

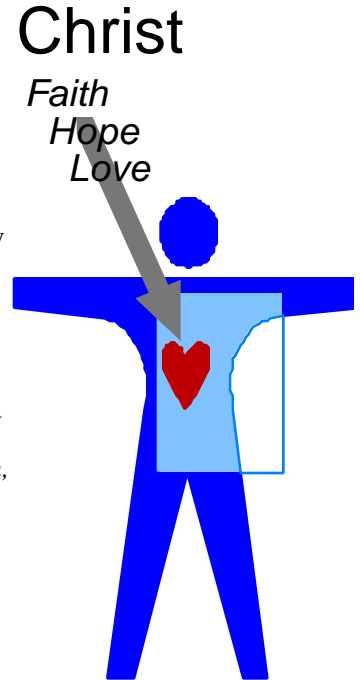
3. Spiritual Fulfillment

“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing, but only by God the Creator made known through Jesus Christ.”
 Pascal - French Physicist and Philosopher

French Physicist Blaise Pascal expressed the idea that there is more to life than simply fulfilling our physical needs. *God created Man for a spiritual relationship with Himself.* And until Christ fills our hearts, we will constantly search for something in this World to fill that vacuum and *make life worth living!*

What makes life worth living? Our local newspaper addressed that question several years ago in an article on *Teen Suicide*. What caught my attention was the comment of a Psychologist who shared that *the reason many teens are losing their desire to live is the lack of one or more of three essential qualities that make life worth living: Faith, Hope and Love.* You may recognize these as the same three qualities found in *1 Corinthians 13:13!* But what do they mean?

Each quality not only meets a basic spiritual need in our life, but answers one of three ageless questions.



QUALITY	SPIRITUAL NEED	DESCRIBED	QUESTION ANSWERED
Faith	<i>Significance</i>	A Meaningful Life	“Why Am I Here?”
Hope	<i>Security</i>	A Confident Life	“Where Am I Going?”
Love	<i>Self-Worth</i>	A Valuable Life	“Who Am I?”

Significance: **God created us with a need to live *Meaningful Lives.*** We want our lives to *count* for something! We want to *believe* in something ... to answer the question, **“Why am I here?”**. God’s answer is a *relationship with Himself* based on ***Faith in Him*** and ***His Faithfulness to us.***

Security: **God created us with a need to live *Confident Lives.*** We want to *know* that our lives are *safe* and our futures *secure* ... to answer the question **“Where am I going?”**. God responds by giving us ***His Promises of Hope*** to ensure our future.

Self-Worth: **God created us with a need to live *Valuable Lives.*** We want to be *valued* as persons and to be *accepted* as we are ... to answer the question, **“Who am I?”** God responds by giving us ***His Love*** and ***calling us His Children!***

A Woman Thirsty for Spiritual Fulfillment

5 So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; 6 and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

7 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9 Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

11 She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? 12 "You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?"

13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw."

16 He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here."

17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly."

John 4:5-18

Jesus regularly used *everyday objects* to illustrate *eternal truths*.

He used *water* and *thirst* to illustrate our desire for a fulfilling Life.

❖ **Circle** the word "*water*" each time you think it refers to *literal* water.

❖ **Frame** the word "*water*" each time you think it is used to refer to something *more* than literal water.

Though the woman of Samaria had come to draw water from the well to quench her *physical thirst*, Jesus discerned that she also had a *spiritual thirst* which the things of the world could not quench.

❖ **Underline** Jesus' statement in verses 13 & 14 and contemplate what He is saying there.

Jesus **observes** that physical water quenches thirst only *temporarily*. Eventually, *we will thirst again!* When the woman shows interest in obtaining the *water* that quenches thirst once and for all, *Jesus confronts her with a request intended to show her what she is really thirsting for* (*self-worth, security and significance*) and the *inadequate* source she was "*drinking*" from (*the various men in her life*). These men fulfilled her need for *Self-Worth, Significance and Security* only *temporarily*.

❖ **Underline** Jesus' request in *verse 16*.

❖ **Circle** *how many times* the woman had gone to this "*well*" that only offered her *temporary fulfillment*.

▶ Paraphrase Jesus' statement in vs 13-14

▶ How did the woman's husbands provide Significance? Security? Self-Worth?

▶ How else do we try to quench our thirst for these three needs in the world? Why do these worldly sources give only temporary fulfillment?

True vs False Fulfillment

Where are you finding *YOUR* Significance, Security or Self-Worth?

My Work	My Husband	My Children
My Boyfriend	My Girlfriend	My Wife
My Money	My Good Deeds	My Investments
My Children's Success	My Awards	My Appearance
My Friends	My Degrees	My Accomplishments
My Possessions	My Abilities	My Parents

- ❖ **Circle** each item above where you might be finding your *Significance*.
- ❖ **Frame** each item above where you might be finding your *Security*.
- ❖ **Underline** each item above where you might be finding your *Self-Worth*.

When we find our fulfillment in the world, we soon discover that it is *only temporary*. Eventually we need *more* and find ourselves back where we started. *Things get old, people fail us, accomplishments are forgotten, and the applause fades.*

When we find fulfillment in God, it is *complete* and *permanent*. Being fulfilled in Christ *frees us* from craving fulfillment in the things of the world, and instead, releases us to give of ourselves *without needing anything in return!*

Are You Finding Fulfillment in God or in the World?

To determine if you are finding Fulfillment in God or in the World, ask yourself, "*How would I react if someone took away any of the above items from me?*" Those who find their *Fulfillment* in any of the above will react with *anger* or *anxiety*. **Why? Because taking these things is like taking Life itself from them!** That is why many even become violent when a loved one leaves them, or when they lose their possessions, or their jobs. For them, *it is the lost of their Significance, their Security and their Self-Worth!*

But those who find their fulfillment in God will never experience lost for *nothing can separate us from God and His Love!* (**Romans 8:38-39**)

The Blessed Man

- Blessed is the man**
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or
stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.
- But his delight is in the law of the LORD,**
and on his law he meditates day and night.
- He is like a tree planted by streams of water,**
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.

Psalm 1:1-3

- ❖ **Frame** each of the qualities of a "*blessed man*".
- ❖ **Frame** what he *delights* in.
- ❖ **Underline** what he is *compared* to.

Idolatry

Whenever we find our Significance, Security or Self-Worth in anything other than God, we are in danger of making that thing an Idol. An **Idol** is *any created thing that takes the place of the one true God in our life.*

Emotional Impact of Worldly Idols

We become **anxious** when we are unsure the World will meet our need.
We become **angry** at anyone or anything that keeps us from our Worldly idol.
We **despair** when our Worldly idols fails to meet our need.
We feel **guilt** when we are unable to measure up to the World's standard.

For More Information Read:
"Basic Principles of Biblical Counseling" & "Effective Biblical Counseling"
by Dr. Lawrence J. Crabb Jr.

- ▶ Compare how a person finding Life in the World and a person finding Life in God would react to the lost of:
 - ▶ **their jobs**
 - ▶ **their girlfriend or boyfriend**
 - ▶ **their possessions**

- ▶ How does Psalm 1:1-3 illustrate this Lesson?

► Real Significance

God Provides the Greatest Significance We Can Experience!

"For so the Lord has commanded us, 'I have placed you as a light for the Gentiles, that you might bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'" Acts 13:47

❖ **Underline** the purpose of the Christian according to Acts 13:4-7.

There is no more significant work than bringing Christ to the world! Every other work we do will pass away, but *that done for Christ lasts forever!*

"There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever."
Revelation 22:5

❖ **Underline** what is in store for the Christian's future.

Christians will reign with Christ forever in the coming Kingdom! *What can be more significant than that!*

► Real Self-Worth

God Values Us Beyond Imagination

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."
1 John 4:10

❖ **Frame** God's attitude toward us according to *1 John 4:10*.

❖ **Underline** how much God values us.

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

► Real Security

God Supplies the Best Security We Can Ever Have!

"And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:19

❖ **Circle** how many needs God will meet according to *Philippians 4:19*.

God not only knows our every need, *He is able, and willing, to meet them!*

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

❖ **Underline** what God knows about us in *Jeremiah 29:11*.

❖ **Frame** what *kind* of plans God has for us.

God alone knows our future, and *it's a good one!*

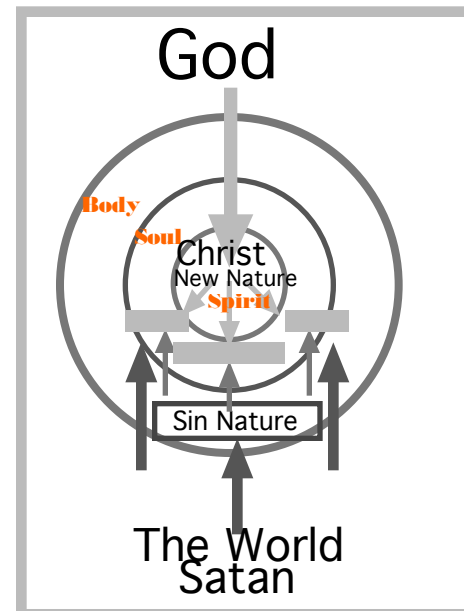
Real Life

"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Philippians 1:21

► *Do you think Christians really know why they are here? Why or why not?*

► *In light of our future work of reigning with Christ in His Kingdom, what can we be doing now to prepare for it?*



APPLICATION POINTS:

Read and reread each of the items on this page and allow the truths to change the way you see your life.

Memorize as many of the Scriptures as possible to transform your mind.

► *How can these verses help you when you doubt your Significance, Self-Worth or Security?*

AFFIRMATION

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

A Prayer

"Dear Lord, thank You for giving me Life and all that I need to experience it fully! Teach me to always draw my life from You. Amen"