

...BUT IS THAT ALL YOU WANT?

[FOR THOSE THAT WANT MORE]

BY: BRAD CULLEN - DECEMBER 17, 2004

My eye was captured by the words on the back cover of a magazine. "It Is Enough!" The four well thought-out paragraphs that followed the caption were from a different perspective than mine. Well, perhaps better stated from several perspectives different than mine. While I wouldn't argue with that author's viewpoint, it still left me with the question for those that may want more... "But is that all you want?"

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There came a point in my life at which I wanted to know, and began to ask, does God [by whatever other name] have a purpose for me? I finally found the answer to that question and it is all that I want - and frankly, from my limited perspective, it is far more than most people dream or believe is even possible. I suspect the reason some people don't want "whatever" is because they don't believe it's possible to achieve.

Let me ask the question, what do you want? Do you know? Is it possible that the only reason you don't know what you really want is because you don't believe it's possible to get and therefore you don't ask? Or is it possible that you have settled into wanting what you think you can get and therefore, don't look any further?

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Over the last several months I have had the opportunity to meet many people with problems that stem from drug, alcohol, and other addictions I have come to the conclusion that all addictions come from the same source. Before we go any further, what I mean by addiction is any habit - including so-called "good" habits - that keep us from reaching our full potential from God's [by whatever other name] point of view. From that peculiar angle, work, religion, hobbies, and other "socially acceptable" habits can consume us to the point that we never reach our full potential. We simply escape into our addiction, including work and religion, don't forget, because we don't believe in the possibility of even asking, let alone following his instructions for achieving whatever His purpose might be. The immediate challenge for anyone reading this is to avoid preconceived ideas about what I mean by "God's purpose." I can almost guarantee that whatever popped into your mind has nothing whatsoever to do with what I'm about to present.

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I'm writing this out of my own experiences of failure. Failed marriages [plural], failed businesses [plural], failed jobs and relationship [again all plural], I have failed as a husband, a father, a friend and in so many other aspects of my life that I'll just add, etc., etc., ad nauseum. My own addictions are immaterial for this discussion, but I will admit they have been contributing to my past failures and need ongoing help - but not from any human source or system, including - but not limited to - religion. My point is that I am not writing this from the position of "saint," but rather self acknowledged "chief of sinners." If there is hope for me, there is hope for anyone... but far more than hope. A whole new look at results - getting faith - and from an entirely different perspective than I have ever seen in my seventy plus years occupying this particular body bag. "Nothing is impossible," or from the positive -- "All things are possible." I didn't say either of these things, I'm merely reiterating them from the position of knowing by experience they are true. They are true for any individual that believes enough! That's what Jesus said along with his own instructions about how to get to the point of believing enough to do the seemingly impossible.

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Before we can begin following Jesus' instructions, we first have to get rid of some religious preconceptions about Jesus and be willing to take what he said seriously. Religious teachers talk about being Christ-like, having the character of Christ and reverence for God. It is very difficult for many Christians to realize that Jesus actually taught familiarity, irreverence and impudence as the means by which to get answers to our prayers.

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