

# Searching for Significance

A magnifying glass with a black handle and a white oval lens is positioned over the word 'Significance' in the title. The lens is focused on the word, making it appear larger and more prominent than the rest of the text.

**...seek and ye shall find...**

**— Jesus Christ (Matthew 7:7 and Luke 11:9)**

**Lionel Hartley, PhD**

Searching for Significance

By Lionel D C Hartley, PhD

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## **Pericope: Romans 12:1-3**

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. 3) For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but

to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."



# Introduction

Have you ever said to yourself: “God doesn't really care about me... I am an unlovable, worthless person... Nobody will ever love me ...I'll never be able to change. . .I've been a failure all my life ...I guess I'll always be a failure.. .If people really knew me, they wouldn't like me?"

I have entitled this study, *Searching for Significance*. For additional information, I refer you to my book *Building Self-Esteem and Confidence*.

In particular you will find some tools for you to build your own Confidence

Kit. But for now we shall look together at the biblical bases for self esteem.

# Chapter 1

## Looking Within

Have you ever asked yourself, “What effect, if any, does the Bible have on my self esteem?”

Do we seek for security and purpose from worldly sources: personal success, status, beauty, wealth and the approval of others?

Is our self-esteem based on others' approval or on our own personal experience of the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ?

Why is it so difficult to turn on the light of objectivity on ourselves by ourselves? (Jeremiah 17:9,10 KJV The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.)

Why are we so afraid to take an honest look within ourselves? Are we afraid of what we will find? (1 John 1:8 KJV If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.)

And even if we discover what's wrong with us, are we afraid that nothing can help us?

Whether our hurts are mild or severe, it is wise to be honest about them in the context of affirming relationships so that healing can begin.

King David said in Psalm 51:6, “Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.”

David said this after living a lie, hiding his sin with Bathsheba, for the better part of a year.

The Lord desires truth and honesty at the deepest level and wants us to experience his forgiveness, love and power.

The Psalms give us great insight into what it means to be honest with God.

In this exercise we shall consider the biblical basis for our self-worth. We will seek: 1) To identify and understand the nature of man's search for significance. 2) To recognise and challenge inadequate answers in our search and 3) To understand and apply God's solutions to our search for significance.

As we explore this, ask God for the courage to be honest. Give Him permission to shine the Spirit's light on your thoughts, feelings, words, attitudes and actions.

Ask God to turn His light on in your life. (Psalm 139:23-24 KJV Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24) And see if there be any wicked way in me, and

lead me in the way everlasting.)

Joni Eareckson Tada in her book, *Diamonds in the Dust* (Marshall Pickering, London 1993, p58) writes, 'A woman recently asked me, "Joni, you seem so confident. Have you always been that way?"'

Inwardly I smiled. If she only knew the knots I feel in my stomach before I speak to a crowd or the times I'm scared stiff to sit in front of a blank canvas with a paintbrush.

They call it insecurity and, for me, it started in my early scramble to keep up with three older, more athletic sisters.

As a four-year-old, I would cling to the saddle-horn as my sixteen-hand-high horse galloped behind the steeds

of my sisters. I didn't dare tell them how scared I was!

My life journey has been to put aside those insecurities. My wheelchair has helped.

At first, it made me feel more insecure, but over the years God has used the chair to force me to sit still, quit competing, and be quiet before Him. That was all I needed!

People are only as secure as the source of their security; if we are secure in Christ, then we have every reason to be confident.

Christian psychologists say that good mental health springs from two things: security and significance.



Security in who we are and significance in what we do. Since Christ is the source of peace, joy, strength and rest, and in Him we live and move and have our very being, we can be secure and feel significant when we place our trust in Jesus.”

(Acts 17:27-28 NIV God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28. “For in him we live and move and have our being.” As some of your own poets have said, “We are his offspring".)'

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## **Chapter 2**

# **The Nature of Man's Search**

In order to proceed, we need to identify and understand the nature of man's search for significance.

Most of us have such a desire for the love and approval of others that we live to please them (vs. pleasing God). Those who live for the approval of others are never satisfied, at least not for very long.

A very basic personal need of each individual is to regard himself as a

worthwhile human being. The need we have for the approval of others underscores a greater need — the need for self-worth.

The Scriptures provide the essentials for discovering our true significance, purpose and worth.

The basic purpose why we were created is to honour and glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

Our value is derived from the fact that we are a special creation of God-created in His image.

The first step in discovering our self-worth is understanding the truth that makes life significant.

Some secular psychologists focus on

self-esteem with the goal of simply feeling good about ourselves. A biblical self-concept focuses on self-worth based on an accurate perception of God, ourselves and others.

Self-esteem (feeling good about ourselves) is not enough, we need to have self acceptance, worth, and respect.

Understanding this basic need opens the door to understanding what motivates our attitudes and actions. Since our need for self-worth and significance is God-given, only God knows how to best fulfil these needs.

Many of us make the serious mistake of trying to meet legitimate God-given needs in illegitimate ways. Many are of

us deceived into believing that the basis of our self-worth is our performance and ability to please others.

For better or for worse, our self-esteem and view of God is usually a mirror of our parents' attitude toward us. For most of us, our parents and especially our fathers served as our models of the character of our heavenly

Father, sometimes with tragic consequences.

A basic question we need to ask ourselves is, “Am I trusting in the death of Christ for my sins and His resurrection to give me new life?”

If we would have a healthy self-concept, we must give up our efforts to

achieve righteousness and trust in Christ's death and His resurrection alone to enable us to experience God's love and forgiveness.

The key to a biblical self-concept is to recognise that personal worth is a gift of God.

It is not earned or achieved, cannot be added to or taken away from, need not be proved and must not be denied.

We do nothing to qualify for it. It is ours because of Christ. As with any gift, it must be consciously received or accepted with thanksgiving.

We need to undergo a transition from a “have to” works mentality to a grace “want to” mentality.

Changing our thinking requires three things: a knowledge and application of God's Word, the power of the Holy Spirit and the encouragement of others.

Christ is the source of security, significance and self-worth-the only one who promises and never fails.

There are several elements which work together over time to promote a healthy sense of self worth: humility, honesty, affirming relationships, right thinking, godly wisdom and the Holy Spirit's Power.



# **Chapter 3**

## **Recognise and Challenge Inadequate Bases for Self- Esteem**

Secondly, we must recognise and challenge inadequate bases for our self-esteem.

There are four false beliefs resulting from Satan's deceptions with corresponding negative consequences:

### **1. The Performance Trap**

This trap says, "I must meet certain standards in order to feel good about myself."

Consequences of the performance trap:

The fear of failure; perfectionism; being driven to succeed; manipulating others to achieve success; withdrawal from healthy risks, anger, resentment, pride, depression and low motivation.

**God's Answer to the performance trap:**

Justification (by grace through faith) — just as if I had never sinned.

Romans 5:1: “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Because of justification, I am completely forgiven and fully pleasing to God; I no longer need to fear failure.

Results of God's Solution to the performance trap:

Increasing freedom from the fear of failure; desire to pursue the right things: Christ and His kingdom; greater love for Christ and desire to please Him through loving and serving others.

## **Why Obey God?**

There are many reasons why we should want to obey God. Here are some:

Christ's love motivates us to live for Him. (2 Corinthians 5:14 KJV) For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead.

Sin is destructive and should be

avoided. (Galatians 6:7-8 KJV) Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8) For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Our Heavenly Fatherly lovingly disciplines us for wrongdoing. (Hebrews 12:6 KJV) For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

His commands are good: they are an expression of His love and wisdom. (Romans 12:2 KJV) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that

good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

We will receive eternal rewards for faithfulness and obedience. (Galatians 6:10 KJV) As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Christ knows what's best and wants what's best and is worthy of our obedience. (John 10:10 KJV) The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Everything God does is worthy of our love, loyalty, trust and obedience. (2 Samuel 22:4 and Psalms 18:3 KJV)

I will call on the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. And (Revelation 5:2-5 KJV) And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? 3) And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. 4) And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. 5) And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda [Judah], the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

## **2. The Approval Addiction**

This says, "I must be approved (accepted) by others to feel good about myself."

### **Consequences of the approval addiction:**

The fear of rejection; attempting to please others at any cost; overly sensitive to criticism; withdrawing from others to avoid disapproval, being easily manipulated, co-dependency; control, depression, etc.

### **God's Answer to the approval addiction:**

Reconciliation — brought into a right relationship with God.  
(Colossians 1:21-22 KJV) And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked

works, yet now hath he reconciled 22)  
In the body of his flesh through death,  
to present you holy and unblameable  
and unreproueable in his sight.

Because of reconciliation, I am  
totally accepted by God. I no longer  
have to fear rejection. God is at peace  
with me.

### **Results of God's Solution to the approval addiction:**

Increasing freedom from the fear of  
rejection; a willingness to be open and  
vulnerable, I am able to relax around  
others; I have a willingness to take  
criticism; I desire to please God no  
matter what others think.

How does God feel about me?  
(Jeremiah 29:11 KJV) For I know the



thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. And (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 KJV) Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5) Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6) Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7) Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

### **Exercise in recognising God's love:**

Now because God is love, this is a legitimate exercise: Substitute the word "God" for the word "love".

(1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Modified Version)  
[God] suffereth long, and [God] is kind;

[God] envieth not; [God] vaunteth not  
itself, [God] is not puffed up, 5) [God]  
doth not behave unseemly, [God]  
seeketh not His own, [God] is not easily  
provoked, [God] thinketh no evil; 6)  
[God] rejoiceth not in iniquity, but [God]  
rejoiceth in the truth; 7) [God] Beareth  
all things, [God] believeth all things,  
[God] hopeth all things, and [God]  
endureth all things. (1 Corinthians  
13:4-7 Modified Version) [God]  
suffereth long, and [God] is kind; [God]  
envieth not; [God] vaunteth not itself,  
[God] is not puffed up, 5) [God] doth not  
behave unseemly, [God] seeketh not His  
own, [God] is not easily provoked, [God]  
thinketh no evil; 6) [God] rejoiceth not  
in iniquity, but [God] rejoiceth in the  
truth; 7) [God] Beareth all things, [God]

believeth all things, [God] hopeth all things, and [God] endureth all things.

And so we see that our Heavenly Father is: (1) very patient and kind; (2) not envious, never boastful; (3) not arrogant; (4) never rude nor self-seeking; (5) not quick to take offence; (6) keeps no score of wrongs; (7) does not gloat over my sins but is glad when truth prevails; (8) knows no limit to His endurance, no end to His trust; (9) always hopeful and patient.

### **3. The third false belief is The Blame Game:**

The blame game says, "Those who fail are unworthy of love and deserve to be punished."

### **Consequences of the blame game:**

The fear of punishment; punishing others; blaming others for personal failure; withdrawal from God and others; driven to avoid failure.

### **God's Answer to the blame game:**

Propitiation — God's holiness and justice is satisfied by Christ's death in our place. (1 John 4:9-11 KJV) In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10) Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation [atoning sacrifice, literally the 'mercy seat'] for our sins. 11) Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. And (Romans 8:1 KJV) There is therefore now no

condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Because of propitiation, I am deeply loved by God I no longer have to fear punishment or punish myself or others.

Results of God's Solution to the blame game:

Increasing freedom from the fear of punishment; patience and kindness toward others; being quick to apply forgiveness— to gain and maintain a clear conscience; a deep-seated love for Christ.

#### **4. And a fourth false belief is Shame:**

Shame says, “I just can't help it, that's just the way I am. I cannot

change. I am hopeless."

### **Consequences of shame:**

Feelings of shame, hopelessness, inferiority; passivity; loss of creativity; isolation; withdrawal from others, resigned to failure; a feeling of helplessness.

### **God's Answer to shame:**

Regeneration-being spiritually reborn by the Word and Spirit of God. (John 3:3-6 KJV) Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4) Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto

thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. And (Titus 3:5 KJV) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

Because of regeneration, I am a new creation-complete in Christ. I no longer need to experience the pain of shame. I have a new nature, a new heart, a new occupant on the throne, a new source of identity— who I am in Christ.

### **Jesus shows me acceptance:**

As a saint (Ephesians 1:1 KJV Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of

God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus.) Jesus calls me a saint. (Eph 2:19 KJV Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God).

As adopted (Ephesians 1:5-6 KJV Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6) To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.) I have been adopted as God's child into His family.

As belonging (Mark 9:41 KJV For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you,



he shall not lose his reward.) I belong to God.

Bought with a Price (1 Corinthians 6:20 KJV For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.) I am a purchased possession.

Chosen by God and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16 KJV Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.)

Christ's friend (John 15:15 KJV Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord

doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.) I am a friend of God.

Complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.) In Him I am made whole.

Direct access to God now through the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:18 KJV For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.)

God's child (John 1:12 KJV But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.) I am a child of God.

Justified (Romans 5:1-2 KJV

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2) By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.) I have been acquitted and cleared of all wrong just as if I had never sinned.

Member of Christ's body (1 Corinthians 12:27 KJV Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.) I am a welcomed into His body of believers.

One in spirit with Him. (1 Corinthians 6:17 KJV But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.) I am joined to Him.

Redeemed and forgiven of all my

sins (Colossians 1:14 KJV In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.)

United with the Lord (Philippians 2:1, 2 NIV If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2) then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

### **Jesus shows me security:**

God will finish what He has started in me. (Philippians 1:6 KJV Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.)

I have been given soundness of mind  
(2 Timothy 1:7 KJV For God hath not  
given us the spirit of fear; but of power,  
and of love, and of a sound mind.)

I am sealed by the Holy Spirit  
(Ephesians 1:13 KJV In whom ye also  
trusted, after that ye heard the word of  
truth, the gospel of your salvation: in  
whom also after that ye believed, ye  
were sealed with that holy Spirit of  
promise) and (Ephesians 4:30 KJV  
And grieve not the holy Spirit of God,  
whereby ye are sealed unto the day of  
redemption.)

God will give me grace and mercy  
any time I need it (Hebrews 4:16 KJV  
Let us therefore come boldly unto the  
throne of grace, that we may obtain  
mercy, and find grace to help in time of

need.)

I am established and anointed by God (2 Corinthians 1:21-22 KJV Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; 22) Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.)

I am hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3 KJV For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.)

I am a citizen of Heaven (Philippians 3:20 KJV For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.)

I am secure from the evil one (1 John 5:18 KJV We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is

begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.)

No Condemnation (Romans 8:1, 2 KJV There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.).I'm free from being condemned.

No accusation (Romans 8:31-34 KJV What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32) He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33) Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's

elect? It is God that justifieth. 34) Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.) I'm free from any condemning charges against me.

No Separation (Romans 8:35-39 KJV  
Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36) As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37) Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38) For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor



powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39) Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.)

### **Jesus shows me significance:**

I can do all things through Christ who is willing to give me strength (Philippians 4:13 KJV) I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.)

I am a branch of the true vine, coupled to His life (John 15:1-5 KJV I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2) Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. 3) Now ye are clean through the

word which I have spoken unto you. 4) Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.)

I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realm (Ephesians 2:5-6 KJV Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:)

I am a personal witness of Christ (Acts 1:8 KJV But ye shall receive

power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.)

I am God's workmanship (Ephesians 2:10 KJV For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.)

I have full acceptance (Eph 2:19 KJV Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God.)

I am Gods co-worker (2 Corinthians 3:9 KJV For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more

doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.) and (2 Corinthians 6:1 KJV We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.)

I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Ephesians 3:11b-12 KJV ... Christ Jesus our Lord: 12) In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.)

I am God's temple (1 Corinthians 3:16-17 KJV Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 17) If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.)

I am the salt and light of the earth

(Matthew 5:13-14 KJV Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14) Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.)

I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Corinthians 5:17-21 KJV Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18) And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their

trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20) Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21) For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.)

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16 KJV Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.)

## **Results of God's Solution to shame:**

Christ-centred self confidence;  
confidence; joy, courage, peace; a  
desire to know Christ.

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# **Chapter 4**

## **God's First Solutions to Our Search for Significance**

We need to apply God's solutions to our search for significance.

The Holy Spirit as the source of change. (Galatians 5:22, 23 KJV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

What obstacles keep us from experiencing Christ's presence and

power in our lives?

1. Too selfish in motivation — we must have as our ambition to please and glorify Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:31 KJV) Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. And (2 Corinthians 5:15 KJV) And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

2. Too mechanical — Christ Himself, not rules or process, is the source of security, joy and meaning. (Philippians 1:21 KJV) For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

3. Too mystical — too much dependence on feelings. Feelings are

not God's primary means of communication.

4. Too little discernment — failure to realise the nature and depth of the love and power available to us in Christ.

(Romans 8:38-39 KJV) For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39) Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

5. Too little repentance — harbouring sin that is deceptive, destructive and breaks our fellowship with Christ. (1 John 1:9 KJV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us

from all unrighteousness.

# Chapter 5 God's Second Solution to Our Search for Significance

God's second solution is through the renewing the Mind — the spiritual battleground. (Romans 12:1-3 KJV) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will

of God. 3) For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. And (Luke 17:10 KJV) So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

How is our mind renewed? First, we expose our negative thoughts, false beliefs and traps that trigger our negative emotions. We can begin to allow God's Word and Spirit to transform us by the renewing of our minds. (Romans 12:1-2 KJV) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the

mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Renewing our minds comes from meditating and assimilating God's Word into our lives. (Psalm 1:1-3 KJV) Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2) But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3) And he shall be like a

tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper..

Paul teaches that there are certain types of thoughts that should occupy our minds. (Philippians 4:8 KJV)  
Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

The battle with sin is fought and won or lost in our hearts and minds. (2 Corinthians 10:5 KJV) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that



exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. And (Romans 8:5-11 KJV) For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6) For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7) Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8) So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. 9) But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10) And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin;

but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11) But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

We should experience an overwhelming thankfulness for our forgiveness in response to God's grace.

How is our mind renewed? Secondly by utilising the weapons of our warfare. (Ephesians 6:13-17 KJV) Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14) Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of

righteousness; 15) And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16) Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And (2 Corinthians 10:3-5 KJV) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4) (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

Our offensive weapon is the Sword

## of the Spirit

What are our basic options in responding to specific situations?

1) Satan's deceptions — False beliefs lead to ungodly thoughts which are revealed as negative emotions that result in ungodly actions

2) God's solutions — God's truth leads to godly thoughts which are revealed as fruit of the spirit that result in godly actions

3) Biblical repentance, in part, involves rejecting false beliefs and affirming godly truth.

And 4) There can be no permanent, positive change apart from continual, sincere and godly repentance.

# **Chapter 6**

## **God's Third Solution to Our Search for Significance**

### **God's solution:**

Guilt vs. Conviction. (Romans 8:1-4 KJV) There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the

likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

1) There is no burden which produces pain, fear and alienation like the feeling of guilt.

2) The good news is that Christ has freed us from the guilt and condemnation that our sins deserve.

3) Because of Christ's death on our behalf, we are absolved and acquitted of our guilt-declared not guilty.

4) Christians are freed from guilt, but we are still subject to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit.

5) Our status as God's children and our self-worth are secure by the grace of God. (John 1:12-13 KJV) But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13) Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

6) Conviction deals with sinful attitudes and actions; it deals with fellowship, not relationship.

7) Guilt means liability to be punished for our sins. (Romans 6:23 KJV) For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

But because of Christ we are no

longer liable to be punished. (Romans 8:1 KJV) There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

8) The remedy for guilt is to trust Jesus as our saviour from sin, being justified by faith. (Romans 8:1 [see above])

And 9) The remedy for conviction is confession — agreeing with God concerning our sin. (1 John 1:9 KJV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



## Chapter 7

# Who is the Real You?

An old Cherokee was teaching his grandson about life.

"A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy. "It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil — he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other is good — he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. This same fight is going on

inside you— and inside every other person, too."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

Your old nature or your new nature? The answer is simple: the one that will be with you for all eternity.

If you only have one nature (your sinful, selfish human nature) then that is the real you. (Ephesians 2:3-4 KJV) Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as

others. 4) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

If you have a new nature (given to you by the Holy Spirit) then that is the real you. (2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV)  
Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

If you want to have a healthy biblical self-concept, you need to recognise the real you. (Ephesians 4:3 KJV)  
Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

The Apostle Paul clearly distinguished between the character and results of the old nature and the

new nature. The differences centre around four words: know, consider, present and obey.

## **1) We need to Know**

We need to know the basic facts about who we are in Christ. (Romans 6:3-10 KJV) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin

might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7) For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8) Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: 9) Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10) For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

## **2) We need to Consider**

We need to consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God. (Romans 6:11 KJV) Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **3) We need to Present**

We need to present ourselves as

instruments of righteousness. (Romans 6:12-13 KJV) Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 13) Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

#### **And 4) We need to Obey**

Perpetuate our commitment through moment-by-moment obedience to Christ. (Romans 6:15-18 KJV) What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. 16) Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey;

whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? 17) But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18) Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Our goal is to honour Christ because He is worthy of our faith, love, loyal and obedience.

We honour Christ by accurately representing Him in every thought, action, relationship, and conversation and through bearing His image.

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# Chapter 8

## The Application

Our reading time will be wasted unless we look at it application of what we have learned.

How do we apply these truths to our lives?

Understand the truths of redemption and the corresponding false beliefs. The ability to understand truth and recognise deception is a vital first step.

Learn to reject the lies and replace them with biblical truths so we can renew our minds. Look for ways to

accurately represent Christ in every situation and relationship.

Teach these truths to others — communicate spiritual truths as God gives you opportunity.

We are stewards of the important spiritual truths contained in the Gospel.

Keep on keeping on — develop a godly tenacity and keep following Christ. (John 8:32 KJV) And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

In due time we shall reap if we don't get discouraged and give up. (Galatians 6:9 KJV) And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

## **And finally:**

Realise that you are deeply loved, completely forgiven, fully pleasing, totally accepted, and complete in Christ because of what He has done on your behalf. You are free! Free to “proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light”. (1 Peter 2:9, 10 KJV) But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 10) Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

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# Appendix

## The Love Letter

Our conclusion is from *Father Heart Communications* and is God's personal love letter to you.

The words you are about to read and the references you are about to look up to substantiate each statement are true.

They will change your life if you let them, for they came from the heart of God.

He loves you and He is the Father that you may well have been looking for all your life.

This is His love letter to you.

God says, personally to you: “You may not know me, but I know everything about you.” (Psalm 139:1 KJV) To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me.

God says, personally to you: “I know when you sit down and when you rise up. (Psalm 139:2 KJV) Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

God says, personally to you: “I am familiar with all your ways.” (Psalm 139:3 KJV) Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.

God says, personally to you: “Even

the very hairs on your head are numbered.” (Matthew 10:29-31 KJV)  
Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. 30) But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31) Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

God says, personally to you: “For you were made in my image.” (Genesis 1:27 KJV) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

God says, personally to you: “In me you live and move and have your being.” (Acts 17:28 KJV) For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have

said, For we are also his offspring.

God says, personally to you: “For you are my offspring.” (Acts 17:28 KJV) For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

God says, personally to you: “I knew you even before you were conceived.” (Jeremiah 1:4-5 KJV) Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, 5) Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

God says, personally to you: “I chose you when I planned creation.”



(Ephesians 1:11-12 KJV) In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: 12) That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

God says, personally to you: “You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book.” (Psalm 139:15-16 KJV) My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16) Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

God says, personally to you: “I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live.” (Acts 17:26 KJV) And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

God says, personally to you: “You are fearfully and wonderfully made.” (Psalm 139:14 KJV) I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

God says, personally to you: “I knit you together in your mother's womb.” (Psalm 139:13 KJV) For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

God says, personally to you: “And brought you forth on the day you were born.” (Psalm 71:6 KJV) By thee have I been holden up from the womb: thou art he that took me out of my mother's bowels: my praise shall be continually of thee.

God says, personally to you: “I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me.” (John 8:41-44 KJV) Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. 42) Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. 43) Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot

hear my word. 44) Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

God says, personally to you: “I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love.” (1 John 4:16 KJV) And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

God says, personally to you: “And it is my desire to lavish my love on you simply because you are my child and I am your father.” (1 John 3:1 KJV)

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

God says, personally to you: “I offer you more than your earthly father ever could.” (Matthew 7:11 KJV) If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

God says, personally to you: “For I am the perfect father.” (Matthew 5:48 KJV) Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

God says, personally to you: “Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand.” (James 1:17 KJV) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

God says, personally to you: “For I am your provider and I meet all your needs.” (Matthew 6:31-33 KJV) Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32) (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33) But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his

righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

God says, personally to you: “My plan for your future has always been filled with hope (Jeremiah 29:11-14 KJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. 12) Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. 13) And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. 14) And I will be found of you, saith the Lord: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the Lord; and I will

bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.

God says, personally to you:  
“Because I love you with an everlasting love.” (Jeremiah 31:3 KJV)  
The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

God says, personally to you: “My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore.” (Psalm 139:17-18 KJV) How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! 18) If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.



God says, personally to you: “And I rejoice over you with singing.”

(Zephaniah 3:17 KJV) The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

God says, personally to you: “I will never stop doing good to you.”

(Jeremiah 32:40 KJV) And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

God says, personally to you: “For you are my treasured possession.”

(Exodus 19:5 KJV) Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep

my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

God says, personally to you: “I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul.” (Jeremiah 32:41 KJV)  
Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul.

God says, personally to you: “And I want to show you great and marvelous things.” (Jeremiah 33:3 KJV) Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

God says, personally to you: “If you seek me with all your heart, you will

find me.” (Deuteronomy 4:29-31 KJV)  
But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. 30) When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the Lord thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; 31) (For the Lord thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.

God says, personally to you:  
“Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4 KJV) Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

God says, personally to you: “For it is I who gave you those desires.” (Philippians 2:13 KJV) For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

God says, personally to you: “I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine.” (Ephesians 3:20-21 KJV) Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21) Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

God says, personally to you: “For I am your greatest encourager.” (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 KJV) Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God,

even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, 17) Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

God says, personally to you: “I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles.” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4 KJV) Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4) Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

God says, personally to you: “When you are broken-hearted, I am close to

you.” (Psalm 34:18 KJV) The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

God says, personally to you: “As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart.” (Isaiah 40:11 KJV) He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. and (Matthew 8:10-14 KJV) When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. 11) And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with

Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. 12) But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 13) And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour. 14) And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever.

God says, personally to you: “One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes and will take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth.” (Revelation 21:3-4 KJV) And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with

men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4) And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

God says, personally to you: “I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus.” (John 17:23 KJV) I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

God says, personally to you: “For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed.”



(John 17:26 KJV) And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

God says, personally to you: “He is the exact representation of my being.” (Hebrews 1:3-4 KJV) Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; 4) Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

God says, personally to you: “He came to demonstrate that I am for you,

not against you.” (Romans 8:31 KJV)  
What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

God says, personally to you: “And to tell you that I am not counting your sins.” (2 Corinthians 5:18-19 KJV)  
And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

God says, personally to you: “Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled.” (2 Corinthians 5:18-19

KJV) And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

God says, personally to you: “His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you.” (1 John 4:10 KJV) Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

God says, personally to you: “I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love.” (Romans 8:31-32 KJV) What shall we then say to these

things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32) He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

God says, personally to you: “If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me.” (1 John 2:23 KJV)

Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

God says, personally to you: “And nothing will ever separate you from my love again.” (Romans 8:38-39 KJV)

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39) Nor height, nor

depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God says, personally to you: “Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen.” (Luke 15:7 KJV) I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

God says, personally to you: “I have always been Father, and will always be Father.” (Ephesians 3:14-19 KJV) For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15) Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16) That he would grant you, according to the riches of

his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17) That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18) May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19) And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

God says, personally to you: “My question is...Will you be my child?.” (John 1:12-13 KJV) But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13) Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but

of God.

God says, personally to you: “I am waiting for you.” (Luke 15:11-32 KJV)  
And he said, A certain man had two sons: 12) And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. 13) And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. 14) And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. 15) And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16) And he would fain have filled his belly with

the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. 17) And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18) I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19) And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. 20) And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. 21) And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. 22)



But the father said to his servants,  
Bring forth the best robe, and put it on  
him; and put a ring on his hand, and  
shoes on his feet: 23) And bring hither  
the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us  
eat, and be merry: 24) For this my son  
was dead, and is alive again; he was  
lost, and is found. And they began to  
be merry. 25) Now his elder son was in  
the field: and as he came and drew  
nigh to the house, he heard music and  
dancing. 26) And he called one of the  
servants, and asked what these things  
meant. 27) And he said unto him, Thy  
brother is come; and thy father hath  
killed the fatted calf, because he hath  
received him safe and sound. 28) And  
he was angry, and would not go in:  
therefore came his father out, and

entreated him. 29) And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: 30) But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. 31) And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. 32) It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

FIN

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L & R  
Hartley

# Searching for Significance

## with Dr Lionel Hartley

The Biblical Basis for Our Self-Worth

### The biblical basis for our self-worth

#### Introduction

- Jeremiah 17:9,10
- 1 John 1:8
- Psalm 51:6



## **The biblical basis for our self-worth**

- **To identify and understand the nature of man's search for significance.**
- **To recognise and challenge inadequate answers in our search and**
- **To understand and apply God's solutions to our search for significance.**
- **Psalms 139:23-24**

## **The biblical basis for our self-worth**

- **1. We Need to Identify and Understand the Nature of Man's Search for Significance**



## **Video Clip: The Father's Love Letter**

A bright, glowing light source, possibly the sun, is positioned in the center of the frame, shining through a hole in a blue sky. The light creates a strong lens flare effect, illuminating the surrounding sky and the blue ocean below. The overall scene is serene and hopeful.

### **The biblical basis for our self-worth**

**Elements which work together over time to  
promote a healthy sense of self worth:**

- **Humility**
- **Honesty**
- **Affirming relationships**
- **Right thinking**
- **Godly wisdom and**
- **The Holy Spirit's Power.**

# **The biblical basis for our self-worth**

**Recognise and challenge inadequate bases for  
our self-esteem.**



## **False Beliefs**

### **1. The Performance Trap**

- **Consequences**
- **God's Answer: Justification Rom 5:1**
- **Because of justification, I ...**
- **Results of God's Solution**



## **Reasons why we should want to obey God**

- **2 Cor. 5:14**
- **Galatians 6:7-8**
- **Hebrews 12: 6**
- **Romans 12: 2**
- **Galatians 6: 10**
- **Christ knows & wants what's best**
- **Christ is worthy of our obedience.**
- **Everything God does is worthy of our love, loyalty, trust and obedience.**

## **False Beliefs**

### **2. The Approval Addiction**

- **Consequences**
- **God's Answer: Reconciliation Colossians 1:21-22**
- **Because of reconciliation, I ...**
- **Results of God's Solution**

# How does God feel about me?

- **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**



## My Heavenly Father is:

- **1. Very patient and kind;**
- **2. not envious, never boastful;**
- **3. not arrogant;**
- **4. never rude nor self-seeking;**
- **5. not quick to take offence;**
- **6. keeps no score of wrongs;**
- **7. does not gloat over my sins but is glad when truth prevails;**
- **8. knows no limit to His endurance, no end to His trust;**
- **9. always hopeful and patient.**

## **False Beliefs**

### **3. The Blame Game**

- **Consequences:**
- **God's Answer: Propitiation 1 John 4:9-11  
Romans 8:1**
- **Because of propitiation, I ...**
- **Results of God's Solution**

## **False Beliefs**

### **4. Shame**

- **Consequences.**
- **God's Answer: Regeneration John 3:3-6,  
Titus 3:5**
- **Because of regeneration, I ...**
- **Results of God's Solution**

# **Applying God's Solutions to Our Search for Significance**

**God's first solution:**

- **The Holy Spirit**
- **Galatians 5:22, 23.**



## **Obstacles that keep us from experiencing Christ's presence and power**

- 1. Too selfish in motivation**  
**1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 5:15**
- 2. Too mechanical Phil.1:21**
- 3. Too mystical**
- 4. Too little discernment**
- 5. Too little repentance 1 John 1:9**

# **Applying God's Solutions to Our Search for Significance**

**God's second solution:**

- **Renewing the Mind**
- **Romans 12:1-3**
- **Luke 17:10**
- **Psalms 1:1-3**



## **Thoughts**

- **Philipians 4:8**
- **2 Corinthians 10:5**
- **Romans 8:5-11**



# Weapons of our Warfare

- **Ephesians 6:13-17**
- **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**



# Our Basic Options

1. **Satan's deceptions**
2. **God's solutions**
3. **Biblical repentance.**
4. **Permanent, positive change**

# **Applying God's Solutions to Our Search for Significance**

**God's third solution:**

- **Guilt vs. Conviction**
- **Romans 8:1**

# **Applying God's Solutions to Our Search for Significance**

- 1. Guilt.**
- 2. Freedom**
- 3. Absolved and acquitted**
- 4. Subject to the convicting power of the Holy Spirit.**
- 5. Security John 1:12-13**
- 6. Conviction (fellowship, not relationship)**
- 7. No longer liable to be punished.**
- 8. The remedy for guilt Romans 8:1**
- 9. The remedy for conviction 1 John 1:9**

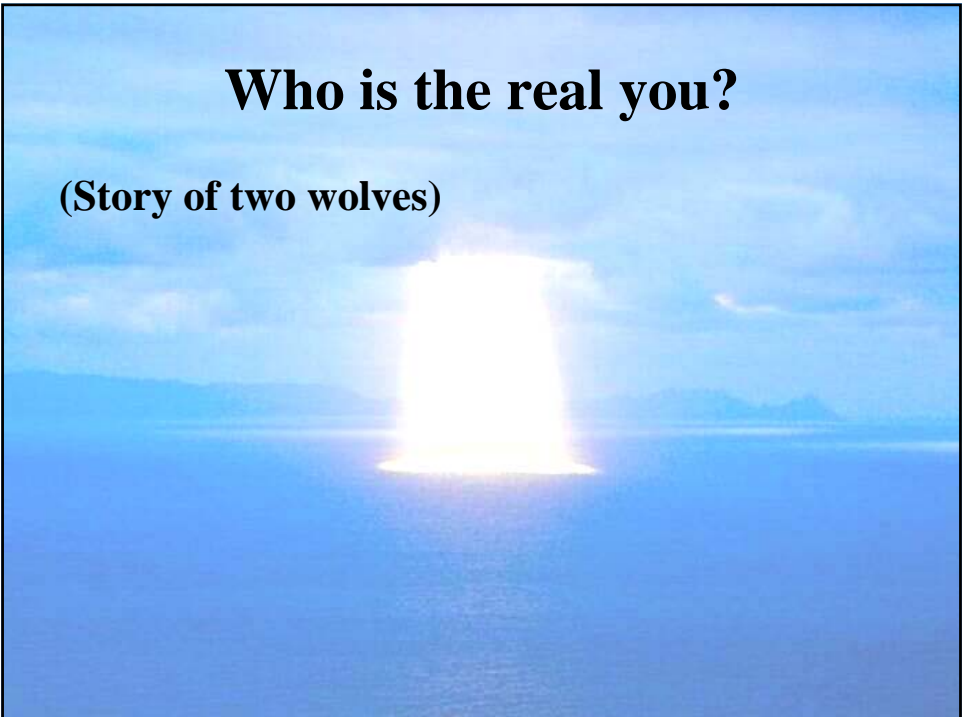
# **Video**

**(The Truth)**



# **Who is the real you?**

**(Story of two wolves)**

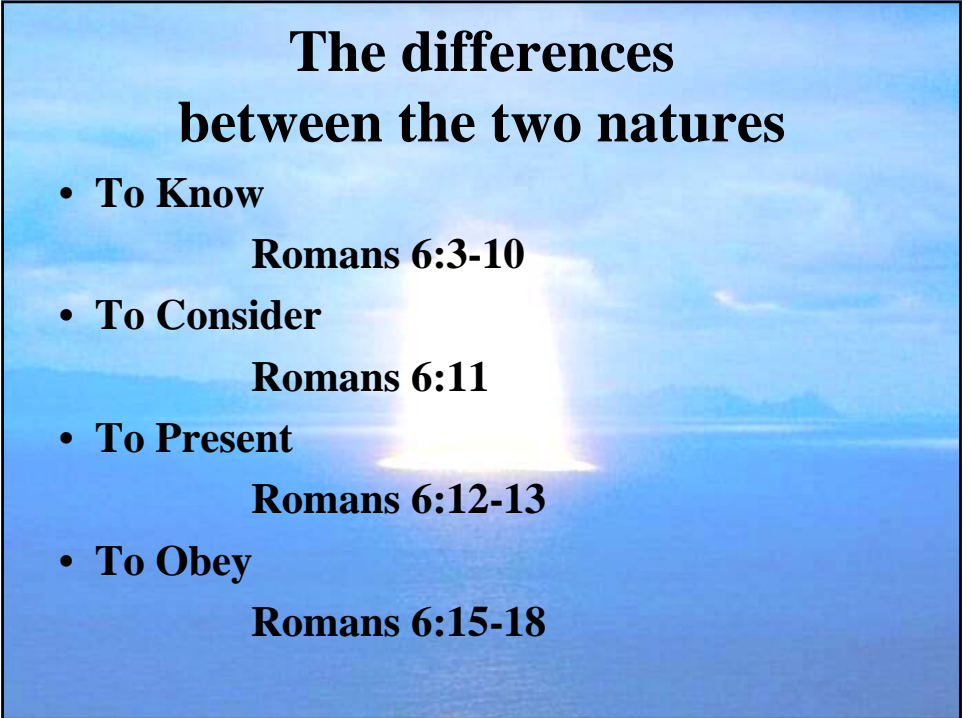






## **Your old nature or your new nature?**

- **Ephesians 2:3-4**
- **2 Corinthians 5:17**
- **Ephesians 4:3**



## **The differences between the two natures**

- **To Know**  
**Romans 6:3-10**
- **To Consider**  
**Romans 6:11**
- **To Present**  
**Romans 6:12-13**
- **To Obey**  
**Romans 6:15-18**

## **Application: How do we apply these truths to our lives?**

- **Understand**
- **Learn**
- **Teach**
- **Keep on keeping on**

**John 8:32**

**Galatians 6:9b**

## **And finally...**

- **Realise that you are deeply loved, completely forgiven, fully pleasing, totally accepted, and complete in Christ because of what He has done on your behalf.**
- **1 Pet. 2:9**