

Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...

| | |
|--|--------------|
| I have power and influence over others. | Power |
| I have this kind of pleasure experience, quality of life. | Comfort |
| I am able to get mastery over my life in the area of _____ | Control |
| People are dependent on me and need me | Helping |
| Someone is there to protect me | Dependence |
| I am completely free from responsibilities | Independence |
| I am highly productive and getting a lot done | Work |
| Recognized for my accomplishments | Achievement |
| I have a certain level of financial freedom, nice things | Materialism |
| Adhering to my strict moral codes | Religion |
| Independent of religion, self-made morality | Irreligion |
| Part of a particular social or professional | Inner circle |
| Children or parents are happy and happy with me | Family |
| Mr. or Ms. 'Right' is in love with me | Relationship |
| Hurting, dealing with a problem, drama | Suffering |
| Political or social cause is advancing | Ideology |
| I have a particular kind of look or body image | Image |



Growing in Faith

“Sin is what we do when our heart is not satisfied with God.”
John Piper

➤ Sin produces spiritual **BLINDNESS**

- The Lie – false reality
- Change in Priority – idealize the self (narcissism)
- The Rejection – distrust God

➤ We need to hear the **TRUTH**

“Jesus said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’ They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?” John 8:32-33

➤ We need intimate **WORSHIP**

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?” Psalm 42:1-2

➤ We need a trusted friend. We need **JESUS**

“Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.” Hebrews 2:18

“I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.” Isaiah 42:16

| You Seek... | You will feel | Greatest fear | Others feel | Problem Area |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| POWER Success, winning, influence | Burdened | Humiliation | Used | Anger |
| APPROVAL Affirmation, love, relationships | Less Independence | Rejection | Smothered | Cowardice |
| COMFORT Lack of stress, freedom | Reduced productivity | Stress, demands | Hurt | Boredom |
| CONTROL Standards, certainty, self-discipline | Loneliness | Uncertainty | Condemned | Worry |

NEW BEGINNINGS

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-20

⁴ The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, “If only we had meat to eat! ⁵ We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. ⁶ But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!”

¹⁰ Moses heard the people of every family wailing, each at the entrance to his tent. The LORD became exceedingly angry, and Moses was troubled. ¹¹ He asked the LORD, “Why have you brought this trouble on your servant? What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me? ¹² Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land you promised on oath to their forefathers? ¹³ Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ ¹⁴ I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me. ¹⁵ If this is how you are going to treat me, put me to death right now—if I have found favor in your eyes—and do not let me face my own ruin.”

¹⁶ The LORD said to Moses: “Bring me seventy of Israel’s elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the Tent of Meeting, that they may stand there with you. ¹⁷ I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit that is on you and put the Spirit on them. They will help you carry the burden of the people so that you will not have to carry it alone.

¹⁸ “Tell the people: ‘Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow, when you will eat meat. The LORD heard you when you wailed, “If only we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt!” Now the LORD will

give you meat, and you will eat it. ¹⁹ You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days, ²⁰ but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it—because you have rejected the LORD, who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, “Why did we ever leave Egypt?”

