

Revealed as We Are 2

Please refer to chapters 3 and 4 in the *Extraordinary* book, along with session 2 of the teaching series.

“Jesus will examine our labor of love and reward us accordingly. However, the believer’s judgment will go deeper than our labor, actions and spoken words; the investigation will go to the core of our being—to our *innermost thoughts, motives, purposes, and intents*.”

JOHN BEVERE
adapted from session 2

MOTIVE

The word “motive” implies an *emotion* or *desire* (or need) operating on the will and causing it to move or act a certain way.¹ Other words for “motive” include purpose, reason, cause, incentive and drive.

1. Our *motives* mean a lot. They are the “why” behind what we do and are birthed within our *inner man*—the place where we first and foremost please God and where extraordinary living begins.
 - a. Read Mark 2:8, Luke 12:2-3, and Hebrews 4:13. What common thread of truth concerning our inner man is found in all these verses? What does this say to you?

Also **check out** Psalm 26:2; Proverbs 16:2; 17:10; 23:23.

- b. According to James 4:2-3, what is the result of praying with the *wrong* motives?

- c. Read Philippians 2:3 and write what it speaks to your heart.

Heaven's

APPEAL

...we are constantly ambitious and strive earnestly to be *pleasing* to Him. For we must all appear and be **revealed as we are** before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive [his pay] according to what he has done in the body, whether good or evil [considering what his *purpose* and *motive* have been, and what he has achieved, been busy with, and given himself and his attention to accomplishing].

—2 Corinthians 5:9-10 AMP

2. As a human being, you have three images: a *projected* image, a *perceived* image and an *actual* image.

- a. Briefly explain what each image means.

Projected Image

Perceived Image

Actual Image

- b. Which image of you does God *always* see? Which one do you tend to focus on and live out of most?

- c. How does *having* or *not having* the fear of the Lord affect the image you live out of?

“The fear of the Lord puts God in His place of preeminence. A lack of the fear of the Lord reduces God down to an image made by man.

When you fear God, you know that everything is open and exposed before Him to whom we must give an account.”

JOHN BEVERE

adapted from session 2

Voice of the Ages

3. According to Colossians 1:15 and Hebrews 1:3, Jesus was the visible, expressed image of God the Father. In the same way, the ultimate aim of being a Christian is for you to become the visible, expressed image of Jesus.

- a. It's so important that you **re-**present Christ to others—that you *present Him again* in all that you do. Read 2 Corinthians 5:20 and write what it means to you and how you can make the most of your post as an ambassador for Christ.

“Moses spent forty years in the king's palace thinking that he was somebody; then he lived forty years in the wilderness finding out that *without God he was a nobody*; finally he spent forty more years discovering how *a nobody with God can be a somebody*.”

—Dwight L. Moody²

4. Read John 2:23-25. Notice that after Jesus did many miracles in Jerusalem during the Passover, many people believed in His name and entrusted themselves to Him. However, Jesus *didn't entrust Himself* to them.

- a. Why did Jesus *not* entrust Himself to others? What do you think He knew about human nature that prompted Him to guard Himself?

- b. What does this say to you personally?

Heaven's

APPEAL

...You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

—Matthew 5:14-16 The Message

- c. Flattery—our flesh loves it, but receiving it can be deadly. Describe a situation in which you received the deadly deceit of flattery and what you learned as a result.

FASCINATING FACT: A DEADLY DECEPTION

Years ago, Paul Harvey described how an Eskimo kills a wolf. He first coats his knife with animal blood then allows it

to freeze. He later adds another layer of blood and lets it freeze. This process is repeated until the knife is completely concealed by the frozen blood. The Arctic hunter then fixes his knife to the ground with the blade facing up. The unsuspecting wolf senses the blood and begins to lick the frozen blood. His appetite for more blood increases with each lick. He begins to lick more vigorously and unknowingly starts slicing his own tongue on the razor sharp knife. The wolf then continues to satiate his thirst for blood with his own warm blood. His perpetual desire will not be satisfied until death overtakes him. In a similar way, the deception of a flattering tongue is deadly. It's packaged in an attractive way but always contains the lethal blade of destruction.³

5. The greatest danger of living out of your *projected image*—being overly concerned with what others think of you—instead of your *actual image* is that you become a prime candidate for *deception*.
- a. Read James 1:22-25 and explain how we deceive ourselves. What must you do to avoid being deceived?

APPEAL

My enemies cannot speak a truthful word. Their deepest desire is to destroy others. Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave. Their tongues are filled with flattery.

—Psalm 5:9 NLT

- b. Meditate on the message of Hebrews 4:12-13 and, in your own words, explain how the Word of God transforms you.

6. *God's Word* is a spiritual mirror we look into to see ourselves as we really are. It helps us have a healthy fear of the Lord, which keeps us in touch with our actual image and keeps the mirror of the Truth before us.

- a. Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 and describe the greatest result of regularly looking into the mirror of God's glory.

- b. Who or what in your life also acts as a spiritual mirror? How do they challenge you to be like Christ?

Here is the sad fact: If we choose to focus on our *projected image*, we will forsake the blessing of being changed into the image of Jesus Christ.

We will be deceived and incapable of pleasing God and living an extraordinary life. A person who is deceived believes with all their heart they are right, when in actuality they are wrong. That's scary! ”

JOHN BEVERE

adapted from chapter 4

FASCINATING FACT: CHRISTIAN CHAMELEONS

There are approximately 160 known species of chameleons. Most of them have the ability to change their skin color. Research indicates that they do not typically change their color for reasons of camouflage, but instead use color changes as a method of communication, including *making themselves more attractive* to potential mates.

When a person is described as a *chameleon*, the comparison generally refers to their ability to blend into various social situations, often meaning

the person has no true values, or that he quickly abandons them in company if it's convenient to do so. Ask yourself: *Do I change my personality and appearance with ease, morphing into a seemingly different person whenever I deem it necessary? Am I a chameleon?*⁴

7. John tells a sad but true story of a man he met on the beach who was a "Christian chameleon." Normally he blended in with the world, but he had the uncanny ability to promptly project an image of a Christian when it was convenient and profitable.

Get quiet before the Lord and ask yourself these soul-searching questions:

- a. In what ways, if any, am I a Christian chameleon?

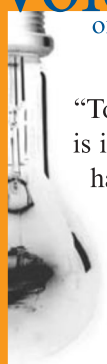
- b. Do I tend to hide my Christian witness around certain people and blend in with the world? If so, who is it and why do I do it?

- c. Which is more important to me: pleasing my friends, family, co-workers, etc., or pleasing God? Why is this the case?

8. Without question, an ongoing and ever-growing *fear of the Lord* is one of the most valuable things we could ever have in our lives.

- a. In your own words, briefly describe what the fear of the Lord is and explain how it is different from being *afraid of God*.

Voice of the Ages



"To please God even a little is infinitely greater than to have the acclamations of all our race throughout the centuries."

—Charles H. Spurgeon⁵

Heaven's

APPEAL

The *fear of the Lord* is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments...
—Psalm 111:10 NKJV

- b. What are some of the benefits of living with a healthy fear of the Lord? What does the fear of the Lord protect you from?

Check out Exodus 20:20; Psalm 25:12; 31:19; 103:13; Isaiah 8:11-14a.

You will serve who you fear. If you fear God, you'll obey God. If you fear man, you'll ultimately obey man's desires. Many times it is harder for us to offend the person we see—especially if we desire their love and friendship—rather than the One we don't see.”

JOHN BEVERE
adapted from chapter 4

9. Moses had an indelible encounter with God at the burning bush; it implanted the fear of the Lord into his heart and changed his life forever.

- a. Take a few moments and tell of a time when you had an indelible encounter with God, and explain how it has changed your life forever.

10. What do you think is the current condition of the church in the western world? Is there evidence of a lack of the fear of the Lord? If so, list some of the common causes for this in the church.

Voice of the Ages

“It is only the *fear of God* that can deliver us from the fear of man.”

—John Witherspoon⁶

Heaven's

APPEAL

All has been heard; the end of the matter is: **Fear God** [revere and worship Him, knowing that He is] and **keep His commandments**, for this is the whole of man [the full, original purpose of his creation, the object of God's providence, the root of character, the foundation of all happiness, the adjustment to all inharmonious circumstances and conditions under the sun] and the whole [duty] for every man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

—Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

[verse 13 taken from AMP; verse 14 from NIV]

A Prayer for Your Pastor and Church Leaders

Lord, thank You for my pastor and church leaders. I pray that the fire to valiantly proclaim the pure truth of Your Word would persistently burn bright in their spirits. I ask that You give them a holy boldness to continually walk in the fear of the Lord and not the fear of man... in Jesus' name, Amen!

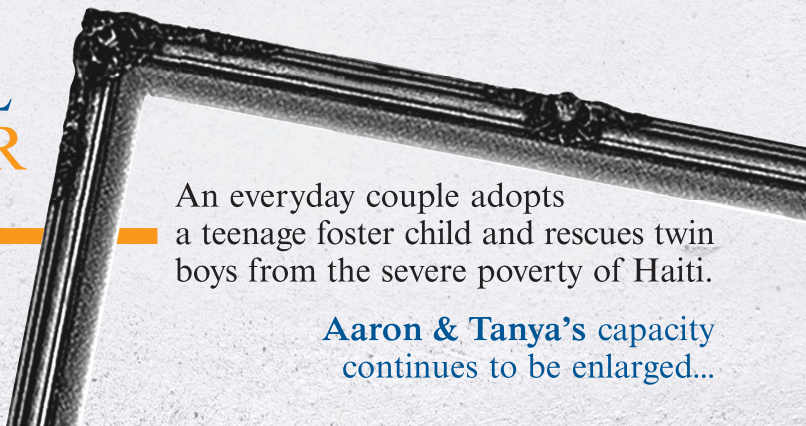
the bottom line

God knows all and sees all, including the true motives behind your every action. An ongoing awareness that you will one day give an account of your life to God will help keep your motives pure and develop a healthy *fear of the Lord*. This heartfelt reverence is also established and maintained by listening to and obeying God's Word. As you live your life with the goal of *pleasing God*, you'll be free from the snare of the fear of man and the danger of deception.

UNVEIL YOUR HERO

An everyday couple adopts a teenage foster child and rescues twin boys from the severe poverty of Haiti.

Aaron & Tanya's capacity continues to be enlarged...



Journal

Your Journey

“Rise up, leader! Rise up, Christian! Our God is calling you to make a huge difference in our generation. We’ve been called to go against the grain of the spirit of this age, the spirit that works in the sons of disobedience, the spirit of this world. We’ve been called to bring heaven to earth!”

JOHN BEVERE
adapted from chapter 4

EYE-OPENERS

As you have studied this week’s session on identifying the real you and living in truth, what eye-opening revelation(s) has the Holy Spirit made real to you that you had never seen before?

REVOLUTIONARY YOU

In what specific ways is God challenging you to change your way of thinking regarding the fear of the Lord and the fear of man? What *new goals* is He asking you to set in relation to time in His Word and not pursuing the approval of others?

PRAYER

Father, thank You for loving me. I ask You to forgive me for doing things out of impure motives and being more focused on pleasing others than pleasing You. I repent for being a “Christian chameleon” at times, trying to win the approval and praises of others. Wash me clean from the inside out; give me a fresh hunger for Your Word and a deep desire to not just hear it but do it. Develop a healthy fear of You in me, and give me the desire and strength to build a good reputation for You and bring You glory...in Jesus’ name, Amen!

REPUTATION— It's *NOT* About You

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but **made Himself of no reputation**, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He *humbled* Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

—Philippians 2:5-8 NKJV

Many people in the world today are fighting fiercely to climb the ladder of success. A great deal of their energy is focused and spent on building a reputation in the eyes of others in order to “make it big.” In the process of their pursuit, they quickly become addicted to the approval of others.

Jesus did just the opposite—He *made Himself of no reputation* (Philippians 2:7). In other words, He stripped Himself of all His kingly rights and humbled Himself to become human. The Creator literally took the form of His creation. Instead of living His entire life to build a name for Himself, He endeavored to build a name for His Father. He said, “...I am not in search of honor for Myself. [I do not seek and am not aiming for My own glory.] There is One Who [looks after that; He] seeks [My glory], and He is the Judge” (John 8:50 AMP).

Read Genesis 11:1-9. How did God respond to the people who were driven to “make a name for themselves”? What does this say to you personally?

Jesus was sinless, perfect and went about doing good everywhere He went (see Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22). Yet, people criticized Him and slandered His name. What does this say to you about your name, even when you do good to others?

MEDITATE on the MESSAGE...

Don't lose your grip on Love and Loyalty. Tie them around your neck; carve their initials on your heart. Earn a **reputation** for living well in God's eyes and the eyes of the people.

—Proverbs 3:3 The Message

A sterling **reputation** is better than striking it rich; a gracious spirit is better than money in the bank.

—Proverbs 22:1 The Message

And he must have a good **reputation** with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

—1 Timothy 3:7 NASB

Interestingly, Proverbs 3:3-4, 22:1 and 1 Timothy 3:7 encourage us to develop a good reputation. What type of reputation is this referring to, and what is the value of having it?

According to Matthew 5:14-16 and 1 Peter 2:11-12, how do you bring glory to God in the world?

Heaven's

APPEAL

It is dangerous to be concerned with what others think of you...

—Proverbs 29:25 TEV

Voice of the Ages

“Humble yourself and cease to care what men think. A meek man is not a human mouse afflicted with a sense of his own inferiority. Rather, ... he has stopped being fooled about himself. He knows well that the world will never see him as God sees him and he has stopped caring. He has obtained a place of soul rest. The old struggle to defend himself is over.”

—A. W. Tozer⁷

If our actions are motivated by the *approval of others*, we are focused on our projected image. As a result, we will often be led to act like a hypocrite just like Peter did with the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem (see Galatians 2:11-14).

Get quiet before the Lord. Be honest as you answer these questions:

How important is my reputation, or standing, in the eyes of others? Why?

Who do I try to impress by my actions? Why is their approval so important to me—what's motivating me?

“God spoke to me one day and said, ‘John, the moment you seek to please people is the moment you forsake your calling—you will no longer be a servant of Christ; you will be a *servant of man*.’ Now don’t get me wrong: As a servant of Christ, I serve men. But what God is saying is, ‘**Don’t be in bondage to men’s opinions.**’”

JOHN BEVERE

adapted from session 2

FOR FURTHER STUDY

FEAR OF THE LORD

Psalm 19:9; 112:1-3; 128
Proverbs 1:7; 9:10-11; 10:27
Proverbs 14:26-27; 15:16,33
Proverbs 16:6-7; 19:23; 22:4
Isaiah 8:12-14

FEAR OF MAN

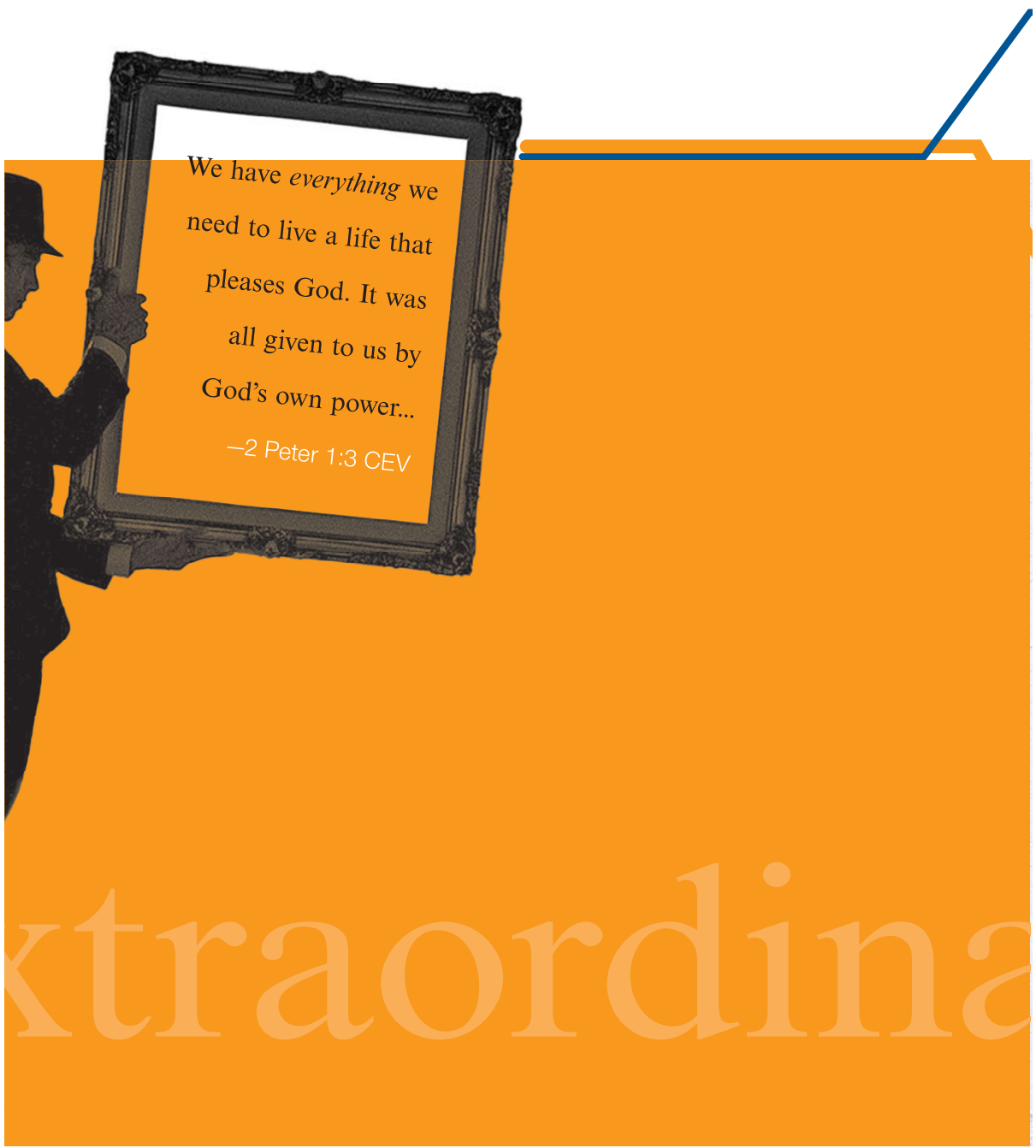
Psalm 27:1-3; 56:4,11
Romans 8:31
Isaiah 51:12-13
Jeremiah 1:8,17
Hebrews 13:6

FLATTERY & MOTIVES

Psalm 26:2-4
Proverbs 16:2; 28:23
Romans 16:17-18
Philippians 2:3
1 Thessalonians 2:3-6

NOTES

1. Adapted from definition of *Motive* (www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/motives, retrieved 3-11-09). 2. Quotes by *Dwight L. Moody*, (www.dailychristianquote.com, retrieved 3-10-09). 3. Raymond McHenry, *McHenry's Quips, Quotes & Other Notes* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc. 1998) adapted from p. 65. 4. Adapted from definition of *Chameleons* (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chameleon#As_a_metaphor, retrieved 3-11-09). 5. Quotes on *Pleasing God* by *Charles Spurgeon* (www.spurgeon.us/mind_and_heart/alphalist.htm#m, retrieved 3/5/09). 6. Quotes by *John Witherspoon*, see note 2. 7. Quotes by *A.W. Tozer*, see note 2.



We have *everything* we
need to live a life that
pleases God. It was
all given to us by
God's own power...

—2 Peter 1:3 CEV

xtraordinary