

Spiritual Fulfillment

How would YOU finish this sentence?



"One thing have I desired of the Lord; that will I seek after _____"

What is the greatest desire and longing of your heart?

- In the answer to that question lies the explanation for much of what we do – our choices, our priorities, our use of time, the way we spend money, the way we respond to pressure, whom or what we love.
- David's answer reveals why God could say, 'This man's heart beats like mine.'

~ Nancy Leigh DeMoss

⇒ **Read** Psalm 27:4 (on the sidebar) to find David's answer.

Three Spiritual Needs

► Significance

- ▷ God created us with a need to live **Meaningful Lives**.
- ▷ People want *their life to count for something*. They wonder, "**Why am I here?**"

"For we are His workmanship [masterpiece], created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10, ESV

❖ **Circle** what we were "created" to do.

"If a man is called to be a STREET SWEEPER, he should sweep streets even as a **Michelangelo** painted, or **Beethoven** composed music or **Shakespeare** wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, '**Here lived a great STREET SWEEPER who did his job well.**'"

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.



► Security

- ▷ God created us with a need to live **Confident Lives**.
- ▷ People want to *be safe and have a secure future*. They wonder, "**Where am I going?**"

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11, ESV

❖ **Underline** *four* descriptions of God's "plans" for us.

► Self-Worth

- ▷ God created us with a need to live **Valuable Lives**.
- ▷ People want to *be appreciated and accepted*. They wonder, "**Who am I?**"

"Everyone who is called by my name, whom I [God] created for my glory, whom I formed and made." Isaiah 43:7, ESV

❖ **Underline** why God "created" us.



You weren't an accident. You weren't mass produced. You aren't an assembly-line product.



You were deliberately planned, special gifted, and lovingly positioned on the earth by the Master Craftsman. ~ Max Lucado

"One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; **that I may dwell in the house of the LORD** all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple."

Psalm 27:4, KJV

- Your **BIRTH** was no mistake or mishap,
- Your **LIFE** is no fluke of nature.
- Your **PARENTS** may not have planned you, but God did.

He was not at all surprised by your birth. In fact, He expected it.

~ Rick Warren

Where Does Your **Security** Lie?

Is God your **REFUGE**,
your **HIDING PLACE**,
your **STRONGHOLD**,
your **SHEPHERD**,
your **COUNSELOR**,
your **FRIEND**,
your **REDEEMER**,
your **SAVIOR**,
your **GUIDE** ?

If He is, you don't need to search any further for Security.

~ Elisabeth Elliot

☀ If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.

☀ If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it.

☀ He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning...Face it, friend. He is crazy about you! "

~ Max Lucado

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TRUE vs. FALSE Fulfillment

? Where are YOU finding **Significance, Security, and Self-Worth?**

❖ Circle *each* item where you might find your **significance, security, or self-worth.**

WORK	HUSBAND	WIFE
BOYFRIEND	GIRLFRIEND	CHILDREN
MONEY	GOOD DEEDS	INVESTMENTS
CHILDREN'S SUCCESS	AWARDS	APPEARANCE
FRIENDS	DEGREES	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
POSSESSIONS	ABILITIES	PARENTS

When we find fulfillment in the WORLD, we discover it is only temporary.

- Things get old, **people** fail us, **accomplishments** are forgotten, and the **applause** fades.
- We eventually need **more** of these things because they do not satisfy.

When we find fulfillment in GOD, it is complete and lasting.

- Being fulfilled in Christ **frees us** from craving fulfillment in the things of the world.
- It releases us to give of ourselves **without needing anything in return.**

Are You Finding Fulfillment in GOD or in the WORLD?

? How would you react if any of the above items were taken away?

- Those who find fulfillment in **any of the above** will react with **anger** or **anxiety**.
Why? Because taking these things is like taking life itself from them!
- Those who find their fulfillment in **God** will never experience loss because **nothing can separate us from God and His love!**

*"For I am convinced that
neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future,
nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Romans 8:38-39, NIV

❖ Underline **ten** things that will **not** "separate us from the love of God."

*"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor stands in the path of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of the scornful.
But his **delight** is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.
He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water,
that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither;
and whatever he does shall prosper."*

Psalm 1:1-3, NKJV

- ❖ Circle **where** this person finds his "delight."
God's Word is the true source of **security, significance, and self-worth.**
- ❖ Underline the result of this person's lifestyle.
God blesses those who choose wise friends and delight in His Word.

"We prove the **value** we attach to things by the **TIME** we devote to them."



~ Andrew Murray

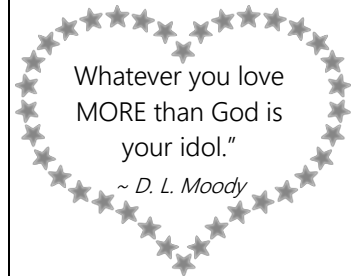


~ Corrie ten Boom

"I cried because I had no SHOES until I met a man who had no FEET."



~Unknown



~ D. L. Moody

? What is the **10th Command?**
(See **Exodus 20:17**.)

"If having **more** would make us **happy**, we would never need the **Tenth Commandment**. It is written for **unhappy** people."

~ Ray Pritchard

"You can't be **CONTENT** and **COVET** at the same time."

~Ray Pritchard

Contentment

*“Now godliness with contentment is great gain,
for we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.
And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.”*
1 Timothy 6:6-8, NKJV

❖ **Underline two** things that are “great gain.”

❖ **Circle** what we can “carry” out of this world.

“There are no **U-Hauls** behind hearses.” ~ John Piper

❖ **Underline** what we need to be “content.”

“You know you are a practicing materialist if there is a certain amount of money you think you must accumulate, or something you believe you must buy, BEFORE you can be happy.” ~ Rod Rogers

*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,
where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.
But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;
for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* Matthew 6:19-21, NASB



❖ **Underline three** ways earthly “treasures” can be damaged.

❖ **Circle** where we can safely invest our “treasures.”

*“...And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said,
‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”* Acts 20:35, NKJV

❖ **Underline** what Jesus said.

The Good Samaritan

*“Jesus replied, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead.
...a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.
...a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.
...a Samaritan...came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.
...bound up his wounds...set him on his own animal
...brought him to an inn and took care of him
...took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying,
‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’”*
Luke 10:30-35, ESV

❖ **Circle** what the **priest** did when he saw the injured man.

❖ **Circle** what the **Levite** did when he saw the injured man.

❖ **Underline** everything the **Samaritan** did to help the injured man.



And so the first question that the PRIEST... [and] the LEVITE asked was:

*“If I stop to help this man, what will happen to **ME?**”*

But then the GOOD SAMARITAN ...reversed the question:

*“If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to **HIM?**”*

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Without **GOD**, life has no **PURPOSE**, and without purpose, life has no **MEANING**.
Without meaning, life has no **SIGNIFICANCE** or **HOPE**. ~ Rick Warren

Contentment
makes poor men RICH.
Discontentment
makes rich men POOR.
~ Benjamin Franklin

The RICHEST Person is
•NOT the one who has the most,
•BUT the one who needs the least.
~ Unknown

? What are ways we can lay up treasures in heaven?

MATERIALISM:

- buying things we don't need
- with money we don't have
- to impress people we don't even like.

~ Kent Hughes

Good Samaritan's Example of...

SIGNIFICANCE – We remember this Samaritan **because** he took care of someone else.

SECURITY – The Samaritan used **his money** to pay for the injured man's recovery.

SELF-WORTH – Samaritans were despised by Jews—including priests and Levites. Yet **only** a Samaritan saw enough value in the injured man to be willing to help him.

Two Denarii – average wage for two days labor



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REAL Significance

"I [Paul] press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14, KJV

❖ **Underline** the "prize" that motivated Paul.


Paul's **only goal** was to please Christ. Nothing else was significant. This gave him a zeal and passion to continue following God despite the intense persecution he encountered.

REAL Self-Worth

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice [payment] for our sins." 1 John 4:10, NIV

❖ **Underline** how God showed His love for us.

- ◆ The **worth** of anything is determined by what someone is willing to pay for it.
- ◆ God gave His Son, Jesus Christ, for you! **Can you think of anyone who values YOU more?**

"Low self-esteem usually means that I think too highly of myself...
When you are in the grips of low self-esteem, it's painful, and it certainly doesn't feel like pride. But I believe that this is the dark, quieter side of pride – **thwarted pride.**" 
~ Edward Welch

REAL Security

"In peace I [David] will both lie down and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety." Psalm 4:8, ESV

❖ **Frame** who gave David "safety."


King David wrote this while fleeing for his life. In spite of danger, he was filled with peace.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6, NIV

❖ **Underline** who goes with us.

❖ **Circle** two things God will **never** do.

"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

- If God really means that, then I don't need to crave after money as the source of my security and identity and pleasure...
- The bondage to money and what it can do for us is only broken by **believing that God can do far more.** 

*Money makes a promise. So does God. The question is: **Whom will you believe?***
~ Sam Storms



Write the rest of these promises from Philippians. (ESV version)

📖 **PHILIPPIANS 1:6** "And I am sure of this, that He who began a _____ in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

📖 **PHILIPPIANS 4:13** "I can do _____ through Him who strengthens me."

📖 **PHILIPPIANS 4:19** "And my God will supply _____ of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."



"The only really happy people are those who have learned how to serve."

~ Rick Warren

*"For you were **bought at a price;** therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."*

1 Corinthians 6:20, NKJV

"YOUR value is not determined by **your valuables,** and



God says the **MOST valuable** things in life are not things!"

~ Rick Warren

*"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of **POWER** and of **LOVE** and of a **SOUND MIND.**"*

~ 2 Timothy 1:7, NKJV

AFFIRMATION

- Christ is my **Significance.**
 - Christ is my **Self-Worth.**
 - Christ is my **Security.**
- Christ is my Life.**

PRAYER

Lord, how wonderful that nothing can separate me from Your love! May I continually look to You for real significance, security, and self-worth. Amen.

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