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Starting Over With God

(How to approach God after a long absence)

(SERIES: **Mastering The Art Of The Fresh Start: 04 of 08**)
by Dr. David Foster

"Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: 'Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. **GOD DID THIS SO THAT MEN WOULD SEEK HIM AND PERHAPS REACH OUT FOR HIM AND FIND HIM, THOUGH HE IS NOT FAR FROM EACH ONE OF US.** For in him we live and move and have our being. As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone--an image made by man's design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.'" (Acts 17:22-30 NIV)

How Do You See Yourself?

The tomcat, who sees life as a playground.

The watchdog, who sees life as a courtroom.

"You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things." (Rom 2:1)

The beaver, who sees life as a sweatshop.

The eagle, who sees life as a gift to be enjoyed.

"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Isa 40:30-31 NIV)

The 4 Ways They Each Relate To God

The tomcat tries to disregard God.

The watchdog tries to distract God.

The beaver tries to impress God.

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The eagle seeks only to **honor** God.

My 4 Constant Confessions

Today I confess, Jesus I cannot save myself and I don't have to.

"Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, 'Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?' 'Why do you ask me about what is good?' Jesus replied. 'There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.' 'Which ones?' the man inquired. Jesus replied, 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.' 'All these I have kept,' the young man said. 'What do I still lack?' Jesus answered, 'If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.' When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.'" (Mat 19:16-22)

"A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, **he gets another chance.**" (Prov 28:13)

Today I confess, Jesus I trust You alone as my God & Savior.

"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." (Rom 10:9-10)

"What does the Scripture say? 'Abraham **believed God**, and it was credited to him as righteousness.'" (Rom 4:3)

Today I confess, Jesus I will stand on Your promises.

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God." (Rom 5:1-2)

Today I confess, Jesus I will walk in Your freedom.

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36)

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the **Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.**" (Rom 8:1-2)

"If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:15-19 NIV)

"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." (2 Cor 1:21-22)

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