



WHY DO I EXIST?

WHAT TWO BABYLONIAN KINGS CAN TEACH US
ABOUT LIFE'S MEANING

GREG LAURIE

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Why am I here on earth? What is the purpose of my existence?

Those are questions we all ask at some point in life.

A poll revealed that 61 percent of Americans said the main purpose of life is enjoyment and personal fulfillment. And 50 percent of those people identified themselves as born again Christians.

Is that true? Is the purpose of life enjoyment and personal fulfillment?

I think the answer to that question can be found when we place the lives of two men side by side. Their names are Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar. Both of them were kings over Babylon. They were related as well; Belshazzar was the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar.

Nebuchadnezzar wasted most of his life, but in the end made the right decision. Belshazzar wasted all of his life and in the end made the wrong decision.

Let's start with Nebuchadnezzar. He had everything a person would supposedly want to be happy: unparalleled wealth, worldwide fame, incredible power. This was a man who had been exposed repeatedly to spiritual truth, but pretty much blew it off. If you know the story, you remember that Nebuchadnezzar had Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Daniel—young Jewish men—brought into his palace to school them in the ways of Babylon. You remember how they made a stand early on in their lives. They would not eat of the food of the king's table and went on a special fast of vegetables and water for ten days; at the end of that time they were in better shape than the ones who were eating from the king's table. And the Scripture tells us that they had ten times more wisdom than all of the other counselors to the king.

Then the king had a dream, which Daniel interpreted for him when no one else could. And when the king foolishly had an image made of himself and commanded everyone to worship it, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused and, as a result, were thrown into the fiery furnace. The king saw how the Lord preserved the three men and he described a fourth one walking with them in the furnace as looking like the Son of God.

So this king, Nebuchadnezzar, had been exposed to spiritual truth big time. Yet for the most part he rejected it, and in time he faced the consequences of that rejection.

These are his words in Daniel 4:

“I, Nebuchadnezzar, was living in my palace in comfort and prosperity. But one night I had a dream that frightened me; I saw visions that terrified me as I lay in my bed. So I issued an order calling in all the wise men of Babylon, so they could tell me what my dream meant. When all the magicians, enchanters, astrologers, and fortune-tellers came in, I told them the dream, but they could not tell me what it meant. At last Daniel came in before me, and I told him the dream. (He was named Belteshazzar after my god, and the spirit of the holy gods is in him.)

“I said to him, ‘Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that no mystery is too great for you to solve. Now tell me what my dream means.’” (Daniel 4:4–9)

In verse 4, he says he was living in his palace in comfort and prosperity. This king had it made. With his armies he had effectively conquered the civilized world and there was no longer a need for war. He was concentrating his energies into building Babylon into the most magnificent city on the face of the earth.

Now, if you want to build something today, you have to deal with permits and plans that have to be drawn up, and then those plans have to be approved, and you have to deal with unions if you are hiring people to work, and so forth. But in his day, Nebuchadnezzar didn't have to worry about submitting plans to the city. He was the city. He was the nation. He was the world. And he didn't have to worry about dealing with unions. He had slave labor; whenever he would conquer another nation he would bring captives back to work for Babylon. That included many Jewish people as well.

So Babylon was an incredible city built by these slaves. The walls of Babylon were 350 feet high. And the wall was so wide, you could ride six chariots abreast on top of it. Around the city of Babylon were 250 watchtowers placed in strategic locations. Babylon had 100 gates, each made of burnished bronze. One palace alone in this great city covered 11 acres. One banquet hall alone would seat upwards of 10,000 people. And there were the famous Hanging Gardens of Babylon as well. So this was a magnificent city, and Nebuchadnezzar was a powerful ruler.

How would you reach a man as powerful as Nebuchadnezzar? We read that it happened through a dream. “I had a dream that frightened me; I saw visions that terrified me as I lay in my bed” (verse 5). Here was the most powerful man on earth, who had conquered the world, in his royal palace behind towering walls sealed by massive gates of bronze, surrounded by armed guards, and he was afraid. Why? He was troubled by a dream.

This is a reminder that no one is beyond the reach of God. You read the news and find that there are people that would terrorize our planet—leaders of rogue nations who threaten the world with nuclear activity, and so forth. Do you realize that God has the power to impact the hearts of even these people?

If Nebuchadnezzar could be converted, anyone could be converted. God can reach any person. The staunchest atheist. The most perverted talk show personality. The self-obsessed Hollywood star. Celebrities, politicians, world leaders—or your friends and relatives that you think would never in a million years even consider becoming a Christian. No one is beyond the reach of God.

If you are reading this book as a Christian, please be reminded that we need to pray for people. That unsaved boss who gives you all that trouble? He could be converted. That spouse who doesn’t know Jesus and has shown no interest in spiritual things? She could be converted. That son who won’t even talk to you about the things of the Lord? He can be converted too. No one is beyond the reach of God. So don’t give up hoping and don’t give up praying.

I wonder if Daniel prayed for Nebuchadnezzar. We know that Daniel was certainly a man of prayer. I wonder if he had prayed every now and then that the Lord would touch this great king.

Anyway, Nebuchadnezzar has this dream and he is troubled. He rounds up the usual gang—the magicians, the enchanters, the astrologers, the fortune-tellers—and he says, “Someone tell me what this dream means.” This is so typical of people, even today. When we have a crisis, we will turn first to a psychiatrist or psychologist or even a psychic before we will turn to God and His Word.

As a last resort—probably figuring he had better cover all of his bases—Nebuchadnezzar calls for the prophet Daniel. Daniel had interpreted dreams for him before. And as the prophet hears the dream, he reluctantly gives the interpretation.

Upon hearing this, Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar) was overcome for a time, frightened by the meaning of the dream. Then the king said to him, “Belteshazzar, don’t be alarmed by the dream and what it means.”

Belteshazzar replied, “I wish the events foreshadowed in this dream would happen to your enemies, my lord, and not to you!”
(Daniel 4:19–20)

You see, Daniel knew the meaning of the dream. And he knew that this dream was foretelling the destruction ultimately of Babylon and the humbling of King Nebuchadnezzar.

It is hard to tell people the truth sometimes, isn’t it? Someone may ask us a question and we know if we tell them the truth it is going to hurt their feelings. Maybe they say, “Hey, I just recorded this new song and I want you to listen to it,” and they play it. They ask, “What did you think?” You didn’t like it. What do you say? Or what if you are invited over to someone’s house for a meal and they worked all day to prepare it for you. And they ask you, “How was the meal?” but it was so bad you wanted to throw up at least three times. Or what if your wife is wearing a new outfit and asks, “Honey, do I look fat in this?” Uh oh. By the way, the answer to that last question is always no. (If she does look fat think of something creative to say.) But my point is it is hard sometimes to tell the truth—not because we want to lie, but because we don’t want to hurt a person’s feelings.

Imagine how hard it is for a doctor. Someone is getting ready to go on their vacation, they come in for their checkup, you run the tests, and you want to call them up and say, “Hey, everything is good. Have a great vacation. No problems.” But there is one test that reveals the person has cancer. So you have to call them in, sit them down, and break the news to them. You don’t want to, but if you are a good doctor you have to tell them the truth. In effect, you have to give them the bad news. You can soften it with good points: “This is not the end. There is a course of treatment. You can talk to cancer survivors. Here is how you deal with this. This is what you need to do now.” But you have to tell the truth, right?

If you are already a Christian, you have been given the message of the gospel. And we, as believers, have to “declare the whole counsel of God.” But sometimes it is a temptation to edit the message, isn’t it? Let me illustrate. You might say to someone, “Jesus Christ has changed my life. He has filled the void inside of me. He has given me peace and purpose and I know I am going to go to Heaven when I die. And I wish you would believe in Jesus.” And

they say, “I want to ask you a point blank question: If I don’t believe in Jesus and I reject Him for my entire life, what will happen to me when I die?” Now what are you going to say? “Well, uh . . . uh . . . let me ask you this: do you like warm climates?” You are reluctant to use the H-word. Hell. Why? “Well, it might offend them!” Here’s something to think about: if you don’t say it, you might offend God. If I don’t tell them the repercussions for not believing, I am not declaring the whole counsel of God and I am no better than a doctor that would say to someone, “You have a clean bill of health” when they are, in fact, dying. I have to tell them. “I am sorry to tell you this, but there is a Hell. There is a judgment. And the last thing God wants is for you to go there. This is what the Bible teaches.”

We can’t hold back the truth because we are afraid it might offend someone. Imagine how easy it would have been for Daniel to do. “Well, King, the dream is good. Everything is fine.”

No. Instead he says, “Oh, man. This dream is not good at all.” He would have been tempted, of course, to not disclose the meaning of it to the king because people had lost their lives for far less with King Nebuchadnezzar. But Daniel told him the truth. Then he added a little P.S. In Daniel 4:27, he says, “King Nebuchadnezzar, please accept my advice. Stop sinning and do what is right. Break from your wicked past and be merciful to the poor. Perhaps then you will continue to prosper.”

In other words, “Nebuchadnezzar, this dream is foretelling your destruction. But here is some good news. If you will repent, if you will stop sinning, God may spare you.” And by the way, the Lord gave to Nebuchadnezzar 12 long months to think about this. But he blew it off and persisted in his path of disobedience. And then the hammer dropped.

The Lord warns us as well. He says, “You will reap what you sow” (see Galatians 6:7). Don’t be deceived. It is going to happen. It might be ten years from now. It might be ten months from now. It might be ten minutes from now. But you will reap what you sow. God will keep His Word. You can take that to the bank.

Ecclesiastes 8:11 says, “When a crime is not punished quickly, people feel it is safe to do wrong.” And that is true. When you do something you know you should not do and you don’t get caught or there are no immediate repercussions, you think, “Hey, maybe I am the exception to the rule. Maybe God doesn’t care if I do thus and so. Maybe I will do it again. And

again. And again.” You’re not realizing that it is merely the grace of God being extended to you for you to repent. And then one day—bam!—it is going to hit, and it is going to hit hard. The wheels of God’s justice may grind slowly, but they grind surely.

And Nebuchadnezzar was a wicked man. Don’t forget that he had erected that golden image and commanded everyone to worship it and if they didn’t, he would put them to death. He was a powerful, ruthless, cruel dictator. And despite the fact that God had given him a warning to repent, he did not. And the prophet told him, “You will live in the fields with the wild animals, and you will eat grass like a cow.” He would be made like a crazy person, losing his sanity. He would be like a wild animal out in the field, with his hair grown out and matted and his fingernails and toenails grown out as well. He would lose everything. Nebuchadnezzar was warned that this would happen if he didn’t repent.

Nebuchadnezzar thought, “I am Nebuchadnezzar. That won’t happen to me.” And here is what took place:

But all these things did happen to King Nebuchadnezzar. Twelve months later he was taking a walk on the flat roof of the royal palace in Babylon. As he looked out across the city, he said, “Look at this great city of Babylon! By my own mighty power, I have built this beautiful city as my royal residence to display my majestic splendor.”

While these words were still in his mouth, a voice called down from heaven, “O King Nebuchadnezzar, this message is for you! You are no longer ruler of this kingdom.” (Daniel 4:28–31)

Wow. A man is boasting on earth and he hears a voice from Heaven. God is essentially telling him, “You can’t take credit for what you have done. I have given it to you.” This reminds us that even the secular man or woman cannot take credit for their accomplishments.

You need to know that everything you have has been given to you from God. The Bible teaches that God gives you the ability to make wealth. So if you have been successful in business, don’t be patting yourself on the back too much. I know you are resourceful. I know you are hard working. I know that you pride yourself on your work and that factors into your success. But the ability to think, the ability to plan, the ability to work, the ability to breathe has been given to you as a gift from God. Don’t forget

that for even a moment. Don't look at your accomplishments and say, "Look at what I have done. Look at my great family that I have. Look at my great business, or my great ministry, or my great anything." You say, "Lord, it has all come from You and I thank You for it."

You see, everything that we have has been given to us from God for a singular purpose. What is that purpose? We will discover that in a few moments.

As I mentioned already, because of his sin, Nebuchadnezzar was inflicted with some kind of mental illness where he was reduced to an animal-like state, eating grass in the field, and he remained that way for a period of time. He was just one of many world leaders that dared to defy God and found out that "God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7 NKJV).

Centuries later, the mighty empire of Rome tried to crush the Christian faith. There were ten waves of persecution beginning with the wicked Caesar Nero and culminating with Diocletian. Christian believers were fed to animals in the Colosseum for blood sport to entertain the Roman citizens. Christians were covered with pitch and lit on fire to light the gardens of Caesar Nero. Christians were tortured, beheaded—all sorts of horrible things happened to eradicate them and their beliefs from the face of the earth. So confident was Diocletian in his success that he had a coin struck, there in Rome, with this statement on it: "The Christian religion is destroyed and the worship of the [Roman] gods is restored." Well, I've had the privilege of being in Rome. There are some beautiful ruins and some great pasta. But the empire is gone. And Christianity? Why, it is alive and well. So they failed. And so will every person who opposes God.

Nebuchadnezzar defied God and paid the price for it. But God graciously restored his sanity to him. In Daniel 4:34 Nebuchadnezzar wrote,

"After this time had passed, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven. My sanity returned, and I praised and worshiped the Most High and honored the one who lives forever. His rule is everlasting, and his kingdom is eternal."

So Nebuchadnezzar comes to his senses and believes. The most powerful man on the face of the earth has now had a conversion and has put his faith in the true God of Israel. This reminds us that even at the end of their life, a person can still come around.

He only had one year left of life after his bout of insanity, and then he died. Nebuchadnezzar, in the short time that he had left after his return to sanity, tried to pass these truths on, but he was largely unsuccessful, as we will see in the story of his grandson Belshazzar.

For those of us who are believers in Jesus Christ, we too need to seek to pass God's truths on. You as a parent want to pass them on to your children. As a grandparent you want to pass them on to your grandchildren. And I ask you right now, how good of a job are you doing with that? Does your family know where you stand with Jesus Christ? Do your coworkers know where you stand in your faith? Do your friends know that you have put your trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord?

So Nebuchadnezzar turned against God and paid the price. Then God graciously restores his sanity. In the last part of his life, he believes. Then he is gone.

Now we come to the story of his grandson in Daniel 5.

Many years later King Belshazzar gave a great feast for 1,000 of his nobles, and he drank wine with them. While Belshazzar was drinking the wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver cups that his predecessor, Nebuchadnezzar, had taken from the Temple in Jerusalem. He wanted to drink from them with his nobles, his wives, and his concubines. So they brought these gold cups taken from the Temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his nobles, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. While they drank from them they praised their idols made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

Suddenly, they saw the fingers of a human hand writing on the plaster wall of the king's palace, near the lampstand. The king himself saw the hand as it wrote, and his face turned pale with fright. His knees knocked together in fear and his legs gave way beneath him. (Daniel 5:1-6)

Drinking makes you do stupid stuff, doesn't it? I read an interesting article about a four-year study that determined, "Young adults who binge drink frequently are more likely to show disadvantageous decision-making patterns than their peers who don't drink as heavily." Duh! They needed four years to figure that out?

But it is not just alcohol that makes us do stupid things. It is pride too. And Belshazzar was filled with pride. He took these special goblets used for the worship of God and said, “I am going to go out of my way to worship false gods. I am going to go out of my way to insult the true God. Let’s go for it.”

He had probably seen a lot of things when he was drunk—a few pink elephants here and there—but he had never seen a hand write on a wall. And as the hand was writing a message, he began shaking. His knees were knocking. Can you imagine it? He was absolutely terrified.

God had given this king a warning. It is interesting that the Lord had already foretold the destruction of Babylon. The Lord had said through the prophet Jeremiah that Babylon would end with the reign of the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar. Jeremiah foretold, “All the nations will serve him [Nebuchadnezzar], his son, and his grandson [Belshazzar] until his time is up. Then many nations and great kings will conquer and rule over Babylon” (Jeremiah 27:7). So if Belshazzar had paid attention, he would know: “This thing is going to end with me. Maybe I had better be careful.” And at the very moment Belshazzar is having his drunken feast, the Medo-Persian forces were outside of the walls of Babylon looking for a way in.

God placed the writing on the wall for Belshazzar to see. It is laughable how God will give us warnings and we will ignore them. People will just do whatever they want to do, despite what God warns about in His Word.

- “It is OK to have sex anytime, with anybody. It doesn’t matter. As long as it is between two consenting adults.”
- “Go ahead and party and drink and drive and we will get home safely. Everything is going to be all right.”
- “I am going to steal. I will get away with it. No one will ever find out.”
- “I will lie about this. No one will ever know.”

Yet the Bible warns all of the would-be Belshazzars of the world, “Your sin will find you out” (Numbers 32:23).

What was this writing on the wall? It was giving a warning to the king. But before it was revealed, Daniel gives an important insight into Belshazzar and into what the meaning of life is. He says, “Here is your problem Belshazzar. Here is where you went wrong.” After reminding Belshazzar of what happened to his grandfather Nebuchadnezzar, he says in Daniel 5:22–23:

“You knew all this, yet you have not humbled yourself. For you have proudly defied the Lord of heaven and have had these cups from His Temple brought before you. You and your nobles and your wives and concubines have been drinking wine from them while praising gods of silver, gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone—gods that neither see nor hear nor know anything at all. But you have not honored the God who gives you the breath of life and controls your destiny!”

In other words, “Belshazzar, you know about your grandfather. You know how he was wicked. You know how he was stricken with a form of mental illness, how he was restored, and how he believed in the Lord God. But you blew this off. Belshazzar, you have gone out of your way to mock God and now you are going to face the consequences of it. In effect, you have brought this on yourself. And here is why: you have not fulfilled the purpose that you were created for.”

What is the purpose he was created for? For what purpose are any of us created? Why do we exist? Here is the answer:

We are put here on this earth to glorify God.

We are not here to seek after personal fulfillment and enjoyment. No, God has put us here on this planet to honor Him. To know Him. To bring glory to His name. That is why we exist.

In Isaiah 43:7, God says, “Everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him” (NKJV). Psalm 29:1–2 says, “Give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due His name” (NKJV).

You see, you and I are hard-wired to worship. The Bible says that God “has planted eternity in the human heart” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). And when I am worshipping and glorifying God, I am fulfilling the purpose I was made for.

But if I am just chasing after my dreams, trying to be fulfilled, trying to be happy, I am going to end up wasting my life and never fulfill the purpose that God made me for. You and I were made to glorify God.

Belshazzar failed to do this. So Daniel translates the writing on the wall:

“This is the message that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN. This is what these words mean:

Mene means ‘numbered’—God has numbered the days of your reign and has brought it to an end.

Tekel means ‘weighed’—you have been weighed on the balances and have not measured up.

Parsin means ‘divided’—your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians.” (Daniel 5:25–28)

Loose paraphrase: Your number is up. The party is over. This is it.

We need to know that one day our number will be up. We don’t know when that is. Some may live to be 70. Some reach 80. Some may even reach 90. Some make it all the way to 100 or a few years beyond.

I remember years ago I was watching a television broadcast. You know how they have those little teasers on the news to keep you watching? At the beginning of the program they said, “We are going to interview a man that lived to be over 100 years old and tell you the secret of his longevity.” Well, I wanted to know, so I watched the whole news program. Finally they interviewed this old codger and asked him, “What is the secret of your longevity?” He says, “Well, let me tell you something. Every day I go down to the supermarket and I buy a hot dog to eat.”

I was like, “That’s it?” I mean, I expected the guy to say, “I live on wheat germ and I exercise,” but no. He says, “I go down to the supermarket and buy a hot dog.” And then they had the camera showing the hot dogs that he ate. Let me tell you, they weren’t the kosher ones. They were the really cheap ones with the rat tails in them. You know, the ones that taste the best.

He ate a hot dog every day. It made me laugh. Because I think of all of the people that are always trying to find “the fountain of youth.” They hang out in health food stores. Have you ever looked at the kind of people that hang out in health food stores? Interesting group of people. I will leave it at that. I am not critical; they are just interesting—colorful. And if I have seen them I guess I was there too, so what can I say? Looking for healthy hot dogs, I guess.

Anyway, here is my point: you are not going to extend your life by even one minute beyond God's timing for you. All the lotions and potions will not turn the clock back. I read recently that 13 billion dollars' worth of anti-aging cosmetics are sold annually in the United States. Jesus said in Matthew 6:27, "Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?" Of course not.

Mene: Belshazzar, your number is up. *Tekel*: You have been weighed in the balances and you have been found lacking.

When you or I get on a scale, we usually want to weigh less, right? When I get on a scale to weigh myself I always take my coat off, and my shoes too—maybe empty my pockets. (Am I the only one?) I want to weigh as little as possible. The idea is to always weigh less, not more. But God's scales are different. You see, in God's scales, He wants you to have weight. He doesn't want you to be a lightweight. He wants you to be a heavyweight. He wants your life to have substance, density, spiritual depth.

Belshazzar was a spiritual lightweight. His life was meaningless. He just chased after whatever entertained him. Know this: one day we will all be weighed in God's divine scales.

God is looking for weight and substance, not lightness. So I ask you today, what kind of weight does your life have?

You see, God doesn't see or weigh things as we do. He looks at the heart—the motive for why we do what we do. Proverbs 16:2 says, "All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD" (NIV).

Daniel 5:30 tells us, "That very night Belshazzar, the Babylonian king, was killed." He had been warned. And for every person there is going to be a last night, a last meal, a last statement, and a last breath. Then we will stand before God.

The Christian will stand before God in Heaven and will be rewarded for the kind of life they lived. How sad it would be to get up to Heaven and say, "Well, Lord, first I want to say thank You for getting me up here. And I would just like to say, my life—well, how do I put it?—I was pretty self-absorbed. I just lived for me. I lived for personal fulfillment and enjoyment. And by the way, I never really found it. I certainly didn't glorify You with my life. I don't have much to offer You." How sorry we would feel for wasting our lives.

How much better to say to the Lord, “I missed some opportunities. I made some mistakes and fell short of Your glory, but Lord, I made an attempt to honor You with my life. Not to earn Your approval. Not to repay a debt. But just to say. ‘Here it is, Lord. I offer it to You’ and to hear You say to me, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.’”

Now, the Christian is going to get to Heaven either way. And then rewards will be given according to the faithful service we have given to the Lord. But what about the nonbeliever?

They also will stand before God, at what the Bible describes as the Great White Throne Judgment. This particular judgment isn’t about getting into Heaven, because if you are at this judgment you are not getting in. The Bible says that the Lord will look through the books and a book will be opened and whoever is not found written in the Book of Life will be cast into the Lake of Fire (see Revelation 20:12–15).

Understand that God has done everything He can to bring a person away from this final judgment and if you end up there in that last day, you will have no one to blame but yourself.

Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar both had ample warning—time to take heed of what the prophets said. But they persisted in disobedience. I am sure God has been warning you as well. But if you persist in your disobedience, the judgment you face will be your own fault.

God wants you to spend eternity with Him in Heaven. He wants you to find the meaning and purpose of your life. He wants you to glorify Him.

So I ask you, is that what you are doing with your life? Or are you chasing after the things this world has to offer? If that is the case, you are going to end up like one of these kings. Hopefully not Belshazzar. At least Nebuchadnezzar came around in the end. But don’t wait until the end of life to believe, because no one is guaranteed the luxury of a deathbed opportunity to repent. In other words, you may not have any advance warning or premonition about your death. For some, death comes in an instant. You didn’t expect that car to pull in front of you. You didn’t expect that plane to go down. You didn’t expect to choke on that food in the restaurant. There are so many ways it can happen. And suddenly you are gone.

Now, if you know the Lord, you don’t have to be afraid of death. You can know that you will go immediately into His presence. But if you don’t

know the Lord, I suggest that you begin a relationship with Him. You want to be ready for when death comes.

If you don't know God in a personal way, I want to give you an opportunity to get right with Him right now. I am going to close out this book with a prayer. And I am extending an invitation for you to ask Jesus Christ to come into your life, to forgive you of your sin, so you can know with certainty that you will go to Heaven when you die. If you do, He will fill that void in your life. He will give you the purpose you have been searching for. And thus you can begin to glorify Him as you were created to do.

If you would like to become a follower of Jesus Christ, pray this prayer now:

Dear God, I want to live a life of meaning and fulfill the purpose that I was created for. I've been going my own way and doing my own thing and I want to heed the warnings that You've given me to turn from my sin. I want to obey You instead. I believe that You sent Your Son Jesus to die on my behalf so that I don't have to face the consequences of that sin: eternal separation from you in Hell. Instead I want to be with You in Heaven. So I ask You to come inside my life and be my Lord and Savior. I want to follow You from this moment on. Thank You, God, for giving me forgiveness and everlasting life. Amen.

You can find out more about how to follow God and grow in your relationship with Him at **KnowGod.org**.