

# 1) Creation

Jesus said in: **John 17:3** - "*And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*"

This afternoon, I held my 14-month old son by the hand and was teaching him how to walk. My wife and I cheered for him with every step he took. It reminded me of this scripture:

**Hosea 11:1** - *When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son... the scripture goes on to say in verse 3: *I taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by their arms.**

I didn't know I was created for relationship with God, and I didn't understand that He actually had a desire to be a Father to me. He created me (and all of us) for sonship.

I understood religion and how following a set of rules could be beneficial, as it provided structure and a platform for a well-balanced and productive life, but I didn't know that God actually created me for something much more personal than religion.

The first time the concept of a relationship with God was presented to me, I was sitting in the basement of my girlfriend's house, where I lived at the time, taking bong rips with a young man who was raised a pentecostal preacher's son, who had a pastoral call on his life.

I was between 20 & 21 years old at the time and very intrigued by this concept, as it was so foreign to me.

"It's unwise to pursue a relationship with a woman if you don't have a relationship with God."

**Profound:** I understood he was implying that it was possible for a relationship with God to be comparable to the relationship I could have with a living and breathing human being, like one you could have with a friend, a mentor, or a father.

**Challenging:** I can actually see and converse with my girlfriend. She hears, and responds to me. We actually communicate.

**I was a believer:** but in no way did I have what I felt was a relationship with God, which is why this concept was very intriguing, but also challenging for me.

**The Tension:** As intriguing as this concept was I took my next bong rip (blind to the invitation God was giving me to accept Him) and in no way wanted anything to do with surrendering my life to God, regardless of what a real relationship with Him could look like...

# 2) The fall of man

**John 3:19** - "*And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*"

I loved my sin. I loved getting high. I loved sleeping with my girlfriend. \*\*\*My love for these things put a giant chasm between me and a holy God\*\*\*

Jesus said in the following verse, John 3:20 - *For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.*"

This wasn't new revelation - reference **Genesis 3: 9-10**

**John 15:4** - *Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.*

**Paraphrased:** When we use our free will to make a conscious choice to pursue a life apart from God, the author of eternal life, we bring the death penalty upon ourselves.

### 3) The judgement

**Romans 6:23** - ... *The wages of sin is death...*

The bible calls death, wages. Death is the return on our investment of a life of sin.

As an addict, this wasn't a hard concept for me to grasp....

for 13-years, I lived every day like it was my last with a constant sense of death being right around the corner.

(share Brandon's story)

I may have been blind to how serious my problem with addiction was, but the whole time I knew my could be cut short at any moment, by my own doing or someone elses. Looking back, I realized it was all a result of a life lived in pursuit of anything or anyone, other than God.

### 4) The covenant

\*\*\*SHARE THE GOSPEL\*\*\*

**John 1:1-3** - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

\*\*\*The scripture goes on to say, in **John 1: 14** - *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

(emphasis: full of grace and truth)

In 2014/15, I met a man possessed by the Spirit of God, Michael Miksa.

- He wasn't perfect, but he walked in so much conviction, and an infectious joy.

\*\*\*God used Michael Miksa mightily to teach me about grace\*\*\*

**(What is grace? God's unmerited favor)**

Michael, having a personal relationship with God, and a personal revelation of His grace, built a relationship with me, and eventually, after trust was established, all of a sudden truth had a landing strip.

\*\*\*God gave Michael the faith and the ability to see me through a prophetic lens\*\*\*

His prayers and declarations over me:

-The joy of the Lord is your strength (Nehemiah 8:10).

-Rescue is coming.

-You are more than a conqueror.

**-Jeremiah 29:11** - *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

(Tell THE SUMMER OF 2017, story)

AUG 2ND, AUG 3RD - denial of Christ to Michael - Michael's truth bomb dropped on tail of God's grace,  
AUG 4th...

This brought me to my **Jeremiah 29: 12-13** moment - *Then you will call upon Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek me and you will find me, when you search for me with all your heart.*

**John 3:16** - *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever should believe in Him would not perish, but receive everlasting life.*

**John 12:47** - *He who hears My words and doesn't keep them, I do not judge him, for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.*

## 5) The promise

Read **Luke 15:20-24** - 20 *“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son. 22 “But the father said to his servants, [a]‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.*

**\*\*\*I was supernaturally granted a heart of flesh\*\*\***

Read **Isaiah 61:3** - To console those who mourn in Zion,

To give them beauty for ashes,

The oil of joy for mourning,

The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;

That they may be called trees of righteousness,

The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”