

JOHN BEVERE

Devotional Workbook



Extraordinary

The Life You're Meant to Live

God's Pleased with Extraordinary

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Please refer to chapters 1, 2 and 3 in the *Extraordinary* book,
along with session 1 of the teaching series.

“Your life is *unique, special*, and by no means an accident.
No one is common, no one is menial; we were created
for the *extraordinary*. Each of us has a unique path
that God has prepared for our lives.”

JOHN BEVERE
adapted from chapter 3

Extraordinary vs. ORDINARY

Extraordinary means
“beyond what is
usual, customary, or
ordinary; exceeding
the common mea-
sure; remarkable,
rare, wonderful.”¹

Words synonymous
with “extraordinary”
include amazing,
exceptional, and
special. The op-
posite of “extraor-
dinary” is *ordinary*,
meaning “common,
average, mundane,
usual, or normal.”

1. Unlike any other part of creation, men and women are created in the image of God. We are “godlike,” meant to reflect His extraordinary nature—prospering, reproducing and taking charge of the earth (see Genesis 1:27-28 The Message).

- a. When you hear the word *extraordinary*, what images and feelings come to mind?

- b. Which people in your life would you say live extraordinarily? Why?

- c. Of all the extraordinary men and women in the Bible, whom do you most admire and/or connect with? Why?

2. As you begin this journey discovering the extraordinary life God has planned for you, take a few moments to evaluate your thoughts on being a Christian.

- a. Describe the current image you have of Christianity.

(Be honest; there's no wrong answer.)

- b. Who or what specific things (circumstances, experiences) have helped form this image?

3. Satan, the god of this world and archenemy of both God and us, masterfully manipulates the world's system and all those who are *not* born again and belong to God. One of his primary purposes is to paint a picture showing that God's people are *not* extraordinary.

Voice of the Ages

"If conversion to Christianity makes no improvement in a man's outward actions—if he continues to be just as snobbish or spiteful or envious or ambitious as he was before—then I think we must suspect that his 'conversion' was largely imaginary; ...A tree is known by its fruit; or, as we say, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. When we Christians behave badly, or fail to behave well, we are making Christianity unbelievable to the outside world. The wartime posters told us that Careless Talk Costs Lives. It is equally true that Careless Lives Cost Talk. Our careless lives set the outer world talking; and we give them grounds for talking in a way that throws doubt on the truth of Christianity itself."

—C.S. Lewis²

- a. Of all the things that frustrate Satan, what does he probably fear the most about you being a Christian? (See page 5 in the book.)

- b. **Write out** the related power principle found in 1 Peter 2:9. Personalize it by replacing the word *you* with *I* (or *me*) where appropriate.

1 Peter 2:9

4. In the days of the early church, Christians were held in high esteem by society, even viewed by some as gods. Today, however, Christians are often viewed in a negative way—especially in America.

- a. What do you think it will take for Christians to once again be held in high regard and recover the respect the early church had?

Heaven's

APPEAL

Even as [in His love] He chose us [actually picked us out for Himself as His own] in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy (consecrated and set apart for Him) and blameless in His sight, even above reproach, before Him in love. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. And he did this because he wanted to!

—Ephesians 1:4-5

[verse 4 taken from The Amplified Bible;
verse 5 from The Living Bible]

- b. Is there anything specific God is showing you that needs to change in your life to see this happen? If yes, what is it?

5. Read and *meditate on the message* of the following scriptures about God's love:

...then the world will know that you (*God the Father*) sent me (*Jesus Christ*) and will understand that **you love them as much as you love me.**

John 17:23 NLT

But **God shows and clearly proves His [own] love for us** by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) died for us.

Romans 5:8 AMP

(*God's*) love bears up under anything and everything that comes, **is ever ready to believe the best** of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything **[without weakening]**. (*God's*) love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]...

1 Corinthians 13:7-8 AMP

[italic words in parentheses added for clarity]

- a. What do these verses say to you personally about God's love for you? How does your disobedience or sin affect His love for you?

- b. What kinds of *thoughts*, and consequently *feelings*, does the enemy bring against you to try and downplay God's love and make you believe He doesn't love you or loves you less than others?

- c. Through what specific ways (or experiences) has God clearly communicated and proven His deep love for you?

“Never doubt the love God has for you. It’s *not* conditional; it’s not based on your *performance*, or how good you’ve been. It’s a constant love that never fades out or comes to an end. If you would have been worth one cent less to God than the value of Jesus, then God wouldn’t have sent Him to die for you; for He would never make an unprofitable deal! In God’s eyes, *Jesus’ value is the same as yours!*”

JOHN BEVERE
adapted from chapter 2

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GOD’S PLEASED WITH EXTRAORDINARY

6. Who does Jesus Christ esteem (value) *more*—you and others, or Himself? Explain what He has done that backs this up. (See Philippians 2:1-8 and Romans 12:10.)

7. The Bible has a lot to say about God’s plan of salvation and what it cost Him to restore us back into right relationship with Himself. (See 1 Peter 1:18-19.)

- a. Read Colossians 1:12-14 and 2 Corinthians 5:17 and explain what happens in your life and in the realm of the spirit when you sincerely surrender yourself to Jesus.

- b. Briefly explain God’s superior plan of salvation for man, including why Jesus had to be both 100 percent God and 100 percent man. (See page 15 in the book.)

Check out John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; and Romans 3:23; 6:23; 10:9. It is valuable for you to know in your heart God’s plan of salvation, not only for yourself but also for the sake of sharing it with others.

“A remarkable, amazing, extraordinary life is not restricted to certain individuals or professions. It doesn’t matter who you are or if you’re a school teacher, businessman or woman, government leader, stay-at-home mom, athlete, factory worker, hairstylist, student, pastor, or anything else. God has called you and created you for the extraordinary *in that role*.”

JOHN BEVERE

adapted from chapter 1

Heaven's

APPEAL

Cheerfully pleasing God is the main thing, and that's what we aim to do, regardless of our conditions.

—2 Corinthians 5:9
The Message

8. While God’s love for us is unconditional, unchanging, and never-ending, pleasing Him is another story. Although we can’t do one thing to make Him love us any more or any less than He already does, we are *personally responsible* for how pleased He is with us.

- a. The power to live extraordinarily and please God is not

based on your occupational position. What is it based on? (See page 4 in the book.)

- b. If you live with the supreme goal of pleasing God, what two things can you expect to happen in your life? (See page 13 in the book.)

9. One of the main motivations to please God is knowing that each of us will one day stand before Him and give an account for what we have done with our lives (see 2 Corinthians 5:10 and Romans 14:12).

- a. As a believer, what will you be judged for when you stand before God? How does this motivate and challenge you?

Check out Ecclesiastes 12:14; Jeremiah 17:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5.

SALVATION ≠ ETERNAL REWARDS

“What we do with the cross of Jesus Christ indeed determines WHERE we’ll spend eternity; however, *the way we live* as believers determines HOW we’ll spend it.”

JOHN BEVERE
adapted from chapter 3

10. Just as heaven is a real place, so is hell. It is also referred to as Gehenna, Hades, Sheol, Eternal Fire, the Pit, the Abyss, the second death and place of everlasting punishment. The subject of hell is actually mentioned in the New King James Version more than 154 times—18 by Jesus Himself.

- a. Countless people have asked, “Why would a loving and merciful God send men and women to hell?” If you were asked this question, how would you answer it?

the bottom line

God has created **you** to live a truly extraordinary life of purpose and fulfillment. He loves you with an everlasting, unconditional love and has equipped you to carry out specific plans on the earth. When you live extraordinarily, you please Him and His plans for your life are revealed and fulfilled.

Heaven’s

APPEAL

So do not make any hasty or premature judgments before the time when the Lord comes [again], for He will both bring to light the secret things that are [now hidden] in darkness and disclose and expose the [secret] aims (motives and purposes) of hearts. Then *every man will receive his [due] commendation from God.*

—1 Corinthians 4:5 AMP

UNVEIL YOUR HERO

...kicked out of school
for asking too many questions

Thomas Edison—Inventor

Journal Your Journey

...work out (cultivate, carry out to the goal, and fully complete)
your own salvation with reverence and awe and trembling
(self-distrust, with serious caution, tenderness of conscience,
watchfulness against temptation, timidly shrinking from whatever might
offend God and discredit the name of Christ).

—Philippians 2:12 AMP

EYE-OPENERS

As you have gone through this week's study on living an extraordinary life and pleasing God, what eye-opening revelation(s) of truth has the Holy Spirit made real to you that you had never seen before?

REVOLUTIONARY YOU

God always wants us to mature and come up higher in our way of living. How is He challenging you to change your way of thinking and acting to better exemplify His extraordinary character? What *new goals* is He prompting you to set in your life?

Voice of the Ages

"What is my task? First of all, *my task is to be pleasing to Christ*. To be empty of self and be filled with Himself. To be filled with the Holy Spirit; to be led by the Holy Spirit."

—Aimee Semple
McPherson³

You Mean EVERYTHING to Him!

"For I know the plans I have for *you*," says the Lord.
"They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."
—Jeremiah 29:11 NLT

God has an extraordinary life planned for you—not average, mediocre, or boring. It was established in the mind of God *before* you were ever born,

before the creation of the earth itself. This truth is made incredibly clear in Psalm 139. Look at what David writes...

O Lord, you have searched me and *you know me*.
You know when I *sit* and when I *rise*; you perceive my *thoughts* from afar.
You discern my *going out* and my *lying down*; you are familiar with *all* my ways.
Before a *word* is on my tongue you know it completely,
O Lord.

My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Psalm 139:1-4,15-16 NIV

How can you tap into the infinite wisdom of the One who created the heavens and the earth? Through a close, ongoing relationship with Him. He loves you with an everlasting love and wants to be a part of every area of your life. As you read His Word and spend time with Him in prayer, He will reveal to you His general will and His specific will for your life.

JOHN BEVERE
adapted from session 3

—Colossians 1:9-10 TEV

Proverbs 3:5-6 • Psalm 25:9,12 •
Psalm 32:8 • James 1:5

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slightly textured appearance, typical of standard office paper. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.

At this point in your life, what has God revealed about His *specific will* for you? *Get quiet before the Lord* and ask Him to show you any new direction He desires you to take. Write what He reveals.

Heaven's APPEAL

For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

—Ephesians 2:10 AMP

What seemingly impossible God-sized, God-willed goals has He *already accomplished* through you? What are you presently pursuing and believing Him to accomplish through you in the days ahead?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

GOD HAS THOUGHTS & PLANS FOR YOU

Psalms 40:5; 139:16-18
Proverbs 16:9; 19:21
Jeremiah 29:11

AIMING TO PLEASE GOD

Proverbs 16:7
Hebrews 13:16
1 Thessalonians 2:4; 4:1-12
1 John 3:21-24

Voice of the Ages

“If we are saved and sanctified, God guides us by our ordinary choices, and if we are going to choose what He does not want, He will [give us a] check, and we must heed. *Whenever there is doubt, stop at once.*

Never reason it out and say—‘I wonder why I shouldn’t?’ God instructs us in what we choose, that is, He guides our common sense, and we no longer hinder His Spirit by continually saying—‘Now, Lord, what is Thy will?’”

—Oswald Chambers⁴

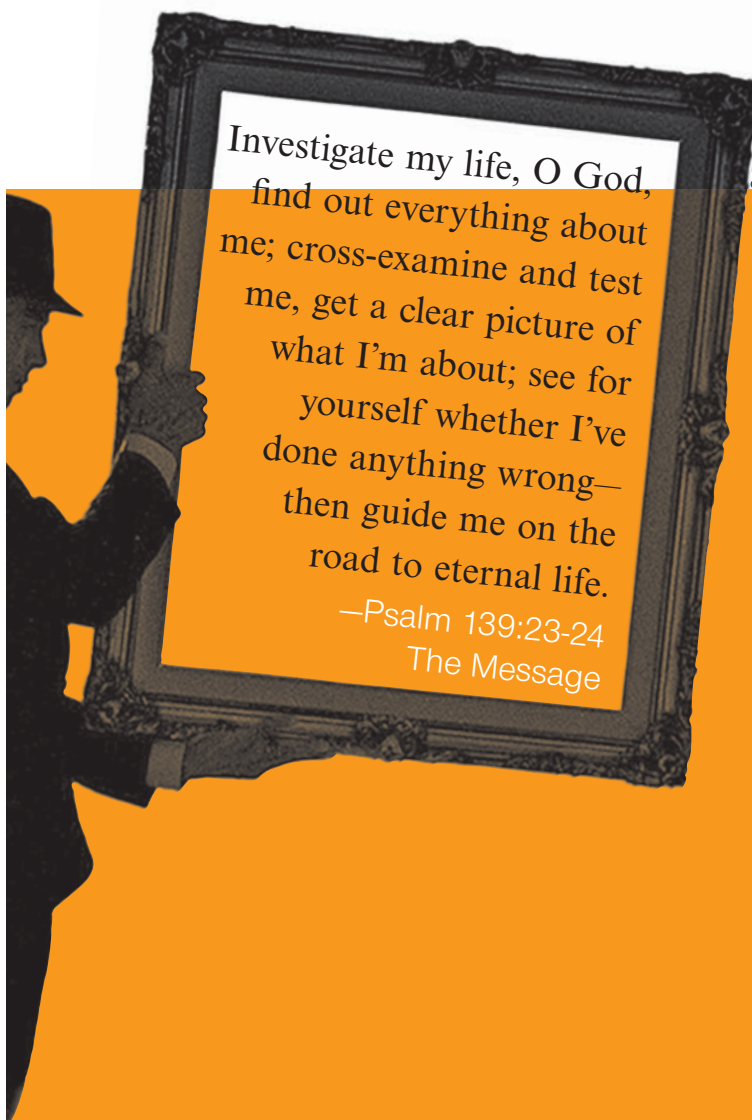
[words in brackets added for clarity]

1. Noah Webster's *First Edition of an American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828), Republished in facsimile edition by Foundation for American Christian Education (San Francisco, CA 1995). 2. C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (New York, NY: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc, 1977) pp. 161-162. 3. Quotes by Aimee Semple McPherson (www.quotessea.com/Quotes.aspx?by=Aimee+Semple+McPherson, retrieved 3/5/09). 4. Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest* (Uhrichsville, OH: Barbour Publishing, Inc., MCMXCVII) p. 155.

NOTES

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GOD'S PLEASED WITH EXTRAORDINARY



Investigate my life, O God,
find out everything about
me; cross-examine and test
me, get a clear picture of
what I'm about; see for
yourself whether I've
done anything wrong—
then guide me on the
road to eternal life.

—Psalm 139:23-24
The Message

extraordinary