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What Makes Life Truly Meaningful

(Accepting your 3 responsibilities without excuses)

(SERIES: **Making This Year My Best Year Yet: 01 of 07**)
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"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that **THERE IS NOTHING BETTER FOR MEN THAN TO BE HAPPY AND DO GOOD WHILE THEY LIVE.** That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil--this is the gift of God. I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. . . ." (Eccl 3:11-14 NIV)

Without Meaning Life . . .

Can seem to **be pointless.**

"In my opinion, nothing is worthwhile; everything is futile. For what does a man get for all his hard work? Generations come and go, but **IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.**" (Eccl 1:2-4)

Can seem to **never be enough.**

"The sun rises and sets and hurries around to rise again. The wind blows south and north, here and there, twisting back and forth, getting nowhere. The rivers run into the sea, but the sea is never full, and the water returns again to the rivers and flows again to the sea . . . everything is unutterably weary and tiresome. **NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE SEE, WE ARE NEVER SATISFIED; NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE HEAR, WE ARE NOT CONTENT.**" (Eccl 1:5-8)

Can seem to **be cold and impersonal.**

"History merely repeats itself. Nothing is truly new; it has all been done or said before. What can you point to that is new? How do you know it didn't exist long ages ago? We don't remember what happened in those former times, and in the future generations no one will remember what we have done back here." (Eccl 1:9-11 TLB)

3 Elemental Sources Of Meaning

Your relationship with **God & the conviction it creates.**

"But although he made the world, the world didn't recognize him when he came. Even in his own land and among his own people, the Jews, he was not accepted. Only a few would welcome and receive him. But to all who received him, he gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust him to save them. All those who believe this are reborn!--not a physical rebirth resulting from human passion or plan--but from the will of God." (John 1:10-13 TLB)

Your relationship with **people & the connection it makes.**

"Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and **YOU BELONG IN GOD'S HOUSEHOLD WITH EVERY OTHER CHRISTIAN.** What a foundation you stand on now: the apostles and the prophets; and the cornerstone of the building is Jesus Christ himself! We who believe are carefully joined together with Christ as parts of a beautiful, constantly growing temple for God. And you also are joined with him and with each other by the Spirit and are part of this dwelling place of God." (Eph 2:19-22 TLB)

Your relationship with **work & the contribution it allows.**

"But life is worth nothing unless **I USE IT FOR DOING THE WORK ASSIGNED ME** by the Lord Jesus--the work of telling others the Good News about God's mighty kindness and love." (Acts 20:24 TLB)

"Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of it, and it takes **EVERY ONE OF US TO MAKE IT COMPLETE,** for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other, and each needs all the others. God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, then prophesy whenever you can--as often as your faith is strong enough to receive a message from God. If your gift is that of serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, do a good job of teaching. If you are a preacher, see to it that your sermons are strong and helpful. If God has given you money, be generous in helping others with it. If God has given you administrative ability and put you in charge of the work of others, **TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY SERIOUSLY.** Those who offer comfort to the sorrowing should do so with Christian cheer. Don't just pretend that you love others: really love them. Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good. Love each other with brotherly affection and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy in your work, but serve the Lord enthusiastically." (Rom 12:4-11 TLB)