



DIVINE
MOMENTS

*Everyday Inspiration
from God's Word*



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Divine Moments: Everyday Inspiration from God's Word

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Introduction

The goal of *Divine Moments* is to help you experience a breakthrough with God, to show you how and where God is at work in your life to get your attention each day. If the Bible is really a blueprint for living, then God, through his Word, should be able to respond to any question you have for him. And he does! As you read the questions and Scripture in this book, it is amazing to see how God's answers to your daily needs are so clear and help you see with "spiritual eyes" how he is trying to break through to you. Sometimes God seems so big and mysterious that you may wonder whether he would truly bother with you. But he loves you personally and is trying to get your attention every day. This little book can help you notice the divine moments when he is trying to show you how much he cares. You can read straight through the book, or you can use it topically when you are looking for God's help in a certain area of life or if you just need more clarity about what God might say about something that is important to you. We pray this little book will be meaningful to you and help you experience many divine moments with God.

—*The editors*

Abilities

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

Where do my abilities come from, and how should I use them?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.

MATTHEW 25:29

When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

LUKE 12:48



Deep within the human spirit lie a longing and a capacity to do wonderful things. Because you are made in the image of God, you inherited from him the desire to create, to accomplish, to make things happen. God wouldn't give you these desires without the ability to carry them out. These abilities are gifts from God to help you accomplish great things for him and live a fulfilling life. How you use or misuse them ultimately determines your quality of life—quality being not comfort or the accumulation of things, but character, joy, and lasting satisfaction. Your goal is to first discover your abilities; second, to develop them; and then channel them toward what is good, helpful, productive, and honoring to God. As you obediently exercise and develop your abilities, God's purpose for their uses

becomes clear, and you get a glimpse into what God can do through you now and what you will eventually become when you are able to fully utilize your abilities in eternity.



DIVINE PROMISE

IN HIS GRACE, GOD HAS GIVEN US DIFFERENT
GIFTS FOR DOING CERTAIN THINGS WELL.

Romans 12:6

Absolutes

MY QUESTIONS *for* GOD

Are there really absolutes in life? And if so, how can I know what they are?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

People may be right in their own eyes, but the LORD examines their heart. PROVERBS 21:2

In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes. JUDGES 21:25

If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you.

JAMES 4:11



Imagine you've just bought a new cell phone or computer. You can ignore the instructions for using it, and it will still work. But you'll miss many of the great things it was meant to do, and you'll miss much of what you could have enjoyed. Now let's say that instead of ignoring the instructions, you purposely do the opposite of what the manual tells you to do. Now you've got a bigger problem. Your phone or computer will frustrate you every day because nothing will work right.

There's a certain way to get these gadgets to work, and the instruction book tells you what that way is. It's the same with life. The Bible is God's instruction manual for life. God has programmed certain absolutes into the world, and they apply to all people, in all times, and in all places. Ignore God's instructions, and you'll miss much of what God intends for you to enjoy. But go against his instructions, and chances are good that you'll end up hurt, frustrated, and disappointed. That's why it is so important not only to read the Bible and discover God's absolutes but also to live by them. Doing so can make life much smoother, and it will certainly be more fulfilling.



DIVINE PROMISE

ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD AND IS USEFUL TO TEACH US WHAT IS TRUE AND TO MAKE US REALIZE WHAT IS WRONG IN OUR LIVES. IT CORRECTS US WHEN WE ARE WRONG AND TEACHES US TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT.

2 Timothy 3:16

Acceptance

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

Can God really accept me, even after all I've done?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ROMANS 5:8

This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all.

1 TIMOTHY 1:15

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 1 JOHN 4:9-10



God's acceptance is based not on what a person does but on faith in Jesus Christ. Even the most saintly human being is found lacking in comparison with God's holiness. Nothing you do could ever compensate for the sins that have separated you from God, who is perfect. Fortunately, God's forgiveness flows from his love for you, which is why he gave his Son, Jesus, to die before you were even born or had committed your first sin. God's acceptance has been waiting for you your whole life. When you receive his forgiveness, he welcomes you into his presence. What a wonderful moment it is

when you realize how fully God accepts you and are freed from the burden of trying to earn God's love.



DIVINE PROMISE

NOTHING . . . WILL EVER BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD THAT IS REVEALED IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. *Romans 8:39*

Addiction

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

How can God break the power of addiction in my life?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

You say, "I am allowed to do anything"—but not everything is good for you. And even though "I am allowed to do anything," I must not become a slave to anything.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12

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

ROMANS 12:2

You belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory . . . because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

1 JOHN 4:4

The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

GALATIANS 5:22-23



Who in his or her right mind would volunteer to become a slave, held in bondage forever? Yet that's just what addiction is: self-imposed slavery, selling yourself to a lifetime of bondage to a habit or substance. While you might typically think of addiction as a problem related to drugs or alcohol, other addictions can be just as destructive. You may become addicted to laziness, television, computer games, unhealthy food. The list goes on and on. You can even be addicted to good things such as exercise or even good food. We all have our addictions, whether they are "minor" bad habits or serious dependencies.

Sin is the greatest addiction. Like other substances or habits, it often appears alluring and attractive, offering short-term pleasure. It's easy to justify giving in "just this once" and thinking you have things under control. But soon you realize that what you are giving in to has become a habit you can't stop, and it now controls you. Sin, as with other addictions, often comes from a loss of self-control. Ironically, the only way to recover your self-control is to let God control you. His control is always for your health, benefit, and spiritual growth. God can break the power of addiction when you give him control of your life. That's why it is imperative that you admit your addiction and acknowledge its destructiveness. It is almost impos-

sible to overcome addiction by yourself. You need the consistent support of other people who love you, tell you the truth, and hold you accountable. But you must also hold yourself accountable to God's way of living as written in the Bible. As you stay close to God, he will change your heart and your desires. As you surrender to the Holy Spirit, God will replace addictive drives with life-affirming desires.



DIVINE PROMISE

YOU ARE NOT CONTROLLED BY YOUR SINFUL NATURE. YOU ARE CONTROLLED BY THE SPIRIT IF YOU HAVE THE SPIRIT OF GOD LIVING IN YOU. *Romans 8:9*

Adoption

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

How is adoption a picture of my relationship with God?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

To all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. JOHN 1:12

When the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.

GALATIANS 4:4-5

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.

EPHESIANS 1:4-6



The process of adoption is a beautiful example of God's love for you. Just as adoptive parents make a choice to give a child a new life, Jesus chose to give you a new life you couldn't otherwise achieve. People who adopt children decide to lovingly teach and nurture them and give them rights and privileges of being a member of the family. As a child of God, you are privileged to receive all his blessings, both in this life and the next.



DIVINE PROMISE

I WILL BE YOUR FATHER, AND YOU WILL
BE MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS, SAYS THE
LORD ALMIGHTY. *2 Corinthians 6:18*

Adversity

MY QUESTIONS *for* GOD

*Is God listening when I cry to him in times of trouble?
Does it do any good to cry out to God?*

A MOMENT *with* GOD

In my distress I cried out to the LORD; yes, I prayed to my God for help. He heard me from his sanctuary; my cry to him reached his ears. PSALM 18:6

Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

MATTHEW 11:28

Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. 1 PETER 5:7

When troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. JAMES 1:2-3



The Bible doesn't speculate about whether or not trouble will come. It warns that trouble *will* come. Your troubles don't mean that God has turned his back on you or shut his ears to your prayers. God has both a listening ear and a caring heart, and his Word assures you that nothing can ever separate you from his love. Adversity will come, but it brings with it opportunities to strengthen your faith in God. If there were no troubles, you'd have no need for faith. You may often feel

that your need is impossible to meet, that you're too weak to go on, or that it's too late for solutions. Yet these are the times when God's power can be most evident in your life. Wait for the moment of God's rescue, and you will experience his presence in new and life-changing ways.



DIVINE PROMISE

CALL ON ME WHEN YOU ARE IN TROUBLE,
AND I WILL RESCUE YOU, AND YOU WILL GIVE
ME GLORY. *Psalm 50:15*

Advice

MY QUESTIONS *for* GOD

I'm an intelligent person. Do I really need advice from others? Why?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

The instruction of the wise is like a life-giving fountain; those who accept it avoid the snares of death.

PROVERBS 13:14

Wise words are like deep waters; wisdom flows from the wise like a bubbling brook.

PROVERBS 18:4

Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.

PROVERBS 12:15



Good advice is not merely helpful; it also brings relief and comfort when it comes to you at just the right moment. God can use a conversation with a friend or even the advice of a trained counselor to bring about a turning point in your life. He often allows the words of others to reach us at the moment we are most ready to receive them. No one is wise enough to anticipate all the possibilities of a situation or to grasp all the issues related to a problem. Refusing to listen to others is a sign that you're not ready for change or spiritual growth. The right counsel can make the difference between success and failure, joy and sorrow, prosperity and poverty, victory and defeat. When you let go of your pride, you open yourself to receiving godly advice. At the critical moment, when you're most ready to hear it, God's wisdom will penetrate your heart.



DIVINE PROMISE

TRUE WISDOM AND POWER ARE FOUND
IN GOD; COUNSEL AND UNDERSTANDING
ARE HIS. *Job 12:13*

Affirmation

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

How do I know that God truly values my life? How does he affirm me?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

GENESIS 1:27

Long ago the LORD said to Israel: "I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself."

JEREMIAH 31:3

God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

JOHN 3:16-17



You can find affirmation in knowing that God chose to create you in his image and longs to have a relationship with you. God draws you to himself, even to the point of sacrificing his own Son to die for you so that you could be made perfect. Your life is the story of how God pursues you, rescues you from your sin, and restores you so that you can become the person you were created to be. Read God's words to you throughout the Bible, and think about all he has done to show you how much you matter to him. As you realize how fully God affirms your value, his love breaks through the messages the world sends about what you ought to be and instead encourages you to be what God wants you to be.



DIVINE PROMISE

WE KNOW WHAT REAL LOVE IS BECAUSE JESUS
GAVE UP HIS LIFE FOR US. *1 John 3:16*

Agreement

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

How can I find agreement with others without compromising my convictions?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food. . . . He asked . . . permission not to eat these unacceptable foods. . . . “Please test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water,” Daniel said. . . . The attendant agreed to Daniel’s suggestion. . . . At the end of the ten days, Daniel . . . looked healthier and better nourished than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king.

DANIEL 1:8, 12-15



When you are trying to reach an agreement with someone else, there is a time to compromise and a time to hold firm. When the forces of evil want their way, you cannot budge. To compromise God’s truth, God’s ways, or God’s Word is to negotiate with what is unholy. The test of acceptable compromise is simple: Can two parties reach a mutually satisfactory agreement without either party sacrificing his or her morals? To

give up godliness for anything is a bad bargain. Work for harmony and agreement wherever possible, and where that is not possible, pray that God would break through the stalemate to make his will clear.



DIVINE PROMISE

BE ON GUARD. STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH. BE COURAGEOUS. BE STRONG. *1 Corinthians 16:13*

Amazement

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

How can I capture or recapture a sense of amazement about God?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

I have heard all about you, LORD. I am filled with awe by your amazing works. HABAKKUK 3:2

You are the God of great wonders! You demonstrate your awesome power among the nations. PSALM 77:14

The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known.

PSALM 19:1-2



Pay attention—to the stories of others and to the world around you. God is doing amazing work everywhere. Don't forget the quiet miracles that take place each day: the birth of a baby, a beautiful sunset, close friends, a feeling of joy in the midst of overwhelming circumstances. Being in awe of God over these "small" miracles prepares your heart to experience even more amazing things from God. Listen to how God has amazed others, and add those amazing events to your own list. The more you look for evidence of God's work, the more amazed you will be.



DIVINE PROMISE

HE HAS GIVEN ME A NEW SONG TO SING, A HYMN OF PRAISE TO OUR GOD. MANY WILL SEE WHAT HE HAS DONE AND BE AMAZED. THEY WILL PUT THEIR TRUST IN THE LORD. *Psalms 40:3*

Ambition

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

When is ambition dangerous?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

The devil took [Jesus] to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me." "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the

Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him.’”

MATTHEW 4:8-10



There's a difference between wanting to be a part of God's great work and wanting to achieve personal greatness through doing God's work. It's the difference between desiring to serve God and trying to use God to serve you. It is instructive and even frightening that Satan, the Deceiver, believed he could tempt Jesus by appealing to his sense of ambition. How many have sold their souls to the devil in an attempt to gain worldly glory? Selfish ambition, left unchecked, becomes the hook Satan uses to reel us in. If Jesus had been motivated by selfish ambition rather than by the will and Word of God, he would have been vulnerable to the temptation to possess the kingdoms and splendor of the world. If you had to make a list of your five primary ambitions, what would they be? If someone else were asked to list your five main ambitions would the two lists match? Ambition can become destructive if Satan uses it to lure you away from God. You can test your ambitions by asking if what you want to do will bring you closer to God or move you further away from him. If you're not sure, then that ambition is likely leading you away from him. Ambition can fool you into striving to gain all you desire in this world at the cost of all God desires for you both here and in heaven.



DIVINE PROMISE

WHEN YOU FOLLOW THE DESIRES OF YOUR SINFUL NATURE, THE RESULTS ARE VERY CLEAR: . . . HOSTILITY, QUARRELING, JEALOUSY, OUTBURSTS OF ANGER, SELFISH AMBITION, DISSENSION, DIVISION, ENVY . . . AND OTHER SINS LIKE THESE. . . BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES THIS KIND OF FRUIT IN OUR LIVES: LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS. *Galatians 5:19-22*

Angels

MY QUESTIONS *for* GOD

Are angels real? Will I be an angel in heaven?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

Praise him, all his angels! Praise him, all the armies of heaven. . . . Let every created thing give praise to the LORD, for he issued his command, and they came into being. PSALM 148:2, 5

Angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation. HEBREWS 1:14

Don't you realize that someday we believers will judge the world? . . . Don't you realize that we will judge angels? 1 CORINTHIANS 6:2-3



Angels, like humans, are real beings created by God. Just as God creates each person as a unique individual,

he created angels as unique beings. For example, some angels in the Bible, like Michael and Gabriel, are mentioned by name and were given specific tasks, such as protecting people or delivering messages from God. God uses his angels to counsel, guide, protect, minister to, rescue, fight for, and care for his people. Whether he assigns one angel to a specific individual or uses his host of angels is his choice and your blessing. Thank God for the unseen ways in which angels may have touched you. Chances are that angels have played a greater role in your life than you realize.



DIVINE PROMISE

HE WILL ORDER HIS ANGELS TO PROTECT YOU
WHEREVER YOU GO. *Psalm 91:11*

Anger

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

Why do I most often get angry?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

GENESIS 4:4-5

“You have made me look like a fool!” Balaam shouted.
“If I had a sword with me, I would kill you!”

NUMBERS 22:29

“Didn’t I tell you?” the king of Israel exclaimed. . . .
“He never prophesies anything but trouble for me.
. . . Put this man in prison, and feed him nothing
but bread and water until I return safely from the
battle!”

1 KINGS 22:18, 27

“Get out of the sanctuary, for you have sinned.” . . .
Uzziah, who was holding an incense burner, became
furious. But as he was standing there raging at the
priests before the incense altar in the LORD’S Temple,
leprosy suddenly broke out on his forehead.

2 CHRONICLES 26:18-19

All the king’s officials would bow down before
Haman to show him respect whenever he passed
by, for so the king had commanded. But Mordecai
refused to bow down or show him respect. . . . When
Haman saw that Mordecai would not bow down or
show him respect, he was filled with rage.

ESTHER 3:2, 5

The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great
power and produces wonderful results.

JAMES 5:16



Anger is often a reaction to having your pride hurt. When you are confronted, rejected, ignored, or don’t get your own way, anger is a defense mechanism used to protect your ego. It is common to feel angry when someone has confronted you about your own sinful actions, because you don’t want others to think you have done something wrong. Train yourself to examine your heart whenever you become angry. Ask yourself, Who

is really offended in this situation? Is this about God's honor or my pride? Prayer is a mighty weapon in overcoming anger. It is hard to stay angry at someone when you are praying for that person.



DIVINE PROMISE

A GENTLE ANSWER DEFLECTS ANGER, BUT
HARSH WORDS MAKE TEMPER FLARE.

Proverbs 15:1

Anticipation

MY QUESTIONS *for* GOD

Why should I anticipate eternal life? What do I have to look forward to there?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his

adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.

ROMANS 8:20-23

Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.

JAMES 5:7-8



When you finally take your long-awaited vacation, you may have anticipated it for weeks or months leading up to the time you leave. You've planned and prepared, but you don't know exactly how it will go once you're there. You do know enough to look forward to your time of much needed rest and recreation with pleasure. This is similar to the hope you should have for heaven. God reveals just enough about your eternal home to give you something to anticipate with joy and to encourage you to obey. Just as you still have to go to work to earn your vacation in this life, you will still have some struggles to work through before you can enter heaven. Everyone dreams of moments of joy and times of real rest. God has promised you these things! Are you eager to see what he has planned for you?



DIVINE PROMISE

WE LIVE WITH GREAT EXPECTATION, AND
WE HAVE A PRICELESS INHERITANCE—AN
INHERITANCE THAT IS KEPT IN HEAVEN

FOR YOU, PURE AND UNDEFILED, BEYOND THE REACH OF CHANGE AND DECAY. AND THROUGH YOUR FAITH, GOD IS PROTECTING YOU BY HIS POWER UNTIL YOU RECEIVE THIS SALVATION, WHICH IS READY TO BE REVEALED ON THE LAST DAY FOR ALL TO SEE. SO BE TRULY GLAD. THERE IS WONDERFUL JOY AHEAD, EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE TO ENDURE MANY TRIALS FOR A LITTLE WHILE. *1 Peter 1:3-6*

Apology

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

Why is it so important to apologize to someone I've wronged?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: "I live in the high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts. *ISAIAH 57:15*

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. *JAMES 5:16*

Fools make fun of guilt, but the godly acknowledge it and seek reconciliation. *PROVERBS 14:9*



A true apology takes genuine humility. It requires that you realize your fault and admit it to another. It's often tempting to pretend the offense never happened,

to try to cover it up, or to avoid the other person. These are signs that your heart is proud and averse to taking responsibility for your actions. Refusing to apologize can have devastating consequences in your life: sour relationships, bitterness, isolation, rage, guilt. But through an apology you can experience reconciliation, forgiveness, healing, and courage. These are the blessings that come with a tender conscience and a humble heart. Lasting change can begin only in a humble heart. At the moment you admit your fault and ask forgiveness, you will begin to experience God's healing in your heart and your relationships. Is it time for you to apologize to God and others?



DIVINE PROMISE

PEOPLE WHO CONCEAL THEIR SINS WILL NOT
PROSPER, BUT IF THEY CONFESS AND TURN
FROM THEM, THEY WILL RECEIVE MERCY.

Proverbs 28:13

Appearance

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

How much does appearance matter?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. You should clothe yourselves instead with

the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God.

1 PETER 3:3-4

Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the LORD will be greatly praised.

PROVERBS 31:30

If you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. JAMES 1:23-24



Appearance does matter; just make sure you're looking at the right things. Your body, face, and clothes reflect only your outward shell, which is in a constant process of aging and decay. Your soul and character reflect your inner being, which is ageless and eternal and shows who you really are. In other words, the condition of your body does not reveal the condition of your heart. There's nothing wrong with paying attention to your physical appearance, but not to the neglect of your spiritual appearance. It's easy for us to get distracted and focus on our own appearance or the appearance of others (looking for those who seem most impressive to us). But what an impact we can have on others when they miss what's on our outside because they can't take their eyes off what's on the inside—the light of God's love and truth shining through us. Walking with God causes you to reflect his beauty.



DIVINE PROMISE

PEOPLE JUDGE BY OUTWARD APPEARANCE, BUT
THE LORD LOOKS AT THE HEART. *1 Samuel 16:7*

Appreciation

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

Why is it important to appreciate “the little things in life”?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to the Most High. It is good to proclaim your unfaithful love in the morning, your faithfulness in the evening.

PSALM 92:1-2

Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy.

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-4

Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18



One of the best ways to experience God is to notice and appreciate the little things around you. Turning your focus outward helps you to see many things to be thankful for. Rather than say “I wish,” try saying, “I’m thankful.” Cultivate an appreciative heart by giving thanks regularly, consistently, and spontaneously.

This kind of attitude helps to keep life's disappointments from blinding you to what God is doing in the here and now. Every moment is an opportunity to see God's provision and presence.



DIVINE PROMISE

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD!
HIS FAITHFUL LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.

1 Chronicles 16:34

Armor of God

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

How do I use the armor of God to stay strong during the battles of life?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the

peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

EPHESIANS 6:10-17



Although armor may feel heavy and cumbersome, it is effective in keeping you safe against attack only when it is worn! Wearing God's armor will help you win the battles in life brought on by the attacks of Satan and those who oppose God. You will be fully prepared when you have protected your body with the armor of righteousness, strapped on the belt of truth, walked in peace, shielded yourself with faith, protected your mind with salvation, and prepared to pierce evil with the sword of God's Word.



DIVINE PROMISE

THIS IS WHAT THE LORD SAYS: DO NOT BE AFRAID! DON'T BE DISCOURAGED BY THIS MIGHTY ARMY, FOR THE BATTLE IS NOT YOURS, BUT GOD'S. *2 Chronicles 20:15*

Assurance

MY QUESTIONS *for* GOD

*Where can I find assurance amid the uncertainties of life?
Can I be sure of anything?*

A MOMENT *with* GOD

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.

JEREMIAH 17:7-8

It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in people.

PSALM 118:8

Oh, the joys of those who trust the LORD, who have no confidence in the proud or in those who worship idols.

PSALM 40:4



One thing you can always be certain of is God's love for you. When you go through hard times, it doesn't mean that God has abandoned you. Rather, hard times allow God to reveal his infinite love and care for you. Assurance from other relationships is good at times, but God is the only one in whom you can trust completely without fear of disappointment. You can be assured that what he says is true and what he does is reliable. The world is filled with uncertainty, so why

search for assurance in it? Assurance in this life comes from experiencing God's love for you, which gives you security for today and for eternity.



DIVINE PROMISE

LISTEN TO THE LORD WHO CREATED YOU. . . . THE ONE WHO FORMED YOU SAYS, "DO NOT BE AFRAID, FOR I HAVE RANSOMED YOU. I HAVE CALLED YOU BY NAME; YOU ARE MINE. WHEN YOU GO THROUGH DEEP WATERS, I WILL BE WITH YOU. WHEN YOU GO THROUGH RIVERS OF DIFFICULTY, YOU WILL NOT DROWN. WHEN YOU WALK THROUGH THE FIRE OF OPPRESSION, YOU WILL NOT BE BURNED UP; THE FLAMES WILL NOT CONSUME YOU. FOR I AM THE LORD, YOUR GOD, THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL, YOUR SAVIOR." *Isaiah 43:1-3*

Attitude

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

Is attitude really everything?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in

obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! . . . Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-6

Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18



Attitude plays a huge role in how you view life. What you think about something determines whether you will do anything about it. Your attitudes certainly affect your actions. But the opposite is also true. Your actions can affect your attitudes. In fact, one of the best ways to change your attitude is to start with the action that points to the right attitude. When your actions focus on obeying and loving an eternal God, you become infused with a sense of eternal purpose rather than feelings of religious obligation. Don't be resentful if you haven't experienced God. Rather, seek out the actions that will lead you to him! The bottom line is this: Life is more about how you react to your circumstances than about what actually happens to you. That's why the Bible doesn't *suggest* being joyful or generous—it commands it!



DIVINE PROMISE

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT A MATTER OF WHAT WE EAT OR DRINK, BUT OF LIVING A LIFE OF GOODNESS AND PEACE AND JOY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT. IF YOU SERVE CHRIST WITH THIS ATTITUDE, YOU WILL PLEASE GOD. *Romans 14:17-18*

Availability

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

What does it mean to be available to God?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. MARK 8:34-35

As soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus. LUKE 5:11

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. JOHN 10:27



To be available to God means more than just acknowledging his existence. It means reorienting your life so that no matter what you do, you do it as service to him. Availability means that you have an eagerness to go where he calls you and serve where he shows you.

It is simply a matter of following God with a willing heart. He will bless you, not because of your ability but because of your availability.



DIVINE PROMISE

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS, AND DO THE WORK. DON'T BE AFRAID OR DISCOURAGED, FOR THE LORD GOD, MY GOD, IS WITH YOU. HE WILL NOT FAIL YOU OR FORSAKE YOU.

1 Chronicles 28:20

Awesomeness

MY QUESTIONS *for* GOD

What happens in me when I recognize the awesomeness of God? Why do I need to see it?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

Who is like you among the gods, O LORD—glorious in holiness, awesome in splendor, performing great wonders?

EXODUS 15:11

Who can comprehend the power of your anger? Your wrath is as awesome as the fear you deserve.

PSALM 90:11

Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, “We have seen amazing things today!”

LUKE 5:26



Fear of God is different from a fear of other powerful things. You hide from the power of a severe storm or run from the power of a large wave crashing on the shore. But the awesomeness of God's power is captivating. The more you see God's awesomeness at work in your life and the world around you, the more you will desire to be near him and experience his empowering Spirit. Recognizing God's awesomeness puts you in the middle of his glory and helps you experience both God's presence and his unconditional love.



DIVINE PROMISE

I HAVE HEARD ALL ABOUT YOU, LORD. I AM FILLED WITH AWE BY YOUR AMAZING WORKS. IN THIS TIME OF OUR DEEP NEED, HELP US AGAIN AS YOU DID IN YEARS GONE BY. AND IN YOUR ANGER, REMEMBER YOUR MERCY.

Habakkuk 3:2

Balance

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

With all my responsibilities at work and at home, how do I achieve balance?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. 1 CORINTHIANS 9:26-27

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