



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.”

Matthew 22:37-38

LIFEHACKS #1 – CENTERED

The ball has dropped. The gong has sounded. And we’re off into the new year. But it’s usually not that simple. At least not for me. What about you? There is so much pulling on us. There are so many people tugging at us. It’s not so easy to live our life with so much competing for our attention and our affections.

If we’re going to figure out this thing called life, we’ve got to figure out why we’re living and what we’re living for.

Do you stand with Lady Gaga living for applause? Longing for affection and attention? The truth is that kind of applause, that kind of affection and that kind of attention will never really satisfy. The kind that does really satisfy is the applause, the affection and the attention that God gives you. Through Jesus, you’re a loved child of God with whom he is well pleased. Through Jesus, you’re a loved child of God who turns his face toward you with affection to hear your every prayer.

Do you long for life to be a little bit easier, a little bit more comfortable, a little bit more pleasurable, a little bit happier? Longing for your heart and life to be satisfied and satiated? On your own, you’ll never find that life. That’s why it’s called a pursuit. But God promises the blessed life, the contented life to those who sit in his word and walk in his paths.

Do you want a pat on the back and the assurance that you’re doing the right things and taking the right steps? Longing to be validated and highly regarded? You’ll always be chasing that from people. But there is no higher validation than those words from God who says, “I love you with an everlasting love and you mean the world to me.” To the world you may be only one, but in the eyes of your Father you are the only one.

That’s the secret. That’s the key. Set your heart, your affection, your attention on your God who loves you like this, pays attention to you like this, cares about you like this, promises to bless you like this. Love him first. Love him best. Love him most.

PRAYER:

Lord God, you are all that I need. You loved me first, most and best. Teach me to love you first, best, and most. This day, this week, this year I’m living for you and your applause. Amen.