



Reality's LAST Stand

BY FRANCIS ANFUSO

STEPPING INTO A LIFE ONLY GOD CAN CREATE

INTRODUCTION

SACRIFICIAL LOVE

I knew a missionary in the Arctic Circle. One frigid winter night, he shared about Jesus with a man in an igloo. When the man abruptly left, the missionary sensed the Holy Spirit wanted him to continue talking, so he followed him with only a tee shirt. He was only outside in sub-zero air for five minutes, but this sacrificial gesture cost him dearly. He permanently lost partial use of one of his lungs. When I spoke with him about the event, he had no regrets for obeying the Holy Spirit. He was convinced the man's life was worth whatever sacrifice he made. I still can't think about what this brave man did without being challenged.

Much of the Church sits in an igloo, warm, cozy, safe, and comfortable, while our culture—our children, naively drift further into the frozen unreality of deception. It was where I spent my youth and five years at a university. I was an atheist, hating God, mocking the Bible and Christians while aggressively advocating the lies presented on the "UNREALITY" pages of this Book.

After a broken relationship and two abortions, I spent six months contemplating suicide every day. Desperate, I tried to cut my wrists and cried out to the God I didn't believe in. Within six months, the jaws of death and Hell had just about consumed me when I surrendered my life to Jesus and was delivered from demons. My mother's prayers and the grace of God rescued me on Mother's Day, 1972. Since then, I have been a whole-hearted follower of Jesus.

— Francis Anfuso

RACING TO THE BACK OF THE BOOK

All over the world, change is happening at warp speed. We are racing to the back of the Book. Jesus promised, "In the world you have trouble and suffering, but take courage—I have conquered the world." We are each experiencing this in an ever-increasing way.

The question is, "What am I willing to do to follow Jesus?"

In Acts 20, Paul believed he was irresistibly drawn to preach the Word of God in Jerusalem. Even after it was repeatedly prophesied that "chains and afflictions were waiting for him there," he refused to disobey the call to go. Time and again, well-meaning believers tried to dissuade him from going, and Paul knew their prophecies were true, but He refused to bow to fear, eventually saying, "Why all this weeping? You are breaking my heart. For I am not only ready to be jailed at Jerusalem but also to die for the sake of the Lord Jesus."

His courageous response provokes me to ask myself, "What difficult, even dangerous, act of obedience am I ready to do for Jesus? Not initiated by me but written in my script by Him."

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AUDIO AND VIDEO RESOURCES



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AUDIO

All pages have been recorded on **AUDIO** by Francis Anfuso. Here is a **LINK** to **ALL AUDIOS**.

Additional **AUDIO LINKS** for each section are at the bottom of the "Reality" pages.



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VIDEO

Francis Anfuso filmed a One-Minute **PERSONAL VIDEO** with content NOT included in the text. The Individual **VIDEO LINKS** for each section are at the bottom of the "UNREALITY" pages.



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BIBLE

On the Top Left of the "REALITY" pages, there is a **BIBLE LINK** to scriptures connected to each Topic.

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Creation Begins

NO CREATOR = NO FUTURE

If there is no Creator, then we have no destiny, no future—just wishful thinking. Everything is mere mythology based on fiction and not fact. If we evolved as a cosmic coincidence from blobs, slime, or frogs, then we have no ultimate purpose or eternal value. None of us have a future of any consequence outside of God; man's ego does not give him a future. "God's will alone" provides us with a future. Only because there is a loving God who created us with a purpose do we have a destiny and something to look forward to. Thank God we each have a magnificent script written before the foundation of the world. Ask God daily to show you His plan for your life... because He will!

REALITY / UN-REALITY

In John 9, a man born blind was healed by Jesus. When the Pharisees questioned him, they claimed they could not believe in Jesus because they knew nothing about Him. The beggar then said, "This is amazing! You claim to know nothing about him, but the fact is, he opened my eyes." (John 9:30, MSG) I believe on the Day of Judgment when our eyes are fully opened, no one can say that throughout their whole life, they never saw God do anything that revealed not just that He existed but that He loved them very much.

COUNTERFEIT CREATORS

When we stop seeing ourselves as created in the image and likeness of God, we eventually redesign our spirit, soul, and body into flawed caricatures of something God never intended. We become counterfeit creators, rejecting God's natural order for man's empty imaginations. The Bible says, "...we are fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 19:14), each a masterpiece, affirming the absolute reality that none of us are mistakes or accidents. We cannot create better than God. We can only misread and deform. When I give up too soon on God's plan, no other imagined intent can satisfy who I am created to be. It is a tragic misunderstanding. Believe God's Word more than the world's warped values, and you will experience the miracle behind the mystery of your life.



“Big Bang’s” Bust

REALITY / UNREALITY

There is always an arsenal of flimsy excuses people have when it comes to why they do not believe in God. I had a ton of them during my seven years as an atheist. Yet, God continued to reach for me. Reality will flourish long after unreality withers and disappears.

THE “VICTIM” MINDSET

What takes more faith, believing something came from nothing or believing there is an intelligent design in the Universe? Think about this: imagine the size of a full moon in the sky. For every patch of sky, the size of the moon, if you look deep into space, there are a million galaxies, each containing 200 billion stars the size of our sun. There are as many stars in the Universe as grains of sand found on all the beaches in the world. So, did all of that happen? Is it a cosmic coincidence? Did it evolve from nothing? The Bible says, “God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.” (Genesis 1:31, ESV) The most unscientific thought ever conceived by man is that “something came from nothing.”

ATTACHED TO NOTHING

I’m always amazed at how committed people are to nothingness, believing that they came from nowhere and are going nowhere after they die. They proclaim it as if they know it for sure, even trying to convert other people to their point of view. That was me for five years in university, adamantly trying to convince people to believe my “Nothing Philosophy.” It got me into many intense arguments as if I were the keeper of the higher ground. I was that person for years until Jesus opened my heart to see that I came from a God who is madly in love with me and wants to spend eternity with me. This absolute reality fills my heart with joy every single day. It is nothing I deserve. But it is what Jesus died to give me.





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Jesus in the Future with Angels

UNIVERSAL FIXED LAW

The Universe has a fixed law: "We become like the gods we serve." All it takes for this to happen is worship. Worship is defined as "admiring love or devotion with profound adoration." We each want to give our heart to someone or something. But, when we worship them, they have us. We will look like them, think like them, talk like them, and do our best to become like them. For better or worse, eventually, they possess and consume us. So be careful what you love... what you worship. As God is a consuming fire, so is whatever we worship. The first commandment is first for a reason, "I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from... the place of your slavery. You must not have any other god but me." (Exodus 20:1-3, NLT) Either Jesus is Lord of all, or He may not be your Lord at all.

MATTHEW 25:31, ESV

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne."

REALITY / UNREALITY

God's plan is not the ranting of some eccentric egomaniac itching for the lead role in His own movie. He is the epicenter of all life! "For in Him we live and move and exist." (Acts 17:28). What life can we live without the Author of life?

NO VICTIMS IN HEAVEN

There are no victims in Heaven, only celebrating saints rejoicing in the price Jesus paid to purchase their salvation. If we are not filled with gratitude for what Jesus did for us when He died on the cross, eternity in Heaven will not change that. Our gratitude begins on Earth and is a direct indication of our salvation. Jesus made Himself a victim so we could be victors, but He will never force us to be grateful. He will never trick us into accepting His identity and destiny for our lives. I've heard it said, "The person who loves you the most is the one who tells you what you don't want to hear." So, please hear this: don't live your life as a victim. Let Jesus make you the victor He created you to be.



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Luci in the Past with Demons

THE "VICTIM" MINDSET

One of the most deceptive perspectives in this hour is the "victim" mindset. It says because I have been cheated, I cannot get fair treatment unless I demand retribution from the one, I believe mistreated me. The entire concept comes from the enemy. Lucifer, the fallen archangel believed God had cheated him and therefore demanded retribution. Lucifer's "victim" mindset morphed into revenge and retaliation. It is now offered to us. Repentance from a "victim" perspective will bring restoration, rejuvenation, and lasting rewards. Faith is the only way to access what we hope for, not fear, fatalism, or frustration. Being a "victim" will keep you bound to the past. A "victor" mindset reveals God's vision for your future, allowing you to fulfill His will for your life: being more than a conqueror through Jesus Christ.

REALITY / UNREALITY

JESUS is the First "VICTOR!" LUCIFER saw himself as the First "VICTIM" when he was the First "VILLIAN." You will spend eternity with one of these two individuals. You get to choose who that is.

ISAIAH 14:9-11

How vastly different is Satan's destiny? The Bible recounts this in chilling detail: "In the place of the dead, there is excitement over your arrival. The spirits of world leaders and mighty kings long dead stand up to see you. With one voice, they all cry out. 'Now, you are as weak as we are! Your might and power were buried with you. The sound of the harp in your palace has ceased. Now maggots are your sheet and worms your blanket.'"

REVELATION 22:15

Revelation 22:15 talked about those outside the heavenly city, and it mentioned one group that startled me: "those who love living a lie." I found those words chilling because they made me wonder how many lies I live and even love.





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God Creates Family

MARRIAGE PROTECTS WOMEN

Contrary to conventional wisdom, one of the most significant benefits to women is a God-ordained institution called marriage. It can protect a woman from being taken advantage of by a man who wants the benefits of a relationship without the responsibility. In its "Universal Declaration of Human Rights," even the United Nations declared rightly, "the Family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society..." The only challenge to this sentence comes when we are deceived into thinking we can redefine a family. God defined marriage and family for all generations: "...a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24, ESV) May we each find the protection we long for by aligning ourselves with God's inspired order.

REALITY / UNREALITY

We can't create life. We can't even redefine it without deforming it. At best, we'll create a horror of what God intended. We live in a world where deformity is being called normal. The truth is only what God intended is normal. What man's imagination produces is often 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 always ends badly. It's a short-lived mistake fueled by pride and a rejection of reality. None of us are everything we want to be, but we are given all that we need to live a healthy life and become like God, as He intended. (1 Peter 1:3)

WHY OSTRICHES BURY THEIR HEADS

Why do ostriches bury their head in the sand? Is it because they are trying to hide and run away from a fight? Hardly! It is because they are turning their eggs. They are taking care of their family. They are nurturing the next generation. In this "most distracted age," we should always feel we are spending our time wisely, being present, and caring for our children.



SCAN ME

Evolution's Big Lie

DEPERSONALIZED, DEVALUED & DISCARDED

Mark Twain wrote, "There is something fascinating about science. One gets such wholesale returns of conjectures out of such a trifling investment in facts." Though quite funny, it also has a good measure of truth. If humans evolved from nothing without any eternal purpose, then there is no point in life. Sadly, it turns a prince into a frog! On the other hand, if we are created in the image and likeness of God, then we have each been given eternal value from a loving, all-powerful Creator. The Bible says, "All things were made through him (through Jesus), and without him was not anything made that was made." (John 1:3, ESV) Without valuing life as God intended, relationships become disposable, babies are aborted, sex is trivialized, and people are devalued, depersonalized, and eventually discarded.

RIDICULING BELIEVERS

Have you dealt with condescension from others because you are following Jesus? That is how many in higher education feel about Christians, how many evolutionists feel about "Intelligent Design," and how many pro-choice people feel about pro-life advocates. There is this condescending disdain. Remember Who you will stand before at the end of time, and you will be fine.

EVOLUTION'S PROBLEM

The theory of Evolution has lots of problems. First, no "new creation" is taking place now. None! If the Earth evolved, why did it stop? Second, matter constantly changes, but the trend is always downward - toward deterioration - not upward. Third, lower life forms have, in certain instances, more complex cell formations than higher life forms. For example, frog cells are more complex than human cells. Hmm? And lastly, there's no fossil evidence indicating that species evolved, and there are NO species that arise gradually. They each appear "all at once - fully formed." Each in-between stage would have left fossils. Most people are unaware that Darwin's most vigorous opponents were NOT Christians but fossil experts. The Bible says, "...God created human beings in his image. In the image of God, he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27, ESV)

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME



Knowing Good Has No Down-Side

LOT'S WIFE

What does a healthy Christian life look like? It will always seem... unfamiliar... unexpected. If you and I keep experiencing the same challenges and adventures in our Christian life, we are going in a circle. God never eats leftovers, and He does not watch reruns. Neither should we! Those who truly follow Him can expect the unexpected. As in the case of Lot's wife, we look back even though we know there is nothing there. Paul's advice is always appropriate. He said, "...one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead." (Philippians 3:13, NIV)

REALITY / UNREALITY

When Adam and Eve sinned, God first said to them, "Where are you?" not "What have you done?" God's far more concerned about our relationship with Him, than anything bad we have done. He is first a Dad who wants to help and protect.

GOD OF NO SHAME

God didn't find Adam and Eve in the Garden to shame them. He found them wallowing in their sin, so He could cover them.

DELIVER US FROM EVIL

My evil cup is full up! I have seen and experienced way too much evil. "God, deliver us from evil, and fill us with Your goodness!"



Knowing Evil Has No Up-Side

THE DANGER OF 2ND HAND TRUTH

Did you ever wonder why Eve was so susceptible to the lies of the serpent? It was partly because she did not have first-hand knowledge. The revelation about the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil had been given to Adam. God had spoken to him about its dangers before Eve was even created. Adam then communicated the life and death revelation to Eve. Somehow, within the initial communication or over time, there was a breakdown in belief and trust between the first and second generations. I've seen this myself. Both in the revelations previous generations have tried to impart to me, and those insights I have attempted to pass on myself. "Jesus, help me to fully believe and embrace the life-giving revelations entrusted to me and previous generations. Let them be cherished." always."

REALITY / UNREALITY

Disobeying God always leads to shame and a feeling of being uncovered, empty, and vulnerable. And every attempt to eliminate this feeling, whether it be through entertainment, drugs, alcohol, philosophy, sensual pleasure, or denial, is just fig leaves and will never remove this sense of shame. It will only increase it.

GENESIS 3:7, NLT

"At that moment, their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So, they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves."





SCAN ME

Noah's Last Stand

REALITY / UNREALITY

Would you believe we sometimes need to do the ridiculous to experience the miraculous? Noah built an ark in preparation for a flood, even though it had never rained.

NOAH

God has many miracle handoffs in the Bible. When you think you're finished, God brings the right person to meet the need. Noah built an ark when all humanity had been corrupted.

GENESIS GIANT

Next to Jesus, the Bible's GOATS: Greatest of All Time were Noah, Daniel, and Job. (Ezekiel 14) Righteous Noah lived in an age where everyone was so corrupt God had to reboot the planet with a flood and start fresh with Noah and his family.

FIRST, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE

Don't be surprised if God asks you to do something you've never done before. Noah stepped out in faith, even though he hadn't seen many of the things set before him. I can only imagine when God said, "Noah, build Me an ark." Noah responded, "God, what's an ark?" God answered, "It's the big boat you'll need when the flood comes." Noah again replied, "God, what's a flood?" "It's going to rain so much that the whole earth will be covered with water." One more time, Noah exclaimed, "God, by the way, what's rain?" God has surprises ahead for all of us. Some of them will seem impossible. As the great missionary Hudson Taylor often said, "First, it is impossible. Then it is difficult. Then it is done." "Jesus...said to them, 'With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'" (Matthew 19:26, NKJV)



SCAN ME

Unreality Implodes

A NATION WAITING TO BE CONQUERED

Have you ever wondered what it takes for a nation to be conquered? What took out the Roman and Grecian Empires? The same thing that upends individuals. Moral and social decay, internal divisions, economic decline, and invasion by enemies. They were porous to deception and ripe to be conquered. Unless we, as individuals and as a nation, have a solid moral core, a conviction to resist the enemy of our soul, and a longing to be one with our Creator and do His will, we will gradually open the borders of our heart and mind to evil entities intent on killing us. It's happened throughout history, and we are not exempt from the consequence of bad judgments, silly thinking, and naïve decision-making. There is no other safe foundation outside of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

REALITY / UNREALITY

We are most fruitful in God when we are simultaneously both helpless and useful. That's right! When God asks us to do something impossible and beyond our ability, it will be a miracle if any good comes from our efforts. Only then are we utterly dependent upon Him, and will our efforts accomplish the best He intended.

DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE

How do we navigate pursuing the God of the impossible? I've come to believe that I must learn to rest confidently in God's ability to do the impossible while simultaneously resisting the temptation to assume I know His ultimate will.

HEBREWS 11:1

The Bible guarantees, "...without faith, it is impossible for us to please God" (Hebrews 11:1). It affirms that the more we step out in genuine faith, the more God is pleased. The greater our challenges, the greater faith required.

UNREALITY

VIDEO



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Seeing God “Face-to-Face”

ABRAHAM

The prophet Isaiah calls Abraham a friend of God. (Isaiah 41:8) I don't know anyone else who was given that honor, except you and I. (Matthew 11:19, John 15:14) If you have given your life to Jesus – then you should know God considers you, His friend. (John 15:15)

BLIND GUIDES

Could anything be sadder than missing your only chance of being rescued? If God visited your life, would you refuse to receive His help? That's precisely what happened to the Pharisees. They were outraged. Jesus healed a blind man, admonishing Him, “Are you saying we're blind?” It takes genuine humility to accept that you are spiritually blind without Jesus. Only humble people can receive God's gifts: forgiveness, everlasting life, and intimacy with our Creator.

REALITY / UNREALITY

One day, when God was ministering profoundly to my heart, I was distracted by something entertaining and fun online. I thought I would break away for 15 seconds to peek at it, but the revelation was gone when I returned only a few seconds later. I chose to tickle my ears when God was touching my heart. It made me sad that my actions were so immature. It was as rude as taking a phone call when someone was pouring their heart out. I still can't remember the revelation He was giving me. Sad. I know better.

PLEASURES THAT SATISFY

If pleasure is the goal in life, everyone wins something...a measure of pleasure! The devil's happy to give us the pleasures of Connecticut and Vermont Avenues as long as he gets to keep Boardwalk and Park Place. But, if you've ever played Monopoly, you know that Connecticut and Vermont Avenues are worthless, while Boardwalk and Park Place are priceless. The devil offers counterfeit intimacy—through some shallow, momentary pleasure. It's a pleasure, but without eternity—it's a forgery of what we're created for—a personal relationship with God. Only God's way leads to life: “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 come from God.



False Faces of Religion

RELIGION VS. RELATIONSHIP

One of the greatest dangers of following religious rituals is that they temporarily soothe our conscience without requiring us to obey God's Spirit. This was one of the favorite practices of Pharisees during the time of Jesus. After Judas betrayed Jesus and then killed himself, religious leaders decided it was unlawful for them to take the money that Judas had thrown down. They reasoned that because he was a murderer, they couldn't put the money back into the temple treasury. What could be more absurd than that? They had paid Judas to betray Jesus, the Savior of the world. They now felt it was immoral to put their blood money back into their treasury—a perfect example of the difference between religious ritual and the redemptive reality of a genuine relationship with God.

REALITY / UNREALITY

Religion provides a false comfort, a conscience-soothing relief from the pressures of life. At the same time, a fully surrendered relationship with Jesus Christ heals the heart, transforms the mind, enlightens the Spirit, and establishes the union with God that He created us to have. Refrain from settling for a repetitive ritual that leads to numbness. Pursue an unpredictable intimacy with the God Who alone can provide the fulfillment we long for.

PHARISEES

I cannot present my life to fellow believers as more whole than I am. This would make me no better than the Pharisees of old. My only honest option is to acknowledge the obvious: I am a flawed man desperately in need of a gracious Savior to rescue me and an all-wise Lord to rule over my soul and spirit. For this to happen, I must turn myself in daily, living a transparent life that embarrasses and costs me the most.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:14

Miracles today are considered far-fetched, beyond belief, and unscientific. Science is God. The Bible is 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."





SCAN ME

Reality Screams In The Wilderness

ROMANS 1:22, ESV

Two scriptures sum up the danger of hypocrisy. "Claiming to be wise, they became fools." (Romans 1:22, ESV) And then there's how The Message describes 1 Corinthians 10:12. "Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. Forget about self-confidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence."

John 3:30, NLT

John the Baptist defined what true success is when he said, "He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less." (John 3:30, NLT) Exalting self is always unhealthy. We are created to lift up Jesus. Nothing else can fully satisfy.

REALITY / UNREALITY

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is!" Wow! Think of it: the seemingly least significant Christian, weak in faith, struggling with victory, and feeling like they barely made it into Heaven, is infinitely more blessed than any spiritual giant who ever walked the Earth before Jesus.

HOW YOU SEE YOURSELF IS CRUCIAL

John the Baptist was asked by Jewish leaders who he was and then flattered him with heady options: the Christ, Elijah, and the Prophet. Yet John didn't take the bait but humbly responded, "I'm (just a) voice crying out in the wilderness." (John 1:23). Even Jesus refused to succumb to Pilate, wanting Him to boast about who He was. Proverbs affirms, "Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips." (Proverbs 27:2). If anyone could grandstand, it would be God. And yet, He chose to come to Earth as a humble servant, lived entirely under the radar, and ended His Earthly script, dying a humiliating, agonizing death. So, when someone offers you the bait of false praise, go low. If you do, you'll meet Jesus there as a victim. Let Jesus make you the victor He created you to be.



SCAN ME



Religion Parades In The Town Square

ROMANS 1:22, ESV

Two scriptures sum up the danger of hypocrisy. "Claiming to be wise, they became fools." (Romans 1:22, ESV) And then there's how The Message describes 1 Corinthians 10:12, "Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. Forget about self-confidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence."

RELIGION DROVE ME TO ATHEISM

As a young boy, Religion drove me to atheism, while a Relationship with Jesus Christ would, years later, transform my life. That's the BIG difference between Religion and Relationship. It's the distinction between a house and a home, renting and buying, shacking up or getting married. One implies a place to reside temporarily, the other a dwelling that lasts a lifetime. Religion provides a false comfort, a conscience-soothing relief from the pressures of life. At the same time, a fully surrendered Relationship with Jesus Christ heals the heart, transforms the mind, enlightens the Spirit, and establishes the union with God that He created us to have. Don't settle for a repetitive ritual that leads to numbness. Pursue an unpredictable intimacy with the God Who alone can provide the fulfillment we long for.

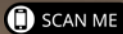
REALITY / UNREALITY

If you were sick, no doctor would prescribe cosmetic surgery. That would merely change the surface but would not touch the root of your problem. Religion has little to offer other than a system of conscience-soothing routines, leading to boredom and spiritual numbness. We don't need a facelift; we need a heart transplant, and only the power of Jesus can perform that operation.

ROMANS 1:22

The saddest reality in life is having the privilege of meeting God in Person and then refusing to receive the gift of eternal life He wants to give you. But that's precisely what Caiaphas, the High Priest, did. He not only did not embrace the privilege of believing in Jesus, but he also sentenced the Savior of the world to death.





Jesus Is The Only Way

OSWALD CHAMBERS

"The reason salvation is so easy to obtain is because it cost God so much." If we didn't deserve it and couldn't earn it, then the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus becoming sin for us and dying in our place is the only reason our lives are now so valuable. Jesus exchanged what was worthless: our shattered lives – for what is priceless: His blood being shed on our behalf.

JOHN 10:10, NKJV

"All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy."

REALITY / UNREALITY

Receiving Jesus is easy... following Him is much harder... and pleasing Him through human effort is, frankly, impossible. We will spend eternity praising and thanking Jesus for what He has done and not showering one another with accolades of accomplishment. Our efforts to experience lasting success only comes because of Christ's suffering.

ALL PATHS DON'T LEAD TO GOD

In 1972, I was an artist selling my carvings on ivory in Lahaina, Maui, and a young "Jesus Freak" came up to my booth and said something that infuriated me. He said, "Jesus is the only way!" At the time, I believed there were many paths to God. Jesus was "one" way, but certainly not "the" way. He finally read these words of Jesus: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." That was totally unacceptable to me then! But now I see these words as they really are: Absolute truth! Jesus wasn't just another option: a bright spot in this blind world. He was God come to Earth... the Savior of the world. And, if you can believe it... He can save you, too. as a victim. Let Jesus make you the victor He created you to be.



When Religions Are False

REALITY / UNREALITY

The greatest failures in my life occurred when I believed lies about what is most true about me. The fact is: we are all living in various stages of repentance. We are either acknowledging or denying when we fail, and then repenting of our sins, or going our merry way as if nothing happened. But something has happened. We have all sinned and fallen short of God's best for us. Yet, if that's all we know, we're missing the best part of the story, that what is most true about me is not just what God is focusing on, but what He wants me to focus on as well. Don't fixate on what you're not, when God's centering in on what you are: created to be sons and daughters of the living God.

BEING SINCERE IS NOT ENOUGH

Job's friends thought he must have done bad things to be suffering the way he did, but that's not what God thought. This line of thinking is closer to "Hinduism" and "Buddhism," not "Christianity." In the Buddhist and Hindu religions, "Karma" is considered "the force produced by a person's actions in one life that influences what happens to them in future lives." The Bible demolishes the false concept of reincarnation when it says, "... it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment..." (Hebrews 9:27, ESV). Jesus didn't come to Earth to judge or condemn us; He came to rescue us from the consequences of our own poor decisions.

COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS

One day, a Christian and a Muslim shared the distinctions in their faith. The Christian said to him, "The difference between our God and your god is that your god wants you to die for him, and our God wanted to die for you."

JOHN 14:1, NLT

The Bible warns us, "...do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world." (1 John 4:1, NLT)

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

Generational Anointings

LIVING LONG IS A BLESSING

Because of our habits, we may be the first generation that is less healthy and has a shorter life span than our parents. So, does God even care if we live longer? Of course, He does! What parent wouldn't want that for their child? The Bible says living a long life is a blessing... not a curse. (Ephesians 6:3)

REALITY / UNREALITY

My older brother knew a man who inherited half a billion dollars. It was more of a curse than a blessing. He described him as "The weakest man I ever met." Thank God for the winds of difficulty in your life. Process them well, and you will only grow stronger.

HEAVENLY BLESSING

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26 NIV)

LEAVING EARTH TO IMPRESS HEAVEN

You may feel this following sentence is overstated, but I'm persuaded it's not. Every day, I'm focusing on stopping doing things to impress people on Earth. I realize more and more it's an incredible waste of my time. Now, I wake up fixated on wanting to impress only the God of Heaven. I know I'm still on Earth and don't want to be so heavenly minded that I'm no earthly good. But I am increasingly persuaded that the value of what I am doing is found in what impresses Heaven. Unless my thoughts, words, and deeds have an eternal shelf life, I don't want to think, say, or do them. I've wasted too much time already. "Jesus, may the shallow seductions of Earth be overwhelmed by the endless value of what's on Your heart and what You willingly share with me."



SCAN ME



Generational Deceptions

1 PETER 5:8, NKJV

I get daily messages that promise to rectify problems on my computer or phone. Ironically, they are just hackers trying to do what they claim they want to fix. Like Satan, they offer a broad way that only leads to destruction. "...your adversary, the devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." Wells without water and clouds without rain, they remind me of... me.

WHO WOULD NEVER COME TO JESUS

Do you ever wonder if any of the lawless anarchists will ever come to Jesus? I do. I think back to my rebellion against authority. A girl I was living with had a father who was a New York City firefighter. He would only allow me in his home once I cut my hair. In a gesture of defiance, I cut my long hair off, put it in a bag, and walked into his home during breakfast, plopping the bag in front of him. I then abruptly walked out and never saw him again. A few years later, after becoming a follower of Jesus, I began to contact people I had hurt. Calling him, I humbly asked for his forgiveness. Much to my surprise, He graciously forgave me. Who has God put on your heart that you think would never come to Jesus? Pray for them.

REALITY / UNREALITY

I am the greatest fool I've ever known. No one has deceived me more than me. But for the grace of God, I would still be a deceiver, manipulating others. It was only because of the mercy of God that my deceit didn't wholly consume me. So, whenever I think critically of someone else because of an obvious flaw in their lives, I pray that, like me, they could be spared and rescued from their deception.

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME



God's Word Is Perfect

HEBREWS 4:12 NLT

"For the Word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."

OUR ONLY OFFENSIVE WEAPON

The fact that Jesus used Scripture to fight the devil's temptations should provide a clear strategy for each of us every day. The Bible says, "...the sword of the Spirit...is the word of God." (Ephesians 6:17, NKJV) The Bible is our only offensive weapon, assuring us that we have no hope of fighting temptation outside of trusting in God's Word. The way to survive and even thrive on this planet is to feed on the Word of God. Jesus promised, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." (Matthew 24:35, NKJV) Yes, many voices are clamoring for our attention, but only God's words will last forever. Be careful not to feed on and trust in words that last a mere 70 years, for eventually you will be greatly disappointed as a victim. Let Jesus make you the victor He created you to be.

REALITY / UNREALITY

You have the relationship with Jesus you are willing to have. You have the connection with God's Word you want as well. It's the depth of commitment you have chosen. Change your level of commitment, and your relationship with Jesus and His Word will become what He wants and what you would want if you knew what was best for you.

LOVING & HATING

Unless we love what God loves, we'll never be strong enough to hate what God hates. Unless we love God's Word and what He values, we will gradually be drawn away to loving the world. Jesus made this absolute conviction clear in this unequivocal statement, "What people value highly is detestable in God's sight." (Luke 16:15)



God's Word Is Assailed

PROVERBS 4:2-3

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good, pleasing, and perfect."

NOT A GOOD LUCK CHARM

The devil will always question what God has said to you. Therefore, you must know what God says. The Bible is not a good luck charm I put on a coffee table; it's a breathing machine I hold fast to my face! Job said, "I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food." (Job 23:12, NKJV) I have no chance of being a naturally healthy person without eating healthy food. Likewise, I have no hope of being supernaturally healthy without feasting on the Bread of Life: the Bible. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35, NLT) Hunger and thirst after God's Word every day, and you will live a filled and fulfilled life.

REALITY / UNREALITY

Deception gets a facelift with each successive generation. Repackaged for the times, it struts on stage, acting as if what we've been waiting for has finally arrived. It insists: "Why buy an old, outdated version of lies when you can have a newer, contemporary edition?" Yet, "...history merely repeats itself. It has all been done before. Nothing under the sun is truly new." (Ecclesiastes 1:9). No amount of time can transform lies into truth. The substance of every deception remains the same: it is birthed in Hell, and to Hell, it will inevitably be consigned. Unless truth is based upon the eternal Word of God, the Holy Bible, in due course, it will deteriorate into deception, and eventually apostasy.

PROVERBS 4:2-3

We cannot live with one foot in the Word and the other in the world. Eventually, we will be drawn away from the truth to believe lies. Sadly, I've seen it all too often in my own life, and the lives of others. What started as a flirtation with sin led to bondage and addiction. "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." (Proverbs 4:23, NIV)

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

Sexual Purity

REALITY

AUDIO



SCAN ME

GALATIANS 5:9

Aristotle once mused, "The whole is more than the sum of its parts." Though this is no doubt true, a more meaningful line would be, "the whole can be no purer than the purity of its parts," or as the Bible says it, "a little yeast... spreads through the whole batch of dough." (Galatians 5:9)

REALITY / UNREALITY

At a checkout stand in an electronics store in Rome, Italy, I saw an advertisement for pornographic software. It read, "There's nothing to hide. The only sin is to not view it." How utterly ridiculous! The devil knows the best defense against purity is a seductive offense. If we make "denial" a way of life, hardening our hearts inevitably leads to a dead conscience. (1 Timothy 4:2)

"NEW" MORALITY

The "NEW" morality is merely repackaged "OLD" immorality. Sadly, far from being profound or liberating, it is the perfect recipe for deception. It is: "man playing God."

PROTECTING THOSE WE LOVE

On our twin daughters' thirteenth birthday, they got all dressed up, and I took them to a special restaurant to celebrate this memorable milestone. At the end of the meal, carefully crafted fortune cookies were brought out. Before opening the cookies, I shared that as their father, it was my responsibility to do all I could to protect their lives until they were married. I then read a heartfelt statement expressing my commitment to watch over them. When they opened each cookie, inside were beautiful opal rings. It was a moving moment! They wore them for the next fifteen years until I walked each of them down the aisle, and they symbolically gave their rings to their husbands. Some people thought I was burdening Deborah and Havilah with a goal that they couldn't live up to. In reality, it assisted their desire and commitment to moral purity. as a victim. Let Jesus make you the victor He created you to be.

Sexual Deception

MICAH 6:7

"...I sacrificed my firstborn, the fruit of my body, for the sin of my soul."

ETERNAL REUNIONS

If you are hurting from the pain of abortion, I am, too. I aborted two children before surrendering my life to Jesus, and though I have two beautiful daughters, I have no sons. I am so grateful that I have been forgiven and have experienced much healing in this area. Years ago, God showed me these lost children were sons and even gave me names for them: Noah and Caleb. One day, my wife and I were hiking with two grandchildren. Ironically, we were grieving over the fact that we had just heard a friend of ours had just had an abortion. Since our walk was in the snowy off-season, no one was around. We were stunned to run into a couple with two boys whose names were, you guessed it, Noah and Caleb. It affirmed, once again, that we are all eternal Spirit beings and that we will see the children we have lost on Earth in eternity.

A COURAGEOUS "NO"

In my own life, I wish I'd said "No" sooner and more often. In my youth, a swift "No" would have made the difference between moral purity and promiscuity. A courageous "No" would have avoided two abortions. An unwavering "No" would have caused the devil to get lost and opened the door for the heart of God to be found sooner than later.

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

Truth Alone Brings Freedom

GENESIS 3:4

God's Word is truth! Any philosophy or ideology that attempts to contradict the Word of God must be discarded, or it will become an intellectual cancer. The serpent in the Garden so fraudulently promised, "You won't die!" (Genesis 3:4). Many are still foolishly buying into this tragic lie of catastrophic consequence. It is a fatal distraction.

REALITY / UNREALITY

In the first century, Peter warned of those who would not take God's Holy Word seriously. He said they would twist and torture the truth to their own destruction. Every age has had them, and there is no shortage today. Peter wrote that these "untaught and unstable people twist [torture or pervert] to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures." (2 Peter 3:16, NKJV)

"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." What a tremendous definition! Unfortunately, modern editors corrupted it. The 2015 Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines discern as "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 good and evil, truth and lies taken out of this definition, we are left with personal preference and no resemblance to absolute truth. Ironically, this supposed "new and improved" definition of discernment completely lacks discernment. Jesus admonishes each of us, "See that no one leads you astray." (Matthew 24:4, ESV)



SCAN ME

Modern Malaise

POISONED BY GOOD INTENTIONS

Life on this treacherous planet is precarious. An older woman in our church died because a caregiver mistakenly thought the mushrooms, she picked were edible when, in fact, they were poison. Though this seasoned saint loved Jesus, and I'm confident she will spend eternity with Him, she was poisoned by good intentions. You've heard the expression, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." This statement addresses the result of sinful actions but illustrates a worst-case scenario for well-meaning decisions. On the other hand, the Bible says, "...the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day." (Proverbs 4:18, NKJV) Do not let the good intentions of deceived people poison your life. Look to Jesus and be saved!

HOT TUBS & ICE CREAM

Nowhere is the cultural malaise more apparent than in the increasingly prolonged adolescence of the average American. A half-century of children has grown up with pleasure at their fingertips. The comforts of life do not create growth. No one has ever been transformed sitting in a hot tub eating Ben & Jerry's.

REALITY / UNREALITY

The root cause of this global malaise can be easily isolated: It results from wanting things our way. It always leads to frustration and confusion. These are the bitter fruits of being disconnected from our Creator, the source of life, liberty, and true happiness.

COUNTERFEIT REALITY

Only God can design from emptiness. Truth and reality stand resolute—whether we believe in them or not. As Paul, the great teacher, once wrote, "For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth." (2 Corinthians 13:8, NKJV) We cannot create reality — only deception. So, too, with the devil! He is the Creator of nothing eternal and the counterfeiter of everything pure and holy.

UNREALITY

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SCAN ME



SCAN ME

Only “God’s Truth” Transforms

AVALANCHE OF DECEPTION

As an avalanche of deception attempts to redefine truth, lies, good, and evil, so is there an assault against genuine love and the relational order God intended. The truth will eventually prevail. However, the interim misrepresentation of the virtue of God’s love will separate what is eternally true from what is a distortion and a lie. “But those who obey God’s Word truly show how completely they love Him. That is how we know we are living in Him.” (1 John 2:5)

REALITY / UNREALITY

Those who attempt to redefine compassion as “embracing every person’s belief with love and understanding” will find that reality is not malleable. We cannot conform truth to our image. In the end, we will be conformed to the truth. God will either be a stepping-stone guiding us to His only reality or, if we choose to cling to our deception, an eternal stumbling block to fantasy.

FREEDOM AND TRUTH

There’s no shortage of people talking about freedom and truth. But may we always remember what freedom and truth are and where they come from. Freedom and truth come from God alone. Worldly seductions bring a temporary sense of freedom that always leads to bondage and depression. Man’s attempts to redefine and repack-age truth only result in deception and lies. The truth that transforms requires the compassionate courage to believe and do what God intended would set us free. Jesus said to the people who believed in Him, “You are truly My disciples if you remain faithful to My teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32, NLT) Accept no earthly substitutes for truth and freedom. They are only real if they are Heaven-sent!



SCAN ME

ROMANS 1:22 ... 1 KINGS 11:4

Like many of today's educators, "Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools." (Romans 1:22). Even King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, fell into complete deception. "For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father, David." (1 Kings 11:4)

CULTURAL CLONES & MORAL ZOMBIES

The world is loaded with opinions. Social media showcases the bravado of man, each claiming to have the higher thought, the deeper insight, the better way. Anyone can take the stage, grab a mic, and bellow their truth. "Believe this! Do this!" The Bible clears the air when it says, "Be free from pride-filled opinions, for they will only harm your cherished unity." (Philippians 2:3, TPT) Much of what people call deep-seated convictions are merely shallow whims. More often than not, they follow the clueless crowd, turning naive minions into cultural clones, moral zombies, and wells without water. Everything in Heaven and Earth will pass away, but only God's Word and His truth will last forever. Jesus and His Word are the only ones left standing. Let your convictions be grounded in eternal realities, not earthly fantasies.

REALITY / UNREALITY

We cannot create reality—only deception. So, too, with the devil! He is the creator of nothing eternal and the counterfeiter of everything pure and holy. In the same way that when worship is deformed, it becomes idolatry; when compassion is perverted, it becomes compromise.

Education's Demise

EDUCATION'S HYPOCRISY

Noah Webster defined hypocrisy as "a simulation; a feigning to be what one is not; a concealment of one's real character or motives... assuming of a false appearance of virtue..." (Noah Webster's 1828 American Dictionary) Hypocrisy is a simulation, a fake, a sham, concealing the real person. It refers to someone who professes a conviction but lives a double life. Hypocrisy is the one sin Jesus most aggressively exposed.

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME



Loving God's Script For You



KING SAUL

King Saul's jealousy and fear deceived him, leading him to make rash decisions and ultimately lose his kingship. Instead of applauding and affirming the young man who saved Israel, Saul wanted to kill David.

LOVING YOUR LIFE SCRIPT

The all-powerful, loving God has written the most fantastic script imaginable for each of our lives, yet most people don't like it. They don't love the life a Perfect Father has written just for them ... a script written to bless them beyond words! So, what's the only reasonable conclusion? We don't need a new life. And we certainly don't need God to write a new script. We just need a new perspective!

REALITY / UNREALITY

If you spent your whole life examining every magnificent option of who you could become... And if you could discern the best choice and then make it happen... You would have arrived at God's original intention for your life when He imagined you before He created the world... the absolute best one for you to become the most fulfilled person you could be.

WHO WOULD YOU WANT TO BE?

If you could pick anyone who ever lived besides Jesus, who would you want to be? With this one caveat: You couldn't siphon off the high points of their lives, the extraordinary giftings and accomplishments, or the many blessings surrounding them: parents, spouse, children, careers, wealth, lifestyles, etc. You'd have to absorb their struggles and sorrows, trials and testing, pain and sickness. Likewise, every revelation or breakthrough God had ever personally given you would evaporate. Frankly, every vestige of God's specific plan and purpose for your life would cease to exist. Reflecting on this question, I concluded that a loving God had already perfectly tailored every aspect of my life with my best in mind. And that, because the wisest thing I could ever do is believe there is no life better than the life God designed for me, I should love my life.



Suicide's Seduction

IS DEPRESSION A DISEASE?

Recently, I read that a notable person's daughter had died of a disease. Upon further examination of the facts, the article said she died from a disease called "depression." I've battled with depression my entire adult life. I spent six months before I gave my heart to Jesus contemplating suicide every day. Since then, I've learned that being free from depression is possible and often a daily choice. Though living in victory is a struggle, I needed to believe that my depression was not entirely out of my control. Jesus confirmed this when he said, "Don't let your hearts be troubled." (John 14:1, NLT) The devil's great lie is that suicide is a valid choice to end our depression. It is the most grotesque lie of all. Depression doesn't have to be a life sentence. There's always hope and help in Jesus.



SUICIDE RISING

In 2021, suicide was the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-14 and 20-34. Eighty percent of all deaths by suicide in the U.S. are among men and women aged 45-54. Men aged 85 and older have the highest suicide rate of any group in the country. (April 24, 2023)

REALITY / UNREALITY

God has never lost hope for our future. And only He knows the tests we must face to live fulfilled lives. Don't be surprised if the season you are closest to walking in your destiny is simultaneously the lowest point in your life. We have to get creamed before we can get crowned. The Bible says, "...since we are His children, we are His heirs, together with Christ, we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share His glory, we must also share His suffering..." (2 Timothy 2:12) We'll lose hope for our future when we lose hope in God.

PSALM 34:17-20

"The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed. The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time."

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

Supernatural Adventures

THE STRETCHED LIFE

We only stretch when we're reaching for something we want. Living a healthy life is about movement. Standing water always grows stagnant. Bodies that stop moving become sedentary and eventually cannot move at all. That's why the Bible says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Proverbs 29:18, KJV) They live carelessly and uncreatively. When we lose heart, we stop growing. Without something worth reaching for, we are frozen in time and never reach our potential... becoming who God created us to be. Stop pretending you're dead. You're not! God has you alive for a reason. Spend your life discovering why you're still breathing, still moving. If you find out the truth, it will, without a doubt, set you free. Let God stretch you. It's for your own good.

REALITY / UNREALITY

Life's most incredible adventures have each been divinely shaped into one-of-a-kind destinies that require two faith dimensions to be experienced: Trust and Courage.

SCRIPTURE

"As those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

WE'RE SO BLESSED ...WE'RE BORED

You would think a society with entertainment on demand, fast food in minutes, search engines immediately answering obscure questions in seconds, and face-to-face communication with anyone, anywhere in the world, wouldn't be bored. But we are. We're the most bored generation in history. We're so blessed we're bored! Our unwillingness to pay the price of brutal honesty and embarrassing humility in relationships has resulted in many of us living boring, distracted, and uninspiring lives. The adventure God envisioned for our lives only becomes a reality when we step out and follow God's leading, not our own will. If you want to make your life boring, imagine it. If you're going to make it exciting beyond your wildest dreams, let God envision it. Boredom results from being unwilling to see life from God's perspective.



SCAN ME

Boredom's Sameness

THE BEST OF ALL OPTIONS

The only person responsible for me not experiencing the Abundant Life Jesus promised is me. He specifically wrote into His will for my life the best of all options for my future. However, He has intentionally allowed access to this script only to those willing to have a relationship with Him by faith.

Why Religion Is So Boring

Religion will always drive us to boredom and even bondage. Has the mundaneness of going through the motions of Christianity been enticing you to go back to the bondage of Egypt? Have you forgotten what being a slave to sin is actually like? Spiritual boredom leads to barrenness and, more often than not, the bondage of self-indulgence. It smothers our potential, making us believe the lie that the God who makes galaxies, sunsets, babies, and laughter is boring. Without training your soul to feast on the Word of God, you'll live a malnourished shell of an existence, infinitely beneath the life God intended for you. Only a vibrant, life-giving, intimate, daily relationship with God's Word and Spirit will fill your life as God always intended.

REALITY / UNREALITY

A life is a terrible thing to waste. I believe it more and more. A loving, all-powerful God created us and purposely planned a marvelous script for each of our lives, far beyond our wildest dreams. Yet, if because of ignorance, stubbornness, and selfishness, we are not willing to believe and receive it, this would have to be wastefulness of biblical proportions.

KING SAUL

We'd all love to live and die in peace. In Genesis 15, God told Abraham, "...you will die in peace and be buried at a ripe old age." (Genesis 15:15, NLT) WOW! To die in peace at a ripe old age! What a promise! But, we'd have to be committed to LIVING in peace to have any shot at DYING in peace, hopefully, at a ripe old age.





SCAN ME

Receiving Your Inheritance

ETERNALLY SECURE

In every age, the true followers of God have been presented with the intimidating option of giving in to the crowd. Be it before kings, oppressors, or peers, the temptation came. In the cases of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Esther, and Stephen, each refused to give up their eternal inheritance for momentary security.

1 PETER 1:3-4

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by His great mercy that we have been born again because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay."

REALITY / UNREALITY

While on Earth, we straddle two dimensions: the natural and the supernatural. Our capacity to traverse between these two realities parallels the future seamless unity of Heaven and Earth. We ache for more. This deep longing presses beyond the present into our entire inheritance:

- Having an intimate relationship with our Creator
- Living in the supernatural
- Flowing fully as sons and daughters of God

WHAT ARE WE SPREADING?

Every one of us is spreading something! The question is, what. The ten spies were given the privilege of conquering the land God had promised them. Still, instead of walking courageously into this marvelous inheritance, they gave into doubt and unbelief and consequently spread fear throughout the wandering nation of Israel. Joshua and Caleb, on the other hand, had a different spirit. Believing God's promise that they would inherit their promised land, they spread a message of faith, standing on the truth of God's Word and promises. Their obedience and courageous proclamation did not immediately persuade the masses, but eventually, they would lead their nation into all God promised. What hope, faith, and love has God given you to spread? Don't base your success on how others respond, but on whether you are obedient.



SCAN ME

Rejecting Your Inheritance

OF BIG & LITTLE DOGS

Have you ever noticed some small dogs don't know how small they are, while some big dogs don't realize how big they are? What's the principle? How victorious we are in life will depend, at some point, on how we see ourselves. In the Old Testament, the children of Israel sent ten spies into the land who, with trepidation, exclaimed, "We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them." (Numbers 13:33, NIV) They could have defeated their weaker enemies had they courageously gone forward, but they cowered and caved instead. Do you know how mighty you are in God? With Him you are undefeatable. But without Him, any victory will be short-lived. Let your identity and confidence be based on how God views you and not on how you view yourself.

REALITY / UNREALITY

Having resisted God's heart until the bitter end, hell's inhabitants will reap the consequences of their actions by choosing, sometimes unknowingly, eternal isolation instead of God's loving intention. They've chosen slavery over the inheritance of privileged sons and daughters of the Creator. All for one reason: a self-willed man vainly insists on attempting to make himself a god.

ROMANS 8:19-22

"For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who His children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time."

KING SAUL

True freedom must always provide the ability to choose. But the consequences of our decisions will reveal our true heart. Ultimately, God alone, as the author and Creator of all things, determines the eternal value of everything. He will even determine the merit of our decisions: whether they are good or evil, the truth or a lie, right or wrong. And God's definitions need no revision.

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

A Transformed Life Is Irrefutable

REALITY / UNREALITY

The “new” morality is merely repackaged as “old” immorality. Sadly, far from being profound or liberating, it is the perfect recipe for deception. It is: “man playing God.”

DEFINING UNBELIEF

Waiting on God to change my circumstances is called unbelief. Waiting for Him to do what we want attempts to make us God and not Him. I am waiting for God to transform my heart to trust Him more not to bow to my preferences. Allowing circumstances to determine if God is working in my life always ends in disappointment and is birthed in deception. The Spirit of God said of King David, “I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will.” (Acts 13:22)

MICRO-OBEDIENCE

I’ve often wondered what elevated spiritual giants. I believe it was their micro-obedience: Doing the will of God as He asked them to, not merely what was convenient. It’s the difference between doing the Word of God or just hearing it.

LIFE IS A TEST

Everything in life is a test. Every response, every challenge and every opportunity! From setbacks to successes, the moment we stop depending on Jesus we become susceptible to deception. Accept nothing at face value. “...for we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7, ESV) I’m not moved by what I see. I want to allow the inner witness of God’s Spirit to guide me. Every decision we make tests our motives, and in the end we will be judged by the thoughts and intents of our heart. The Bible says, “But I, the LORD, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve.” (Jeremiah 17:10, NLT) Jesus, guide me through the treacherous waters of testing. You are able to protect me from great errors in judgment. I trust in You alone!



SCAN ME

Unbelief Always Leads To Loss

WHAT SCARES ME MOST

Do you want to know what scares me most? This Bible story will show you. On the day of Christ's resurrection, some of His female followers visited His tomb. But the body was gone. He had told them it would happen, but they only walked away and wondered. Unbelief had blinded them. When they told the other disciples, their words seemed like pure nonsense. Unbelief had hardened their hearts as well. Even when Peter ran to the tomb and saw Christ's clothes lying in the tomb with no body, he still couldn't figure it out. On many occasions, Jesus had told all of them that He would rise from the dead on the third day, but they still couldn't believe it. "Jesus, rip every drop of unbelief from my heart. It's sad and pathetic. You've been so faithful to me."

REALITY / UNREALITY

Every moment of every day, "...the commander of the powers in the unseen world" (the devil) contaminates the airwaves with deception. Paul further warns of this, "Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ." (Colossians 2:8, NLT)

KING SAUL

Moments of pleasure have, at times, left me with a lifetime of regret. The Psalmist understood this all too well when he wrote, "Keep your servant from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin." (Psalm 19:13, NLT) As Heaven and Hell motivate and inspire me, so do right and wrong.

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

Restoring Your Innocence

HEALING OR OFFENSE

When people hurt us, we always have a choice. Either we seek the healing God alone can give or wallow in the pain of past offenses. No one escapes the planet unhurt. It's the price of admission to the human race: a marathon not for the faint-hearted or fault-finding but for the faithful few humbled by their own shortcomings rather than the faults of others.

FREEDOM FROM GUILT

While God's forgiveness completely covers and washes away my past sins and every dimension of guilt and shame for my foolishness, past regretful memories, and an active conscience keep me vigilant in not making choices that would destroy my present life. Moments of pleasure have, at times, left me with a lifetime of regret. The Psalmist understood this all too well when he wrote, "Keep your servant from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin." (Psalm 19:13, NLT) As Heaven and Hell motivate and inspire me, so do right and wrong. Therefore, my daily prayer is, "God, keep me from making foolish decisions that may feel good for a moment but bring consequences I will greatly regret."

REALITY / UNREALITY

If you want to be healed, you'll need to walk in the light of God's love, forgiveness, comfort, and power. God's love covers, His grace forgives, and His Spirit comforts and empowers us to be fully healed: spirit, soul, and body. Time doesn't heal, Jesus does. Look to Him first in the challenges of life. He'll never disappoint you.

THE FORGIVEN HEART

It's been said, "There is no revenge so sweet as forgiveness." (American Humorist, Josh Billings) Our forgiving others opens the door for God to forgive us. The hardness in our heart shuts God out. If we have hard, unforgiving hearts, it calls into question if we have ever received or appreciated God's forgiveness. The forgiven heart longs to forgive others. The forgiven heart relinquishes its right to punish others. The forgiven heart will no longer hold that person responsible for what they did. Jesus said, "...when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too." (Mark 11:25) "Jesus, I forgive those who have hurt me. I release them from all responsibility. Even now I fully receive your forgiveness for me."



SCAN ME

Losing Your Innocence

HATING WHAT GOD HATES

Unless we love what God loves, we'll never be strong enough to hate what God hates. Unless we love God's Word and what He values, we will gradually be drawn away to love the world. Jesus made this absolute conviction clear in this unequivocal statement, "What people value highly is detestable in God's sight." (Luke 16:15). That's quite a demonstrative sentence and shouldn't be sweepingly applied. But He wasn't overstating it! We can't live with one foot in the Word and the other in the world. Eventually, we will be drawn away from the truth to believe lies. Sadly, I've seen it all too often. What started as a flirtation with sin led to bondage and addiction. "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." (Proverbs 4:23, NIV)

REALITY / UNREALITY

Do you have secrets? We all do, and we all do our best to keep our secrets from certain people who would use them to hurt us. There is, however, one Person who knows all of our secrets and wants to help us. Do we believe we can hide them from Him without consequence?

SECRETS EXPOSED

The thought of our secrets eventually being exposed is intended to put the fear of God in us. And what would be the value of that? God's Word is clear: so that we may depart from evil and cling to what is good, our lives will be blessed. It sounds like me knowing God will judge my secrets is designed to be a good thing.



BIBLE



SCAN ME

Turn Yourself In

TITUS 1:15, ESV

If we wait to get caught instead of turning ourselves in, our conscience will become corrupted and polluted. Scripture confirms this. "Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure. But nothing is pure to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, because their minds and consciences are corrupted." (Titus 1:15, ESV)

JAMES 4:6, ESV

When it comes to sin, we can wait to get caught or turn ourselves in. The former resists connection to God. The latter opens up an intimate relationship with our Creator that unlocks the essence of our very existence. If, as the Bible states, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble," then humility is key to experiencing God's transforming power. (James 4:6, ESV)

REALITY / UNREALITY

Rick Warren says it this way. "Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less." In a full-blown spiritual revival, when the presence of God and conviction of His Spirit are palpable, people rush forward to get right with God. They become eager to humble themselves before Him, even doing things they would have considered humiliating. Face it, true humility is really humbling." If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

HAVING A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

Is there anything sweeter than a good conscience or more unnerving than being overwhelmed with guilt and shame? Legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden said, "There is no pillow as soft as a clear conscience." The opposite is also true. Who can rest when your mind is being smothered with guilt? We will find no peace in life without a peace-filled conscience! And there's only one way to get it. Turn yourself in! Admit to a holy God that you have sinned. He is always ready to forgive; His blood will cover any sin. Jesus died for us to give us a clear conscience. May we take these words to heart: "Conscience is God's built-in warning system. Be very happy when it hurts. Be very worried when it doesn't."

REALITY

AUDIO



SCAN ME

Getting Caught

BLOWING UP YOUR LIFE

Before pastoring for 21 years, I traveled full-time for 18 years, ministering as an evangelist. Being with pastors weekly during that period, I came away with strong convictions about how to survive and even thrive as a leader. So, when I began to pastor, my leadership training was more prevention than cure. Consequently, the #1 question I asked 450 leaders in small leadership groups of 12 for 15 years, my wife Suzie and I answered first: "If there was one area in your life where the devil could pick you off, what would that be?" This question provided hours of vulnerable, honest, transparent discussion and prayer in small groups. By the grace of God, we had very few leaders blow up their lives. There are only two options in life: turn yourself in or wait to get caught.

A DEAD CONSCIENCE

Much of the numbness people experience today comes from a conscience that has ceased to feel. In the New Testament, Paul warned against this type of dead, hardened conscience, which has been seared and become callous. (1 Timothy 4:1-2, ESV) It's even more frightening when the deadness is not caused by delusion but by a deliberate commitment to resist the will of God.

WHEN JESUS PUNISHES

None of us like being judged, but it will happen whether we like it or not. Perhaps you're thinking, "If I confess my sins to Jesus, He's going to punish me." If you believe this, you're going to be disappointed. When the woman was caught in adultery, what was the punishment Jesus gave her? He said, "Go and sin no more." If that's punishment, I'd be happy if Jesus punished me like that anytime.

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

“Acceptance” Line

FORGING GOD'S CHARACTER

Looking back, I've learned far more from my losses than my wins. Whatever character has been formed in me has been forged in the furnace of personal affliction, not on the altars of public adulation or self-gratification. We can't receive the grace needed to process life properly unless we bow low enough to receive this merciful handoff from God. Believe it or not, a Humble Servant sits on a throne in Heaven. If winning was everything, He would have come to Earth as a Superhero, not a seemingly unimpressive zero.

MY PRAYER

“Lord! I want my hope to be in You alone. The disappointment I feel sometimes comes from not receiving what I was hoping for instead of trusting that You are already committed to giving me what is best for me, and only You know what that is.”

EXPECTATION LINE

ACCEPTANCE LINE

REALITY / UNREALITY

One day, I thought, “There is so much prayer going up by the saints that God would certainly answer them in the affirmative.” I was wrong. In retrospect, some of my prayers have, in essence, been, “Lord, I can see clearly what needs to happen. So, I thank you for answering my prayers.” Now, I see that much of my disappointment in life comes from me playing God and asking Him to merely sign off on what I consider to be best. In the end, it's called my will, not God's.

DEBILITATING EXPECTATIONS

Expectations are a funny thing. We can't live without them; eventually, we realize we can't live with them. They're fun when they're met, debilitating when they're not, and frankly, unless they're God's expectations for us, they may be precisely what we don't need. I can't meet your expectations of me, and you can't meet mine for you. But perhaps the worst thing about expectations is believing that we haven't met God's expectations or that He hasn't met ours. But the truth is, God's relationship with us is NOT based on “expectations” but on “acceptance.” God loves who He created us to be, and the main reason He wants us to change our behavior is that some of our decisions distort who we are designed to be. Accept God's love for you, and your expectation of Him will be filled with trust.



SCAN ME

PREFERENCE CHRISTIANITY

Jesus said, "Your will be done, not My will." and "I do nothing, except what I see my Father doing." (John 5:19). Before you can love your life, you have to solve the riddle of life. Paul the Apostle said, "I've learned the secret of being content in every situation." (Philippians 4:11). That's why the greatest hindrances to you loving your life are your Preferences and Expectations. "Preference Christianity" implies that we know what's best for our lives, and "Expectation Christianity" leads to disappointment and discouragement. Both are us playing God. It's what the Pharisees did, and the opposite of what Jesus preached. Man playing God is what Lucifer did. He said, "I will...be like the Most High." (Isaiah 14:14). If you know the future, then preferences and expectations are great. But, frankly, neither you nor anyone else does.

MATTHEW 11:7-8, NLT

Here's one way to eliminate disappointment. Don't presume your expectations are the road to experiencing God's promises. Jesus addressed this issue when He spoke to the crowds about John the Baptist. "What kind of man did you go into the wilderness to see? ...a weak reed, swayed by every breath of wind? ...were you expecting to see a man dressed in expensive clothes? No, people with expensive clothes live in palaces." (Matthew 11:7-8, NLT)



REALITY / UNREALITY

If something DIS-appoints you, perhaps it was an appointment that was not meant to be or not at this time. If, on the other hand, we put God in charge of our schedule and appointments, then when the chess pieces on the board move around, we have little to no emotional attachment to where they land. When our hearts are filled with complete trust in the only Person who knows what's best for us, life becomes a delightful dance, not dreary drudgery.

"Expectation" Line

LEARNING HOW TO LOSE

A highly successful college quarterback made it to the NFL but failed. As he reflected on why, he transparently acknowledged, "My father taught me everything about winning but nothing about losing."

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME

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SCAN ME

Contentment & Lasting Peace

REALITY / UNREALITY

Blaming God is one of the greatest misconceptions in life. Contentment means trusting Him no matter what's happening. It's more of a decision than a consequence. It's the opposite of the victim mindset and makes me responsible for my responses to life. Paul wrote, "I've learned in whatever state I am, there I'll be content." (Philippians 4:11)

EXPERIENCING ABUNDANT LIFE

Do you think Jesus overstated His promise when He said, "I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly."? (John 10:10, NKJV) Regarding how many believers live abundant lives, this scripture is nearly impossible. Yet, Christ's promise is not a pipe dream; it's God's will for each of us. Having lived for over 50 years following Jesus, I am persuaded the abundant life Jesus promised requires three essential transformations in each of our perspectives:

1. We must have an accurate understanding of who God is.
2. That will bring the greatest clarity on how He views each of us.
3. Only then can we love the life He's given us.

God is love. He loves, and even likes, every one of us. And His will is the best of all possible options.

MEANING OF "SHALOM"

Have you ever heard someone say "Shalom!"? It's a beautiful Hebrew word. I used to think it meant "peace," but it means much more. Shalom speaks to our wholeness, well-being, safety, happiness, completeness, peace, security, prosperity, victory, contentment, and rest.

PSALM 34:14

The Bible says, "Keep turning your back on every sin, and make "peace" / "shalom" your life motto. Practice being at peace with everyone." (Psalm 34:14) Shalom...be whole, completely at peace, restored by the blood of Jesus, and the marvelous grace of God.



SCAN ME



Addictions & False Comforts

BREEDING GROUND FOR PAIN

In our physical bodies, when muscles are stiff and unpliable, they gradually become unusable; it may have started when we got hurt. Damaged tissue restricts blood from flowing to muscles, and when there's no blood flow, we lack oxygen, and our muscles begin to die. Does a bad habit block your life? Often, we become so consumed with our pain that we're unable to focus on anything else. These constricted areas become stagnant ponds, breeding grounds for more pain. What's the cure? Let the life-giving blood of Jesus flow over your battered life, your heart, mind, and emotions, restoring whatever's been damaged.

NUMBING SUBSTITUTES

The devil offers an endless menu of numbing substitutes for oneness with God. Morphine was initially developed as a cough suppressant. Yet, by the late 1800s, it had become a popular recreational drug. A German drug company named Bayer believed it had found a morphine replacement. So, it advertised diacetylmorphine as an over-the-counter "non-addictive morphine substitute." The new product Heroin derived its name from the Greek word "heros" because of its seemingly heroic effects on the user. Unfortunately, if you've ever known a person with a heroin addiction, the last thing they are is heroic. As is always the case, one numb substitute leads to another. Accept no substitutes. Only Jesus can give you the peace you need.

REALITY / UNREALITY

Why are so many people numb today? Numb to life, numb to God, numb to one another? The word numb means "taken or seized as by cold or grief." So, what will it take to propel us from living an emotionless, boring existence? We'd need a fully surrendered heart, a desperate cry to the God of resurrection.

PROVERBS 4:23, NIV

For many of us, survival means letting God warm up the places in our heart that have become numb. One of the most significant warnings in Scripture concerns a cold or dead heart. "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." (Proverbs 4:23, NIV)

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

Family's Divine Design

GALATIANS 5:13, NLT

Paul wrote, "For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love."

SHAKING OFF DECEPTION

We live in an age where people are so committed to deceptive ideas, no matter how irrational and evil, that when God shatters their plans, they shake it off and refuse to acknowledge that God wants to protect them. The peer pressure of the crowd will only increase, as will their rejection of those who follow Jesus and refuse to follow their evil ways. As Jesus promised, "...the person who endures to the end will be saved." (Matthew 24:13)

REALITY / UNREALITY

Do you believe God has a marvelous destiny for you? I'm convinced He does, and it's better than you could ever imagine. Noah Webster's definition of "destiny" is perfect: "...a predetermined state; a condition foreordained by the Divine will." When you look closely, everything about this definition speaks of obedience. Since it takes God to destine, it stands to reason only God can predestine or predetermine and likewise foreordain. The only real destiny is God's will, and the only way you get God's will is by being obedient to Him. The Bible says, "... (God) will do for me all He has planned. He controls my destiny." (Job 23:14, NLT)

WE ARE BEAUTIFUL TO GOD

You are beautiful to God... greatly loved and treasured. Believing this is the doorway to experiencing the greatest joy in life. If we believe as God states, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..." (Gen. 1:26, NKJV), then we are each beautiful, at least to God. Certainly, the God who made all that is beautiful on Earth must be beautiful Himself. If we say we're not beautiful, then we assume God isn't beautiful either. The truth is our identity rests in the fact that a beautiful God created us and loved us. As beautiful as Jesus is, so is His spotless bride. In the Song of Solomon, God says, "You are all fair, my love, and there is no spot in you." (Song 4:7, NKJV) Jesus, the perfect Groom, has set His gaze, affections, and adoration upon His perfect Bride to be.



SCAN ME

Unnatural Re-design

REALITY / UNREALITY

People have always mistaken freedom for being free. That's why free will is the most significant responsibility we have ever been given. In a moment, it can turn from liberty to license, mistaking privilege for entitlement.

FALSETTO CHRISTIANS

Singing in a falsetto voice is defined as "singing in a voice that is not your normal or natural range." The unnaturalness of its tone is why it is called false. Thus, the word "falsetto." The emasculating of men and defeminizing of women produces an unnatural connection to the true identity God intended for each of us. Genesis 1:27 says, "God created human beings in His own image. In the image of God, He created them; male and female, He created them." Living in our true voice is living the purpose God intended. He doesn't make mistakes, only miracles. If we trust Him, we'll see His plan is flawless. Attempting to take on His role as Creator only leaves us empty and unfulfilled. Accept that God is the Author and Finisher of your life, and you will find the peace you're longing for.



CARNIVAL MIRRORS

Our motive is as important as our message. Being right is overrated because doing right is all that matters. We sit pompously on our anthills, a speck in the Universe, feeling superior to other ants. In contrast, a humble Servant sits on a throne in Heaven, amused by how puny we are, and endeavoring to guide us past the carnival mirrors of Earth to an ultimate reality check that, if we view sooner than later, can spare us a lifetime of aimlessness and chasing the wind.

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

When “Hope” Beats “Concern”

FEAR OR FAITH

How we navigate the ebb and flow of life will either leave us feeling full or empty. These destinations alert us to where our emotions have been and hint as to what is feeding them. Fear takes; it robs us of hope. Faith gives; it fills us with anticipation. It takes far more courage to overcome by faith than to be overwhelmed by fear. Each option is our choice. They can be traced back to what we have allowed in.

PSALM 37:3, 25

The Bible says that trust brings safety. “Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture...I’ve never seen the righteous forsaken.” (Psalm 37:3,25)

REALITY / UNREALITY

Have you ever banged on the cockpit door of a commercial jet, demanding to know if the pilot knew what he was doing? Probably not. So, you’re trusting a stranger with your life when you fly. I’ve done it hundreds of times. How much more should we trust the God Who has never failed us and never will? I don’t want to get to Heaven and have Him say, “Francis, what were you so freaked out about down there?”

HOPE VS. CONCERN

Each of us is in a battle every day. One of our chief struggles is between hope and concern. Is your heart filled with more hope or concern? Would any of us want a doctor who was more concerned about our health than filled with hope? How about God? When He thinks of you, is He more concerned or filled with hope? It’s an important question. It will shape your day and even your joy. The Bible doesn’t say God is a God of concern; it says He’s a God of hope. I take comfort in that every day. Why? Because it’s the truth! “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13, NKJV)



SCAN ME

When “Concern” Beats “Hope”

ROMANS 5:5, NLT

“...hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.”

SNUGLING WITH LIES

Faith and fear have one thing in common: neither has happened yet. No one can superimpose either filter on how I process my life. I can expect a blessing or a burden. I can wrap my arms around the truth or snuggle with lies. The truth is, there is an all-powerful, all-loving Father in Heaven who, before I breathed one breath, wrote a perfect script for my life. When I combine my faith with His faithfulness, I will learn to trust Him, and my life experience will take my breath away. The Bible says, “In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one...” (Ephesians 6:16, ESV) No weapon formed against me will prosper unless I choose to let it. Faith or fear—it’s always our choice.

REALITY / UNREALITY

What have we been filling our heart and minds with? A priceless life is built on believing the Words of a Holy and Healthy God more than the values of a Broken and Bankrupt world. The fact that stepping up and walking by faith costs us a lot means that our courage has actual value.

MY RESPONSIBILITY

What happened to the multitudes of people who received healing from Jesus or were delivered from demons? How many followed Him? So, what is my responsibility? If Jesus was willing to lay His life down for me, I need to lay my life down for Him.

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME



Jonah's Escape Room

JONAH RAN FROM GOD

In the Bible, Jonah refused to obey God and tried to escape responsibility for his disobedience. It almost cost his life. But God allowed him to see a city rescued when he repented and obeyed.

CAUGHT OR CONVICTED

All of us are given two options when it comes to sin. Wait until we're caught, and we will be, or turn ourselves in and receive the immediate forgiveness of Jesus. When we run to God and acknowledge our sin before Him, it activates His grace and gives us the power to get victory over sin.

REALITY / UNREALITY

In the first chapter of the Book of Jonah, Jonah is running away from the call of God on his life. He told the men on board the ship that they were in peril in a violent storm because of him. Though Jonah was running away from God, God had not given up on him.

FEW PEOPLE WANT TO "REALLY" LIVE

Would you like to live truly alive? I hope so. You would think every Christian would answer, "Absolutely!" But I've found after a half-century of following Jesus, few people want to live "fully alive." In Numbers 14, having made it to the land God promised the Israelites would be their inheritance, out of the original 12 spies, only Joshua and Caleb remained alive. The other ten spies, who had previously explored God's Promised Land and seen the fantastic fruit in it and yet refused to believe Him, had their lives cut short and died in unbelief in the wilderness. I don't want my life to be cut short. I want to live a blessed, faith-filled life. Only by fully trusting Jesus can this happen. "Jesus, I want every part of my being to be wholeheartedly in pursuit of you."



Alpha's Escape Room

ENTERTAINING OURSELVES TO DEATH

As society continues to drift further away from reality and people redefine what is right and wrong, only God's Word contains the truth that can set someone free. More and more people are creating their version of good and evil, truth and lies. But the "new" morality is merely repackaged as "old" immorality. Sadly, far from being profound or liberating, it is the perfect recipe for deception. It is: "man playing God." From rebellious anarchists to pleasure-seeking hedonists, selfish capitalists to naïve socialists, lack of discernment will always lead to deception and 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." Where are you and I playing God in our lives?

CULTURE CLONES

A lot of what people call deep-seated convictions are merely shallow whims. More often than not, they follow the clueless crowd, turning naive minions into cultural clones, moral zombies, and wells without water. Everything in Heaven and Earth will pass away, but only God's Word and His truth will last forever.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Too much of the wrong thing can kill you by destroying your soul. But too much of even a good thing can bloat your mind and dull your senses. We were made with a purpose for a purpose. Not to spend our lives drooling in front of a screen, whatever size. But to experience the never-ending joy of flowing in the eternal Spirit of God, not continually seduced by this Earth's shallow pleasures.

REALITY / UN-REALITY

Do you ever wonder what the net effect is of all the entertainment you and I are experiencing? It's essential you do. Because you may be entertaining yourself to death. Fun and entertainment can be wonderful, refreshing, and encouraging. But, at most, they should be the garnish on your plate and never the entrée.

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

God's Supernatural Heals

OBEDIENCE BRINGS HEALING

All of us will need to be healed at some point in our lives, whether in spirit, soul, or body. One action in the Bible that always precedes healing is obedience. After the children of Israel were delivered from the Egyptians and miraculously passed through the Red Sea, the Lord gave them a promise, "I am the Lord who heals you." The prerequisite for this magnificent statement is found in the previous verse. "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I brought on the Egyptians." (Exodus 15:26, NKJV) Though we may not see it or understand it, obeying God always brings blessing, healing, and deliverance.

DOCTOR OR PATIENT?

Am I on a journey to become a doctor, or destined to remain a patient? The only person who can make that decision is me. I may be hurt, but I must be more committed to being healed than rehashing my pain. Jesus suffered and died so we could become completely whole inside. Receiving that healing is a life-long process, but worth every minute.

PICK UP YOUR MAT

In John 5, Jesus approached a man who had been unable to walk for 38 years and asked, "Would you like to get well?" It seemed like a silly question, yet it pinpoints the real issue for each of us who need healing. What do we really want? And what are we willing to do to get it? Jesus then gave the man three critical instructions: "Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!" (John 5:8, NLT) Three essential prerequisites for any of us to get whole: "Stand up!" Are you willing to move away from where you have been? "Pick up your mat!" Are you committed never to going back? And lastly, "Walk!" Will you do anything necessary to get whole, even if you've never done it?

REALITY / UNREALITY

My daughter, Havilah, offered healing insights as she was preaching. She said something quite profound, "You're not broken! You just don't know who you are!" WOW! The lights came on! What if our mental and emotional health could be best achieved by not fixating on what we're not but on who we are and how God sees us? His view of us is infinitely more important than how we see ourselves.



SCAN ME

Satan's Supernatural Harms

ELIJAH'S CHALLENGE

Faith always requires passionate action, not passive thinking. No debate, just unquestioning obedience. Often, it seems that when God calls me on Line One, the devil calls me 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)

IMAGINARY EVIL OR REAL GOOD

Every day, we fight to hold on to what is real and eternal—not to be deceived by the shallow and temporary. Abandoned by parents, exploited by peers, and seduced by society, many of us are overexposed and underdeveloped. We've seen so much yet become so little! Perhaps the greatest farce of our day is evil masquerading as good. Our age is a fashion show for evil. Simone Weil writes, "Imaginary evil is romantic and varied. Real evil is gloomy, monotonous, barren, boring. Imaginary good is boring. Real good is always new, marvelous, intoxicating." (Weil S. Gravity and Grace. Rutledge; 1999.) Only God is truly good; no one can fill our lives with goodness except God!

REALITY / UNREALITY

During deceptive seasons, I have empowered thoughts and actions that caused evil to grow in my heart. Eventually, by the grace of God, I realized I needed to become more aware of what I was naively perpetuating. I am not just a seed sower. I am a seed waterer. Jesus said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be uprooted..." (Matthew 15:13, NIV) If I am not careful, the weeds will overtake the fruit and flowers, choking out what is eternal and precious, leaving only what is temporary and meaningless.

EPHESIANS 6:11-12, ESV

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME

25



SCAN ME

Addicted To Reality

PSALM 27:4, NET

"I have asked the Lord for one thing – this is what I desire! I want to live in the Lord's house all the days of my life..."

SCRIPTURE

The essence of all addictions is empowerment through fantasy—life in the unreal. Fantasy can fulfill—at least for the moment. But only Jesus can satisfy forever. For those who follow Him, He promises, "...God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:4, NKJV)

REALITY'S ADVENTURE

Nearly all of the 50 most popular films have fantasy, supernatural, or otherworldly themes. Most of these successful film series have video game spin-offs, so you can be an unreal person in a fictional world any time you want to. Why is there such a fascination with the paranormal, the supernatural, other worlds, fantasy, and superheroes? Because deep down, we know we're capable of so much more. We long for life beyond our wildest dreams: true goodness, supernatural power, becoming all we were created to be and do. Only God can fulfill these longings—for He planted them in us!

REALITY / UNREALITY

Which excites you most, your real life or your imagination? Every day, millions of people choose fantasy as a substitute for reality because of their connection to media. Technology offers the potential for "wonderful use" or "horrible abuse," and not just for those who are very young. The average video gamer is 35. People of all ages get more excited about their imaginary lives than they do about their real lives. This year, romantic e-books will surpass paper books in sales, making it easier for women to read them without having a picture of a hunk on the cover. As the Bible teaches, "...each one should be careful how he builds." (1 Corinthians 3:10, NIV) What has captured your attention: the temporary illusions of Earth or the eternal realities of Heaven?



SCAN ME

Addicted To Unreality

THE BIGGEST LIAR I'VE EVER KNOWN

Reality is the most essential pill we'll ever swallow. In the short term, giving in to illusion and deception is easier. But we all realize the long-term consequences far outweigh the temporary benefits. If we are honest with ourselves, though the devil is called the father of lies (John 8:44), no one has lied to me more than me. Frankly, I'm the biggest liar I've ever known. So, the question is, why do I deceive myself so often? The most straightforward answer is I'm also the most selfish person I've ever known. Self is never the solution; it's always the heart of the problem. Jesus showed us the cure for selfishness. The Bible says, "(Jesus emptied Himself. He) made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant." Obsession with self is the disease, and allowing God to fill us with His servant nature is the cure.

REALITY / UNREALITY

Which excites you most, your real life or your imagination? Every day, millions of people choose fantasy as a substitute for reality because of their connection to media. Technology offers the potential for "wonderful use" or "horrible abuse," and not just for those who are very young. The average video gamer is 35. People of all ages get more excited about their imaginary lives than they do about their real lives. This year, romantic e-books will surpass paper books in sales, making it easier for women to read them without having a picture of a hunk on the cover. As the Bible teaches, "...each one should be careful how he builds." (1 Corinthians 3:10, NIV) What has captured your attention: the temporary illusions of Earth or the eternal realities of Heaven?

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13, ESV

"God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation, he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

WANTING A DIFFERENT LIFE

Something is terribly wrong when you wish you had a different life—when you don't look forward to getting up in the morning, believe your best days are behind you, or that past mistakes have disqualified you from ever having a great future.

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

God Likes You

EVERLASTING LOVE

God's madly in love with you! No matter who you are. No matter what you've done! He loves you with an everlasting love. Because He already knows everything you'll ever do, either God's always loved you, or He's never loved you. He doesn't just see a few random moments of your life. He sees its entirety! God doesn't love us more when we're good, nor does He love us any less when we're bad.

HOPE-FILLED RELATIONSHIPS

What if each of us not only knew that God liked us, but we trained our children to believe the best of everyone they met? Even that others liked them. It could encourage relationships filled with hope and anticipation, not insecurity and hesitation.

REALITY / UNREALITY

Even in our lowest moments, God still likes us and fully differentiates between who we are and what we've done. His heart smiles every time He thinks of us—and He thinks of us constantly.

WHY GOD LIKES YOU

Perhaps you find it easy to believe that God loves you but harder to believe He likes you. God liking you is the only rational, reasonable explanation for His actions. He's omniscient (All Knowing). He sees your past, present, and future. Whatever opinion He has about you, He's always had about you. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8) We are God's beloved! We are God's friend! You would never say to a best friend, "I love you, but I don't like you!" A best friend is someone who has seen you at your worst and still loves you & still "likes" being with you. Do any of us have any question that God has seen us at our worst? I fail a lot! But God's promise is: "There's nothing you can do to make Me not like you!"



SCAN ME

God Is Indifferent

GOD'S FRIEND

The prophet Isaiah calls Abraham a friend of God. (Isaiah 41:8) Good choice. A best friend has seen you at your worst and still likes you. Make God your closest friend. He created you, loves you, died for you, and knows you best."

I DIDN'T THINK GOD LIKED ME FOR THE FIRST 30 YEARS

For the first 30 years of my Christian life, I didn't think God liked me. Now, if God was an imperfect human, that would make sense. But He's not! Each of us makes decisions to like or dislike people based on their past or present actions. But imagine being completely aware of everything a person will ever do. No longer would your estimation be based upon individual events. Your picture of them would be complete. At that moment, if you like them, it would be because you see the entirety of their lives. That's exactly how God sees us. If you've ever believed God loved or liked you, He still does. Why? Because "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8). God enjoys you! "How precious... are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!" (Psalm 139:17)

REALITY / UNREALITY

Do you like the sound of your voice? God does! The Bible says, "The LORD hears His people when they call to Him for help." (Psalm 34:17, NLT) Growing up, I didn't like the way my voice sounded. I wanted it to be deeper, richer. Now, I find it ironic that I'm on the radio. God's got a great sense of humor. But it also demonstrates that God is far more gracious than critical. Maybe if God likes the sound of my voice, I should like it, also. Let me take it one step further. If God likes me, I should like me too.

KING SAUL

"I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me." (John 17:23, ESV)

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

“True” Tolerance

TOLERANCE & PATIENCE

Whenever I read chapter one of Romans, I’m usually appalled. My mind is filled with horror and dismay at the depravity of the sin described. By the time I read chapter two, verse one levels the playing field and lets me see into my own heart. The Bible says, “You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you condemn yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things.” God didn’t want me to think of others when I read the first chapter. Romans 2:4 says, “Don’t you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you?”

I DON’T WANT TO BE TOLERANT

Tolerance is defined as “the ability or willingness to tolerate something. In particular, the existence of opinions or behavior that one does not necessarily agree with.” If this is what it means to be tolerant, then NO, I don’t want to be tolerant. I will instead commit to be much, much more. I will look into the eyes of those I disagree with on moral and spiritual issues and tell them I love them, even when I know their beliefs and lifestyles are detrimental to their good and contrary to God’s best. I will endeavor not just to put up with but also to speak the truth in love to those who vehemently disagree with me, and I with them. This is how Jesus loves us. I must do no less to others.

REALITY / UN-REALITY

During the time of Jesus, Samaritans were considered half-breeds and universally despised by both Jews and Romans. Being Jewish and from Galilee, Jesus had experienced racial prejudice first-hand. He understood the cruelty of discrimination. Consequently, when He was traveling from Judea back home to Galilee, Jesus made a conscious decision not to skirt the prejudice around Him and face it head-on. He deliberately went through Samaria. A direct route from Judea to Galilee was about 70 miles or a two-and-a-half-day walk. But, due to prejudice, many Jews were willing to journey about twice the distance on a hotter and more uncomfortable road rather than go through Samaria. Jesus cut through this narrow-minded bigotry, and many Samaritans from a village named Sychar believed in Him. (John 4:39) What Samaria is God asking you to go to?

REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

“We may have all come on different ships, but we’re in the same boat now.”



SCAN ME

“Masked” Tolerance

MY BATTLE WITH PREJUDICE

Each of us has our journey when it comes to prejudice. Mine is different from most. I am 100% Sicilian. Sicily is a small island below Italy. My father was born there and came to America as an immigrant. Since he was a leader in the Italian community, I grew up surrounded by people from the old country. I'm sure you've seen movies about the Sicilian mafia and the arrogant bravado of some Italian men. Early in life, some of my experiences became a significant turnoff. This prejudice against Italians caused me to not just dismiss my own heritage but to look down upon others with that background. Every culture has deficiencies, but we are called to love and forgive. I have since repented of my bigotry, have embraced the beauty of my culture, and am now proud to call myself a Sicilian.

REALITY / UNREALITY

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?”

KING SAUL

A modern definition of the word “bigot” states that a bigot is “a person who is intolerant toward those holding different opinions...” That may strike closer to home than we'd like to admit. So, before we start throwing the word “bigot” around, we might consider that our judgment of other people's seeming bigotry may qualify us as equally bigoted. We may be the biggest bigots we know.

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME



More Healed Than Hurt

MORE HEALED THAN HURT

Other people have hurt all of us. It takes great courage to forgive those who hurt us. It took me many years to forgive the father who hurt me. I can only accurately represent God if I am willing to be more healed than hurt. Like Jesus, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was more healed than hurt. If you and I profess to know Jesus, then like Him, we need to be more compassionate than critical, more courageous than cowardly, more hopeful than hopeless, more selfless than selfish, more lighthearted than heavy-hearted, more kind than careless, more peaceful than anxious, and more fearless than fearful. But the only way for any of these character qualities that personify the heart of God to be lived out in my own life is if I am continually dependent upon Jesus.

HEALED & WHOLE

Some people get healed but are still not whole. Jesus healed ten lepers, but only one got whole and returned to glorify and thank God (Luke 17:15-16). Ironically, he was a Samaritan: half-Jew and half-Gentile.

PSALM 103:2-5

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy..."

PLAGUE OF PUBLIC SHAMING

We've all been hurt by others. But how we respond to hurt will define who we are. The Bible says, "...Mary was engaged to be married to Joseph. But, before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly." (Matthew 1:18-19, NLT) Is it any accident that the man God the Father chose to be the earthly father of Jesus did not want to shame his fiancé publicly, even though he mistakenly thought she had gotten pregnant by another man? Wouldn't our world be better if people today refused to shame those who publicly hurt them? Love covers—hate shames.





More Hurt Than Healed

REALITY / UN-REALITY

The great battle today is in the Spirit realm, between the “Have’s” and “Have Not’s”. Between those who have received what Jesus has done for them and those who have not. Those who are more focused on what Christ’s death accomplished for them than on the death others have tried to put on them. It’s really between the blind and the sighted. Those blinded by their own hurt and wounding, and those healed by the blood of Jesus, and willing to forgive and live rather than resist the love of God and die.

LIES & RESPONSES

Life is all about our responses. At times, we will feel cheated, lied to, and taken advantage of. We can overreact or appropriately respond, retaliate, or evaluate at these pivotal moments that test us to our core. Partial truths, overreactions, and bitter responses have fueled much of the evil in the world. More often than not, these half-truths are complete lies that become the ammunition for revenge, which God says is in His court alone. The Bible says, “...if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another...” (Galatians 5:15, ESV). “Jesus, keep us from believing lies and responding poorly to life’s challenges! May we be those who heal and not hurt.”

PAIN’S PURPOSE

Past hurts often keep us from seeing our hidden worth. Our true value isn’t found in the high points of our lives but rather hidden under the rubble of our most significant pain. Only time, heat, and pressure can produce the most beautiful diamond. (Galatians 5:15, ESV). “Jesus, keep us from believing lies and responding poorly to life’s challenges! May we be those who heal and not hurt.”

EPHESIANS 4:3...LUKE 7:47

“...be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:32, NLT) While being hurt by others is inevitable, Jesus compels us to follow His example in forgiving, saying that he who has been forgiven little loves little, but he who has been forgiven much loves much. (Luke 7:47)





Persecution Is Here

“... WITH PERSECUTIONS”

Don't overlook the fine print of all that Jesus said in the gospels. In Mark 10, Jesus said “...there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time-- houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions--and in the age to come, eternal life.” (Mark 10: 29-30, NKJV) If you were reading this too quickly, you might overlook two words, “with persecutions,” and think, “No big deal!” But, upon closer examination, a lack of mental and emotional preparedness for persecution may be the stumbling block that eventually takes you out of the game. Persecutions are coming for all of us. Prepare yourself!

REALITY / UNREALITY

In China, if your church isn't state sponsored, it might be closed down like one of the 1,500 churches destroyed or shut down since November of 2000.

GLOBAL PERSECUTION

Over the past 30 years, the global phenomenon of Christian persecution has grown alarmingly.

JOHN 15:18-19

“If the world hates you, remember that it hated Me first. The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.”



Persecution Is Coming

PEOPLE MAY HATE YOU

Have you ever verbally acknowledged the possibility that, eventually, people may hate you because you follow Jesus? Probably not. But Jesus precisely said that: "...all nations will hate you because you are my followers." (Matthew 10: 22, NLT) It may not be a comforting thought, but it's still true because Jesus said it. Are you preparing your heart to be hated? I didn't say, "Have you decided on a strategy of saying obnoxious things to provoke people to hate you?" You won't need to do something terrible or insensitive to get people to hate you because Jesus said, "All you have to do is just love Me a lot and represent Me well, and people will hate you." I'm not paranoid, but I keep my heart prepared not to let the hate in others smother the love in me.

REALITY / UNREALITY

- Globally, more than 360 million Christians suffer at least "high" levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith.
- In 1993, Christians faced high to extreme levels of persecution in 40 countries. This number has nearly doubled to 76 countries in 2023.
- Worldwide, 1 in 7 Christians now experience at least "high" levels of persecution or discrimination.

JESUS & PERSECUTION

- "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." (2 Timothy 2:12)
- "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:10)
- "But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..." (Matthew 5:44)

1 PETER 4:12-14

"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you as though something strange is happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you."

UNREALITY

VIDEO



SCAN ME

BIBLE



SCAN ME

Reality Is Indestructible

PSALM 102:25-27L

"Of old, you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end."

SCRIPTURE

Life is filled with infinite options, but only one alternative is best for living a blessed life. Only one choice leads to peace that goes beyond my understanding. One possibility opens my heart to unspeakable joy and mercies that never end. The way to a blessed life is to trust God fully. Every other option for how to live is an infinitely distant second. The Bible says, "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires. Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you." (Psalm 37:4-5, NLT) I have found that trusting God is the only option that doesn't disappoint and my only hope to live the life I've always dreamed of.

REALITY / UNREALITY

Light repels darkness. Don't be concerned that the devil, evil, and darkness will win. They are throwbacks from a doomed rebellion, has-beens from a lost age.

WHAT JESUS NEVER PRAYED

Jesus never prayed we wouldn't have challenges or that we wouldn't have to lay down our lives for Him. He instead prayed to His Father that He would keep us from the evil one. (John 17:15) Sometimes, our struggles on Earth are connected to the deception of believing lies. Yet, most of the time, they are merely the tribulations of Earth Jesus promised would come. So, don't pray that Jesus would stop the difficulties in your life. It's a waste of your time. Pray that God will give you the fortitude to stand strong in adversity. To be courageous during hardship and persevere when you feel like giving up. If you do, it will be more than worth it. Be of good cheer. Because Jesus overcame, so can you.

REALITY

AUDIO



SCAN ME

Unreality Is Doomed

REALITY / UNREALITY

If the only time we believe in God is when we can actually see what we are believing for, we'll spend our lives not knowing Him. Trusting God and learning to walk by faith is not one of many good options; it is the only way to have a personal relationship with our Creator. It's also one of the most extraordinary experiences in life. It's worth every painful uncertainty about the future, all the lonely nights waiting for God to move, and dashed disappointments we thought were our destiny. In the end, if we hold fast and believe the promises of God, it will all be more than worth it. Seeing is not believing. Believing to see is.

ENDLESS HOPE

Though somewhat overstated, don't live waiting for tomorrow to begin. Learn to live, hoping today will never end.

WHINING VS. WINNING

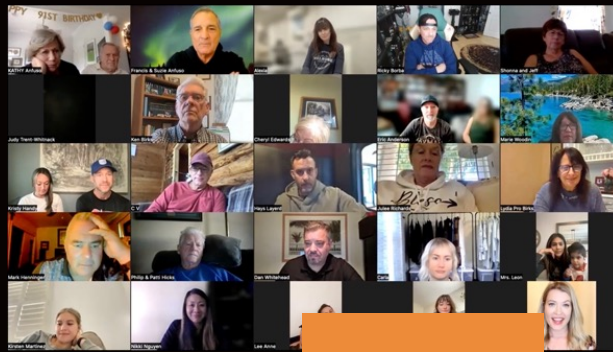
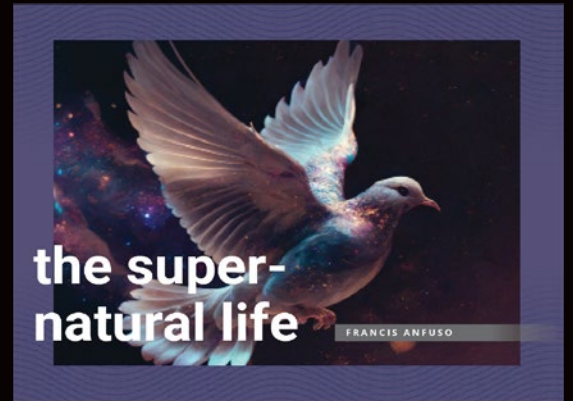
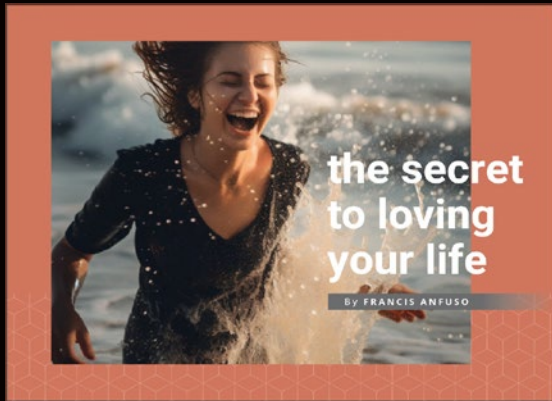
One day, I found myself complaining in my head that God once again required me to believe in something I didn't have. Ironically, it was even after a significant answer to prayer that was, frankly, a "Hail Mary pass." I was embarrassed to think that my attitude toward my faith walk had become more whining than winning, even though God has been faithful to me for many decades. It's an unbelieving tic I need to stop. So, I'm doubling down and listening more carefully to the words I say and the thoughts I dwell on. If they are not fueling faith and hope in me, then I reject them as the lies they are. The thief always comes to steal, kill, and destroy. We should not be ignorant of his devices.

TRUE SUCCESS

All of us want to succeed. The problem comes when we try to define what it looks like. We can't! Only God knows what real success is. As David Wilkerson wrote, "When God calls you to something, He is not always calling you to succeed; he's calling you to obey! The success of the calling is up to Him; the obedience is up to you."



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For 17 years, I was Francis’ PA , and witnessed firsthand his godly and mature responses to ministry challenges, hurts, disappointments, and joys. — **Lydia Birks**



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It really impacted my life. I’d highly recommend it for anyone who seeks to be set free from life circumstances that steal away your joy and freedom. — **Nikki Nguyen**



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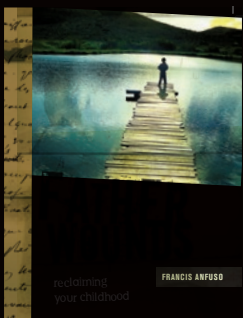
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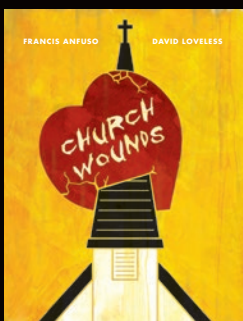
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RECOMMENDATIONS: Other titles by Francis Anfuso *(and Brion Burkett)*



Father Wounds— Reclaiming Your Childhood

As an abandoned and abused son, my soul suffered long-term destruction. But my wounded heart was exactly what God wanted to heal and restore. God can help you forgive the parent who hurt you. He wants to heal you completely and use you mightily in the lives of others!



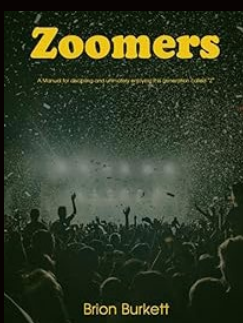
Church Wounds— Francis Anfuso and David Loveless

Our wounds don't have to disable us. They're meant to be a doorway into the restored life God always intended. God will heal us, if allow Him to touch our pain. Church Wounds examines the common hurts inflicted by Christians on Christians: hypocrisy, judgmentalism, leader insensitivities, and abuse, etc. Read the stories of those who were not just hurt—but healed; and then experience the healing yourself.



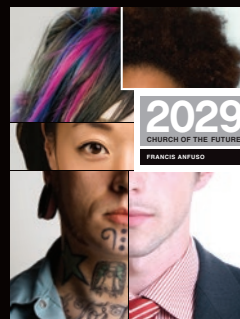
The Secret to Loving Your Life

Our lives begin to be truly transformed when we stop asking God to change our circumstances and allow Him to change our perspective! Behind every challenging situation there is a loving God whose victorious perspective is far greater than the trials we face. The breakthrough you're longing for is just ahead!



Zoomers

Revival is upon us. Our prayers are working. This generation will settle for nothing less than 100% Heaven on Earth. Now they need to be led and encouraged to lead. God is NOT done with you. In fact, He is just getting started. The coming move of God will be marked by God miraculously drawing the hearts of the young to the old, and the old to the young. Brion Burkett lives with his wife Katie in Roseville, CA



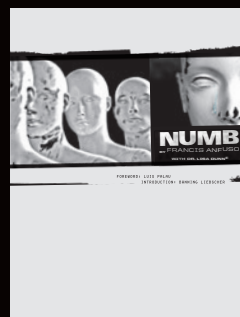
2029—Church of the Future

Will the Christian church in the western world survive? How does it keep from becoming completely irrelevant? What will the Church of the Future look like? What is about to unfold, and what part will you play?



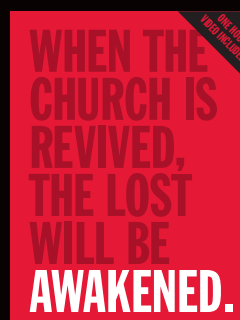
Identity / Destiny Prayer Journal

The first step in fulfilling your destiny is finding your identity, and only God knows the answer to this question. My true identity is who He created me to be. My ultimate destiny is what He has called me to do. Inside this 40-Day Prayer Journal you will examine areas in your life that will connect you in prayer with God and His kingdom within you.



Numb

We all fight numbness and its long-term effect. Unless our daily reality is greater than our inner fantasy, we'll wander from one reality-replacement to another. When we forget what we know—we forfeit who we are. Everything God does is designed to lead us into intimacy with Him—to set us free from boredom, loneliness, and self-absorbed distractions. He loves us enough to allow us to be satisfied with only Himself.



Awakened

What would it take to awaken a nation that has ceased to depend upon God; to awaken the mind of those who no longer fear or reverence Him; to awaken the conscience of those who have grown numb to discerning good and evil; to awaken the hearts of those who consider it a choice to end the lives of their unborn children, while rejecting God's order for marriage and the family; to revive the spirit of a church that has grown sleepy and indifferent toward the broken world around them? It would take a move of God... a REVIVAL of Biblical proportions!



POSITIVE, ENCOURAGING
KLOVE



FRANCIS ANFUSO was saved in a revival called The Jesus Movement on Mother's Day in 1972 because of his mother's prayers. Francis traveled as an Evangelist for 18 years, was a Pastor for 25 years, and now spends much of his time in intercession and believing for a mighty move of God's Spirit across America. He is the author of 15 books, including *The Secret to Loving Your Life*, *Father Wounds*, *Church Wounds*, *Awakened*, *A City That Looks Like Heaven*, and *Your Supernatural Life!*

He is presently working on a 5-Part Biopic entitled: *"JESUS FREAK — One Man's Journey Into Life's Greatest Adventure."* (Voted #1 Faith-Based Web Series in the past year by WeScreenPlay) Francis and his wife, Suzie, raised twin daughters; Deborah married Daniel Giles, and Havilah married Ben Cunnington. They are blessed with seven grandchildren.

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