




God's
eye view on
✕
TREASURES

Matt Rawlins^{PhD}

A little book that's yours to give away. 

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A special thanks to Scott Tompkins for his editing work and wisdom.

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Hi, My name is Matt.

I'm a treasure hunter.

The thrill of the hunt is exhilarating.

It can also be painful

A relative left us a small inheritance. At the same time, a friend came to my dad and said he found some gold in Nevada. I used some of the money to invest in looking for the gold.



I suddenly got “gold fever.” I used some of the inheritance to buy some prospecting equipment and headed to Nevada. I spent all summer digging and searching.

Sadly, I couldn’t find it and the money invested was lost. It was a pretty painful and humbling experience.



There is a cost to any treasure hunt.

Mel Fisher found one of the greatest treasures of all time when his crew located the sunken Spanish galleon Atocha in 1975. But his search cost him fifteen years of his life, millions of dollars, and the deaths of his eldest son and daughter-in-law.



My failed search for gold taught me a couple of hard lessons:

First, It's important to
know what you are doing
and why you are doing it.

Second, I could spend
everything I had and
not find treasure.



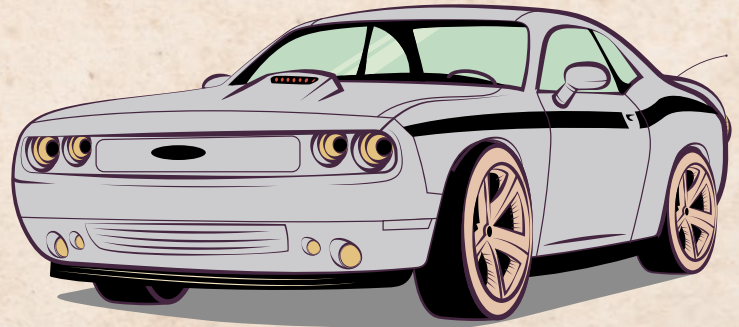
This left a  mark on
my soul
and got me thinking about treasures.

Then I remembered:

When I was 19, my idea of a treasure was pretty simple. I wanted a Camaro Z/28. I imagined myself driving it and how others would see me in it.

So I worked, saved up and found a two-year-old Z/28.

It was a gorgeous silver and black. I got my keys and drove off.



To my great disappointment, no one even noticed or cared what car I was driving.

I had tried to forget that, but it came rushing back to me as I thought about the search for treasures.

Slowly, ever so slowly, I realised what I wanted was a treasure worthy of the hunt.



It took me a long time to realise that I'd been hunting my whole life for something that would capture my heart.

Sure, I wanted the gold for me,
but I also wanted it to change the world.

I realised:

The pain sharpened my
focus and I wanted to
understand myself better
and why I needed to hunt.



I realised another form of treasure hunting is equally challenging.



**I don't want to live
a meaningless life.**

**It's two sides of
the same coin.**

I am reminded of
Solomon's despair in his
own treasure hunt.



Meaning is:



The language the heart speaks.

For me, a meaningless life
is a life of insignificance.

Dictionary.com Insignificant:

- ✖ Unimportant, trifling, or petty.
- ✖ Too small to be important.
- ✖ Of no consequence, influence or distinction.
- ✖ Without weight of character; contemptible.
- ✖ Without meaning; meaningless:



The first hint

Whether it's a treasure hunt or
avoiding a meaningless life:

It's a struggle with value.

The heart finds its place only
when it knows the values involved.



It may sound like I don't want to use the mind or that it is "separate" from the heart.

I have found in my struggle that there is more to me than just a "mind" and the heart represents that.

So when I am struggling with issues of the heart, I am including the mind's vitally important support work needed to get it clear.

God makes His desire for our heart very clear.

The Lord searches for those
whose heart is completely His.

I will find God if I search for Him
with all my heart...

We are to watch over our heart with all diligence.

Oh that they had such a heart in them...

I am to love God with all my heart...



**When we are talking
about the heart,
we are talking
about value.**



**For where your
treasure is,
there your heart
will be also.
Luke 12:34**

Hours and hours of reading and heart work gave me
a very simple principle of how the heart works:



When my heart sees something of greater value,
it says to me, choose this over something of lesser value.

Let me slow down here as this was a

HUGE



revelation to me.

Let me explain it in a practical way.



You can choose one or the other "bill"
which would you choose?



Silly question,
right !



The point is, as soon as you see a greater value,
your heart says to you, "Choose that."



Now, which one would you choose?



Slow down...

Notice your heart (and mind) is wrestling with the choice.



Why?

Because until the value of the currency is clear,
you struggle to make a decision.

It feels like a:

Chancy

Risky

Scary

Vulnerable

Potentially embarrassing...



...choice when I don't know the value.

It gets complicated when you know they have the appearance of the same value



Now, which one would you choose?



Gentle reminder:

This is not a foreign exchange class.



**This is to help you see that
the decisions from the heart,
where you are...**



All in. require a clear understanding
of the value involved.

I am not trying to figure out what values to choose, as in which currency.

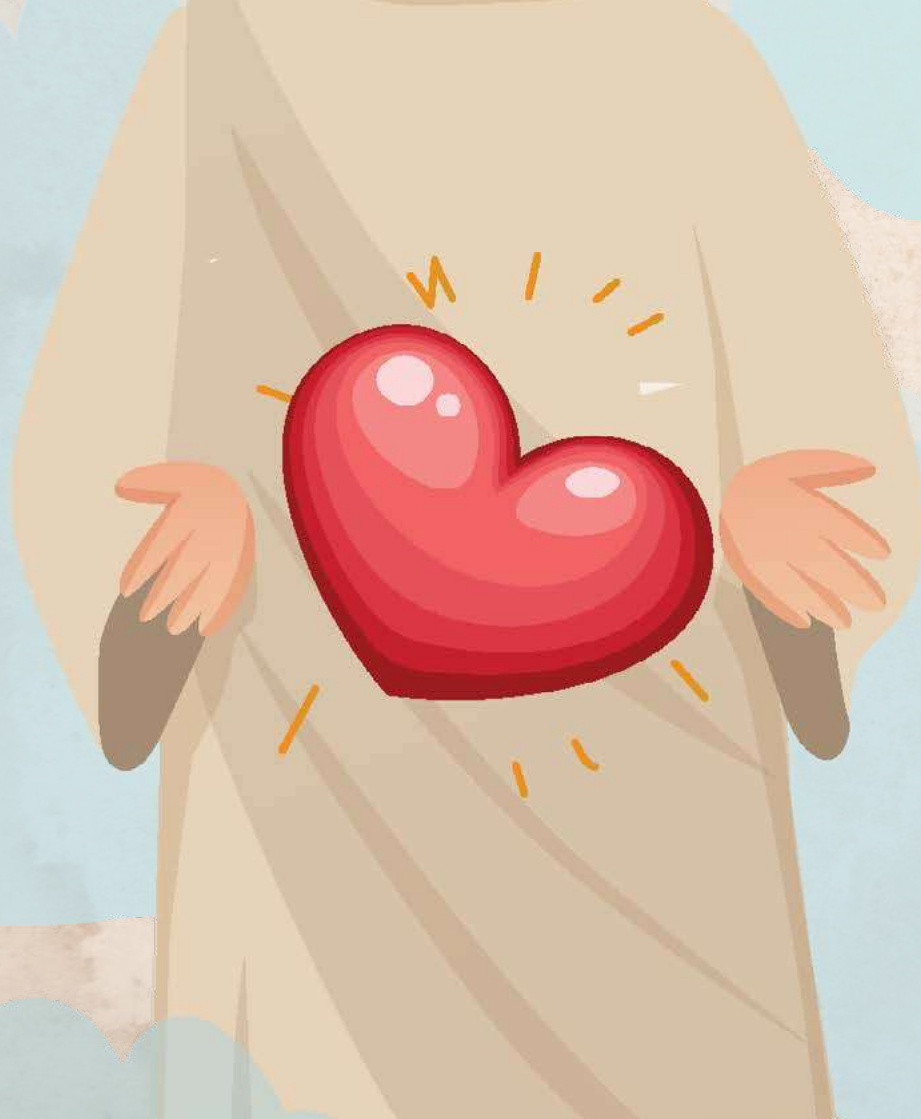
I am trying to figure out how the heart works.

My heart needs clarity of value to understand the meaning of something.



Until the value of
the choice is clear,
the heart will not
own the choice it
must make.





**How does my
heart figure out
what has value?**

Here are the key areas that stood out to me



How unique is it?

The more rare something is,
the more value it has.

How beautiful is it?



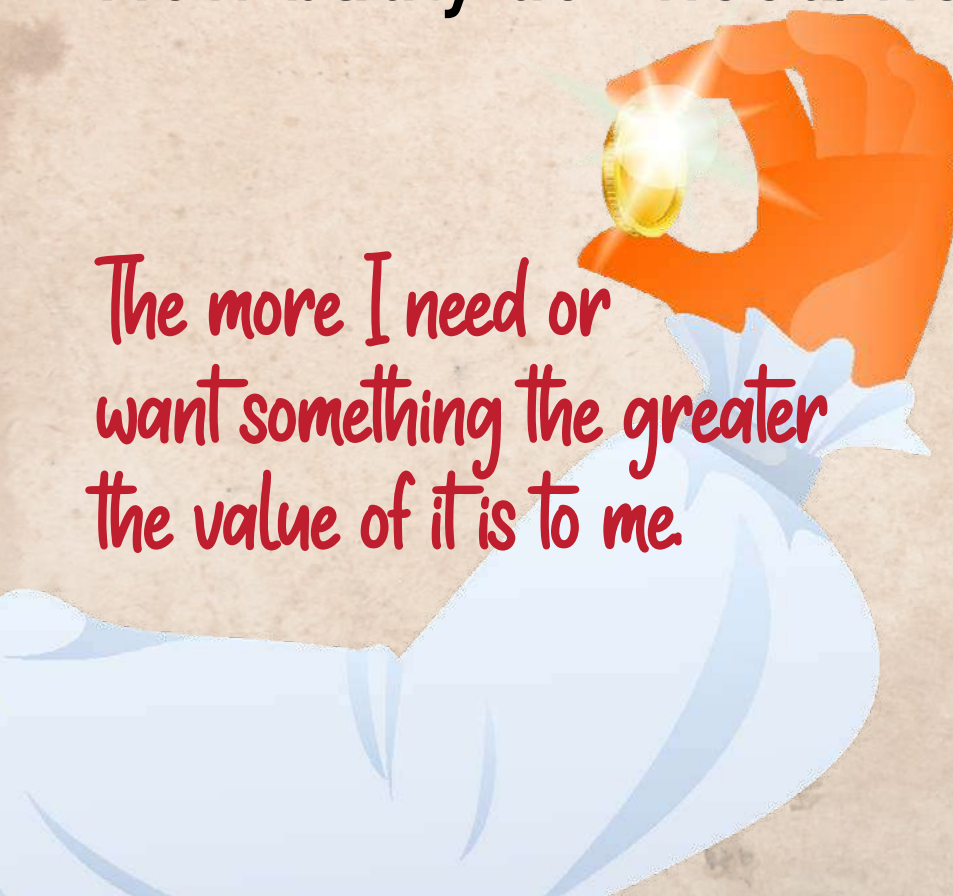
The more beautiful
something is to me,
the more value it has?

What is the quality/purity of it?




The more long lasting
and whole or untainted
something is, the more
value it has to me.

How badly do I need/want it?



The more I need or
want something the greater
the value of it is to me.

Confession time:
Sometimes it's really hard
to admit the difference
between a need and a want.



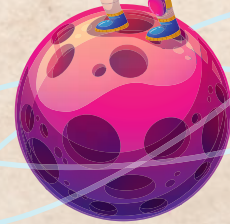
There is a
Huge
chasm
now before me.

God's way of valuing things
is so much bigger than mine.

Just to cross our galaxy
it would take me 75,000 years
traveling at the speed of light.
(186,000 miles per second.)

And that would only be the
first second of a year long
journey into our universe.

*In my smallness,
I find it very hard to discern
the true value of things.*



When I consider Your heavens,
the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars
which You have ordained;
What is man that You take thought of him,
And the son of man that You care for him?

Psalm 8:3-4

Considering the vastness of the universe and
God, it feels like the deepest longings of my heart
will never be answered.

In these times, I feel lonely, even desperate.





WE NEED HELP!

I found some answers in an unexpected place –
the Bible's book of Job. A story about suffering and sorrow.



Job 28:1-11 (My summary)

Wow, look at all these things humanity can do. We are amazing at finding things of value hidden in this earth.

Job 28:12-13a

But where can wisdom be found?
And where is the place of understanding?
Man does not know its value.



God cuts through all the “glory” of humanity and gets right to the issue. If we don't know something value, we are lost

When I stand back and reflect:

When I look at the "treasures" I have sought I realise:

I am easily seduced
by shiny objects.



I am distracted by sex
as if it is all that matters.

I seek to fill my fear of weakness
with any form of power I can find.

Imagine living your whole life for one purpose or value.

Example:

My mining adventure. Imagine I got more and more engaged and spent my whole life mining as much gold as I could.



Would that give my life significance?

How much gold would be enough to validate my heart?

If I didn't have any gold, would that make me a failure as a human?

Now imagine me dragging all the gold I have gathered from my life to heaven with me.

As I walk into Heaven, I see the gate made out of one pearl

I see the streets paved with gold and
I look at the values I have lived by.

What would I be thinking or
feeling as I walked before
God to defend my heart?



Job 28:23-28

²³ God understands its way, And He knows its place.

²⁴ “For He looks to the ends of the earth
And sees everything under the heavens.

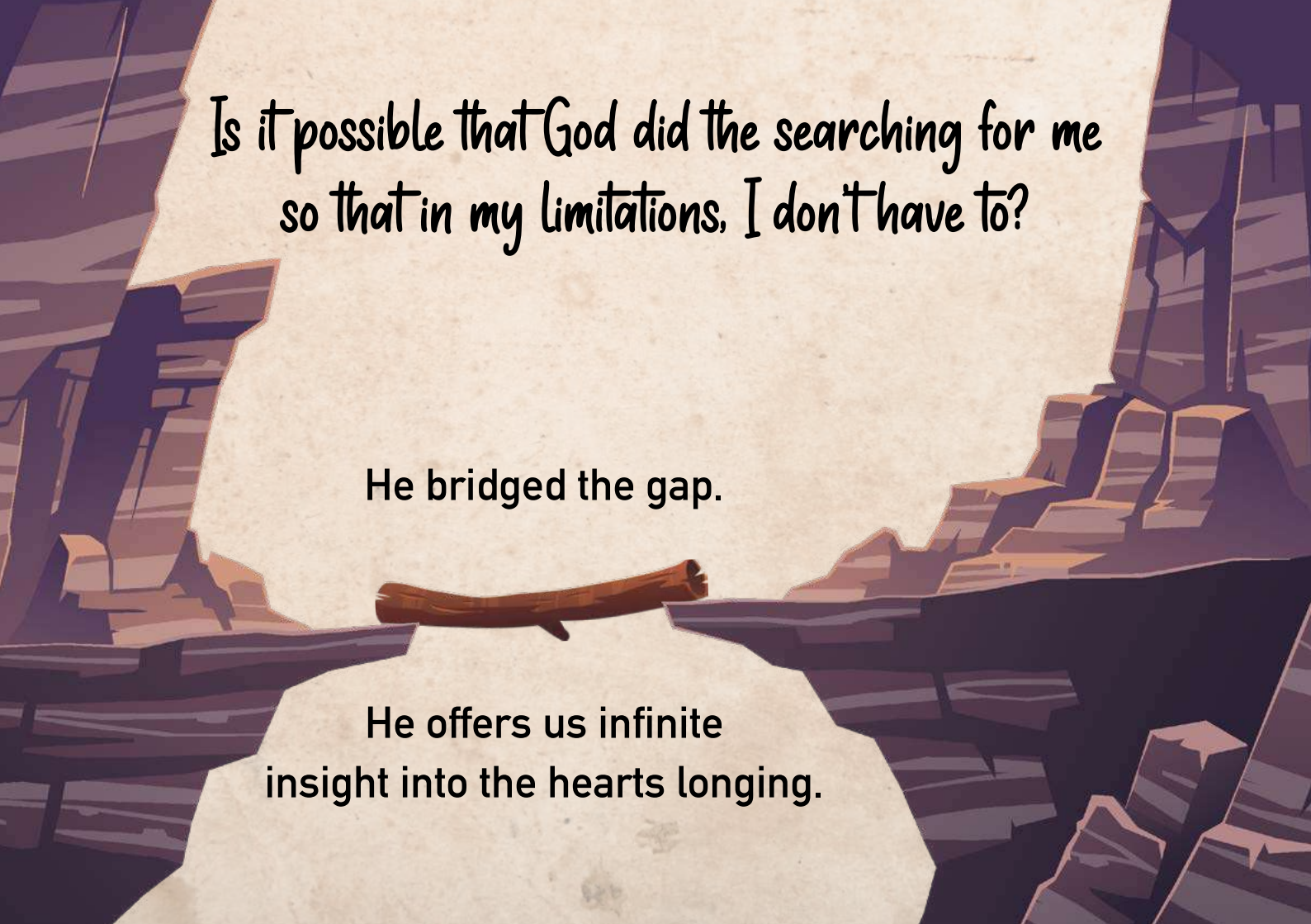
²⁵ “When He imparted weight to the wind
And meted out the waters by measure,

²⁶ When He set a limit for the rain
And a course for the thunderbolt,

²⁷ Then He saw it and declared it;
He established it and also searched it out.

²⁸ “And to man He said,
‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom;
And to depart from evil is understanding.’



A stylized illustration of a canyon with dark, layered rock walls. A single log is placed horizontally across a gap between two rock ledges, acting as a bridge. The background is a light, textured beige color.

Is it possible that God did the searching for me
so that in my limitations, I don't have to?

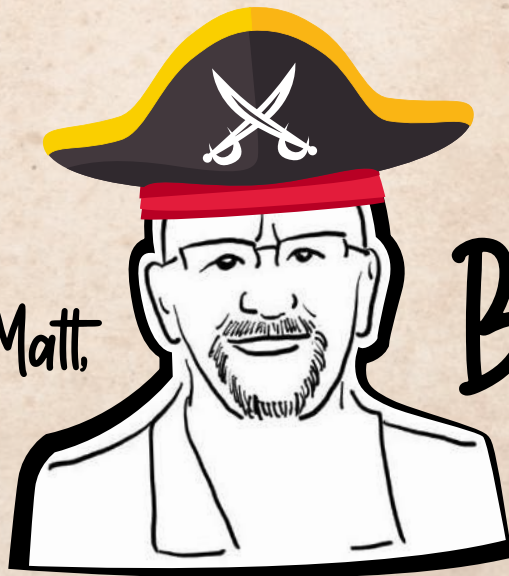
He bridged the gap.

He offers us infinite
insight into the hearts longing.

Sorry, let me slow down. I am searching the universe and just pushing on.

I am a teacher at heart and when I get focused on an issue
I am struggling to understand, I sometimes forget to breath...

Slow down Matt,



Breathe

Remind me:
What are we searching for?



What does the heart need to
be captured, passionate and
secure in for life to have
purpose and meaning?



Summary:


God has “searched out” the universe.
He has turned over every rock
and looked into every planet, star,
galaxy, dark hole or system out there.

His statement to us is simple:



God is the most valuable
thing in the universe.

He is IT.
There is no other.



Here are four reasons
why I can make such a
clear statement.

1. The uniqueness of God

Deuteronomy 4:39
Know therefore today,
and take it to your heart,
that the Lord, He is God in heaven
above and on the earth below;
there is no other.



One of a kind.

2. The awesome beauty of God

1 Chronicles 16:29

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name;
Bring an offering,
and come before Him;
Worship the Lord in holy array.



*To those who catch a glimpse of who He is,
they are captivated and fall down in worship.*

3. His unequalled purity

Psalm 90:2

Before the mountains were born
Or You gave birth to the earth and the world,
Even from everlasting to everlasting,
You are God.



Absolutely pure and without an end.

4. He is the source of life, and we need Him

Colossians 1:16-17

¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

¹⁷ He is before all things, and **in Him all things hold together.**



*He holds the material world together.
I would say we need Him, badly.*

It seems the remaining question that we have to answer is,

Do we want Him?



Sorry, I can't answer that question for you.
I can only answer it for myself.
It's not as easy as it sounds living in a broken world.

**He is the most
valuable Being
in the universe.**

**God is not selfish,
He is humble.**

He sees the whole picture.





Value of God



Value of a humanity

Which is bigger?



Value of God



Value of a humanity

Which should you be more interested in?

My heart had its answer.

It is not that I don't have value.

It is just that I don't have the infinite value God does.

Therefore, I should place Him, His heart, His life, ahead of my own.

That is the wisest choice I can make.

I have value because I am made in the image of God.

He has given us the deepest, richest,
wisest answer to the question of the heart.



HIMSELF

**Let's visit the New Testament
to underscore the point.**



Matthew 13:44-46

⁴⁴ The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls,

⁴⁶ and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

That is pretty clear.

Philippians 3:8

More than that,

I count all things to be loss

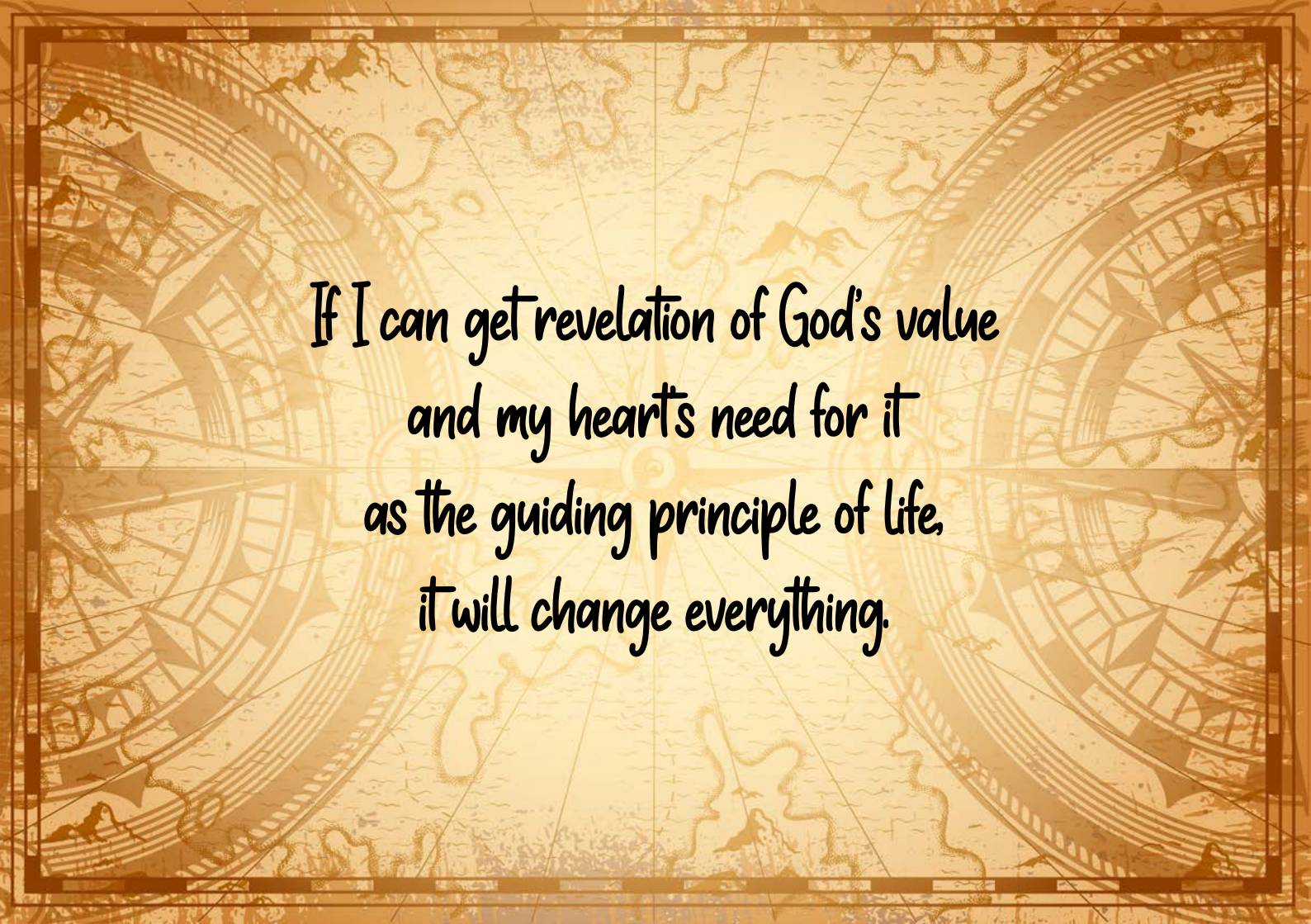
in view of the surpassing value

of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,

for whom I have suffered the loss of all things,

and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,

*Paul shares his heart's revelation of value and
makes it clear what his choice is.*

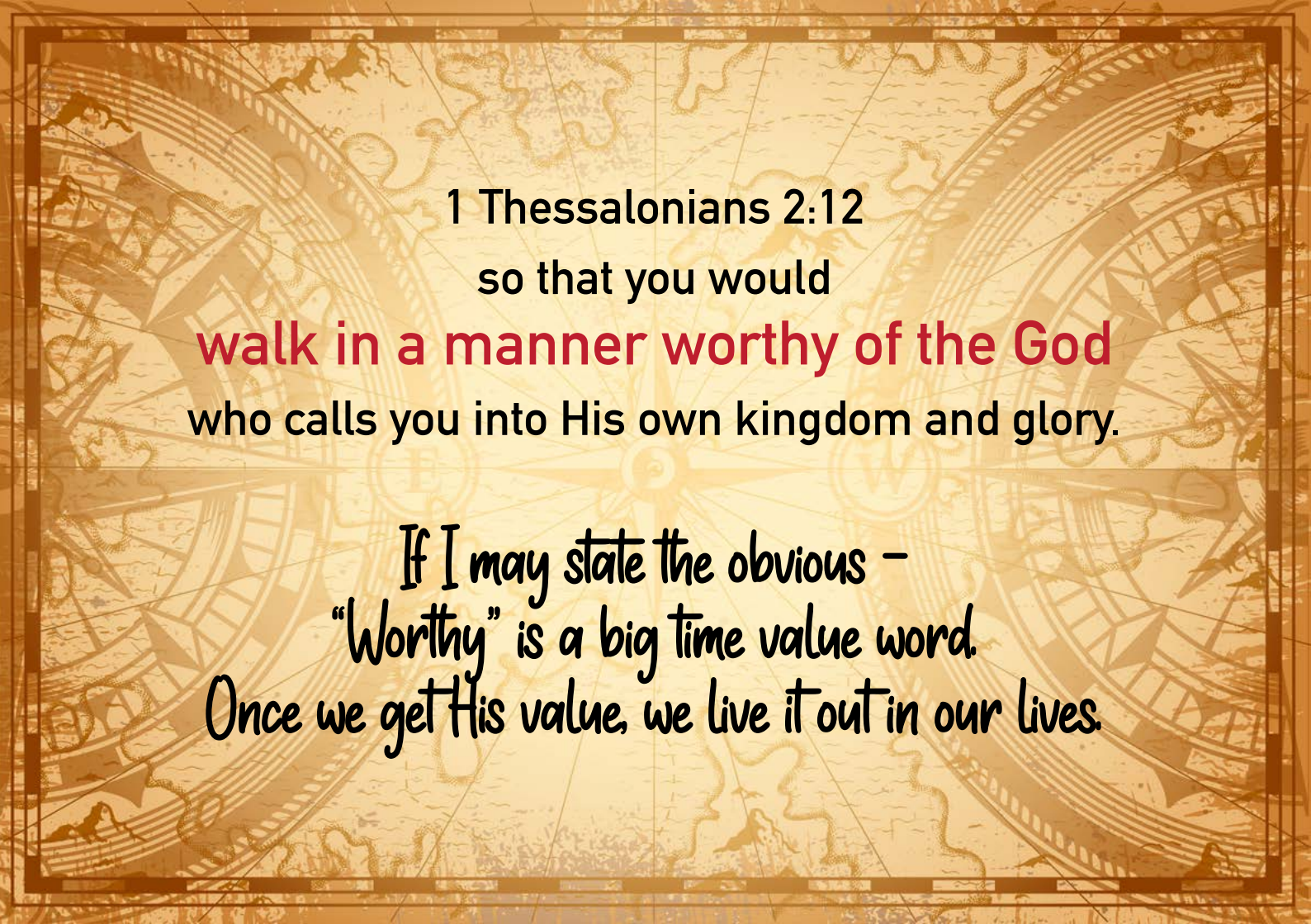


If I can get revelation of God's value
and my heart's need for it
as the guiding principle of life,
it will change everything.

Paul recognized that we would struggle valuing ourselves because of our unrighteousness.

He knew the key was getting the church to recognize that our individual value is fully restored in Jesus. He uses a simple expression to help us understand:





1 Thessalonians 2:12
so that you would
walk in a manner worthy of the God
who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

If I may state the obvious -
“Worthy” is a big time value word.
Once we get His value, we live it out in our lives.

Colossians 1:10

so that you

will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,

to please Him in all respects,

bearing fruit in every good work and

increasing in the knowledge of God;

*In case you missed it in the other letter,
he says it again.*

The background of the slide features a warm, golden-brown color palette. It is decorated with two large, stylized compass roses, one on the left and one on the right, which are partially obscured by a network of thin, intersecting lines. Wavy, organic lines resembling water or smoke flow across the background, adding a sense of movement and depth. The entire composition is framed by a dark, textured border.

And again.

Philippians 1:27

Only conduct yourselves in a manner
worthy of the gospel
of Christ...

How can I know
God's will and live
in a worthy manner?

For years this relentless question nibbled
at my mind like the swarms of mosquitoes
I encountered while working in Canada.

It took me years to realise this was
not only a question for the mind,
but it was a question for my heart.

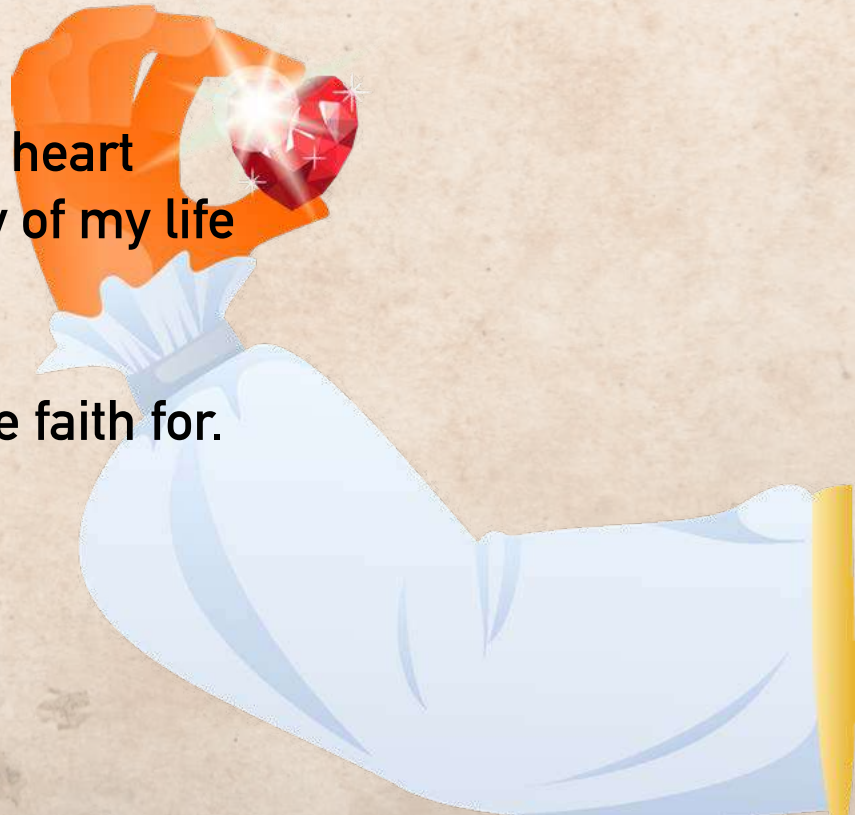


The answer was so simple
as to be embarrassing.

Ready for it?

To trust God with my whole heart
and to live like He is worthy of my life
in everything I do.

Then do whatever I have the faith for.



The Final Revelation

The things we have valued most in this life will be fully exposed on that great day when the angel shouts, **“Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?”**

The only one worthy to represent us before God the Father is Jesus, the Lamb of God.



The final
“Judgement,”
is the values of the
universe laid bare
for all to see.

Including God's



Revelation 4:9-11

⁹ And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever,

¹⁰ the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹ “**Worthy are You**, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”

Revelation 5:8-9

⁸ When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twentyfour elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, “**Worthy are You** to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.



I can find a treasure in God
that will give my life **(heart)**
meaning and purpose.

It is not a one time treasure, but a daily treasure
of seeing Him clearer and clearer every day.

The clearer I see His Greatness and Goodness
the more I discover He is worthy of my life
and I have the joy of living it out.

Guard your heart



I got it. To watch over my heart is to guard the values I live and love by.

I wish I could say this is easy, but there is not a week that goes by that I am not challenged in this in some way.

I am going to go into this in more detail in my next little ebook. The Kingdom at War. You can find it at: brokentopleadership.com



Online Marketplace training: www.matthewrawlins.com (It's on Thinkific)
Ministry: www.brokentopleadership.com
Marketplace work: www.thegreenbench.com
email: mrawlins@mac.com

Other books I wrote to help Christians deepen their relationship with God.

Rediscovering Reverence

The path to intimacy

The Question

Is God good to all?

The Namer

How do I find my true identity?

Emails from Hell

Evil schemes to undermine a leader

Walked Naked into the Land of Uncertainty

5 keys for leadership into the unknown

Guardian

A journey to the heart

Humility

Emails from Heaven

An angels advice to his young apprentice.

The Long Sacred Journey:

Volume One

Reflections along the way

These are some I wrote to help leaders in the business world.

Finding the Pain in your @ss-umptions

A leadership tale

The Green Bench

A dialogue about leadership and change

The Green Bench II

More dialogue about leadership and communication

There's an Elephant in the Room

Discover the single most powerful tool for growth

The Lottery

A question can change a life.

The Race

How do you prepare yourself for the unknown?

Effective Leadership

In uncertain times

Courageous Leadership

In uncertain times

A Line Drawn in the Sand

3D Leadership

Leading well in tension and uncertainty

Available in [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

