

DIVINE
MOMENTS
for
LEADERS
*Everyday Inspiration
from God's Word*



Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.
Carol Stream, Illinois

Visit Tyndale's exciting Web site at www.tyndale.com

TYNDALE, *New Living Translation*, *NLT*, and the New Living Translation logo are registered trademarks of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

Divine Moments for Leaders: Everyday Inspiration from God's Word

Questions and notes copyright © 2008 by Ronald A. Beers. All rights reserved.

Cover photo copyright © by Photodisc. All rights reserved.

Managing editors: Ronald A. Beers and Amy E. Mason

Contributing writers: V. Gilbert Beers, Rebecca J. Beers, Brian R. Coffey, Jonathan Farrar, Jeffrey Frasier, Jonathan Gray, Shawn A. Harrison, Sandy Hull, Rhonda K. O'Brien, Douglas J. Rumford, Linda Taylor

Designed by Julie Chen

Edited by Michal Needham

Scripture quotations are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

ISBN-13: 978-1-4143-1229-3

ISBN-10: 1-4143-1229-6

Printed in the United States of America

14 13 12 11 10 09 08

7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Introduction

The goal of *Divine Moments for Leaders* 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

Do I have the abilities that I need to lead?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

Moses pleaded with the LORD, “O Lord, I’m not very good with words. I never have been, and I’m not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled.” Then the LORD asked Moses, “Who makes a person’s mouth? Who decides whether people speak or do not speak, hear or do not hear, see or do not see? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say.”

EXODUS 4:10-12

Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. . . . There are different kinds of spiritual gifts. . . . God works in different ways. . . . A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. . . . It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have. . . . But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. . . . In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. . . . All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:1, 4, 6-7, 11, 18, 22, 27



Deep within the human spirit lie a longing and a capacity to do significant 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 to live a fulfilling life. How you use or misuse them ultimately determines your quality of life—not defined by comfort or the accumulation of wealth, but by strong character, joy, and lasting satisfaction. Your goal is to discover your abilities, develop them, and channel them toward what will achieve the greatest good for the people you lead. When God asks you to accomplish something, he gives you the resources to get the job done. Therefore, if God has put you in a position of leadership, he has given you the abilities you need.



DIVINE PROMISE

GOD HAS GIVEN US DIFFERENT GIFTS FOR
DOING CERTAIN THINGS WELL. *Romans 12:6*

Accountability

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

How can accountability help me avoid foolish mistakes?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

“You are a witness to your own decision,” Joshua said. “You have chosen to serve the LORD.” “Yes,” they replied, “we are witnesses to what we have said.”

JOSHUA 24:22

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

PROVERBS 12:15

If another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other's burdens.

GALATIANS 6:1-2



You may have some dark corners in your life—secret habits and private thoughts that you don't want anyone to know about. If those hidden places were exposed in the spotlight of God's truth, you would have to deal with them, even give them up. Accountability is answering to someone who asks you to give an account of your words, actions, and motives—even those you keep in the darkest corners. Accountability can be painful at the time, but the lack of it will destroy you in the long run. Your secret sins will eat away at your character and integrity until your reputation crashes down around you. Without accountability, you wouldn't even see it coming. Determine now to find a wise friend or mentor to keep you accountable. Don't let the darkness take over your heart.



DIVINE PROMISE

TWO PEOPLE ARE BETTER OFF THAN ONE,
FOR THEY CAN HELP EACH OTHER SUCCEED.
IF ONE PERSON FALLS, THE OTHER CAN
REACH OUT AND HELP. *Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*

*Actions*MY QUESTION *for* GOD

How can I value someone as a person but at the same time correct sinful actions?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God. 1 JOHN 3:4

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

ROMANS 12:9

The saying "Hate the sin but love the sinner" is an effective principle to follow. When you truly love someone, you want what is best for them, and sin is never best for anyone.

You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ. Remember what it says: "Today when you hear his

voice, don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled.”

HEBREWS 3:13-15

*F*irst be concerned about the spiritual well-being of others before you warn them about the consequences of their actions. Be more concerned about restoration than punishment.

He must have a strong belief in the trustworthy message he was taught; then he will be able to encourage others with wholesome teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong. TITUS 1:9

*E*ncouragement is essential in helping others change their course of action.

[Paul said,] “I used to believe that I ought to do everything I could to oppose the very name of Jesus the Nazarene. . . . One day I was on such a mission to Damascus, armed with the authority and commission of the leading priests. About noon . . . a light from heaven brighter than the sun shone down on me and my companions. We all fell down, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? . . . I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. Now get to your feet! For I have appeared to you to appoint you as my servant and witness. . . . Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God.”

ACTS 26:9, 12-18



*M*ake sure you are correctly assessing the situation. The apostle Paul (whose name was Saul before he was converted) was convinced that he was doing the right thing for God by persecuting Christians, that those he was confronting were wrong. But when he met Jesus, he realized he was wrong and had to make a major adjustment in his own convictions and actions.



DIVINE PROMISE

THE LORD OUR GOD IS MERCIFUL AND
FORGIVING, EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE
REBELLED AGAINST HIM. *Daniel 9:9*

Administration

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

How does administration benefit leaders and those they lead?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

GENESIS 1:28

The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.

GENESIS 2:15

God said to Noah, . . . “Enter the boat—you and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring a pair

of every kind of animal—a male and a female—into the boat with you to keep them alive during the flood. Pairs of every kind of bird, and every kind of animal, and every kind of small animal that scurries along the ground, will come to you to be kept alive. And be sure to take on board enough food for your family and for all the animals.”

GENESIS 6:13, 18-21

Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are. You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours.”

GENESIS 41:39-40



In the Garden of Eden, God charged human beings with the work of tending and managing his creation so that the earth would be fruitful. In the same way, leaders are to care for the situations and people in their charge, working toward an environment where people can reach their full potential. Administration is the God-ordained task of managing time and resources in order to accomplish that goal.

Scripture shows that God works in orderly ways to take care of his people. Noah obeyed God’s commands, and his administrative skills saved himself, his family, and every animal species from the Flood. God used Joseph to manage the nation of Egypt so that the bumper crops of the good years would be stored and then distributed to the hungry during the years of famine. Leaders offer everyone a divine moment when they use

their God-given skills of administration to complete the tasks before them.



DIVINE CHALLENGE

ALL OF YOU TOGETHER ARE CHRIST'S BODY,
AND EACH OF YOU IS A PART OF IT. . . . SO
YOU SHOULD EARNESTLY DESIRE THE MOST
HELPFUL GIFTS. *1 Corinthians 12:27, 31*

Adversity

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

How can I prepare for the inevitable troubles that come my way?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

Be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you have to endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

1 PETER 1:6-7

I cried out to the LORD in my great trouble, and he answered me. I called to you from the land of the dead, and LORD, you heard me!

JONAH 2:2

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,] “I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” JOHN 16:33



Athletic coaches are fond of motivational sayings like “No pain, no gain!” or “Growth comes through adversity.” What coaches recognize is that the trials in our lives do not have to defeat us but rather can make us stronger if we have the proper perspective. Trouble comes in a multitude of ways—accidents, afflictions, calamities, difficulties, disappointments, failures, grief, hard times, hurts, misfortunes, sufferings, trials, woes. For leaders, there is the double burden of adversity affecting them as well as those they lead. The word *adversity* means that something is acting against you. Nowhere is this concept more clearly presented than in the Bible, which makes it clear that God himself sometimes sends us adversity either as a punishment for sin or simply as a way to test and strengthen our character. Other times Satan sends adversity to try to get us to sin, and God allows it. Sometimes we bring adversity on ourselves by acting foolishly or sinfully. And there is the adversity that comes from the poor decisions or sins of others. The one thing you can count on is that adversity will come. As a leader, you must learn to deal with it personally and help others deal with it. Avoiding

adversity may not always be best for you or those you lead. Though it may not feel good, if you don't let it defeat you, it will in fact make you stronger. Remember that God not only listens to us during times of adversity but he is with us through them.



DIVINE PROMISE

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. *Isaiah 43:2*

Advice

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

How do I make sure that I am giving good advice?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

While at Micah's house, they recognized the young Levite's accent, so they went over and asked him, "Who brought you here, and what are you doing in this place? Why are you here?" He told them about his agreement with Micah and that he had been hired as Micah's personal priest. Then [the warriors] said, "Ask God whether or not our journey will be successful." "Go in peace," the priest replied. "For the LORD is watching over your journey." JUDGES 18:3-6



The warriors in this Bible passage asked Micah's priest for godly advice. But they were asking the wrong person, for this "man of God" wasn't close to God at all. In fact, everyone in this story was out of touch with God. Godly people don't always tell us what we want to hear because sometimes they must use God's Word to convict us of our sins. Micah's priest didn't even consult God before telling the men exactly what they wanted to hear. This was spiritual arrogance and a sign that he really didn't serve God at all. A religious title doesn't necessarily make someone a godly person. The New Testament encourages us to beware of false teachers who "are hypocrites and liars, and their consciences are dead" (1 Timothy 4:2). What a fitting picture of Micah's priest. The New Testament also says we should "teach the truth so that your teaching can't be criticized" (Titus 2:8). We must "promote the kind of living that reflects wholesome teaching" and "be worthy of respect" (Titus 2:1-2). Look for these godly qualities in others before you ask them for advice. As a leader, also strive to have these qualities so that your advice will be wise.



DIVINE PROMISE

WISE WORDS ARE LIKE DEEP WATERS;
WISDOM FLOWS FROM THE WISE LIKE A
BUBBLING BROOK. *Proverbs 18:4*

Aggravation

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

How should I respond to aggravation?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-5

A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body; jealousy is like cancer in the bones.

PROVERBS 14:30

When you feel aggravated, take a step back to relax and respond in love. Determine what is causing your reaction and whether the situation really warrants the turmoil it's causing. Aggravation often feeds on itself—the more you're aggravated, the more you aggravate others.

He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God who always judges fairly.

1 PETER 2:23

Don't retaliate, which often begins a negative cycle in which each person feels the need to strike back harder. In many cases, the only thing you can do is release the situation to God and wait for him to act on your behalf.

Don't sin by letting anger control you. Think about it overnight and remain silent. PSALM 4:4

My dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. JAMES 1:19

*S*low down and carefully think through how you can respond, without sinning, to the people or situations that aggravate you. This keeps you from saying something you may later regret.

People with understanding control their anger; a hot temper shows great foolishness. PROVERBS 14:29

Control your temper, for anger labels you a fool. ECCLESIASTES 7:9

“Don't sin by letting anger control you.” Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil. EPHESIANS 4:26-27



*A*void any reaction based on anger. Anger is like a forest fire—it quickly destroys that which took a long time to grow.



DIVINE PROMISE

SENSIBLE PEOPLE CONTROL THEIR TEMPER;
THEY EARN RESPECT BY OVERLOOKING
WRONGS. *Proverbs 19:11*

Agreement

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

How can I reach an 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, 14-15



When trying to reach an agreement, there is a time to compromise and a time to stand 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 that which is unholy. The test of acceptable compromise is simple: Can both parties reach a satisfactory agreement without anyone’s morals being sacrificed? To give up godliness for something less is a bad bargain. Work for harmony and agreement whenever it is possible, but when it is not, pray that God would break through the stalemate and make his will clear.



DIVINE CHALLENGE

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

Ambiguity

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

How do I deal with all the ambiguities of faith in God?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

How great is our Lord! His power is absolute! His understanding is beyond comprehension! PSALM 147:5

Can you solve the mysteries of God? Can you discover everything about the Almighty? JOB 11:7

Who is able to advise the Spirit of the LORD? Who knows enough to give him advice or teach him?

ISAIAH 40:13

You can be sure that God's character is not ambiguous—he always acts justly and consistently. But God's ways may be unpredictable and mysterious. His plans sometimes surprise us and defy human logic. The inexplicable aspects of God teach us to respect him and show him the reverence he deserves. Would you want a God you could fully comprehend? Such a god would have to be an equal, not an almighty, divine being.

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

“What do you mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?” Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can’t explain how people are born of the Spirit.”

JOHN 3:3-8

The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18

*J*ust as you don’t have to fully understand electricity to enjoy light, you don’t have to fully understand being born again to experience God’s salvation. Faith means flipping on the switch and walking in the light.

It was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God’s deep secrets. No one can know a person’s thoughts except that person’s own spirit, and no one can know God’s thoughts except God’s own Spirit. And we have received God’s Spirit (not the world’s spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:10-12

The Christian life is the process of continually learning spiritual truths about God as his Spirit reveals them. Learning to recognize the voice of God's Spirit and moving where he leads are key in regularly experiencing divine moments in your life.

O LORD my God, my Holy One, you who are eternal—surely you do not plan to wipe us out?
 O LORD, our Rock, you have sent these Babylonians to correct us, to punish us for our many sins. But you are pure and cannot stand the sight of evil. Will you wink at their treachery? Should you be silent while the wicked swallow up people more righteous than they?

HABAKKUK 1:12-13

*H*abakkuk had questions and doubts about God's actions, but not about who he is—faithful and eternal. We can know that God is loving and just even when we do not understand why he allows some things to happen.

Now we see things imperfectly as in a cloudy mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:12



The best way to view the ambiguities of faith while we live on this earth is through spiritual eyes. Knowing that things will one day be clear keeps your eyes focused on what is ultimately important.



DIVINE PROMISE

THE LORD DIRECTS OUR STEPS, SO WHY TRY TO
UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING ALONG THE WAY?

Proverbs 20:24

Ambition

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

When is ambition dangerous?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

The devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him the kingdoms of the world and all 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 personal greatness through God's work. It's the difference between desiring to serve God and trying to use God to serve yourself. We can learn from the fact that Satan believed he could tempt Jesus by appealing to his sense of ambition. How many people have sold their souls to the devil in an attempt to gain worldly glory? When left unchecked, selfish ambition becomes the hook Satan uses to catch us and reel us in. If Jesus had been motivated by selfish ambition rather than 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 made a list of your five primary ambitions, what would they be? If others were to list what they believe are your five main ambitions, would they match your list? Ambition can become destructive if Satan uses it to lure you away from God. You can test your ambitions by asking yourself if they lead you closer to or farther away from God. If you're not sure about one, then it is leading you away from him. Ambition can fool you into striving after everything you desire in this world at the cost of everything God desires for you in the next.



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, GENTLENESS, AND SELF-CONTROL. *Galatians 5:19-23*

Ambition

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

What kind of ambition does God want me to have?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

The one thing I ask of the LORD—the thing I seek most—is to live in the house of the LORD all the days

of my life, delighting in the LORD's perfections and meditating in his Temple.

PSALM 27:4

*H*aving a strong, vital relationship with God should be your highest ambition. It is the one thing that can be pursued without reservation.

God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied. . . . God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

MATTHEW 5:6, 9

Let love be your highest goal!

1 CORINTHIANS 14:1

*W*orking toward justice, peace, and love in the world and bringing people into a relationship with God are ambitions worthy of your time and energy.

My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else.

ROMANS 15:20

*P*aul demonstrated a “holy ambition” to do great things for God. A holy ambition is a vision rooted in the will and service of God—a vision so great that only God can accomplish it. But such ambition can turn into a selfish pursuit unless it is continually realigned with God’s Word and energized by the Holy Spirit. Unholy ambition uses God to advance your own reputation and your own

cause. Holy ambition, however, means you offer yourself to be used by God to advance his vision and his cause.

Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we instructed you before. Then people who are not Christians will respect the way you live, and you will not need to depend on others. 1 THESSALONIANS 4:11-12



A fundamental ambition for your life should be to provide for yourself so that you will be respected by others and not be a burden to them.



DIVINE PROMISE

JOYFUL ARE PEOPLE OF INTEGRITY, WHO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE LORD. JOYFUL ARE THOSE WHO . . . SEARCH FOR HIM WITH ALL THEIR HEARTS. *Psalm 119:1-2*

Anger

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

Why do I sometimes get so 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

“Didn’t I tell you?” the king of Israel exclaimed to Jehoshaphat. “He never prophesies anything but trouble for me. . . . Put this man in prison, and feed him nothing but bread and water.” 1 KINGS 22:18, 27

“Get out of the sanctuary, for you have sinned.” . . . Uzziah, who was holding an incense burner, became furious. 2 CHRONICLES 26:18-19

Mordecai refused to bow down or show [Haman] respect. . . . [Haman] was filled with rage. ESTHER 3:2, 5

You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. JAMES 1:19-21



Anger is often a reaction to your pride being hurt. When you are confronted, rejected, ignored, or don’t get your own way, anger is a defense mechanism to protect your ego. It is common to feel angry when you have been confronted about your own sinful actions because it wounds your pride. 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 own pride? Allow God’s Word to help you overcome your anger and grow in his will.



DIVINE PROMISE

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

Proverbs 15:1

Apathy

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

How do I fight feelings of apathy?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do. Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true. Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent.

HEBREWS 6:10-12

We must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it. HEBREWS 2:1

[Jesus said,] “I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!”

REVELATION 3:15-16



In the book of Revelation, apathy is compared to lukewarm water. Cold water quenches thirst and refreshes a parched mouth. Hot water is used for cooking and sanitizing. But lukewarm water has little appeal. Apathy is much the same. When apathy settles in, it means that passion and purpose are gone. It is like a disease that feeds on your cares and motivations and wastes your talents and gifts. Recognizing your apathy can be a divine moment—you suddenly realize that you must change course before you become useless to God and others. Hard work, a thankful heart, and acts of service can help you fight off feelings of apathy and renew your focus on God's purpose, his call for you, and the blessings he has given you.



DIVINE PROMISE

I WILL GIVE THEM SINGLENESS OF HEART AND PUT A NEW SPIRIT WITHIN THEM. I WILL TAKE AWAY THEIR STONY, STUBBORN HEART AND GIVE THEM A TENDER, RESPONSIVE HEART.

Ezekiel 11:19

Apology

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

Why is it so hard to apologize sometimes?

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, and maintaining a humble spirit is one of the greatest struggles, especially for a leader. Apologizing requires you to realize your fault and then admit it to someone else. Leaders are supposed to “get it right,” so it’s tough to admit when you are wrong. It’s often tempting to pretend the offense never happened or try to cover it up or avoid the person you’ve offended. These are signs that your heart is proud and you are unwilling to take responsibility for your actions. When was the last time you apologized to someone under your leadership? Your answer might indicate how humble your heart is. Refusing to apologize can have devastating effects in your life—souring relationships, bitterness, isolation, rage, guilt. But when you offer an apology, you can receive reconciliation, forgiveness, healing, courage, and respect. A sincere apology can only come from a humble heart. When you admit your fault and ask for forgiveness, you will experience a divine moment of God’s healing working in your heart and your relationships.



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—but 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. 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 to get distracted and focus on your own appearance or the appearance of others. But you can have a tremendous impact on others when they hardly notice what's on the outside because they see even more what's on the inside—the light of God's love and truth shining through you. 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*

Armor of God

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

How does God protect me from spiritual attacks?

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. Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

EPHESIANS 6:10-18



When you experience spiritual warfare, you can stand your ground against Satan because you have the power of Jesus Christ in you. See beyond the human antagonists to the spiritual enemy, Satan. But remember, you cannot fight Satan alone. You must use the armor God has given you to resist the attack and fight the battle. Leaders are especially prone to spiritual attack because they can influence many others. If Satan can conquer your heart and turn you against God, he may get many others to fall as well. The battle is souls—your own and those of others—so you must fight with all your strength and use every available weapon God has given you. You cannot totally defeat Satan while you live on this earth, but you can resist him. The devil specializes in putting obstacles in your path, but God specializes

in helping you overcome them. Pray for God to arm you and equip you for battle, and you will be victorious both in this life and in eternity.



DIVINE CHALLENGE

HUMBLE YOURSELVES BEFORE GOD. RESIST THE DEVIL, AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU. *James 4:7*

Assertiveness

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

Why is it appropriate for leaders to be assertive?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things. Blind guides! You strain your water so you won’t accidentally swallow a gnat, but you swallow a camel!”

MATTHEW 23:23-24



*J*esus was often assertive when he spoke to the Pharisees and other religious leaders. Assertiveness means standing up for what is right or making known your concerns. Leaders must be assertive. It may be

tempting to be silent or look the other way when others are making unethical choices or are speaking and behaving in offensive, inappropriate ways. But you must stand up for what you believe, and you should lovingly confront others when necessary. Assertiveness must be tempered with love and should be reserved for upholding truth and justice, not for pursuing personal agendas. Follow Jesus' model of assertiveness by studying his words in the Bible.



DIVINE PROMISE

THIS IS A TRUSTWORTHY SAYING, AND I WANT YOU TO INSIST ON THESE TEACHINGS SO THAT ALL WHO TRUST IN GOD WILL DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO DOING GOOD. THESE TEACHINGS ARE GOOD AND BENEFICIAL FOR EVERYONE. *Titus 3:8*

Authenticity

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

How can I let others see the authenticity of my faith?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

When the king of Nineveh heard what Jonah was saying, he stepped down from his throne and took off his royal robes. He dressed himself in burlap and sat on a heap of ashes. Then the king and his nobles sent this decree throughout the city: "No one, not

even the animals from your herds and flocks, may eat or drink anything at all. People and animals alike must wear garments of mourning, and everyone must pray earnestly to God. They must turn from their evil ways and stop all their violence. Who can tell? Perhaps even yet God will change his mind and hold back his fierce anger from destroying us.” JONAH 3:6-9



Sometimes we confuse repentance with a quick “I’m sorry”—and we wonder why we still feel guilty and don’t sense the Holy Spirit’s power in our lives. Sometimes we confuse good deeds with genuine compassion, and we wonder why people seem to see right through us. Nineveh’s genuine spiritual turnaround models three dimensions of authentic faith:

1. *The emotional dimension.* The people of Nineveh were truly grieved by their sins. They were ashamed of the condition of their hearts.
2. *The relational dimension.* The Ninevites sought not just moral improvement but a real and vibrant relationship with the Lord.
3. *The behavioral dimension.* The Ninevites did more than mourn and pray—they turned from their sins and stopped doing wrong.

Authenticity means doing the right thing because you really want to, not pretending to do it while trying to achieve your own agenda. When you develop the three dimensions of authentic faith, God and others will see that your faith is genuine.



DIVINE CHALLENGE

SEARCH ME, O GOD, AND KNOW MY HEART;
TEST ME AND KNOW MY ANXIOUS THOUGHTS.

Psalm 139:23

Authority

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

How can authority be abused?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

Let's build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous.

GENESIS 11:4

O Egypt, to which of the trees of Eden will you compare your strength and glory? You, too, will be brought down to the depths with all these other nations. You will lie there among the outcasts who have died by the sword. This will be the fate of Pharaoh and all his hordes. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!

EZEKIEL 31:18

It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:5



Authority can be intoxicating because it is often accompanied by recognition, control, and wealth. These

things feed pride, and pride leads away from God and into sin. This is why the power that comes from authority so often corrupts. If you are in a position of authority, accountability and service will help you use it wisely. When you are held accountable for your motives and actions, you are more careful in what you say and do. When you determine to serve others rather than be served, you will gain respect and loyalty from those under your authority.



DIVINE PROMISE

WHOEVER WANTS TO BE A LEADER AMONG YOU
MUST BE YOUR SERVANT. *Matthew 20:26*

Backsliding

MY QUESTION *for* GOD

What do I do when I've fallen away from God?

A MOMENT *with* GOD

Now this is what the LORD says to the family of Israel: "Come back to me and live!" AMOS 5:4

Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ROMANS 3:23-24

Index

- ABILITIES 1
ACCOUNTABILITY 2
ACTIONS 4
ADMINISTRATION 6
ADVERSITY 8
ADVICE 10
AGGRAVATION 12
AGREEMENT 14
AMBIGUITY 15
AMBITION 18, 19
ANGER 21
APATHY 23
APOLOGY 24
APPEARANCE 26
ARMOR OF GOD 27
ASSERTIVENESS 29
AUTHENTICITY 30
AUTHORITY 32
BACKSLIDING 33
BALANCE 35
BETRAYAL 36
BIBLE 39
BLESSINGS 40
BOUNDARIES 41
BROKENNESS 43
BURNOUT 44
BUSINESS 46
CALL OF GOD 48, 49
CAUTION 51
CELEBRATION 53
CHALLENGE 55
CHANGE 56
CHARACTER 58
COMMITMENT 59
COMMUNICATION 61
COMMUNITY 63
COMPARISONS 64
COMPASSION 66
COMPETITION 68
COMPROMISE 69
CONFESSION 71
CONFIDENCE 73
CONFLICT 75
CONFRONTATION 78
CONSCIENCE 80
CONSEQUENCES 82
CONTROL 83
CONVICTIONS 85
COURAGE 86
CRISIS 88
CRITICISM 89
DECISIONS 91
DEFEAT 93
DELEGATION 95
DEPENDENCE 96
DEPRESSION 98
DIFFERENCES 99
DISAGREEMENTS 101
DISCERNMENT 102
DISCIPLINE 104, 106
DISCONTENT 108
DISCOURAGEMENT 110
DISTRACTIONS 111
DOUBT 113, 115
EFFECTIVENESS 116
EMPTINESS 118, 120
ENCOURAGEMENT 122
ENDURANCE 125
ENEMIES 126
ENERGY 128
EXAMPLE 131
EXCELLENCE 133
EXPECTATIONS 134
EXPERIENCE 135

- FAILURE 137
FAITH 138
FASTING 139
FEAR 141
FELLOWSHIP 143
FINISHING 144
FLEXIBILITY 146
FORGIVENESS 148
FUTURE 150
GOALS 151
GRIEF 154
GUARDING YOUR
 HEART 157
GUILT 158
HAND OF GOD 160
HARD-HEARTEDNESS 161
HOLINESS 163
HUMILIATION 164
HUMILITY 167
HURT 168
HYPOCRISY 169
IMAGINATION 171
IMPOSSIBILITIES 173
INFLUENCE 175
INJUSTICE 176
INSPIRATION 178
INTEGRITY 179
INVESTING 181
JOY 182
JUDGING OTHERS 184
KNOWLEDGE 185
LEADERSHIP 187
LETTING GO 191
LIMITATIONS 193
LISTENING 195
LONELINESS 197
MEDITATION 199
MENTORING 201
MERCY 202
MISTAKES 204
MORALE 205
MOTIVES 207
NEGOTIATION 208
OBEDIENCE 209
OPPORTUNITIES 211
ORGANIZATION 213
OVERWHELMED 215
PAST 216
PATIENCE 218
PEACE 219
PERFECTION 221
PERSEVERANCE 223
PERSPECTIVE 225
PLANNING 227
POTENTIAL 228
POWER 229
PRAYER 230
PREPARATION 233
PRESENCE OF GOD 235
PRIDE 237
PROBLEMS 238
PRODUCTIVITY 240
PURPOSE 242
QUESTIONS 243
QUIET 245
QUITTING 247
RECONCILIATION 249
REGRETS 251
REMEMBERING 253
REPENTANCE 255
REPUTATION 257
RESPECT 258
RESPONSIBILITY 260
REST 261
RETIREMENT 262
RIGHT 264
RISK 265
SELF-CONTROL 267

- SERVICE 269
SIN 271, 272
SOLUTIONS 274
SORROW 276
SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES 278
SPIRITUAL DRYNESS 280
SPIRITUAL GIFTS 282
SPIRITUAL WARFARE 284
STATUS 285
STEWARDSHIP 287
STRENGTHS AND
 WEAKNESSES 288
STRESS 290
SUCCESS 292
SUFFERING 293
TEACHING 295
TEAMWORK 298
TEMPTATION 299
TESTING 302
TIME 303
TRANSITION 305
UNITY 307
VICTORY 308
VISION 310
VULNERABILITY 311
WILL OF GOD 313
WISDOM 314
WORK 315
WORSHIP 317
WRESTLING WITH GOD 319