we
say MAY BE FACTUAL, but
can NO LONGER be called
"TRUTH," REPRESENTING
the GOD WHO IS LOVE.

Unless we are acutely aware
that GOOD and EVIL and their
counterparts, TRUTH and LIES,
exist, we will eventually be
snared by EVIL and LIVE A LIE.

In the same way
WORSHIP has been
DEFORMED and
BECOME IDOLATRY.
COMPASSION has
been PERVERTED
and BECOME
COMPROMISE.

truth vs. lies



We are never **SMALLER** than when we are unbelieving. Jesus said, because of the **Littleness** of your Faith...

But the tiniest amount of faith can move a mountain. Matthew 17:20

God can help our apprehension, but He can't do much with **UNBELIEF**.

We have each been given a measure of **FAITH**

UNBELIEF Always Has **CONSEQUENCES**.

FAITH Always Has **BENEFITS**.

There are **Three Stages** needed for **TRANSFORMATION**:

1. Embarrassment
2. Being Fed Up
3. Getting Desperate

But **ONLY DESPERATION** BRINGS CHANGE.

unbelief

WHAT SCARES ME MOST?

Do you want to know what scares me most? On the day of Christ's Resurrection, some of His female followers visited His tomb. But His body was gone. When they told the other disciples, their words seemed like nonsense. Even when Peter ran and saw the Empty Tomb, he still didn't understand. Jesus had told them all on many occasions that He would rise from the dead on the third day, but unbelief had blinded them and hardened their hearts. They still couldn't believe. "Jesus, rip every drop of unbelief from my heart. It's sad and pathetic. You've been so faithful to me."

**You may be
UNCERTAIN
but never
give in to
UNBELIEF.
Mark 9:24**

**There is NO
EXCUSE FOR
UNBELIEF.
We all
know too
much.**

FATE OF THE TEN SPIES

What ever happened to the Ten Scouts who explored the Promised Land, but refused to go in? Though Joshua and Caleb came back with a faith-filled report about the land, the ten fear-filled spies confessed, "...we were like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and so we were in their eyes." (Numbers 13:33) Because of unbelief, the Ten Spies were later killed by a plague. (Numbers 14:37) I know what it's like to give in to Unbelief. Though I'd rather be encouraged by people's Obedience, examining the fate of those bowing to Unbelief motivates me as well. "Jesus, give us the courage to conquer the spiritual land you have promised us."

LOVING and HATING “NO”

We've all had a love-hate relationship with the word “No.” But it can be a lifesaver. If we don't learn how to say “No,” we'll eventually lose our ability to say, “Yes” to all that is eternal and good. Ask any addict, boss, or good parent... “No” can be the difference between life and death. Unless we learn to say, “No” to the world, our flesh, and the devil, (1 John 2:15–17) we'll eventually be overwhelmed by the seductive power of their combined “Yes.” Say “Yes” to God and “No” to the enemy of your soul. Say “Yes” to Jesus and allow Him to be the Lord of your life.

**As a young man,
a courageous
“NO”
would have
avoided two
ABORTIONS.**

**At times, no
amount of
“YES'S” can undo
the damage
done by a missed
opportunity to
say, “NO.”**

SAYING “YES” SOONER

In my life, I not only wish I'd said “No” more often, but I also wish I'd said “Yes” to God a lot sooner as well. Each of us can experience either Purposeful Pain, which always works for our good, or pointless pain that beats us up for no good reason at all. It's our choice! A “Yes” to Jesus will save you a whole lot of pain! “Humble yourselves...under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.” (1 Peter 5:6, NIV) As David prayed, “...I recognize my rebellion...Against... You alone, have I sinned...” (Psalm 51:3–4a, NLT) “Lord, I say ‘Yes’ to Your Spirit!”

We all have a Love-Hate Relationship with the word “NO.” But it is “NO,” as much as “YES” that will keep us safe.


Learn to say, “NO” to the WORLD, the FLESH, and the DEVIL, or eventually be overwhelmed by the seductive power of their combined “YES.”

If we don't learn how to say “NO,” we'll eventually LOSE OUR ABILITY to say, “YES” to all that is eternal and good.

Ask any ADDICT, BOSS, or GOOD PARENT and they'll tell you that “NO” can be the difference between LIFE & DEATH.



value of yes & no



I must NEVER FORGET
that as WEAK AS I FEEL,
God is still the SOURCE
OF MY STRENGTH.

Trying to
PRESERVE OUR
FUTURE IN OUR
OWN STRENGTH
will protect us
about as well as
a KAMIKAZE
PILOT WEARING A
HELMET.

Do you feel completely
incapable of fulfilling
what God is asking you
to do? AWESOME!

It's probably taken years
for God to get you there.

LEANESS makes
us DESPERATE
for God. NEVER
DESPISE YOUR
LEANESS.

weakness

CHARRED STONES

Do you ever struggle with your value? I do. The Book of Nehemiah says, “What does this bunch of poor,

**God can
only use us
WHEN WE
HAVE NO
STRENGTH
to move
in our own
strength.**

feeble Jews think they're doing? Do they think they can build the wall... and make something of stones from a rubbish heap—and charred ones at that?” (Nehemiah 4:2, NLT) I often feel my life has been charred. But that's the miracle of what Jesus did for us. God takes what seems to have little or no value: the burned-out leftovers of Earth—and

builds something truly magnificent and eternal. See yourselves from God's perspective, “...you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple.”

(1 Peter 2:5, NLT)

**STRENGTHS are more
dangerous than WEAKNESSES,
providing the easiest access to
FAILURE.**

ATTITUDES DETERMINE ALTITUDE

The word “humble” literally means “hugging the ground.” It's what Jesus did, and what He asks us to do. “...He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.” (Philippians 2:7, NLT) Many wanting to go high in God never arrived because they failed to go low enough to meet Him, need Him, cry out to Him. Humility activates the grace of a God who promises to give power to the humble, strength to the weak, and honor to the humiliated. Lack of desperation toward God, always leads to separation from God. Our attitude will determine our altitude.

IMPOSSIBLE HELICOPTERS

Impossible? When Igor Sikorsky was 12, experts had proven human flight was impossible. Years later, after Igor invented the helicopter, he posted this sign at work: "According to recognized aero technical tests, the bumblebee cannot fly because of the shape and weight of his body in relation to the total wing area. The bumblebee, however, doesn't know this; so, he goes ahead and flies anyway." Faith laughs at the impossible! If we look at the storms of life, it's hard to visualize our dreams taking flight. But looking to Jesus,

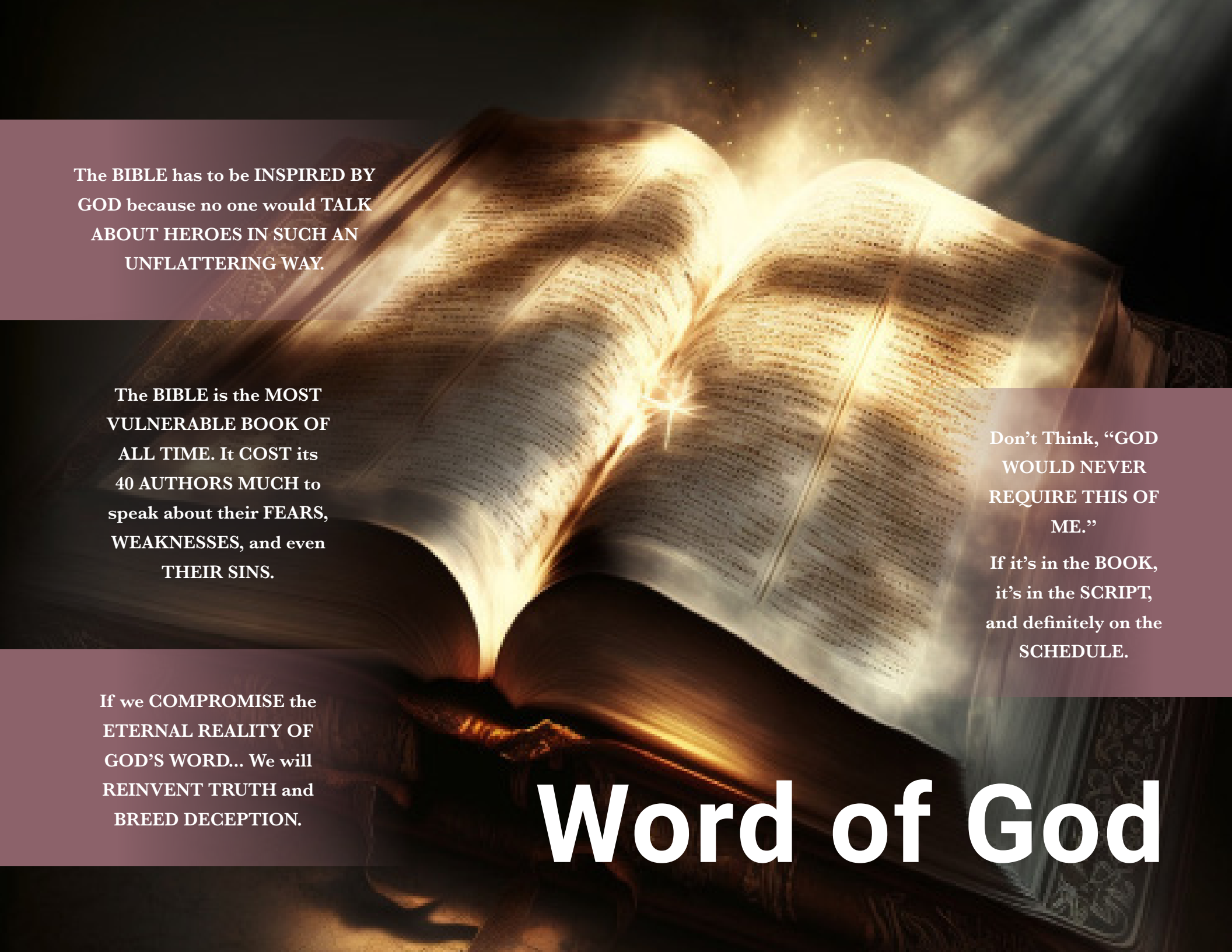
We are created to share what is MOST PRECIOUS IN US with those MOST PRECIOUS TO HIM.

we can rise above any obstacle. The Bible is filled with endless promises and possibilities! Trust Jesus and FLY!

FLYING BY INSTRUMENTS

Facing a big decision? Don't fear! God will help you! During my 18 years of globetrotting the world, I flew in many small private planes, and enjoyed talking with pilots about their training. Pilots are immediately taught to read their gauges and trust their instruments, more than their feelings or senses. I've flown in thick clouds and dense fog...unable to see anything...and I'm glad the pilots trusted their instruments. Unless we trust the flawless instrument of God's Word, we'll make decisions based on our senses. Don't come to eternal conclusions based on what you can see... trust what God sees. It's the only way you'll ever be completely safe.

Unless our FUTURE HOPE is in TRUSTING and OBEYING GOD'S WORD, our future is WISHFUL THINKING.



The BIBLE has to be **INSPIRED BY GOD** because no one would **TALK ABOUT HEROES** IN SUCH AN **UNFLATTERING WAY**.

The BIBLE is the **MOST VULNERABLE BOOK OF ALL TIME**. It **COST** its **40 AUTHORS MUCH** to speak about their **FEARS, WEAKNESSES**, and even **THEIR SINS**.

If we **COMPROMISE** the **ETERNAL REALITY OF GOD'S WORD...** We will **REINVENT TRUTH** and **BREED DECEPTION**.

Don't Think, "**GOD WOULD NEVER REQUIRE THIS OF ME.**"

If it's in the **BOOK**, it's in the **SCRIPT**, and definitely on the **SCHEDULE**.

Word of God