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Great Truths Concerning Our Lord Jesus Christ

by George R. Brunk II

Here are some facts for our meditation:

Jesus is the brightest, greatest, most powerful person ever to visit planet Earth. He is paralleled and unprecedented, the miracle of the ages, He is incomprehensible and invincible! But He stooped to lift the downtrodden and sinful.

Jesus' birth is the last to be recorded in Scripture. He is the first and only one ever born of a virgin. The only two Gospel writers who record His birth, state that He was virgin. (If He was not so born, then He was just another fallen creature—better than we, only because He tried harder!)

Jesus' short three years plus, of ministry were so filled with action that it would possibly fill eight or nine books equal in size to our whole Bible if the record were as complete as that of His last week.

About one third of the total of the four Gospels is concerned with the events of His final week.

It is impossible to overemphasize or overstate the vast implications of His life, death, resurrection, and ascension. The eternal destiny of every human being depends upon the relationship to Him.

Jesus "took on" the human race to redeem it. This was infinitely more than simply becoming the God-man which He was, is and will ever be! A prizefighter "takes on" his opponent aiming to knock him down and out. Our Lord "took on" the human family (seed of Abraham) to lift and save it! (Hebrews 2:16)

Jesus is the great enigma—paradox of history, sent from heaven, not to Rome, Athens, or Alexandria but to despised Nazareth. (Can any good come from there?)—sent not to a mansion to be born of a queen, but rather to a peasant girl. For His disciples He chose, not the sophisticated and learned, but those who were considered ignorant and unlearned. He was the Great Conqueror, riding not on a charger but on a lowly and untrained ass entering into Jerusalem—not with a military escort in glistening armor

but with the Hosannas of little children!

He, the Creator, surrounded by the host of heaven, in eternity past, and ministered to by them is now treated as a deserted criminal!

He was the shoot from a root out of the parched ground of Israel's unbelief and rebellion (Isaiah 53). But that shoot became a mighty tree with leaves for the healing of the nations!

Jesus "trod the winepress of the wrath of God" alone. His own nation rejected Him. Peter denied Him. His own brothers did not, at first, believe Him. Judas betrayed Him. His own disciples forsook Him and fled in that darkest hour. His enemies buffeted Him, struck Him spit upon Him, and abused Him without mercy. So disfigured was He, "so marred more than any man and his form more than the sons of men" (Isaiah 52:14).

In some sense, difficult for us to understand, He also was forsaken by the Father. No wonder the sun refused to shine!

It was eight hours from His arrest to the Cross. In six hours He was tried five times by four different "courts." He was accused by witnesses who contradicted themselves,

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and sentenced by a judge who knew and said that He was innocent! Jesus knocked at the door of His world to have it slammed in His face! It was His own people who received Him not! (John 1:11).

Even the physical world was shaken the day He died. There was an earthquake, rocks were rent, and there was darkness for three hours. The veil in the temple was also rent.

There was awesome silence while His body lay in the tomb. The hopes of the disciples were crushed. His enemies must have been ecstatic. But death could not stop Him! The grave could not hold Him! Now the disciples are ecstatic, discovering and declaring the news. He's alive! He's alive! He's alive—alive forevermore! Hallelujah!

Jesus made ten appearances in 40 days, five of which were on that resurrection day. Those appearances were to believers only—to no unbeliever (except Saul later on the road to Damascus). It is noteworthy that the resurrected Lord did not “goodie it” to the members of the Sanhedrin.

Within weeks after the resurrection Peter was preaching

the first sermon of the new dispensation. His word must have poured forth like molten lava. What a stream of power that must have been! Pentecost was God's interpretation of the Great Commission.

The apostles gave witness of the resurrection with great power. “Great grace was upon them all.” The resurrection was the grand theme of their preaching and writing—more than any other! Paul took it up becoming its most powerful exponent ever. His Roman letter stresses four great doctrines of the faith—Death, Resurrection, Exaltation and Intercession. In every city He proclaimed it with fervor and boldness—even in Athens! It was the year-round message of those early preachers! Why not with us?

The resurrection of Christ does not seem to have gripped or grabbed us as it did the early church. We speak or hear very little of it except at Easter. Do ministers and teachers file their notes neatly away for use only at Easter? Might this be one of the reasons for the apathy and impotence of the average modern church?

Yes, He is alive forevermore! Let us proclaim that triumphant message with fervor and power! ■



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together than apart?

- Do you desire to fulfill the biblical role of a husband outlined in Ephesians 5:22-33 with this specific woman? Do you want to love her sacrificially?
- Does this relationship spur you on in your Christian discipleship, or does it dull and distract your interest in the Lord and his people? Are you more or less eager to study God's word, and pray, and give yourself in service as a result of time spent together?
- Do you think she will make a good discipler of your children?
- What do other mature Christian friends and family members say about your relationship? Do they see a relationship that is spiritually solid and God-glorifying?

If you can't answer the questions at all, then you may need to spend some more time getting to know each other. But if you can answer them (and others like them) either positively or negatively, then it's time to stop test-driving the relationship and either commit to marriage or let someone else have the opportunity.

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The complete text of this article is available at <http://www.boundless.org/2005/articles/a0001306.cfm>

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Stop Test-Driving Your Girlfriend

by Michael Lawrence

“How do I know if she’s the one?”

I can’t think of a question I encounter more often among single Christian men. The point of the question is clear enough. But a rich irony dwells beneath the question. In a culture that allows us to choose the person we’re going to marry, no one wants to make the wrong choice. Especially if, as Christians, we understand that the choice we make is a choice for life.

The question is not merely ironic. If what you’re after is a marriage that will glorify God and produce real joy for you and your bride, it’s also the wrong question. That’s because the unstated goal of the question is “How do I know if she’s the one ... for me.”

The question frames the entire decision-making process in fundamentally self-oriented — if not downright selfish — terms. And it puts the woman on an extended trial to determine whether or not she meets your needs, fits with your personality, and satisfies your desires. It places you at the center of the process, in the role of a window-shopper, or consumer at a buffet. In this scenario you remain unexamined, unquestioned, and unassailable — sovereign in your tastes and preferences and judgments.

The problem of course is that as a single Christian man, not only are you going to marry a sinner, but you are a sinner as well.

From a consumeristic perspective, no woman on this planet is ever going to perfectly meet your specifications. What’s more, your unexamined requirements for a spouse are inevitably twisted by your own sinful nature. The Bible reminds us that though our marriages are to be pictures of the gospel relationship between Christ and the church, none of us get to marry Jesus. Instead, like Hosea, we all marry Gomer; that is to say, we all marry another sinner, whom God intends to use to refine and grow our faith in Jesus.

So what’s a guy to do?

Ask the right questions

To begin with, start with a different question. Instead of asking if she’s the one, you should ask yourself, “Am I the sort of man a godly woman would want to marry?” If you’re not, then you’d be better off spending less time evaluating the women around you, and more time developing the character of a disciple. Start by considering the characteristics of an elder that Paul lays out in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, and work toward those.

Then you should ask another question: “What sort of qualities should I be looking for in a wife so that my marriage will be a picture of the relationship between Christ and the church?” If you’re not sure what those characteristics are, then spend some time reading Proverbs 31, Titus 2:3-5, 1 Peter 3:1-7 and Ephesians 5:22-33.

Once you’ve asked the right questions, and once you’ve found someone you suspect fits the biblical description of a godly wife, you now need to decide whether to get married. And men, though this is a big decision, it’s not a decision that should take too long. How long is too long for a dating relationship? The Bible doesn’t provide a timetable (after all, most marriages were arranged during Biblical times). But it does provide principles that point us in the direction of making a decision to marry or break up in the shortest appropriate time.

Think like a servant, not a consumer

In 1 Thessalonians 4:6, Paul warns the Thessalonian Christians against “taking advantage” of their brothers or sisters. The larger context in the first eight verses makes clear that what Paul primarily has in view is sexual immorality, in which you take from one another a physical intimacy not rightfully yours.

But the text also suggests that there are other ways you can take advantage of one another in a dating relationship. And one of the primary ways men do this is to elicit and enjoy all the benefits of unending companionship and emotional intimacy with their girlfriends without ever committing to the covenant relationship of marriage.

Too often in dating relationships we think and act like consumers rather than servants. And not very good consumers at that. After all, no one would ever go down to his local car dealership, take a car out for an extended test drive, park it in his garage, drive it back and forth to work for several weeks, maybe take it on vacation, having put lots of miles on it, and then take it back to the dealer and say, “I’m just not ready to buy a new car.”

But so often, that’s exactly the way men treat the women they’re dating. Endlessly “test driving” the relationship, without any real regard for the spiritual and emotional wear and tear they’re putting her through, all the while keeping their eyes out for a better model.

The Scriptures are clear. We are not to take advantage of one another in this way. Instead, as Paul says in Romans

13:10, “Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

Remember that love is never easy

One of the myths out there is that if you just spend enough time searching, if you can just gather enough information, you’ll find a woman with whom marriage will be “easy.” The fact is, such a woman doesn’t exist, and if she did, she likely wouldn’t marry you. And that means that you don’t need as much information as you think you do.

No matter how long you’ve dated, everyone marries a stranger. That’s because fundamentally dating is an artificial arrangement in which you’re trying to be on your best behavior. Marriage on the other hand is real life. And it’s only in the context of day-in, day-out reality, with the vulnerability and permanence that marriage provides, that we learn what another person is really like. Some of the things we learn about each other aren’t easy. But who ever said that love and marriage were supposed to be easy?

Men, the point of marriage is that we learn to love our wives as Christ loved the church. Yes, as Revelation 21 and Ephesians 5 tell us, one day, Christ’s bride will be perfectly beautiful, without spot or blemish, altogether lovely and loveable.

But the church is not there yet. First, Christ had to commit himself to us, even to death on a cross. This is the model we’re called to follow. It’s not an easy model, but it is worth it.

So your goal should not be to date her long enough until you’re confident marriage won’t be hard, but to date her just long enough to discern if you’re willing to love her sacrificially, and if she’s willing to respond to that kind of love.

Remember that to commit does not mean to settle

Does this mean you should just “settle” for the first Christian woman who comes along? No, not at all. You should be making this decision in light of the qualities held out in Scripture for a godly wife, and you should marry the godliest, most fruitful, most spiritually beautiful woman you can convince to have you.

But you also need to be aware that you live in a culture that says the ultimate good in life is to always keep your options open, and that any commitment is inevitably “settling” for less than you could have tomorrow. You must reject that kind of thinking for the worldly garbage that it is. Did Jesus Christ settle for the church? No, he loved the church, and gave his life as a ransom for her (Mark 10:45).

Marriage is fundamentally a means to glorify and serve God, not by finding someone who will meet our needs and desires, but by giving ourselves to another for their good.

So if you find yourself hesitating about committing to a godly, biblically-qualified woman, then ask yourself, “Are my reasons biblical, or am I just afraid that if I commit, someone better will walk around the corner after it’s too late?” Consumers are always on the lookout for something better. Christ calls us to trust Him that in finding a wife, we have found “what is good and receive favor from the Lord” (Prov. 18:22).

Marry true beauty when you find it

Finally, the Scriptures call us to develop an attraction to true beauty. 1 Peter 3:3-6 describes the beautiful wife as a woman who has a gentle and quiet spirit, born out of her faith and hope in God, and displayed in her trusting submission to her husband. Men, is the presence of this kind of beauty the driving force for your sense of attraction to your girlfriend? Or have you made romantic attraction and “chemistry” the deciding issue?

Now don’t get me wrong. You should be physically attracted to the woman you marry. This is one of the ways marriage serves as a protection against sexual immorality (1 Cor. 7:3-5). But we get in trouble, both in dating and in marriage, when we make physical beauty and “chemistry” the threshold issue in the decision to commit (or remain committed) to marriage.

Physical beauty in a fallen world is fading and transient. What’s more, the world narrowly defines beauty as the body of a teenager, and scorns the beauty of motherhood and maturity. But in which “body” is your wife going to spend most of her years with you? Personalities also change and mature, and what seems like “chemistry” when you’re 22 might feel like superficial immaturity 10 years later. Even over the course of a long courtship and engagement in the prime of your youth, physical attraction and chemistry are sure to go through ups and downs. We must resist the temptation to value the wrong kind of beauty.

No one lives in a perpetual state of “being in love.” But in marriage, our love is called to “always protect, always trust, always hope, always persevere” (1 Cor. 13:7). If mere worldly, physical beauty is the main thing attracting our love, then our love will prove as ephemeral as that beauty. But if we have developed an attraction to true beauty, then we have nothing to fear. Marry a vibrant growing Christian woman, and you have Christ’s promise that He is committed to making her more and more beautiful, spiritually beautiful, with every passing day (Rom. 8:28; Phil. 1:6).

More questions to ask

How then do you decide, in a reasonable amount of time, whether or not to marry the woman you’re dating? Let me conclude with some more questions you should be asking.

- Generally speaking, will you be able to serve God better

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New Ecumenical Body Formally Launched in the U. S.

Christian Churches Together in the USA (CCT), a group of over 30 denominations and religious organizations calling itself “the most inclusive fellowship of Christian churches and traditions” in America, was formally established on March 28, 2006. CCT marks the first time evangelical, Pentecostal, Protestant, Orthodox, Roman Catholic and ethnic churches have joined a formal ecumenical partnership on a national level. A Christianity Today news report called CCT “the broadest Christian unity organization in U.S. history.” Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, general secretary of the Reformed Church in America and interim CCT moderator, issued a statement in which he said, “We finally found the courage to confront our obvious and longstanding divisions

and to build a new expression of unity, rooted in the Spirit, that will strengthen our mission in the world” (Ecumenical News International. 4-3-06). The ENI report said the creation of CCT “is the first time that the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has joined such a church grouping.” During its first year of existence, the new ecumenical entity will focus on fighting poverty in the United States.

Currently, 36 church groups and denominations officially comprise CCT, while 22 other national bodies rank as “observers” or those currently contemplating membership. Notice the broad theological spectrum of those who have chosen to unite in ministry endeavor under the banner of CCT:

Churches and Organizations Which Have Agreed to Join and Become Founding Participants:

AMEN	Evangelicals for Social Action	Orthodox Church in America
American Baptist Churches, USA	Free Methodist Church of North America	Reformed Church in America
Armenian Orthodox Church in America	Friends United Meeting	Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch
Bread of the World	Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America	The Episcopal Church
Call to Renewal/Sojourners	International Council of Community Churches	The Evangelical Covenant Church
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	International Pentecostal Holiness Church	The Korean Presbyterian Church in America
Christian Reformed Church in NA	Moravian Church in America	The Salvation Army
Church of God Ministries (Anderson, IN)	National Association of Congregational Christian Churches	United Church of Christ
The Church of God of Prophecy	National Baptist Convention of America	The United Methodist Church
Church World Service	National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship	National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA	World Vision
Coptic Orthodox Church	Open Bible Churches	
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America		

Some Notable Churches and Organizations Serving as Observers or in the Decision Making Process:

American’s National Prayer Committee	Conservative Congregational Christian Conference	The Christian and Missionary Alliance
Association of Vineyard Churches—USA	International Pentecostal Churches of Christ	The Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Baptist General Convention of Texas	Mennonite Church USA, Inc.	United Evangelical Churches
Church of God	Mission America Coalition	Worldwide Church of God
Church of the Nazarene	Pentecostal Free Will Baptist Church	
Churches of Christ	Presbyterian Church (USA)	

Clearly, such an unholy mixture of denominations and religious organizations formally uniting for common ministry endeavor is unprecedented in the United States. Those who comprise the aforementioned religious bodies retain major theological differences and, in fact, do not even agree on the content and application of the gospel message itself! God’s Word commands separation from ministry endeavor with

those who preach false gospel, who embrace or propagate false doctrine or who associate with any “unfruitful works of darkness”—including doctrinal deviation. Biblical Anabaptists should reject any identification with or support CCT.

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Vacuums, America, and Its Founding Religion: Success

by Nathaniel Gingrich (Open Door)

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...

This is a statement engraved in the hearts of a discontented American society by Thomas Jefferson; and corroborated by fifty-six persons representing a growing population of prospering trailblazers looking for independence. Success, rights, freedom, the pursuit of happiness, and God bless America are expressions fundamental to American culture.

Three hundred years ago, one hundred eight opportunists sailed from London, England to the shores of Virginia. They were instructed to settle the land, search for gold, and evangelize the Indians. This determined spirit was evident in the many who crossed the Atlantic Ocean during the next century. By the Mid-18th century the colonies along the Atlantic coast had developed into thriving centers of industry and innovation. Self-sufficiency was realized and in keeping with the assertive character of these pioneers, dissatisfaction with an insensitive authority evolved. After seven years of intense conflict, the United States of America was born.

Today, we who live in America enjoy the results of efforts put forth by the men and women who followed their dreams to a land of freedom and opportunity. Most recognized the existence of a Higher Power and the importance of moral laws while developing a relatively stable system of government under which individuals could be rewarded for hard work and honesty. Businesses have thrived, money has flowed, and material need is all but non-existent.

America was founded by persons searching – searching for freedom, for wealth, and/or for power. Even among our godly ancestors the lure of abundant, good land was an important factor in their decision to settle in North America. They found a land of peace where they were able to raise their families according to Biblical principles. Dreams were realized and prosperity increased.

God created you and me as people who need to have a focus for life. We need goals and dreams. We need to strive for concerns larger than ourselves. We realize how

small and insignificant we are and know that for life to be of any purpose there must be something greater. We strive to fill a vacuum within our lives.

Since the fall of man the devil has been trying to convince us to fill that God-sized hole with anything but its intended content. He convinces some to satisfy it with the teachings of Marx, Mohammad, Confucius or Buddha. Others recognize the power of Satan himself and worship him directly. But in countries of wealth he does not need to use the tools of ideology or of the occult. He is able to use instead the more subtle tool of materialism. This tool may be his most dangerous, as it creeps quietly into the lives of God's people while they go about their daily lives. With it he convinces us to take our focus off the importance of God's mandate and to instead seize the idea that our life is only of worth if it includes a big paycheck and the appearance of wealth.

Where in the world can this tool be used more effectively than in the United States of America? It has the largest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the world. In 2005 it was estimated at 12.4 trillion dollars. American society measures its people by their monetary worth. A person has achieved respect and honor when they reach seven-digit figures and more. This standard of measurement is pervasive and influential. It is important in the belief that a free enterprise system, with freedom of speech, the press etc., is God's gift to the world. "God bless America" resounds throughout our nation as a declaration that God approves of our actions and intents. The idea that God has blessed America because he approves of it above other nations is an untruth contrived by Satan himself to convince man that wealth is godliness and to appease our minds as we strive to match society's yardstick. If prosperity indicates godliness how is it that China's GDP is growing at a rate of nine to ten percent a year, almost triple the rate of the United States? It is definitely not by a recognition of God or His principles. Chinese church leaders recognize the threat of materialism as a much greater threat than that of persecution. This is in a nation where the average wage is \$6,300 compared to an American \$42,000.

We, Americans, must with God's help, cleanse our

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Deceptive Pillars

by C.R. Hembree

A famed English architect, Sir Christopher Wren, designed a large church dome so uniquely that he became the object of jealous criticism among his colleagues. During the construction, they created such a stir that the authorities demanded Wren add two huge supporting pillars to keep it from collapsing. Wren bitterly objected, insisting on the strength of his structure and wisdom of his new architectural innovation. Nevertheless, opposition prevailed and the pillars were added.

Fifty years passed and the dome needed repainting. When workers began, they discovered that the two added pillars did not even touch the roof. They were short by two feet each. Wren had confidence in his work. The authorities, during his lifetime, saw the pillars, assumed they reached the roof and controversy died. They felt secure although the pillars were free standing and supported nothing.

Man has built many pillars to support his little world and to keep things from falling in on him. Often these pillars seem strong and able to stand stress, but many times are just as useless as Wren's fake columns. Some have constructed pillars of religion, beautiful in structure, and certainly they seem strong enough. However, religion is meaningless without the Person of Jesus Christ who plainly stated, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Pillars of religion are free standing without Christ and have no hold on eternity.

Others proudly build pillars of intellectualism, resting in their own mental prowess while rejecting God and His Son, Christ. Thomas Paine was such a man. He disclaimed any belief in God, saying in essence he was the master of his own fate, the captain of his own soul. However, at death he cried, "I'm lost, I'm lost, I'm lost."

Lord Byron, the romantic poet and idol of the court ladies in the last century, built pillars of pleasure. He abandoned any sense of responsibility, saying in essence, "Eat, drink, be merry; for this is what life is all about." However, his pillars were also free standing; he moaned, "The flowers and fruits of life are gone; the worm, the canker, and the grief are mine alone."

Just like the building authorities of Wren's time, we can be easily deceived by structures of philosophies. The Bible warns, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12). Sturdy as they might seem, pillars of pleasure, intellectual-

ism, and mere religion do not keep enemies such as fear, frustration, and confusion from smashing during hours of blackest crisis.

Lest we despair, there is a structure ample for the pressing vicissitudes of life and the ultimate crisis of death. Peter talked of this in his letter to early Christians: "To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious." As Scripture expresses it, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded" (I Peter 2:4, 6, KJV). As Wren had confidence in his architectural creation, so Peter has perfect confidence in the structure God builds. He realizes that pillars of men are totally unnecessary. Only if Christ designs the life will it stand, and if Christ does not design it, all the pillars in the world cannot hold it up.

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minds of society's yardstick. We must be aware daily of Satan's most dangerous tool: materialism; and we must constantly base our decisions according to God's standard, remembering we are aliens journeying through a foreign land.

Job was the definition of true success. He viewed the goods in his care as God's. God had given all to him, and God could take all from him. When it was taken from him, he did not sin. Could America do the same?

Could you?

Could I?

Lamentations 3:40 says, "Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD."

Jeremiah 29:13 tells us, "And you shall seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."

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What Matters Most?

By Rose Charles

I've just come through many summer days of feeling strong and healthy and I'm amazed. It's one and a half years since I finished chemo after the cancer reoccurrence in 2004. God has granted me the gift of life—of time beyond what I imagined. This most precious commodity called life often leaves me asking. "What matters most?"

What is Important to Me?

During my cancer journey, the sheer intensity of life and the decisions required at various junctures, defined in an odd sort of way what was important to me. There is a story that comes to mind...It is said that a professor teaching a time management class did a visual illustration for his students. Using a jar he filled it full with rocks. "Was the jar full?" he asked. "No," he said, as he added gravel which settled around the rocks. Then he put in sand and at last water.

What's the point of the illustration? Maybe we often think as did his students, that if we try hard enough we can always fit more in our agenda. But the professor intended them to see that unless they make space for the large rocks in their lives first, they won't fit them in.

What Do We Value

I invite you to reflect with me on what your top ten rocks are. The thoughts stirring may even extend to dinner conversation with your children or family. I thought I knew what my largest rocks were, but my prior health crisis unveiled more clearly for me what holds value. And those discoveries or rocks will keep high importance. But now I'm aware of other areas that need more attention if I am to think realistically for the future and so rearranging is in order. I am finding the process of prioritizing is ongoing.

Prioritizing primarily has to do with us coming to an awareness or knowledge of what we dearly value. Who defines our value and purpose? What have we looked to as life source?

The scripture caught my attention recently in revealing what Solomon counted important in II Chronicles 1. His father, the psalmist who uttered, "Lord, teach me to number my days aright so that I may gain a heart of wisdom," had just anointed him to lead the kingdom. As Solomon took a firm grip on the reigns of the kingdom, God appeared to him asking, "What do you want from me? Ask."

What Are We Asking God For?

Solomon asked for wisdom, help from God for his staggering task of leading such a large people. Because of what Solomon asked for, God was pleased to honor his

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request. What are we asking God for?

The second aspect of prioritizing is practice. As I evaluate my life I'm left with the question, "Am I living in alignment with what I say I value?" I seem to be most vulnerable to functioning with a significant gap between what I verbalize as important versus what I do.

The practical level of prioritizing includes creating space for the big rocks first, when we're looking at our schedule for the next month. Or giving ourselves the reminder that when we say 'yes' to one responsibility or activity, we're really saying 'no' to something else. For me it's a journey in trusting that the limits or boundaries that I choose to live within, will be for my ultimate good and His glory.

When we look back on our lives, it won't matter how full our jar was, but rather who or what was the focus of our life. I'm asking God to help me grasp the purposes He has for me so that my life may be a testimony to what matters most.

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