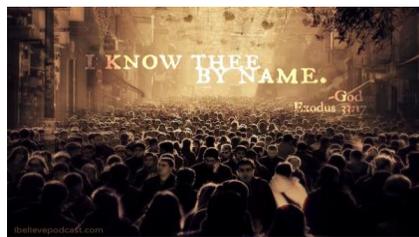


A LIFE WORTH LIVING

E ho'opa'a no o Iehova i na mea e pili mai ai ia'u. – “The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me.” – Psalm 138:8



The concepts of “self” was an important part of our Hawaiian culture. Our Hawaiian children were nurtured with much love and aloha. We received a rich heritage at birth and it was reinforced in our daily lives by “ohana” (family). Feelings of self-worth and attitudes of acceptance were further emphasized in the family by daily practices of “aloha” (love), “kokua” (help), “laulima” (cooperation), “kuleana” (responsibility) and “lokahi” (harmony, unity). “Ike” (knowledge, recognition) was given to each other freely and openly. Within the Hawaiian “ohana”, children received “ike” not only from their parents, but, also, from their grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. In living and understanding these positive concepts, Hawaiian children understood themselves and their role in the family as well as in the home.



I'd like to encourage somebody reading this devotional that you have a role and a purpose with God. When it comes to “self”, I want you to know that God is a “personal” God. He knows our life “personally”. If you think that you are insignificant in this big world, I've come to tell you that you don't play a small part because there is no small part to be played in His kingdom. God sees you and He understands you. He knows you better than YOU understand YOURSELF. Therefore, as you walk in daily living, especially, the darkest of times, please know that life is worth living because God knows YOU. He cares about YOU. YOU ARE SOMEBODY TO GOD. The Bible puts it this way in 1 Corinthians 12:27, “Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.” In other words, you are “unique” and essential to Christ, so, if you're feeling hurt or have been discarded by somebody or “somebody's”, please note that you are important to God.

Our daughter recently graduated with her doctorate degree in education. She loves drama and hopes to share her talents with children to educate them in a role-playing curriculum that will bring both learning and appreciation for storytelling. Likewise, in the “drama” of living this life that He has written for you and I, nobody has our “lines”. God created you and I for a “part” in a story that He has already created for His glory. **IT’S YOUR PART and YOURS ALONE.** The reason why God continues to grant His grace is because He is the “Producer” of this movie called, “living” and He wants you to live it “to the full”.



One day, as I was making my way to my preschoolers at Mid-Pacific for their chapel time with me, I entered to the “squeals” and “sounds” of excitement. The students stood up and started to cheer, “*Kahu is here! God is here! Yay!!!*” After I greeted them and began to sit down with them, the Preschool Lead Teacher said with a giggle, “Yes, God is here”. I didn’t realize what had taken place, but, a few days later, one of the teachers informed me that there was a “buzz” on campus about the relationship between the *kahu* (pastor) and his students. It was very special! You see, sometimes, we miss the picture. We should be like those little children! We should be shouting and cheering because God is here! He’s with us and never leaves us. What a joy to know that God is holding our hand through the “good”, the “bad” and the “ugly” times of our lives. You see, the problem isn’t God showing up (He always does). The problem is us showing up for God! When things go well, we’re quick to praise and thank Him, but, when things go the opposite way, we feel like He doesn’t care. Don’t give up so easily! God hasn’t given up on us, so, why should you? As the Bible says, He is still working for our good (Romans 8:28) and has a specially designed plan for us. (Jeremiah 29:11)



LISTEN! GOD IS NOT DONE WITH YOU! You are called and destined by Him to do some important work for His purpose. Jesus said, “As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.”

If you want to experience “true” fulfillment, it won’t come through a material world, but, only when you do the will of God. That’s the definition of “biblical” success. I want you to know that the concept of “self” means surrendering your “agenda” for a “kingdom agenda” and living as a child of God in His family by his standards. Make every effort you can through prayer and His Word to know your role and what you were created to do. If you don’t know, keep asking God! Living a life worth living means that everything you do has a “heavenly” purpose and response. In other words, if the world is clapping and God isn’t clapping, I’d do a “self-check”. But, if God is clapping His hands, you’re on the right track!

In the home of my grandparents, I grew up knowing the simplicity of life in Christ. They had simple jobs and though they didn’t have a “ton” of money, they provided for me. They taught me the precious gifts of joy, peace, love, and contentment. They loved waking up each day because it was another opportunity to do the work of the Lord. These experiences have stuck with me for a lifetime. You see, SPIRITUAL FULFILLMENT was the key to their personal lives and every day they lived to please God. By the way, if you’re trying to run away from the will of God, you’re wasting your time and energy. When God’s hand is upon you, you’ll never experience true power and fulfillment, until, you surrender to Him. And let’s not forget, God will always have His way.



I want to encourage someone reading this devotional that WE ALL HAVE A PURPOSE TO FULFILL AND MUST DO WHAT WE’RE CALLED TO DO! Let me, also, add one more point. Jesus said, “We don’t have all day”. In other words, you don’t have “forever”, but, you have “today”. You and I will never know the amount of time we have left on this earth, but, God knows, SO, GET STARTED TODAY. We have a life worth living!