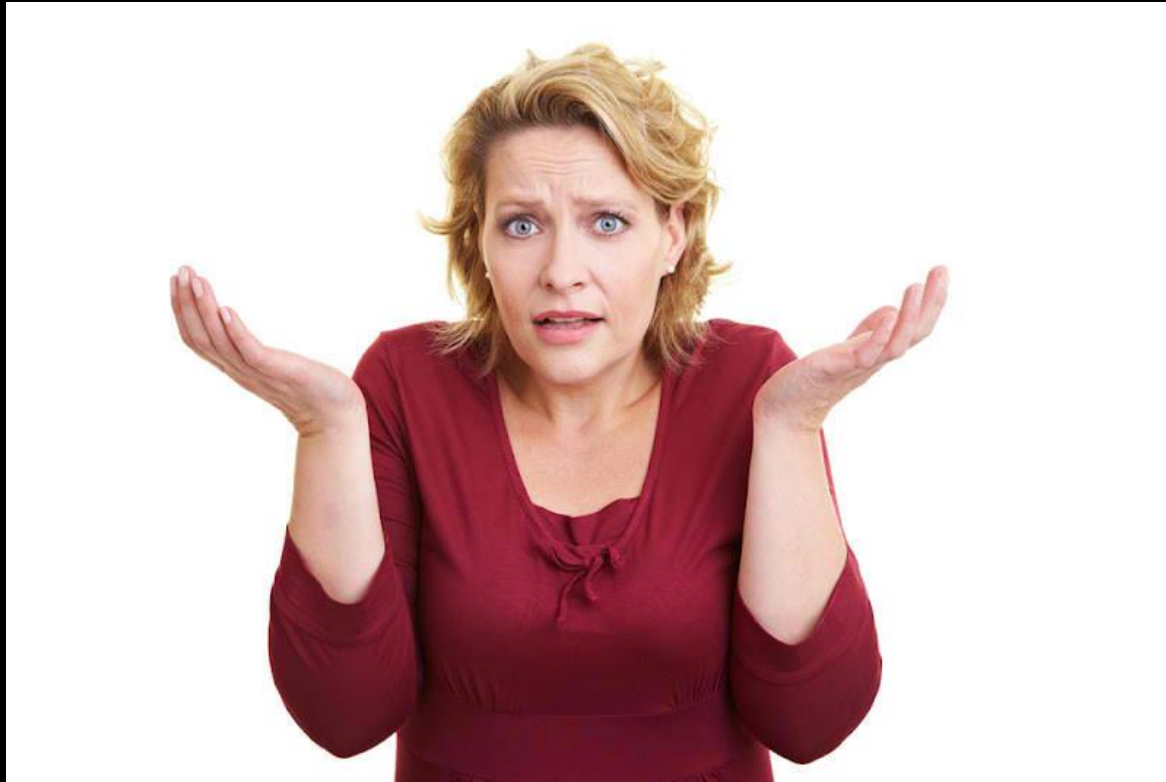


GOD'S



FOR YOU



The most basic question everyone asks in life is
“Why am I here”?



If you believe in God as the author of life, then
the question begs for an answer.



What is God's plan for you and why did He create you?



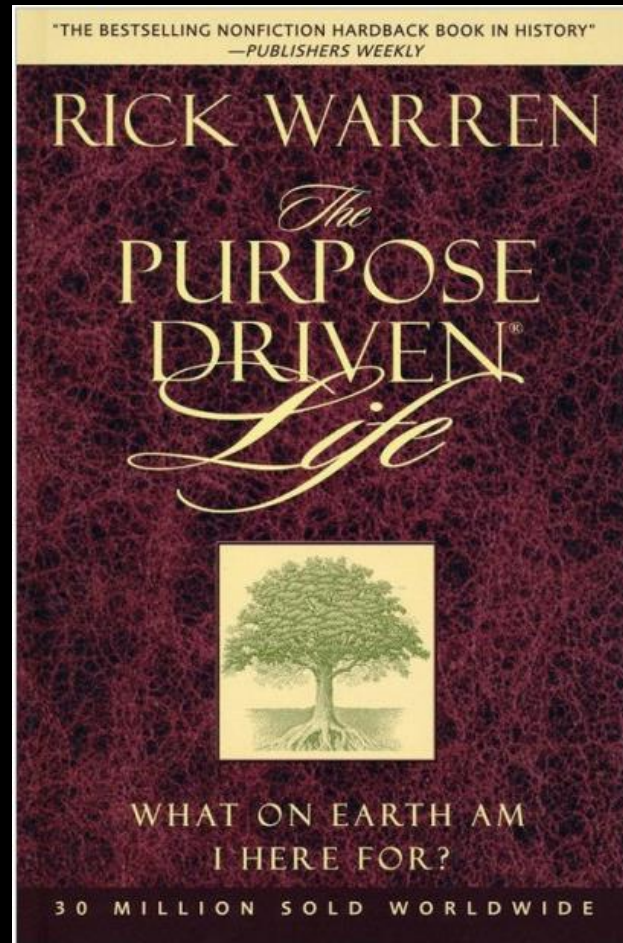
Many literary works have been written about
the purpose of human life.



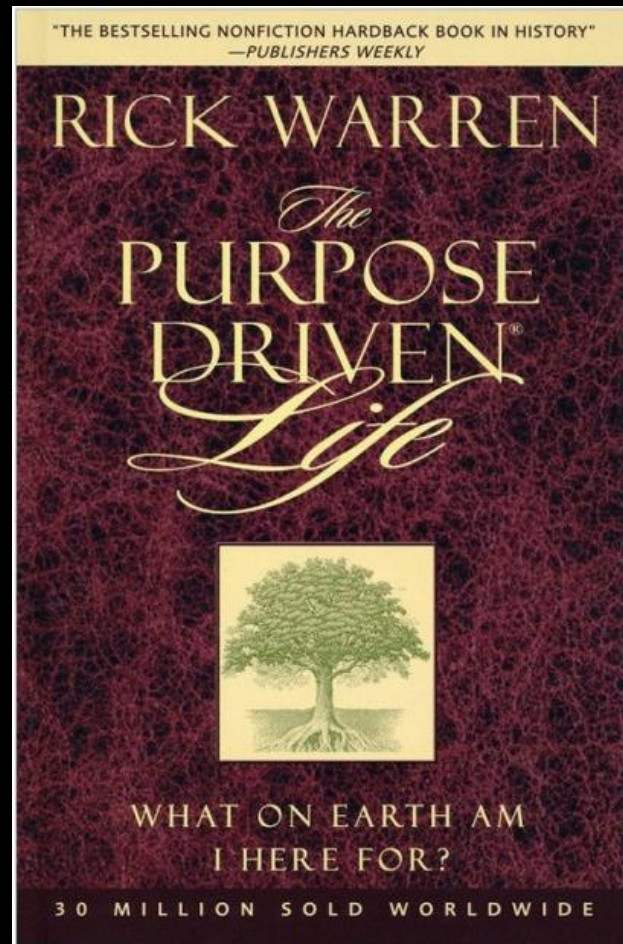
All of these literature seek to find meaning in
our existence.



Of all the books written about the purpose of life, one book stands out among the others. The book was written by Rick Warren and published in 1997.



“The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For?”



The book is on the New York Times bestseller's list for the longest period and by 2007 it has sold 30 million copies.



The author surmised that “We Were Planned for God’s Pleasure and We Were Made for a Mission”.

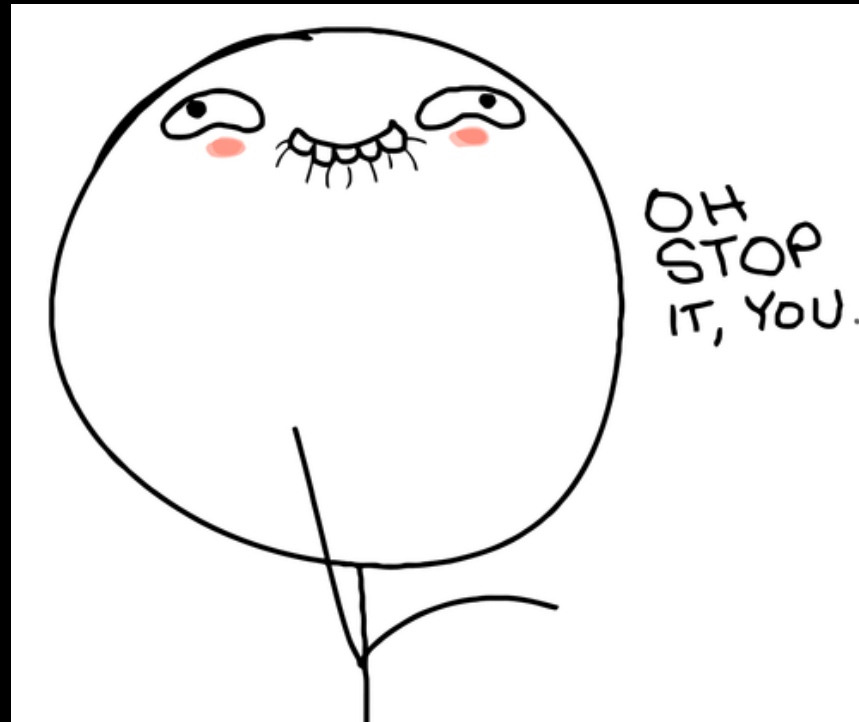


Rick Warren's theory is that God created humanity, so that there will be people who will worship Him.



**KEEP
CALM
AND
WORSHIP
ME**

To him, God appears as an egocentric who finds pleasure in adoration.



He seems to overlook the fact that if God wants adoration, He has million upon millions of angels that can do that.



God does not need humans to glorify Him.
Certainly, that is not the reason why you were
created!



To understand the purpose of life, we need to understand what is life.



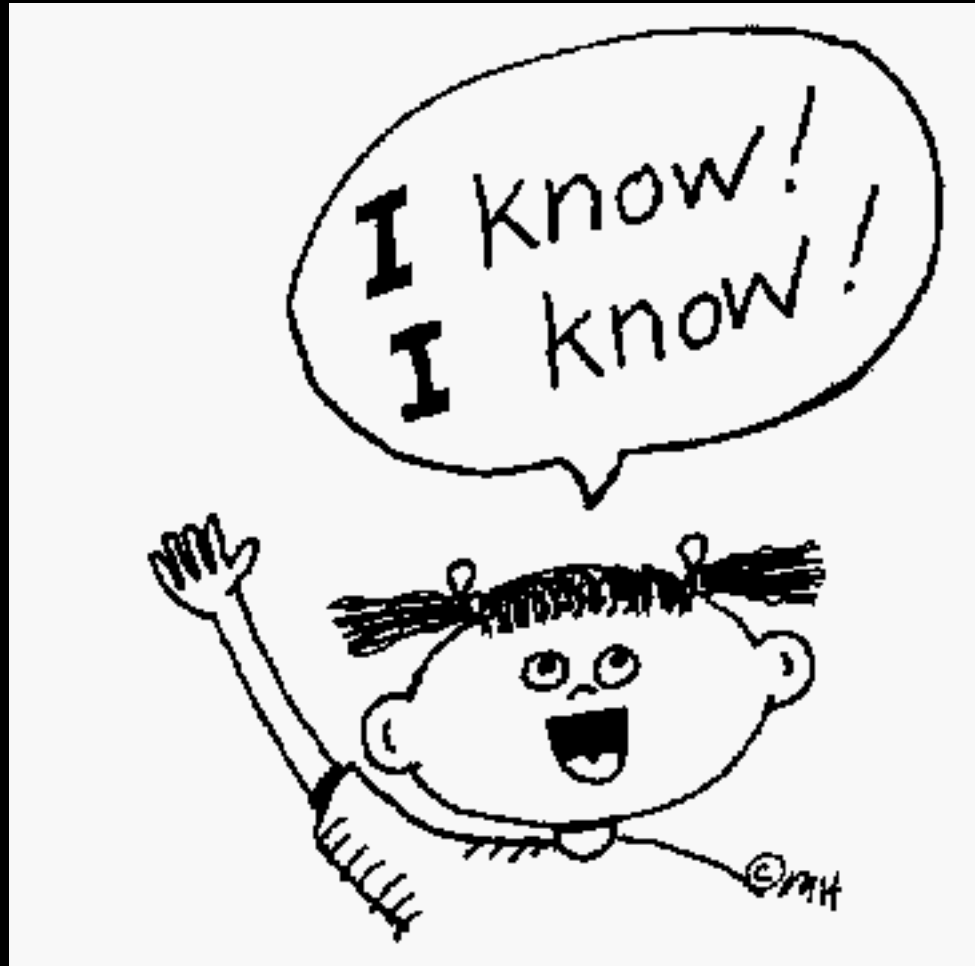
The reality of life and living – being alive and conscious - is a mystery.



Eons before that moment of conception, we were nothing. In a bleep of time we came into existence and grew to what we are today.



We are endowed with reason, logic, creativity,
emotion and consciousness.



We are aware of our existence.

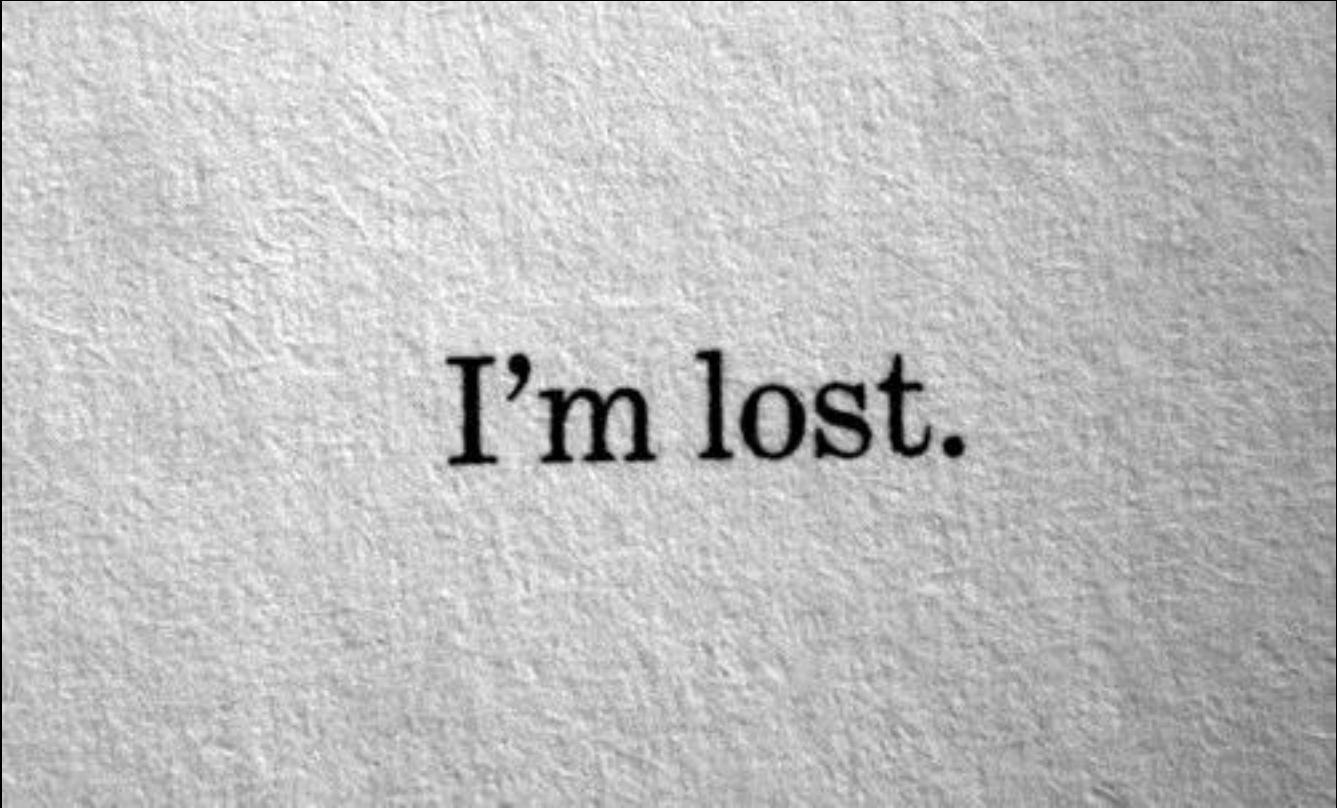


We are aware that one day we will leave this world and return to the dust of the ground where we came from.

Life is likened to a flower.



It blooms with glory for a day and withers away tomorrow.



I'm lost.

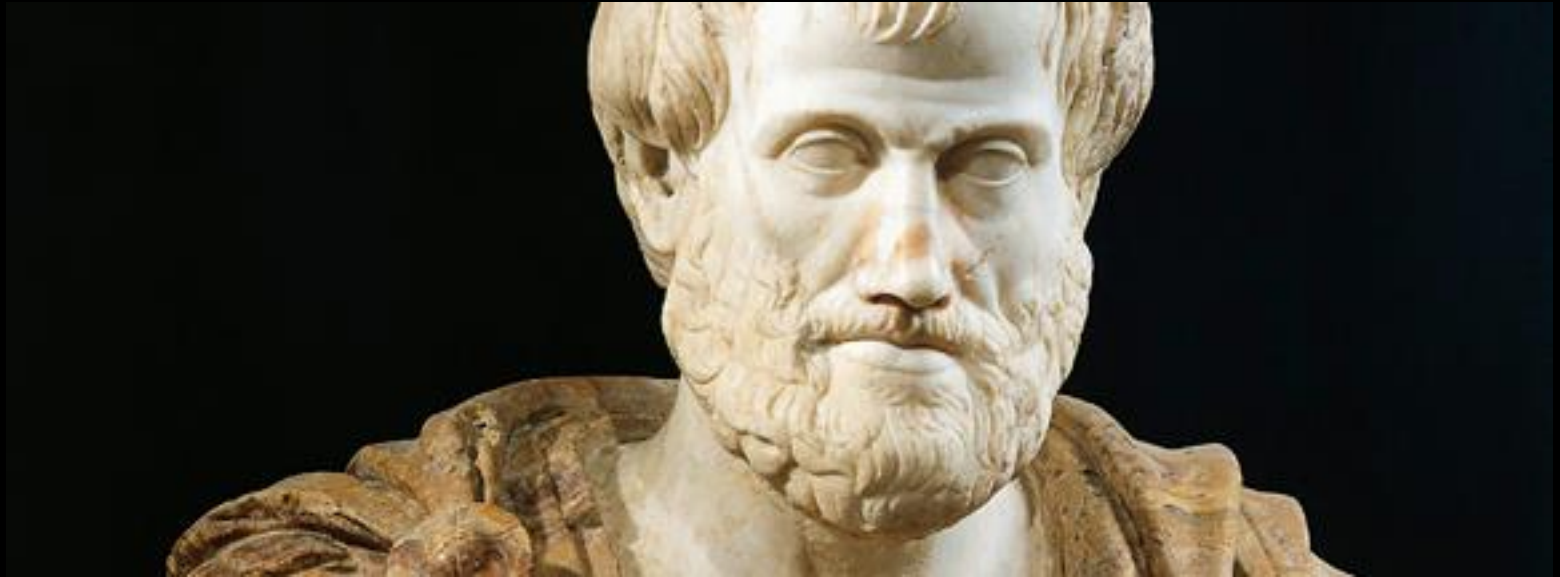
Very often it is difficult to find any intrinsic purpose and meaning in existence.



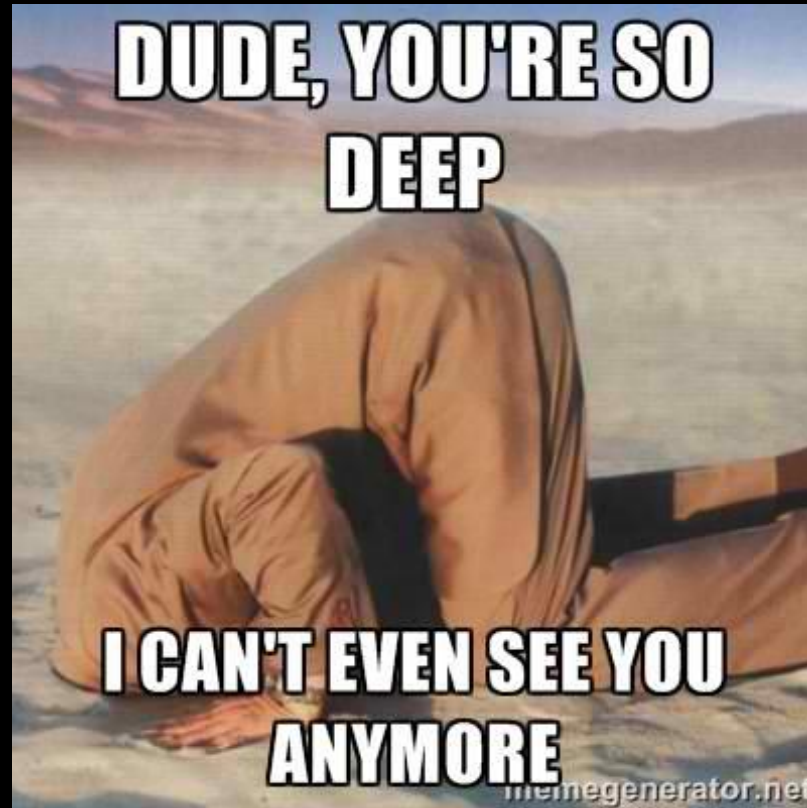
Life can be empty, can be meaningless and can be an existence in futility.



Life is meaningless if there is no greater purpose
beyond the grave.



The origin and source of life is beyond
philosophy and science.



How life exists, what is its purpose, its hopes and its reasons for being, are all secrets mankind cannot easily fathom



Look at nature and you instinctively know that
there is a Creator. Life only comes from life.

Romans 1:18-22.

Romans 1:18-22

(all Scripture quotations are from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise specified)

- 18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,
- 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.
- 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Romans 1:18-22

- 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.
- 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools



Therefore, the secrets of life can only be revealed by the Author of Life Himself – Jesus Christ.

What Is Life?

David, from the balcony of his palace, looking up at the majesty of the heavens pondered as he wrote Psalms 8.

Psalms 8

- 1 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.
- 2 From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

Psalms 8

- 3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
- 4 what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?
- 5 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

Psalms 8

- 6 You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:
- 7 all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field,
- 8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.
- 9 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



Have you ever gazed at the evening sky and considered the stars that dot the evening sky? The flickering light amidst the tranquil sea of darkness is a sight to behold.

The magnificence of the heavens, its vastness
and its grandeur boggle our finite minds.





To understand and comprehend the vastness and grandeur of the Universe, one must calculate the number of stars in heaven to put it in measurable, numerical perspective.



Ever tried to count the number of stars on a clear night?



To our naked eye, we can see an average of a few dozen stars in heaven. But on certain areas of the globe, it is possible to see 8,400 stars on a clear, evening sky.



One thing is certain - we can't see most of the stars that are out there.



According to a study by a team of stargazers at the Australian National University, there are 300 sextillion stars in the known universe.



That is about 40 times more than the grains of sand on Earth! How large is the Universe? Very large!



When we consider the heavens, space and Universe; we can't help but feel the wonder of creation and the presence of God.

Then, we wonder why are we here? What is our role in the vastness of the Universe? Why were we created? What is God's purpose in creating life? Or better yet, why did God create you and me?

Life is a Gift

Life is a gift – a wonderful gift from God.

Ecclesiastes 5:18:

“Then I realized that it is good and proper for a man to eat and drink, and to find satisfaction in his toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given him—for this is his lot.”



Of all God's creation, man alone is special.



God prepared man's habitat for five days before creating him on the sixth day.



The entire creation and fashioning of the earth
is for man.



The atmosphere, vegetation and animal life are part of the ecology that sustains human life.



All living things were created after its own kind;
except man, who is fashioned in the image and
likeness of the Creator – the God kind.



And of all the creation, it's only man whom God
breathed into the nostrils and he became a
living being.



The spirit – the life source – that God puts in
man makes him unique.



It endowed him with intellect, reason, logic, feeling, emotion and creativity with high functioning capability and competence.



Life is a gift from God.



To live - to experience life - is in itself a gift! To be alive – to be aware, conscious, active, functioning and sustaining is to be God-like.



What we are experiencing today, in this physical mortal life – this awareness, is a foretaste, a preview of what God is like.

A word cloud with the word "Create" in a large, white, cursive font at the bottom right. Surrounding it are various other words in a smaller, white, cursive font, including "creation", "CREATE", "draw", "cook", "imagination", "play", "art", "write", "creative", "paint", "make", "design", "unique", and "build".

Remember, as written in Genesis 1:26, “we are created in the image and likeness of God.”



Image and likeness are beyond the physical shape and form, creativity and intelligence.



There is almost this God-like attribute of self-awareness - of being alive.

Genesis 2:7

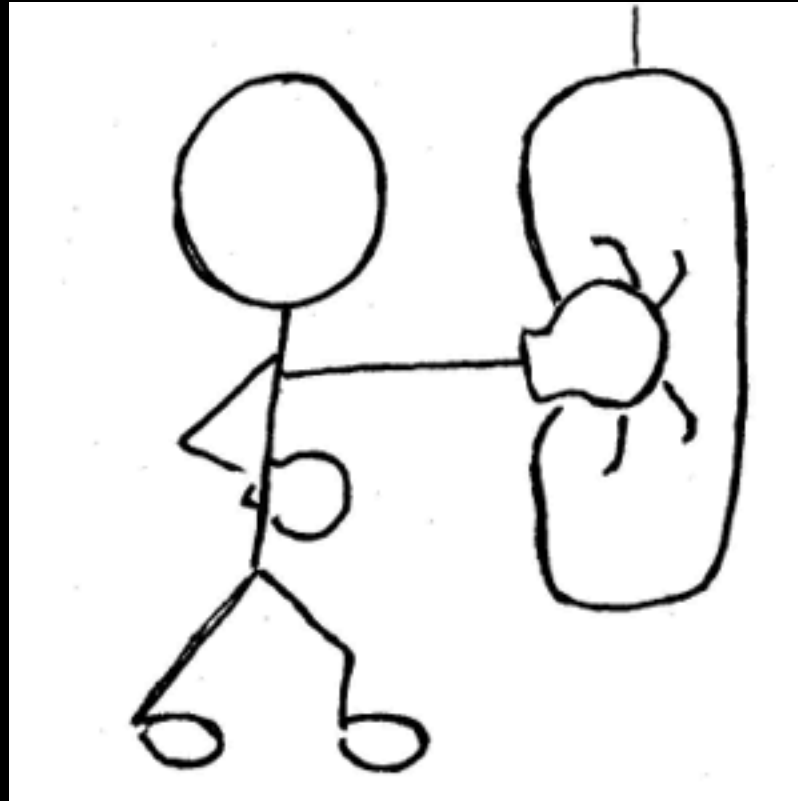
Temporal as this physical life maybe made from the dust of the earth, nonetheless man has a spark of divinity when God breathes into the nostrils and became a living human being.



The key word is LIVING. Life is God's gift to us and this gift can be perpetual, permanent and eternal.

See and Hear

“No eye has seen, nor ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9)



That is not an ordinary statement coming from the prophet Isaiah and the apostle Paul. This statement is loaded and packed with a powerful punch.



It suggests that the world has no inkling, no clue, no idea what God has prepared for humanity.



This plan of God is so marvelous, precious, and intimate that no one can begin to imagine.

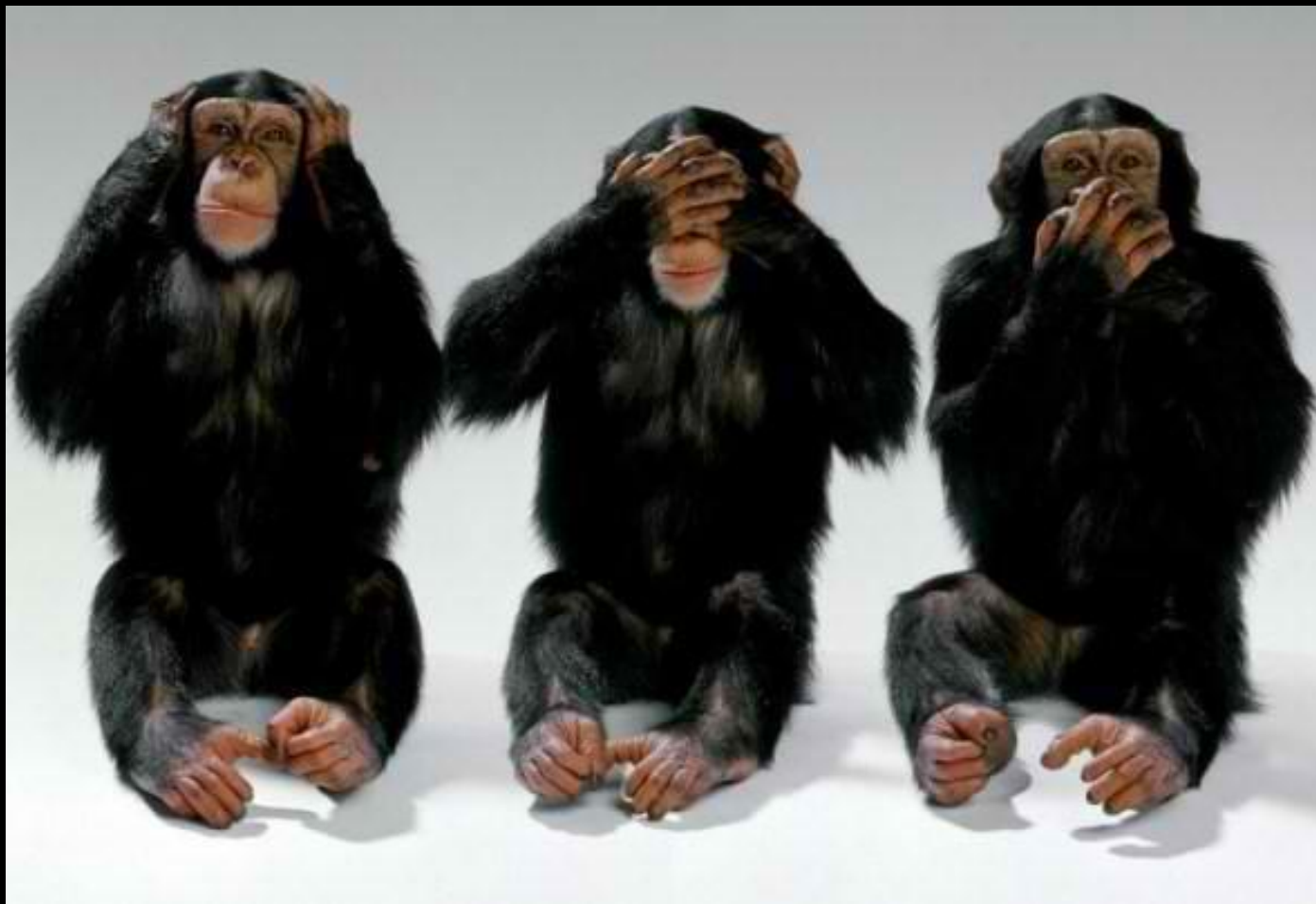


It is incomprehensible and inconceivable to the human mind. So grand that no one can contemplate and consider.



Brother Paulant

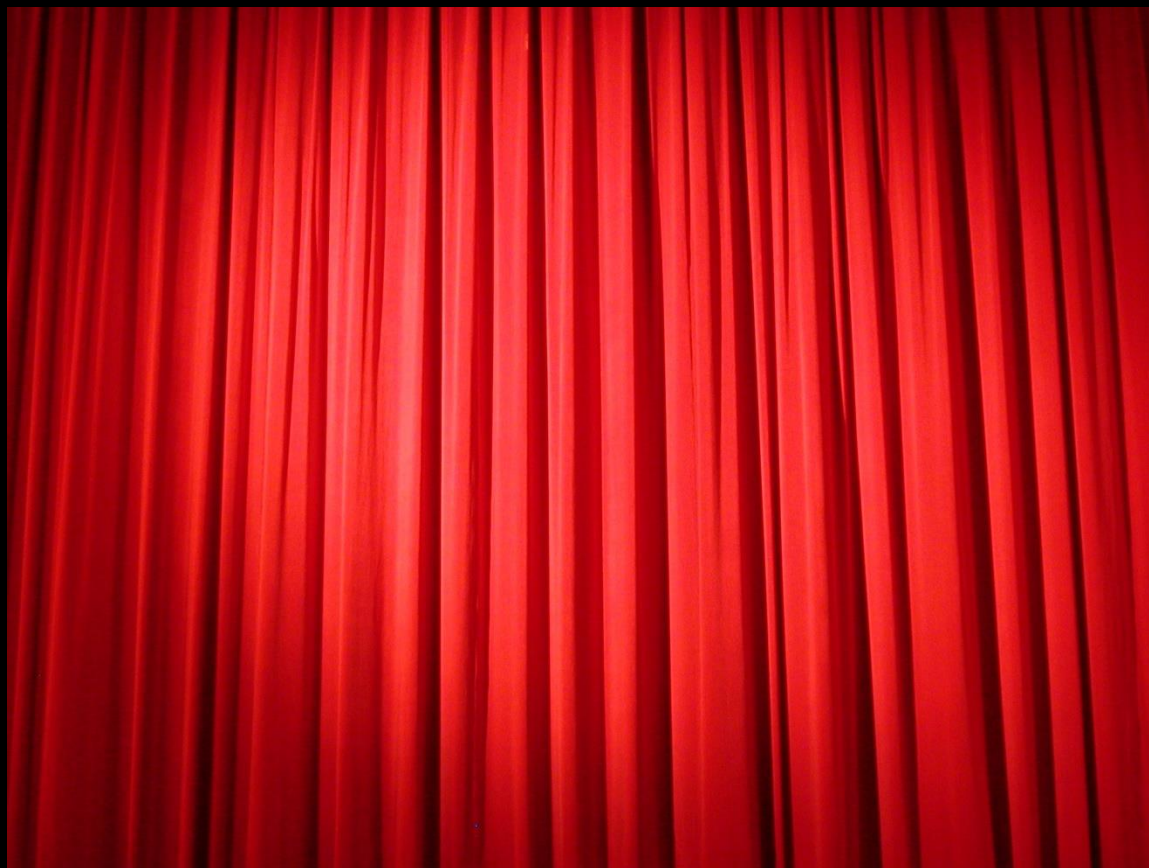
The world today gropes in the dark for the plan
of God.



The world is blind, deaf and dull to God's magnificent plan for those who love Him.



Yet, this truth is revealed in the very word of
God for centuries.



The veil that covers the truth needs to be lifted
for God's true people to see and hear the truth.
2 Corinthians 3:13-18.

2 Corinthians 3:13-18

- 13 We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away.
- 14 But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away.
- 15 Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.

2 Corinthians 3

16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.



This blindness is taken away only with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of Truth.



That Spirit leads us to understand the purpose
why God created us. 1 Corinthians 2:6-16.

I Corinthians 2:6-16

- 6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.
- 7 No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.
- 8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

I Corinthians 2

- 9 However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"—
- 10 but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.
- 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

I Corinthians 2

- 12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.
- 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.
- 14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

I Corinthians 2

15 The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

This mystery that was hidden for ages is only
revealed to God's True Church.

Ephesians 3:8-12

Ephesians 3:8-12

- 8 Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,
- 9 and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

Ephesians 3

- 10 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,
- 11 according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- 12 In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

1 Corinthians 1:18-21

1 Corinthians 1:18-21

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

I Corinthians 1

20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

Colossians 1:25-27

Colossians 1:25-27

- 25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—
- 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.
- 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

The Purpose of Life

King David asked: What is man that God is mindful of him?

Why should God be bothered with us who seem so insignificant in the light of the vast creation?

Why is God even interested with mankind?

Why did He even have to send His One and Only begotten Son to redeem mankind?

We love John 3:16 expressing the depth of God's love, and yet we seldom ask the most important question: "What is so special about us that the Father has to send His One and Only Son to die for us"?

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”



We are so precious to God that He sent His Son
to redeem us!!! We are exceedingly special to
Him!!!

The magnificent plan of God and the very purpose of our existence are revealed in Ephesians 1:2-5 and 11-12.

Ephesians 1

- 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
- 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love
- 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

Ephesians 1

- 11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,
- 12 in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

Romans 8:28-30

- 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
- 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
- 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.



This wonderful plan for mankind was made known to the patriarchs and written in the Book of Genesis.



The Genesis account tells us that mankind is created after the God kind; created in the image and likeness of God.



This opens the opportunity for us to become a member of the Divine Family.

This is why Paul wrote Hebrews 2:5-18.

Hebrews 2:5-18

- 5 It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking.
- 6 But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?"

Hebrews 2:5-18

- 7 You made him a little lower than the angels;
you crowned him with glory and honor
- 8 and put everything under his feet." In putting
everything under him, God left nothing that
is not subject to him. Yet at present we do
not see everything subject to him.

Hebrews 2:5-18

- 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.
- 10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.

Hebrews 2:5-18

- 11 Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.
- 12 He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."

Hebrews 2:5-18

13 And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—

Hebrews 2:5-18

15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants.

Hebrews 2:5-18

- 17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.
- 18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Revelation of Christ

Jesus had an interesting discussion with the Pharisees. In this discussion, Jesus revealed the purpose of life. But instead of embracing the truth with gladness, the Jews rejected the concept and wanted to stone Jesus.

The incident is recorded in John 10:22-39.

John 10:22-39

22 Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter,

23 and Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade.

24 The Jews gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

John 10:22-39

- 25 Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me,
- 26 but you do not believe because you are not my sheep.
- 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
- 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

John 10:22-39

29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

30 I and the Father are one."

31 Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him,

32 but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"

John 10:22-39

33 "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are gods'?

35 If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and the Scripture cannot be broken—

John 10:22-39

- 36 what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'?
- 37 Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does.

John 10:22-39

38 But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”

39 Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.

In this account Jesus claimed to be the Son of God making Himself equal with God. The Jews wanted to stone Jesus for blasphemy. Then surprising everyone, Jesus proceeded to refer to them as “gods,” which made them more eager to stone Him.

Why, what happened? Jesus told them they are gods! This was not an excuse by Jesus to escape from the Jews by using a play of words by referring to “gods” as human rulers.

No, Jesus was not misleading them or making up excuses. Jesus meant what He said; “You are gods and the Scripture cannot be broken!”

This was a forthright statement, a revelation of the destiny of man. This understanding is the clear and unmistakable context of the discussion. The phrase was a direct quote from Psalms 82.

A clear understanding of Psalms 82 clearly
alluded to sonship.

Psalms 82

- 1 God presides in the great assembly; he gives judgment among the "gods":
- 2 "How long will you defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked? *Selah*
- 3 Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.

Psalms 82

- 4 Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.
- 5 "They know nothing, they understand nothing. They walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

Psalms 82

- 6 "I said, 'You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High.'
- 7 But you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler."
- 8 Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations are your inheritance.



Relating this incident to the prayer Jesus taught on the Sermon Mount, when addressing God as our Father in heaven, the context becomes even clearer.



The familial relationship of sonship is obviously clear and was unheard of until Jesus introduced the relationship.



To the Jews, calling God as “Abba” father was inconceivable. It is automatically equated with blasphemy.



Yet, Jesus revealed the Father and Son relationship in the Sermon on the Mount with the famous prayer:

“Our Father who art in heaven...”

Sons of God

The Scripture is very clear on the issue of sonship. Take careful note of the following verses:

- 1 John 3:1-3
- Romans 8:14-17.
Sons, heirs and co-heirs with Christ
- Galatians 4:4-7
- Ephesians 2:19. Family of God
- Revelation 21:1-7

Divine Nature

Yes, all of these are well and good and convincing verses. But, here's a specific verse that says we can become gods, not simply men in authority, but of divine nature.

Let us read II Peter 1:4.

II Peter 1:4

Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Here, we have the entire exposition on the subject matter. We may have read “II Peter 1:4” many times over, but today it will take on a new insight, perspective and meaning.

Summation

From this short epistle of Peter, we affirm, confirm and reconfirm that our tenet of faith is truth. We are destined to become sons of God - partakers of the DIVINE NATURE in the Kingdom of God – the New Heavens and New Earth – the abode of the righteous.



Life will continue. It will become everlasting.



The saints will have a new beginning as sons of God, clothe in spiritual splendor, immortal beings of light and heirs and co-heirs with Christ.

| Lucie Wicker
Photography |



God has predestined mankind, you and me, to this most glorious and wonderful destiny, i.e., to become children of God in His Kingdom.

Matthew 13:16-17

16 But blessed are your eyes because they see,
and your ears because they hear.

17 For I tell you the truth, many prophets and
righteous men longed to see what you see
but did not see it, and to hear what you hear
but did not hear it.



Friends, this is God's plan for us. Sonship in the Kingdom of God is our hope, our future, our destiny.



It is the purpose of our creation. It is the reason
why we are here on earth. It is the reason why
Christ died for us.

May this revelation from the Word of God open your eyes to the truth that believing God and obedience to His commands is not an exercise in futility; but rather, a fulfillment of His grand design for you to become His literal sons and daughters and enter into the everlasting Kingdom of your Father.

May
God Bless You
All!

Gundry & Howell

PARALLELISTIC STRUCTURE OF JOHN 3:14–17

MAIN CLAUSES (UNINDENTED)

SUBORDINATE CLAUSES (INDENTED)^[5]

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,
in this way must the Son of man be lifted up
 in order that everyone believing might have in him life eternal,
 for in this way God loved the world;
and so God gave the only Son
 in order that everyone believing in him might not perish;
 rather, might have life eternal,
 for God did not send the Son into the world
 in order that he might judge the world;
 rather, in order that the world might be saved through him.