



This week I learned that a very successful leader in the church had committed suicide. I am not an expert on depression and all that causes it. I am an expert on human nature. Because of God's Word, I do understand some of the things every one of us needs because we are human beings.

Besides our physical need for food and shelter, we also have mental and emotional needs in our soul!

One of the needs we have in our soul is the need to know and feel we are significant.

This need to know and feel we are significant is so great in us as people...

- That our feelings are easily hurt when someone does something that makes feel insignificant.
- That we will sacrifice our personal freedom to be in a bad relationship with someone that we believe will make us feel significant.
- That we will put ourselves at great risk and even exhaust ourselves to accomplish things if we believe those accomplishments will make us significant.
- That we will compromise our moral conscience to please someone that we believe will make us feel significant.
- That we will isolate ourselves from society if it is necessary to avoid people and situations that make us feel insignificant.
- That those who understand this need for significance in us can appeal to this need in us to manipulate us into doing what they want us to do.
- That we will hide our faults from others and even lie to gain the approval of those that we believe will make us feel significant.
- That we will spend extravagant sums of money on our appearance, the cars we drive, and the homes we live in if we believe it will make us feel significant.
- That we will tolerate emotional, physical, and even sexual abuse by someone if we believe they can make us feel significant.
- That as our human bodies decline and we are no longer able to do what we were able to do at one time, we can think and feel we are insignificant.
- That we can take our own life because of the depression we feel when we believe our lives are insignificant.

I am not an expert on suicide. But I do know that a sense of personal failure and personal loss that makes us feel insignificant is one of the greatest causes of depression and suicide.

No one is an exception. As people all have this need in our soul for significance.

- It is true for every man or woman.
- It is true for every race and nationality of people.
- It is true for the rich and it is true for the poor.
- It is true for the healthy and it is true for the sick.
- It is true for the young and it is true for the old

How many of you have lived long enough to know that you have been driven to use various ways to make you think and feel you are significant, and those ways have failed you?

Athletes will tell you that winning a world championship is the greatest feeling they have ever experienced. They have said they don't have words for it. Then, after the parade is over, that belief and feeling about themselves quickly dissipates. Father time always wins. It is impossible to stay on the top of the world. You better have a back-up plan!

What if there was a way to have this need for significance so fully satisfied in you that the choices you make in life would never again be determined by this mental and emotional need, would you want to know about it?

Jesus promised a Samaritan Woman that if she believed in Him, the needs of her soul would be fully satisfied.

This woman had been married and rejected five times. She had reached a point that she thought so little of herself and her public reputation that she was willing to live with a man who would not marry her. Jesus met this woman at a well and that meeting led to a discussion.

[John 4:5-14](#)

[5](#) So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

[6](#) Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

[7](#) A woman of Samaria came 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](#) Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

[NKJV10](#) 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](#) The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?"

[12](#) Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"

[13](#) Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,

14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."
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In John 7, the apostle John said that the living water is the Holy Spirit.

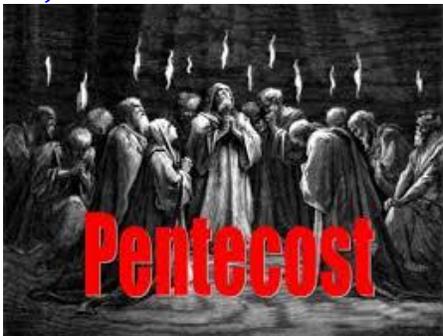
John 7:37-39

37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

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How can this be?

How can the Holy Spirit's presence in us be a river of living water that it fully satisfies the needs of our soul?

If this is true, then you would no longer need to perform for anyone's approval in order to believe and feel you are significant.

If this is true, then you would no longer need to reach your goals and get the results that you want in order to believe and feel you are significant.

If this is true, then the choices you make would no longer have to be driven by your need to believe and feel you are significant.

Just think about how freeing that would be. (John 8:32)

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would provide an endless supply of satisfaction to the needs of our soul!

The gospel of Jesus Christ is made up of three truths.

1. Judicial truth
2. Positional truth
3. Experiential truth

1. The judicial truth of the gospel is that God the Father gave His Son Jesus to die for our sin.

Acts 20:28

28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

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Market Value is determined by what someone is willing to pay. This means we are as valuable to God the Father as the life of His Son that He sacrificed for us. Since Jesus paid for our sin, all our sins are forgiven once and for all and all our shame is removed. The righteousness of Christ is credited to our account. This judicial truth of the gospel makes us very significant.

2. The positional truth of the gospel is that when we receive Jesus, God the Father gives us the right to become His children.

John 1:12

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

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We are seated with His Son Jesus in a place of honor at God's table as members of His family. We are granted immediate excess to God's throne. We are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. We will reign with Christ. This positional truth of the gospel makes us very significant.

3. The experiential truth of the gospel is that God sends His Spirit to dwell in us as a deposit of our future inheritance.

Ephesians 1:13-14

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

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Because of our union with the Holy Spirit we are raised from the dead spiritually. Because of our union with the Holy Spirit we become a new man. Because of our union with the Holy Spirit we are partakers of God's divine nature. Because of our union with the Holy Spirit, the law of God is written on our heart. Because of our union with the Holy Spirit we have the mind of Christ. Because of our union with the Holy Spirit we have divine gifts to perform the will of God. Because of our union with the Holy Spirit we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to do the will of God. Because of our union with the Holy Spirit we have a mission to make disciples. Because of our union with the Holy Spirit we have an eternal mission that has not yet been revealed. Because of our union with the Holy Spirit we are the masterpiece of God's creation. We can bring glory to God in ways that even the angels cannot achieve. This experiential truth of the gospel makes us very significant.

How does the judicial, positional, and experiential truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ make you significant?

The gospel of Jesus Christ changes...

1. How much you are worth
2. Whose you are
3. Who you are

The gospel of Jesus Christ changes

1. Your Price
2. Your Position and Privilege
3. Your Person

The gospel of Jesus Christ changes

1. Your value
2. Your favor
3. Your ability

The gospel of Jesus Christ changes

1. Your rank
2. Your relationship
3. Your reality

The gospel of Jesus Christ changes

1. Your cost
2. Your class
3. Your condition

The gospel of Jesus Christ makes you...

1. First in expense
2. First in brand
3. First in performance

The gospel of Jesus Christ

1. Inflates you



2. Upgrades you



3. Transforms you



All the truths of the gospel meet the needs of our soul.
But the experiential truth of the gospel changes our view of our identity. It is a river of living water that satisfies our need for significance.

Don't find your significance in...

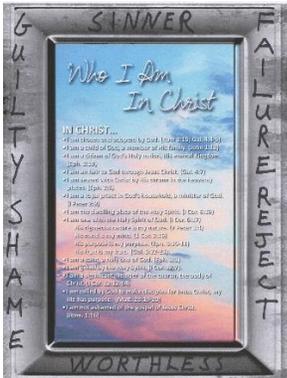
1. Your value to others



2. Your position in this world



3. Your performance



When we think about our self, our natural tendency is to focus our attention on our outer man. Paul said our outer man is decaying. (2 Cor. 4:16)

Our outer man is like the frame of a picture of us. When we focus our attention on our outer man, we will deal with various unhealthy thoughts and feelings about our self. I want you to take a moment and write in the frame some of the thoughts and feelings you have about yourself.

Don't find your significance in...

1. The frame



2. The shell



3. The black rock



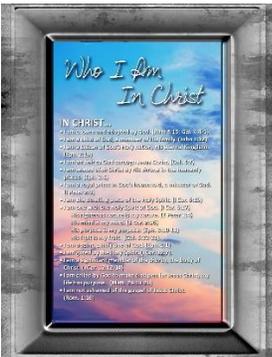
Don't find your significance in the outer man. If you are in Christ, you are the Mona Lisa, you are the pearl, and you are the gold.

Yesterday I was talking to Melissa Garoutte. She recently had a mastectomy. She told me it was so hard to look at herself in the mirror for the first time.



She said when she finally looked in the mirror, she thought she looked like Sleestak from Land of the Lost.

We all have these kinds of unhealthy thoughts and feelings about our self when we look at the frame.



If we are in Christ, when we look in the mirror, we need to see what He sees when He looks at us!

If you are in Christ, believe the gospel and find your significance in the inner man.

Romans 12:1-2

12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

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Renewing your mind with the truths of the gospel will save you from depression. it is a battle you cannot afford to lose. it only takes a few moments of being deceived to ruin your life, ruin the lives of others, or end your life. Thinking differently based on the truths of the gospel will determine how you relate to God, to yourself, and to others. You cannot escape bondage to sin unless you renew your mind.

You cannot renew your mind without effort on your part. To renew your mind, you must constantly study the truths of the gospel, listen to truths of the gospel, read the truths of the gospel, repent based on the truths of the gospel, and share the truths of the gospel. To be filled with the Spirit we need one another.

- It is a battle because we live in the flesh, the black frame.
- It is a battle because we live in a world system that is constantly promoting lies as the truth.
- It is a battle because we have a spiritual enemy that disguises himself as an angel of light.

The lies are coming at you through family, friends, the media, entertainment, public officials, education, and the news. Fake truth is the greatest threat to your future and the greatest source of pain in your past.

Will you receive the truths of the gospel?

Will you believe the truths of the gospel?

Will you renew your mind with truths of the gospel?

Declaration of Truth

Because of Christ's redemption,

I am deeply loved,

I am completely forgiven,

I am fully pleasing to God,

I am totally accepted by God,

I am absolutely complete in Christ.

I am a new creation of infinite worth.

When my behavior reveals my true identity in Christ, that reflection of God's glory is dynamically unique.

There has never been another person like me

in the history of mankind, nor will there ever be throughout eternity.

Through Jesus Christ, God has made me an original masterpiece of His glory!