WHY WAIT TO BE HAPPY?

Stop Listening to Satan's Lies

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Why Wait to Be Happy?
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Little BIG Things
Tweak the Little Things…
Rock Your World in a Big Way!

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Introduction

Do you experience fear, offense or broken relationships in your life? Has Satan convinced you that these feelings or the problems of anger, unforgiveness or addictions are normal? How and when did our lives get so messy?

Didn't God create us for so much more?

Now let's ask the opposite questions: Why is it that some people, no matter what their circumstance, seem to smile and have a genuine sense of joy and peace? Are there little things they do or think, that you also can do or think, that could make a big difference in your life?

It is from a lifetime of asking these questions that *Why Wait to Be Happy?* was born. Its purpose is to help people discover time-tested and practical tools wrapped inside God's wisdom for defeating Satan's lies.

The best part of these powerful tools is that they are little. Yes, little. Easy to handle. Manageable. No PhD required. **Little** tweaks in our thinking and doing that make a **big** difference.

We can say this because God shows us hints of little, yet big things functioning in every aspect of life. "Little Big Things" are absolutely everywhere! For example, consider one little mosquito flying near your ear while you are trying to sleep. Or how about waking up in the middle of the night with an itch, just to discover one little wood-tick stuck to your leg. Both of these will surely make a big impact on your sleep.

On a more practical note, what are the little differences that cause one person to consistently wake up – every morning – singing, "Thank God for the morning," while another regularly groans, "Oh God, it's morning?"

What are the little but big differences that fill one marriage with joy, while another marriage is laced with sorrow, difficulty and separation?

Or perhaps we ask why one salesman sells twice as many products, month after month, as another salesman. Is the first salesman twice as good, or is he just one percent better in a hundred little ways?

Likewise, when it comes to faith, relationships, happiness and outlook on life, there must undoubtedly be some powerful, little ways of seeing or doing things, or subtle habits of responding differently whose ripples create waves later in our lives!

Wouldn't it be great to know and live out those differences and to be able to share them with others? What could be more important than to share practical ideas to positively affect our relationships with God and the people around us?

And what better place to start our *Why Wait to Be Happy?* journey, than with Jesus's own description of Satan as a thief – a crook who wants to sneak into your life with the sole purpose of destroying you?

Worse than killing, this horrible thief wants you to suffer, be broken, struggle with anxiety, depression and defeat. His goal is not just to kill you, but to end you.

Simply reading this last paragraph is upsetting, but we who know Jesus are blessed enough to hear the rest of the story,

as Jesus smiles with all the confidence of God himself and says, “But I came that you would have life, and have it abundantly!” (Jn 10:10b NASB).

This is Jesus’s theme song!

Can you hear it?! God’s angels are singing it right now! Heaven invites you to have it.

The simple question is, do you want it?! Truthfully, why wait to be happy?

“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly!”

Abundantly! Overflowing, spilling out, more than enough. Jesus sure paid a big price for YOU to live abundantly and he wants YOU to get what he paid for! Best of all, he has already given us his recipes for abundance! These recipes, God’s solutions, are hidden in plain sight – right in his amazing Book we call the Bible.

Why Wait to Be Happy will help you discover how to stop suffering from Satan’s lies in a whole new way – so you can live in God’s abundance.

Could there be a better place to live?

Chapter 1
God Wants You to Enjoy the Playground

Once upon a time – and not too long ago – you were a little kid.

If you close your eyes for just a second, you might remember your favorite playground. Can you see the swing set or the monkey bars? Can you picture the puffy white clouds against the blue sky? Perhaps you recall how the wind carried the sound of children's laughter. Those were wonderful moments when everything felt so perfect.

Now fast forward to your current reality…

If you're like me, there are too many times when my thoughts and worries want to pull me into a dark hole of despair. There are times when I can't seem to shut off my brain as it rehearses and replays "all the day's wrongs" into a tighter and tighter spin of offense or fear.

Even though I don't like it, there are times when these thoughts jam into my dreams, so I have hard or sleepless nights. It's as if the endless loops of injustice or worry rewind and replay repeatedly.

Then I carry some of those wrongs into the next day. And the next.

How did the liar convince so many of us Christians that it is "normal" to suffer from offense, fear, broken relationships or addictions? Why are fear, anger and unforgiveness (just to name a few biggies) so common among us?

What happened to our childhood playgrounds of bliss and joy? How did our perfect visions of love and peace disintegrate into our messy lives?

Was the thief so sneaky that we never saw him coming, or did we simply close our eyes out of fear? To deal with these disappointments, some of us call it a reality check while others simply say, "that's life."

When did we buy into these types of lies?

Didn't God create us for so much more?

Jesus described the liar as a thief whose purpose is "only to steal and kill and destroy" (Jn 10:10a). Jesus warned us that Satan is a crook whose ONLY goals are to steal our joy, kill our dreams and destroy our future. Notice how destroying is third on the list? Therefore, destroying is worse than killing.

Steal first, kill second, destroy third is like A, B, C – where the bad guy in the movie says, "First, I'm going to burn your house down. Then, I'm going to kill you. Finally, I'm going to kill your family."

Jesus knew destroying someone is far worse than killing them, so it's a very grim thought.

Fortunately, Jesus did not end his sentence here. Instead, he said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly**"** (Jn 10:10b NASB). Here we see Jesus proclaiming a vivid contrast between himself and Satan.

- Abundance versus scarcity
- Life versus death
- The God of Truth versus the liar

Can you picture Jesus, the Commander and Creator of the universe, as his hands rise to heaven? A huge smile stretches across his face. Feel the Holy Spirit shiver through the crowd as Jesus delivers his climactic note, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly!"

Ah – Abundantly!

Living with Jesus's abundance is where your cup of blessing is not just full to the very top but overflowing so the spout of blessings does not turn off! Synonyms for abundance include plenty, loads, more than enough and great quantity.

Loads!

More than enough!

For the Christian, abundant living means having a fullness of life not measured in terms of fun, wealth and prestige, but in terms of living fulfilled with a deep, abiding joy and peace that is made better with God as our source.

For example, imagine seeing the most beautiful, breathtaking and poetic sunset. Can you picture it in your mind? There is only one thing that can make that sunset better, and the answer is not a cookie or a glass of wine!

Do you know what that one thing is?

Sharing it.

Even when we are all alone, the sunset becomes better when we share it with God. There is something that truly gives the sunset an endless bounty when we raise our hands to heaven and say, “Thank you, God” and share it with him.

In some unexplainable way, it’s as if God holds our hand, looks into our eyes and simply says, “Yes! Yes – I created that for you and I’m so glad you are enjoying what I’ve given you.”

It is like a parent being delighted over the joy in their child’s eyes.

When we share our relationships, victories, defeats and cares with God, they take on a new depth of meaning and significance – and this is what abundance truly is. It is fullness that never ends.

In Philippians, Paul described abundant living as “the peace of God, which transcends all understanding” (Phil 4:7a) no matter what your circumstances. How did Paul, having gone through numerous death threats and catastrophes, come to the end of his life with such peace and pure contentment?

Imagine having that kind of peace and joy enveloping you!

Abundance!

Some friends and I were talking about how our cell phones “leak power” even when they aren’t in use. In the same way, when we are overflowing with the abundance of Jesus living in us, our smiles and personalities will “leak” God’s love wherever we go.

You feel it, live it and breathe it, and so do the people around you.[1] It is where everyone wants what you have, and you are *thrilled* when they find it too! Do you want that kind of life?

Jesus's abundance is heaven on earth living. It is where God's kingdom lives inside your heart, words and relationships – no matter the circumstances.

Amazingly, being able to choose Jesus's abundance is the single most remarkable freedom we have!

From cover to cover, the Bible displays the contrasts of heaven and hell, always urging us to **choose** God. In Genesis, the love of God for Adam and Eve is contrasted with the deception of the enemy. In Deuteronomy, God says, "I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses.[2] Now **choose** life, so that you and your children may live" (Deut 30:19).

The book of Proverbs implores us, almost begs us, to **choose** God with dramatic comparisons. It says, "The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous" (Prov 3:33).

Notice the three contrasting choices in this one short sentence: curse versus bless, house versus home, wicked versus righteous.

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1 Jesus said, "You are the light of the world…Let your light shine before others" (Matt 5:14a, 16a). In leaking Jesus abundance, our joy and peace will light up a room, a conversation and a relationship. It is a gentleness and loveliness that you carry with you. I cannot think of anything I'd rather have.

2 What an incredible contrast! The most amazing thing through all of this is that God honors our choice. He does not want to control us, but like any good parent, only wants what is best for us!

The Gospels show Jesus repeating this biblical blueprint throughout his teachings: darkness versus light, hunger instead of being satisfied, the agony of hell compared to Lazarus's joy in heaven, the thief versus abundance and more. By contrasting heaven and hell, Jesus is inviting us to choose heaven.

Later in the New Testament, Paul follows the same pattern. First, he describes a living hell including sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. In the very next paragraph, Paul describes life in the Spirit as living with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.[3]

Because the Bible repeatedly contrasts heaven and hell, encouraging us to choose heaven, this book will follow the same pattern of hell's lies followed by heaven's truths.

The chapters are laid out to expose Satan's strategy to destroy you, followed by biblical truths to squash each of his strategies.[4]

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3 "The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity…But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal 5:19a, 22-24).

Again, we see day versus night contrasts: acts of the flesh versus fruit of the Spirit. The most important part of this is that God is urging us to think, to decide the kind of life we want as he reminds us that ultimately, we get to choose! Yes, we get to choose. Which direction are you leaning?

4 When a red-hot log is pulled out of a campfire and left to burn by itself, the flame will quickly die and the log will become cold. Likewise, as Christians, we must stay in the fire by remaining in God's Word on a regular basis.

This is a pragmatic and functional book for anyone who wants the power of Jesus's abundance right now in life, despite the daily battles and despite the bully's lies spreading fear.

Jesus talked about exposing Satan's thieving strategies: "You would surely not let a thief break into your home, if you knew when the thief was coming" (Lk 12:39 CEV).

Jesus said if you knew when the thief was coming, you'd be able to stop him! If only you knew. This book will help you know.

When you know the thief is coming, you can stop him! That's why the FBI and CIA spend billions studying criminals and terrorists to know them and their plots, to prevent crime and keep the enemy from infiltrating our country.

If only you knew how to handle that temptation…

If only you knew what to say in that situation…

If only you knew when the bully was coming…

If only you knew how to stop Satan's lies **in advance**…

Have you ever had an impromptu test in school? If only you had known the test was coming. If only you knew what the teacher was looking for. What a difference being prepared can make.

If only you knew.

This book will help you become more powerful by uncovering Satan's deceptions and plots so you can prevent this terrorist from invading and ruining your life. This book will teach you how to use God's Word to expose and defeat this bully's tactics. You will be armed with God's Word and be ready in advance.

The Little Big Thing

Suppose you made a scrumptious Thanksgiving dinner that everyone devoured! As guests depart, everyone compliments your cooking except your neighbor (whom you graciously invited because they had nowhere else to go) who says, "The meal was good, but the stuffing didn't have much flavor."

After everyone went home, would you focus on all the compliments or the lone critique? Unfortunately, many of us would replay the critic's words. It makes me wonder how many of us spend chunks of our lives feeling inadequate and unworthy, or perhaps angry and offended, so we rarely hear all the compliments God gives us.

Someone describe it this way: "I don't feel right if I don't feel wrong." I'll bet Satan roars when we listen to his lies: "You're no good, a failure, angry, selfish, a hypocrite, just an unredeemable sinner." The stuffing didn't have much flavor either!

Why listen to all this trash talk from a liar and a bully? Shouldn't we be listening closely to all the amazing things our Father God says about us?

- You are made in God's image and likeness (Gen 1:26)!
- You are God's child (Jn 1:12)!
- You are a friend of Jesus (Jn 15:15)!
- The Holy Spirit dwells inside you (1 Cor 6:19)!
- You have been set free from sin in Christ (Gal 5:1)!

So, what song do you choose to hear? The glorious song of your Maker or the dirge of the devil? Words from heaven or hell? Abundance or scarcity?[5] Either way, we get to choose.

And by the way, what about the stuffing and all the flavoring that is inside you? I believe that God even stuffed you with his special flavoring of precious goodness; so much goodness that everyone you know wants to see it and taste it!

It's just a **little** question, but has great **big** implications: Who are you going to listen to today?

5 People who truly live abundantly are those who are thrilled when you do too. I think there are basically two opposite views of life: abundance versus scarcity. Scarcity thinking says that there is only $100 to go around to everyone. Therefore, if you get an extra penny, it means there is less for me and I become jealous and resentful of your joy. Abundance thinking says that there is more than enough love, joy, goodness, wealth etc. to go around for everyone who wants it. When you become successful, abundance thinkers are truly happy for your success. God is an abundance thinker!

Questions for You

How is your life different from what you had hoped and dreamed? What happened?

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Do you know anyone who carries a smile with them, someone who is upbeat, thoughtful and generous, who seems to "leak God's goodness" wherever they go? Can you describe what you like about them?

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What one thing can you do differently – today – that will help you carry a smile with you, no matter where you go or who you are with?

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Satan's 1st Lie

Ignorance is Bliss

Let's start by exposing Satan's most persistent strategy and his number one, all-time biggest lie. This pervasive ploy has very broad strokes of darkness which permeate all his other tactics and lies. To begin to understand this strategy, let's again turn to Jesus words, "You would surely not let a thief break into your home, if you knew when the thief was coming" (Lk 12:39 CEV).

"If you knew" in this usage is very closely related to, perhaps synonymous with, "I didn't know."

I didn't see it...

I didn't recognize…

I was fooled by…

Jesus exposes Satan by explaining that many of us simply don't know or recognize Satan or his strategies.

My dad has reminded me since I was a child that the most expensive thing in the world is ignorance. He is absolutely right. Not knowing causes mistakes. Not knowing kills people.

Not knowing makes choosing the best path impossible because we did not know that path existed. Ignorance causes scarcity and ignorance takes no prisoners. The Bible tells us the same thing as God laments, “My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge” (Hos 4:6a).

When we are ignorant of the spiritual battle that is going on, we ultimately become fodder for the enemy’s slaughter. We are truly in a fight for our lives and souls where ignorance is anything but bliss.

“You would surely not let a thief break into your home, if you knew when the thief was coming.”

If only you knew. The enemy’s primary strategy is to make us ignorant.

He wants to make us ignorant, so we don’t even realize there is a spiritual battle.

He’s like carbon monoxide poisoning in a home – silently killing people who don’t have a detector to realize they have a problem until it is too late.

Satan loves it when we live in fear, offense, mediocrity, anger, entitlement, bad habits and/or broken relationships. When we believe this is normal, we are truly ignorant of the abundant life we could be living.

In the same way, Satan loves when we sit on the fence with a laissez-faire, “whatever will be” or “live and let live” attitude because Satan knows this approach is of no threat to him.

You must know that Satan owns the fence.

Yes, the enemy loves it when we are on the fence being lukewarm toward God. Uncommitted, indifferent or casual Christians who never develop a deep love relationship with God do not concern him.[6]

Satan knows when we are lukewarm or half-hearted, we will rarely spend time in God's Word, and seldom spend time in heartfelt prayer. When we carry an attitude of indifference toward God, we will never let God permeate our lives, and we'll most likely never share a glorious sunset with God.

The bottom line: There is no true abundance in this kind of thinking, and Satan knows it.[7]

Of course, the end result of never truly KNOWING God in our hearts or minds is ignorance. In fact, the very definition of ignorance is being uninformed and not knowing. And what could be worse or more ignorant than not knowing God?

When we are neither hot nor cold, we ultimately live far less satisfying and fulfilling lives than we could have otherwise.

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6 The enemy loves when we are lukewarm toward God, and God abhors it. God calls us throughout the Bible, desperate to have a deep and loving relationship with him, and he does not want his call ignored. God wants us to be his bride. He wants us to fall in love with him. God even warns us: "So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth" (Rev 3:16).

7 Some people may say "ignorance is bliss," but is this the goal of life? Perhaps we'd be happier not knowing that our spouse is cheating on us or not knowing we are going to die in a week. But what happens when we die without our affairs in order or our spouse asks for a divorce? What if we would have known so we had time to make things right? Sometimes we might be happier not knowing – in ignorance – but surely this is not an argument where we could possibly conclude that ignorance leads to an abundant life.

Satan knows you cannot live an abundant life by coasting along. In fact, everyone who has ever ridden a bicycle knows that you can only coast in one direction: downhill.

"You would surely not let a thief break into your home, <u>if you knew</u> when the thief was coming."

The enemy will never come out and yell in your face and tell you that you are stupid, ignorant or missing the very best parts of life. He is way too clever for that and likes it when you're in the dark and can't even see him attacking you.

Instead, he'll quietly lie to you (with half-truths) and subtle thoughts to perpetuate your ignorance. He'll feed you comments like these:

- "The Bible is confusing."
- "Finding the right church is hard."
- "It's Sunday and you worked hard all week, so you deserve a break today."
- "With your schedule, finding time for God is impossible."
- "Restoring that relationship is not worth the effort."

The amazing thing about "half-truths" is that they often feel so very true, especially when we're tired, afraid or overwhelmed.

Take a close look and see if you can detect the lie: "Satan will tell you the truth, truth, truth, truth, truth, truth, truth, truth, truth, truth, truth, lie, truth, truth, truth, truth all within the same sentence."

Did your eyes catch the lie that was hidden among the truths? Even when Satan hides a lie inside multiple truths, it is still a lie. It's like drinking a glass of 100% pure water with one drop of arsenic – you simply don't want to drink that cup.

If only we knew when Satan was lying to us.

Destroying your relationship with God is Satan's number one aim when he assaults you with lies, ambiguity and uncertainty that all lead to ignorance. His plan is to overthrow your relation to God as your Father.

Pick it apart.

Plant doubt in your mind.

Satan will tell you to question the Bible, the church, the pastor and God himself by lacing your mind with all kinds of misinformation, mixed with outright lies. He will try to assault you with *seemingly* unanswerable questions such as:

- "If there is a God, why is there so much suffering in the world?"
- "If you are really God's child, why do you struggle so often?"
- "If God really loves you, why do you experience such pain?"
- "If *those people* are really Christians, why do they act so poorly?"

Satan will stop at nothing as he tries to uproot any healthy seeds of faith and replace them with weeds of doubt and uncertainty. If he can accomplish this goal, he will cut off your reliance and communion with God.

The devil wants nothing more than to shake our faith in the Word of God and cause us to question the truth of it.

This is how he began when he spoke to Eve: "Did God *really* say that? Surely, he has not!"[8] Satan used half lies to insinuate that God forbade the Tree of Knowledge because he was withholding something good and begrudged Adam and Eve the benefit of it.

You and I need to understand what the enemy already knows. He will fight dirty, use guerilla tactics, and strike when you least suspect – so you cannot even see who you are fighting. He wants you to grope around in the darkness of your own limited knowledge, instead of relying on the all-knowing strength and power of Almighty God and his Word.

We cannot ignore Satan and assume he will go away. Likewise, we cannot ignore God and assume that we will get all his benefits or have a close relationship with him. (Notice how the word ignore is part of the word ignorance)

Our complacency leads to ignorance and this is exactly where Satan wants us to be.

Now the problem we will face in these chapters talking about the enemy and his strategies is that many of us might become even more afraid as we read them.

When we see how cunning Satan is, or recognize ourselves as people who have succumbed to his lies, it can feel overwhelming.

8 "Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, "You must not eat from any tree in the garden"?'" (Gen 3:1). "Did God really say" is a common line that Satan still feeds us today whenever we are tempted by self-indulgence.

But darkness cannot hide in the light. In fact, there truly is no such thing as darkness when you think about it. Darkness is simply an absence of light. This book is going to shine God's light on the darkness.

Let's pull out God's flashlight right now and look at how James 4:7b says, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Resist is an active word that means to oppose and stand against. Think of the French Resistance fighting the Nazis: Recall how they killed German soldiers, bombed their trains and fought the enemy in any and every way possible. It was a war where freedom was at stake.

This is how we need to see our fight against this enemy. This is our war for our freedom, our families and our very souls.

Resistance is not futile.[9]

9 Let's briefly examine Satan's constant utterance, "Resistance is futile." One can only imagine this big play of a powerful enemy telling you – taunting you – daring you that resistance is a pointless exercise of wasted effort. It is a mocking and belittling statement that bullies make when they are secretly terrified of you and the mere possibility that you might fight back. Imagine the power and might of the Nazi army against the small and secret band of French Resistance fighters, yet the French were instrumental in the ultimate defeat of the Nazis.

In the Star Trek series, a virtually unstoppable enemy called the Borg said, "resistance is futile" and the Borg was stupid enough to truly believe it. This allowed the crew of the Enterprise to board their ship and eventually win an all but unwinnable battle. Satan knows the Bible well, and he knows the truth of James 4:7 when God tells us, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." The only question is how much we believe in the power of God's statement for our lives.

If your blood pressure feels a little high right now, it is probably a good sign. It means that you recognize yourself in this battle. The battle may be hard, you may have lost some fights, but God has already won the war.

Whew.

I want you to set this book down for a moment and say out loud: "Jesus is my Lord and Savior."

Now breathe in deeply and exhale slowly. Close your eyes in quiet confidence and say it again: "Jesus is my Lord and Savior." As you breathe in, invite the Holy Spirit to live inside you. Breathe out and whisper it again: "Jesus is my Lord and Savior." Remember that God is on our side, and the war is already won. "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Abundantly.

As we close this chapter, I want you to remember that the next chapter will directly refute Satan's lies presented in this chapter. We will follow this pattern throughout the rest of this book.

Armed with God's wisdom and knowledge, we are going to grab the light of truth, so we can use a powerful beam to expose this thief who tries to steal our joy.

We are NOT going to be ignorant. Instead, we will fill our minds with the power and grace of God. We are going to have a major paradigm shift and see our lives from heaven's perspective.

When God fills our minds, our hearts become even more filled at the same time. Filled and overflowing. Filled with God's abundance!

The Little Big Thing

The man screamed, “Liar!” as he slammed his computer shut. His explosive moment was so loud that everyone in the coffee shop jumped, then watched as he bolted from his chair and stormed out.

Speaking of liars, the 1997 Jim Carey comedy, *Liar Liar* grossed 303 million dollars as audiences laughed about a guy who could not stop lying. Today there are songs about liars, books on how to spot a liar and blogs about dating liars. If you’ve ever watched a baby pretend to cry, pause, then cry again to get a parent’s attention, you understand how inherent lying can be.

Deceit in our modern world seems rampant. In the last few decades, it seems that trust has become so elusive that we don’t know which fake news to watch anymore!

In the Bible, we see that lying is as old as Satan deceiving Eve. Fast forward to the time of Moses and notice that the Ninth Commandment says, “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor” (Ex 20:16). Then skip ahead another thousand years and you’ll see that the Psalms are laced with the evils of lying. Just consider how Psalm 12 cries out:

> Help, Lord, for no one is faithful anymore; those who are loyal have vanished from the human race. Everyone lies to their neighbor; they flatter with their lips but harbor deception in their hearts. May the LORD silence all flattering lips and every boastful tongue – those who say, “By our tongues we will prevail; our own lips will defend us—who is lord over us?” (Ps 12:1-2, 4).

With all this lying throughout history and especially in our modern world, we must ask ourselves, “What is the truth?” We are not talking about values or opinions. Gangs have values, but truth is something eternal that transcends time, culture and affiliations. So, what truths can we ALWAYS and forever believe?

The first truth: We are in great danger if we listen to Satan’s lies as he whispers, “It’s okay. Your problems are normal. Everyone has these. Why would you ever think you could be filled with peace, love and joy? Just look around you!” His lies only lead to our ignorance.

The second truth: We can choose to model our lives after the one who said, “I am the way and the truth and the life” (Jn 14:6a). Yes – Jesus is the truth. The one and only truth. And the truth is simple: “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son” (Jn 3:16a) who came so we can indeed have the promise of his abundance.

Ignorance or truth…it seems like such an obvious choice! Let’s take some **little** steps to discover the great, **big,** abundant life Jesus wants to give us!

Questions for You

How would you describe your life? Are you living an abundant life that Jesus died to give you, or are you struggling and wish there was more for you? Why?

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Where do you have broken relationships or unhappiness? Has Satan been lying to you (to make you ignorant) that this is natural in life so there is nothing that you or God can do?

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What specific actions have you already done in the last year to make your life better? Was God involved with your actions and decisions – and if so, how was he involved?

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Satan's 1st Lie
Ignorance is Bliss – "If You Knew"

God's Solution

Choose to Know

In the last chapter, we discussed Satan's primary tactic: to sneak and prowl like a thief hiding in the dark so we become complacent and ignorant of his lurking presence in our lives.

When we are ignorant, unaware and susceptible, Satan is able to quietly and slowly, yet absolutely and deliberately, steal joy and peace from us until one day we find ourselves living in mediocrity. We fail to experience the fullness of God's abundance. Many times, anger, fear and broken relationships permeate our lives until we think this way of living is normal and acceptable.

So, in one corner we have a thief who steals, kills and destroys – subtly, shrewdly poisoning our lives while we ramble unaware. In the other corner we have God Almighty, the light of the world who promises peace, joy and love all wrapped up into one word: abundance.

Sounds like an easy choice, right? Say, “Abundance, abundance, abundance” then let’s just close this book and call it a day.

If the choice is easy, why are we still reading? We all know Satan thrives on complacency, watching and waiting for us to put our guard down. Then he slithers almost undetectably into our lives.

And the very first step toward squashing this snake is to know he is there. “If only you knew when the thief was coming.” Jesus is giving us the first step to winning! Let’s read it again…

“If only you knew…”

So, there’s the answer…let’s know!

Let’s change it from “If only we knew,” to “let’s know!” Instead of wondering, let’s get smart and learn when the thief is coming. Turn on the alarms! We need to know. We are going to know.

The first step to knowing is choosing

When I was a little boy, everyone had black and white television sets. But in the late 1950s NBC changed its logo to a peacock unfolding its colorful wings while they announced, "The following program is brought to you in living color, on NBC!" By the mid-1960s, full-color programs such as *Bonanza* and *Disney* drove sales of color sets through the roof and my family finally got a color TV!

My dad used the color TV as a prop and explained to me, “Mark, you can learn and do things in life the hard way or the easy way. Even though you can watch the same *Bonanza* episode in black and white or color, it’s simply a better quality and more pleasing to watch in color. In the same way, your life is going to go through episodes called 5th grade, 10th grade, marriage, career and so on but the question will be the quality of your life which will largely be dependent on your choices.”

He went on to explain that the hard way happens when people suffer through negative, expensive and hurtful experiences before finally learning their lesson. The easy way learns life lessons from the wisdom of people who had gone before. As years passed, and with every hurdle of life, my dad reminded me of my ability to choose the easy way or the hard way…and he always asked me what I wanted to choose.

My dad was right. In life and in most circumstances, we get choices. Yes, we choose. This is one of the most consistent messages throughout the Bible.

About 4000 years ago, when the Israelite people were finally out of slavery and ready to enter the Promised Land, Moses implored the people to choose the easy way – God's way instead of the hard way. Over and over Moses pleaded with them to choose to love the Lord, to put God first in their lives.

See Moses with his arms outstretched, beseeching the people:

> The land you are entering to take over is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you planted your seed and *irrigated it by foot as in a vegetable garden*. But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that *drinks rain from heaven* (Deut 11:10-11).

What a contrast!

The hard way: picture walking for miles with heavy buckets of water hanging off a thick stick that digs into your shoulders, spilling and sloshing as you work in the heat to irrigate your little vegetable garden, just to barely sustain your family.

The easy way: land that "*drinks rain from heaven*." Land – not a little garden. Land, as in "landowner." Picture the Ponderosa Ranch on *Bonanza*. Drinking rain from heaven!

Steal, kill and destroy versus abundance. Black and white TV versus "brought to you in living color – by God Almighty!"

To have the easy way, people simply need to choose to love the Lord and recognize that, "In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome" (1 Jn 5:3). Just *choose* to be in a love relationship with God. (After all, look at what God has already done for you!)

Oh, what a contrast! Just *choose* God.

When we are wholly in love with God, keeping his commands is easy. You simply ***want*** to choose God. You want to keep his commands, not out of fear, but in response to his enormous love.

I heard a story about a woman whose first marriage was filled with anger and despair as her husband *demanded* that she love him. Many years after their divorce, she met another man who was gentle, kind-hearted and loving toward everyone; and especially with her. Despite the apprehension from her first marriage experiences, she married the second man. He continued to love her with patience and gentleness – so much that she said, "I just cannot help but love my husband. I love loving him and loving him is something I ***want*** to do with all my heart."

It is the same way with choosing to love God.

Knowing and thanking God for all that he has done for us. Knowing and thanking Jesus for his enormous sacrifice for us. Just knowing that God constantly loves us.

When we have this knowledge (notice how the word know is inside the word knowledge), it becomes so much easier to choose God and submit ourselves to him.

Like the lady who *wanted* to love her husband, we find ourselves *wanting* to love God.

Moses said to choose to love God for what he had already done for his people. Then, instead of toiling through work and the hardships of life, God's blessings settle inside us with his abundant love.[10]

> The land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that **drinks rain from heaven.** It is a land the Lord your God cares for; the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end (Deut 11:11-12).

Pick me, pick me – rain from heaven!

Maybe this is so easy, so unbelievably gracious, that we start hearing Satan's sneaky half-truths again. Perhaps he's telling you that Moses was a Bronze Age guy who lived 4000 years ago. Let's get real. What on earth does this have to do with us?

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10 We need to be very careful that we don't misunderstand Moses's message that God would send the rain from heaven to water their crops only if the people worshipped God. In fact, in Matthew 5:45 Jesus reminds the people that God causes the sun to shine on the good and evil and sends rain for both the righteous and unrighteous.

As we have already read, and as I will continue to emphasize throughout this book, there simply is no "magic" formula that turns God into our "prosperity puppet." Nor is there a secret prayer button that makes it so "God owes us." To the contrary, God owes us nothing but chooses to love us, and as the perfect lover, God relishes when we freely love him back.

Let's jump ahead a thousand years to when Israel was at the pinnacle of power, living in this same Promised Land Moses had talked about. Let's see what King David has to say.

David's very first Psalm also talks about the hard way versus the easy way! Can you even imagine that? Who could've ever planned the Bible to be written with such consistency?

Just like the first chapter of most great books, Psalm 1 sets the table for the rest of the Psalms as David says:

> Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take, or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night (Ps 1:1-2).

There it is again. The hard way or the easy way.

King David is inviting us to choose the same way Moses did. The same way my dad did for me. The same way God our Father does for all his children.

This first Psalm describes the blessed person as one who delights in God instead of the things this world holds up as delightful. For example, in our world today, there are many who would "counsel" us that we are ultimately happy (worldly people would not say the word "blessed" because "blessed" is not a secular word) when we achieve a certain level of power, security, fame, privilege, freedom, education, abilities etc.

While many of these are wonderful and indeed offer a high happiness value, the problem is that they are all temporal. When we put ANY of these things before our relationship with God, we are making the mistake of turning important things into ultimate things.

It has been said that the enemy of the best is the second best. Suppose, for example, your favorite baseball team was in first place, just a few games ahead of the second-place team. You would never check the scores of the last place team because they are not a threat to you, but you would keep a close eye on how that second-place team is doing.

In our lives, it is certainly possible to be so busy that we do not take the time to reflect on how we are living. Likewise, it may be possible that we spend so much time earning a living to support our families, that our families themselves are neglected.

By no means am I saying that bad things always trump the good. Rather, it's often good things which crowd out the best things.

Sneaky how that works – wouldn't you agree?

If only you knew the thief was coming. That's why Satan likes – no, Satan loves it when the good things in life become our ultimate things.

Psalm 1 speaks clearly about the easy way verses the hard way by saying the secret to living a blessed and abundant life is to delight in God. It's as simple as spending quality time with God, inviting him to be intimately involved with every aspect of our lives.

This Psalm is not telling us to become monks or to move to the jungles of the Amazon River and be missionaries. Nor is it telling you that you need to say one hundred Lord's Prayers or get a score of at least 93.57% in calculus in order to gain heaven.

Scholars say to "delight in the law of the Lord" can be described as singing God's song or humming his tune throughout your day. It's simply like inviting your best friend to be with you.

My son, Michael, always hums a tune. He's done it since he cooed as a baby. It's sweet and delightful – like a gentle whisper, a soft whistle or calm breeze. I think the best way to describe it might be like holding hands with your very best friend.

*You're together with God (you are humming his song) because you **want** to be.*[11]

Oh, I see the thief lurking, pointing his ugly finger at the words, "law of the Lord." I hear him hissing, "Sounds pretty legalistic, doesn't it?" "More laws and rules." "Don't tell me what to do."

Go away, Satan. Really – you loser! He knows that the Bible says Jesus is the culmination of God's law.[12] The law is not a set of rules, but a person. The person of Jesus.

It is love incarnate.

To delight in the "law of the Lord" means to delight in Jesus.

I have a Christian friend who was imprisoned in Pakistan. Without a trial, he was arrested, brought to prison, stripped and beaten, had his feet flogged and was dragged through the gallows to his cell that held a hundred Muslim prisoners.

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11 There is nothing better than to hum God's song in our hearts – but did you know God rejoices over you with singing? It says so in Zephaniah 3:17. Yes, our God, our Creator, loves us so much he sings songs to us! We'd love to bless you so you can soak in "God's Words of Love" with beautiful music. Imagine listening to gentle, soothing music and hearing God say, "I am your Father in heaven, and you are my child." Then, as the music continues to play, we hear God's Word again as he says, "I love you." You'll be delighted, like holding hands with God. Listen at www.Words OfLove.org

12 Romans 10:4 says, "Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes."

Not knowing whether anyone outside the prison even knew where he was, cold without blankets, having to share one toilet pit with all these men, isolated next to hostile strangers, feet in extraordinary pain; imagine how he must have felt a whole month later on the day guards grabbed him, handcuffed him again, then led him back through the gallows area to scare him on purpose…only to unlock his cuffs and let him go free.

He staggered away from the prison before collapsing…sobbing, then weeping. As the days and weeks passed, his emotions swelled into praise to God for setting him free. All he could do was hum and sing and cry with God, delighted to be set free.

This is exactly where we are today. Set free. Praise God.

Set free from the bondage of sin. Set free from the penalty of hell. Set free from prison.

Set free by the grace of God Almighty. By the Word of God. The Word who became flesh. Became little. Vulnerable. Killable.

Set free by the one who took the punishment we deserve.

If we really knew the hell we've been saved from, it would be hard to stop from singing, humming and praising God throughout our day.

But the amazing part is that as we sing God's praise and invite him into our lives, we realize firsthand the truth of Psalm 1:3, which tells us that God will water **us**. "That person is like a tree planted by streams of water." Psalm 1 uses the same water metaphor that Moses used when he told the people that God would water their land!

It sure seems easier and smarter to trust God than to listen to the counsel of our world, which is filled with so much struggle and striving for things which ultimately perish.

But here comes Satan again with more half-truths: "We've talked about Moses and David – but everyone knows they are Old Testament guys. They are ancient history, and both were plenty fallible."

So, let's go right to the source and see what Jesus had to say about living God's way – in abundance. Living the easy way.

Consider the scene as Jesus begins his very ***first*** public speech. This speech would describe his platform and lay out his manifesto, kind of like the very ***first*** Psalm or the ***first*** words Moses spoke ***before*** the people entered the Promised Land. Do we see a pattern here?

Crowds of people are all around Jesus. He wants everyone to be able to see and hear him, so he walks a little way up the mountainside. Imagine Jesus being thirty years old and all those years he had prepared for this big moment.

On top of this, think about the atmosphere of the crowd. It must have been electrifying, hearing rumors of how Jesus had healed people. This Jesus was supposed to be the Messiah who would deliver the Jewish people from the persecution of Rome. Hearing stories that Jesus would be talking about the kingdom of heaven coming to earth, and maybe that Jesus was going to be a new King David who would rule the world!

Think of who was there to hear Jesus: leading Pharisees, chief priests, lawyers and scribes. To put it in our modern worldview, all the cameras would have been pointing at Jesus. Imagine the news, radio and television crews from around the world vying for positions, looking for any angle to give the very latest reports. All the politicians and rows of celebrities seated in the "Who's Who" section so they can be seen with Jesus!

It must have been like show time! Wow. *It's going to be a doozy!*

What exactly will Jesus say? No one wants to miss a single word. Can you imagine the hush of the large crowd?

And then Jesus drops the bomb.

Instead of giving the multitudes a go-team-go, rah-rah, hype-them-up and generate some major buzz kind of speech, Jesus told people about the easy way by sharing the simple and amazing truth: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 5:3).[13]

Oh no, here comes Satan again with his big mouth, spouting lies. "Did Jesus say "poor"? Wow, Jesus blew it! No one is going to text in their vote for him. What a loser! **Everyone** knows that no one is happy when they lack, but only when you've got it all together! It's when you're rich, talented and self-sufficient. That is when you've made it. True living is when you have big self-worth and the power to go with it.

Jesus had the crowd in his hands, so what kind of talk was this? Why *on earth* would Jesus say such a *stupid and ignorant* thing?

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13 Matthew's first four chapters deal with the genealogy, birth and baptism of Jesus, along with his temptation in the wilderness and the selection of his disciples. Although Jesus had already spoken in local synagogues and healed many people, his "Sermon on the Mount" is his first recorded sermon in Matthew. By this time, Jesus had already gained a huge following of people who had enormous expectations.

> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to Him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region beyond the Jordan followed him (Mt 4:23-25).

Unbelievable. I told you the church is a crutch; an opiate for people who are weak, lame and especially poor. The home team got shut out. What a disappointment. “Let’s go home, Irene.”

It’s so obvious to see how Jesus’s message conflicts with what our world tells us. Satan sure has a lot of ways to spin his lies.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Why did Jesus choose these as the very *first* words of his very *first* sermon? And why do so many people call them the foundation of everything else in the New Testament? Let’s discover the POWER of these words and allow them to transform us!

We need to start by remembering that “blessed” does not mean you are going to find a fifty-dollar bill in the pocket of the jacket you haven’t worn for years. Nor does it mean you’ll never get sick, or the mosquitoes won’t bite you. “Blessed” is not a good luck charm or a big bank account, no matter what you may have heard from any prosperity preacher.

In addition, “blessed” doesn’t mean you will always be happy or cheery or have a “good feeling” that carries you through.

Instead, “blessed” is a whole lot more.

Fundamentally, it means that you are in right relationship with God despite feelings or circumstances, winning or losing, sickness or health, financial riches or poverty. It matters not whether you are single, married, widowed or divorced.

When we are truly blessed, we *know* we are in right relationship with God. This knowing permeates everything else in our lives. It gives us God's peace at a level that surpasses understanding.[14]

This blessedness is when we experience favor from God. It is when the supernatural love of God invades our lives, thoughts and dreams, so we are energized yet overflowing with peace at the same time.

When God blesses us, it is as if we get a glimpse of heaven.[15]

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14 Paul's entire theology hinges on our unworthiness, followed by our being saved through God's grace found in Jesus. Here, Paul talks about the peace and joy (the blessedness) we can experience when we put our trust and hope in God instead of ourselves. Paul's words mirror Christ's promise that the truly blessed are those who recognize their utter dependence upon God.

> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Phil 4:4-7).

15 Speaking of blessedness as a glimpse of heaven, Paul writes about this when he says, "For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known" (1 Cor 13:12).

I'd like to paraphrase the great theologian, Timothy Keller, with my recollection of his words, "Have you ever had a moment that you wish could last forever?" Can you remember a moment that was so wonderful, beautiful and encompassing that it felt like heaven? Perhaps when you held a newborn baby or your first kiss? Maybe this is the glimpse of heaven (the mirror) that Paul is speaking of in his letter. One can only imagine such bliss and blessedness that never ends – a joy that fills us and overflows and continues without end.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

So, what did Jesus mean when he said the words, "poor in spirit?" We need to remember that Satan wants to feed us with misinformation about these three powerful words, so we must first understand what "poor in spirit" does NOT mean.

It does not mean that we should be weak, timid, afraid, silent, feeble, fragile, insignificant or ANYTHING like these limitations. "Poor in spirit" does not imply that we should lack courage, valor or have no personality. It also does not mean that we do not need to take care of ourselves, ignore our particular talents, or have a poor spiritual life.

To top it all off, "poor in spirit" does NOT even mean that we should be financially poor.[16]

Just yesterday, I talked with a gentle, thoughtful and kindhearted mother of two young children who told me she felt guilty and worried about not being "poor in spirit" because she lives in a modest but comfortable suburban home, drives a reliable car and has a good job to provide for her family.

16 Speaking of being financially poor, we need to recognize that there are enormous dangers in riches. The biggest danger is that we might come to believe in our own self-sufficiency, which is obviously the opposite of being "poor in spirit." The Bible has many verses that discuss these unique dangers and we would be very prudent to heed its warnings.

If you are reading this book, chances are YOU are in the top 1% of all income earners in the world. Whether you see yourself as rich or not is irrelevant because the rest of the world thinks you are truly wealthy. The statement "you cannot serve both God and money" bears our consideration in light of this entire chapter.

Oh, how Satan likes to twist things.[17]

So, now that we know what "poor in spirit" does NOT mean, let's discover the power of what it really does mean. When Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit," he is referring to the very same message of Moses and David, but Jesus expands it to say that the truly blessed are those who empty themselves of self – so they can be totally filled with God.

Think of it this way…when we are full of the devil, we can cast him out. But what do we do when we are full of ourselves? How can God help us when we tell God we don't need any help? How can God live in our lives if there is no room for him? How can God help us when we have delusions of our own grandeur?[18]

Blessed is the man who is empty of himself, and totally filled with God's spirit.

Just as Psalm 1 says the blessed man is someone who delights in God and who seeks God both day and night, Jesus says the blessed man is someone who senses their own spiritual poverty and delights in knowing that God alone has rescued him, simply because of God's enormous love for him.

17 Satan tries to twist anything and everything he can. To think that you have somehow sinned because you don't sleep on the floor, walk with stones in your shoes or somehow "suffer for Christ" misses the whole point. The point is simple: Jesus died for our sins and already did what needed to be done!

18 When we see ourselves as righteous and worthy of heaven, we fail to see our utter and absolute dependence on God. The Bible gives many warnings about this including, "You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked" (Rev 3:17).

Blessed are the spiritual beggars who have nothing and sense their own nothingness. They know that inside their own strength, they can't fight the Egyptians of their world. Inside their own strength, they get weary from carrying buckets of water to irrigate their crops.

Perhaps another analogy can be found when Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Mk 10:14). As we think of little children, we know that they have never done anything to earn heaven. They've never built anything or made any bold proclamations.

Little children are not and cannot be full of themselves, because there is no self to be filled with. "The kingdom of God belongs to such as these," not for what they've accomplished, but simply because the only thing that truly fills them is God's love.

- God brings forth the rain from heaven (Deut 11:14).
- God plants us near the river (Ps 1:3).
- God brings us living water (Jn 4:10).

In a nutshell, being "poor in spirit" is when we acknowledge our own lack of resources and recognize our desperate need for God. When we stretch out our empty hands to God and ask him to supply our needs, he reaches out to us.

Being "poor in spirit" is realizing our own brokenness, smallness and weakness, so we say, "God, help me because I need you. I cannot do it on my own. I need your grace. I need your strength."

It is only the person who is hungry for God who craves the food of the Bible. It's when we realize we live "in a dry and parched land where there is no water" (Ps 63:1b) that we thirst for God.

We started this chapter talking about how the thief wants to steal God's abundant plan for us by having us live in fear, offense, mediocrity, anger and broken relationships while we ignorantly believe this is "normal."

Then we talked about the easy way versus the hard way. We discovered what Moses said about irrigating our garden by foot versus rain from heaven. We learned how David said the blessed man was like a prospering tree planted by the river (Ps 1:3). And Jesus put it all together by offering his life as living water.

The Promised Land is right here and right now. The thief has no power. When we love God with all our hearts, souls and minds, we invite him in. We hang out with him, hold his hand, hum his tune. We see God all around us and cannot help but thank him for setting us free.

In short, we will ***want*** to become empty of ourselves so we can be filled with God's abundance. The sunsets, rainbows and smiles all have deeper meaning when we share every aspect of ourselves with God.

We will know and want what is truly important – the kingdom of heaven living inside us.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

The Little Big Thing

I used to love a good hockey game. I grew up as a rink rat who ate, breathed and slept hockey. When my brothers and I were kids, my mom brought us to hockey practice at 4:30AM and we played on three different teams, so hockey devoured our family calendar.

I really don't know what happened since high school because today, I don't even know where my ice skates are. Worse than that, I've hardly watched more than a dozen hockey games in the last forty years.

All these "hockey thoughts" swirled through my brain when I met a nice family the other day. The lady's coat had two powerful words embroidered on her back: "Hockey Mom." For ten minutes, we struggled to find a time to get together and finally decided to wait for spring – sometime between the hockey and baseball seasons.

Of course, it made me think about choices and priorities; how I used to play hockey 'till the lights were turned off at the rink. Today, how I go to bed early so I can wake up refreshed and have time to pray. I used to lift weights to be in hockey shape. Today, I exercise my mind with good books and podcasts. I used to know every Minnesota North Star hockey player and their stats. Today, most people have never even heard of Gump Worsley or Bill Goldsworthy (two of my hockey heroes).

So, the questions of the day are really simple: what are your priorities, and who helps you think them through? How often do you challenge them? What do you really love? Where do you spend your time?

Many believe we live in the "golden age" which people have long dreamed of. Instead of working everyday just to survive, we actually have "free time" to pursue our dreams, relax and enjoy some forms of entertainment.

David said the blessed man is one who delights in the Lord and meditates on him day and night. So, the **little** thing is to ask how you choose to spend your free time. Specifically, how much time do you spend with God every day?[19] I think our time choices give us some **big** indicators as to what is truly important in our lives.

19 Spending time with God should not have to be a regimen like an exercise workout, nor does it mean you have to be a Bible scholar. Spending time with God can be like hanging out with a friend. I know some people who sincerely love God and spend time praying on their knees. I also know many others who sincerely love God and pray while snuggling with a warm blanket and cup of coffee. The most important part is God desires you! He longs to spend time with you because he loves you so much and wants you to know it!

Questions for You

What is one area of life you let God control fully? What is that like?

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What is an area you are still controlling? How is that going?

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Think of another area that you would like God to have complete control over. Take some time to pray. When you really give this area to God and ask him to take control, what do you think will happen?

_____

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Satan lies to us in so many ways. He whispers that we should be afraid, tells us we are all alone, proclaims we are unlovable, loves when we are unforgiving, claps his hands when we judge others, and he insists that prayer is a waste of time. All these are terrible lies and God's word has amazing solutions that will rock your world.

If you're ready for more of God's solutions in our easy-to-understand format, go to our website and get the rest of "Why Wait To Be Happy!" in PDF format for a one-time purchase of $2.95. All proceeds help our non-profit continue to reach tens of thousands of people with this life-changing content. We'll see you there!

Visit: https://littlebigthings.org/shop/why-wait-to-be-happy/