



Precious
in
His Sight

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Introduction

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. How do you see yourself? Do you think you're beautiful? Do you think you have any value? To God? To anyone?

Years ago, I felt like a nobody and unloved. Now I know different. Now I know I am loved by God and even precious to Him! I have good news for you. God wants *you* to know that He deeply loves you; that you are precious in His sight!

What matters most is how God sees you—not others, not even yourself. God is a God of truth. He cannot lie. And *He* says that you are precious in His sight and that He loves you! I pray that this material will help you grasp this life-altering truth.

Precious

What comes into your mind when you hear the word “precious”? According to the [dictionary](#):

Adjective

- ❖ Of high price or great value
- ❖ very valuable or costly
- ❖ highly esteemed for some spiritual, nonmaterial, or moral quality
- ❖ dear; beloved; affectedly or excessively delicate, refined, or nice

Noun

A dearly beloved person; darling.

Synonyms

Adored, beloved, cherished, prized, treasured

So, what’s precious to you? What do you cherish? Your family, kids, friend, home, a wedding ring? Maybe you have a treasured memento—one from your mom, spouse, or child? A special locket or ring. Perhaps it’s just a nick knack from some place you have been; not valuable to anyone else, but to you—it’s priceless! Like those homemade cards with the words, “I love you, mommy!” scribbled in crayon.

Believe it or not—God thinks you are precious!

... You are precious to me and honored, and I love you. (Isaiah 43:4 TLB)

When I look up into the night skies and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you have made—I cannot understand how you can bother with mere puny man, to pay any attention to him!? (Ps 8:3-4 TLB)

This truth is mind-boggling to me! It's so astounding I cannot wrap my mind around it! But it *is the truth*, and God wants you and I to know it—not just in our heads but in the deepest part of our being. He wants us to live as if it was true—because it is. Even when we don't feel like we matter at all—we matter to God. It's true because *He* says so!

How God Shows that We Are Special to Him

So how does God communicate this very important fact to us?

First, God tells us in His Word. There are many passages in which God tells of our incredible worth to Him. Here are just three.

For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

(Deut 7:6)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Col 3:12)

...And you are far more valuable to him than any birds! (Lk 12:24 TLB)

We are chosen, treasured, and beloved—of great worth!

What do you do with something or someone that is precious to you? Do you ignore it? Put it aside? Of course not! When something has great value:

- ❖ You take care of it
- ❖ You protect it
- ❖ You think about it
- ❖ You admire it and may even want to put it on display

If you're a grandparent, don't you care and protect your grandkids and constantly talk and show pictures of them? Or if you're newly engaged, how careful are you with your ring? Don't you gingerly wash your hands so as not to lose it down the drain? And don't you wave your left hand around so that everyone can see and admire the beautiful ring your fiancé gave you; yakking excitedly about your wedding day and husband-to-be?

Of course, you do.

In addition, when someone is extremely important and valuable to us, we are even willing to give something up for them. Mothers continually sacrifice for their children.

Does God do the same with us? Yes indeed! Let's see how.

❖ **He cares for us**

In Matthew 6:25-33, Jesus tells us we don't have to worry about the necessities of life—that if He takes care of the birds and flowers would He not also take care of us?

God provides for all of our needs—physically, emotionally, spiritually. And although He may not give us everything we want, He does give us everything we need to live life in a godly way.

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. (2 Pet 1:3)

❖ **God Protects us**

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. (Ps 46:1)

You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. (Ps 32:7)

Keep me as the apple of your eye, hide me in the shadow of your wings. (Ps 17:8)

There are many other passages which speak of God protecting His treasured possession.

❖ **God thinks about us**

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! (Ps 139:17-18 NLT)

Wow! Did you ever sit on a beach and pick up one handful of sand and wonder how many grains were sitting in your palm? Then consider how many grains of sand might be on the whole beach? My finite mind cannot grasp this concept. It's overwhelming that God thinks that much about me, about you.

❖ **God admires us and wants to put us on display(?)**

I placed a question mark after this one because it's another one of those mind-blowing thoughts. Plus, it needs further explanation. I will discuss this more later so that you will not misunderstand what I am trying to say.

❖ **God sacrifices for us**

This is the biggest way God shows that we are precious to Him. He took the punishment for our sins upon Himself and died on the cross.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8)

“An object’s value is always determined by the price paid for it. The value of God’s payment for us tells us how much we are worth to him. We are worth the life of his Son.”¹

I have a beautiful opal neckless given to me by my wonderful husband on our tenth wedding anniversary. I cherish it, but I wouldn’t die for it! But Jesus Christ died for me, for you! I’m not worthy of that! You and I are not worthy to stand before a pure and holy God. But...

Although we are not worthy, we are not worthless!

We are so highly valued and precious to God that He went to extreme lengths to rescue us.

¹ Chip Ingram, *God: As He Longs for You to See Him* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2004), 193.

An Extreme Rescue

When I was writing my first book, *Our Knowable God*, the Lord gave me this wonderful illustration which enabled me to grasp how very precious you and I are to Him.

Illustration

The Lord showed me a rare jewel, but not only rare—the only one of its kind. I saw this jewel in a deep pit filled with muck and slime.



That jewel was me, you. That muck was the sinfulness of mankind.

No one was *capable* to rescue us from this dark sinful world, let alone be willing to reach down into this filth. But the Lord Jesus was. In fact, He was the *only* One qualified because Jesus Christ is God.

He came down from heaven, gave up His glory (but not His Deity) and became one of us. He lived as a human being in this sinful world, yet never sinned. Never once did He do anything wrong; never had a bad thought; never said an unkind word or had an impure motive. He was crucified as a pure and sinless sacrifice. He took the punishment that I deserved, that you deserved.

He willingly reached down into this disgusting goo, pulled us out and washed us clean with His precious blood.

But that's not the end of the story! Three days later He rose from the dead and conquered death. He not only rescues us from the kingdom of darkness, but brings us into His Kingdom of light. That is, if we let Him, if we accept His payment for our sins.

But oh, we are so much more than an inanimate object, even a rare and beautiful one! We have life, and God can interact with us. In fact, that is precisely the reason God made us. He desires to have an intimate relationship with each of us. Adam and Eve had that, but when they disobeyed, their relationship with God was broken and the curse of sin was passed unto all of their offspring.

When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. His sin spread death throughout all the world, so everything began to grow old and die, for all sinned. (Rom 5:12 TLB)

Mankind could no longer get close to a pure and holy God because of their dirty sin. But God in His love for us couldn't leave us in that state, in the filth of our sin. That's why Jesus reached down so that we could be restored back into a right relationship with God. Because He conquered death, He is able to give us new life, everlasting life. When we accept Christ's forgiveness, He gives us His righteousness, His holiness. Now we are able to get close and relate to this holy God.

That's how much God values us!

Friend, we cannot clean ourselves up. Oh, we might be able to do some good things, and remove some bad habits on our own. But only through Jesus can we become completely clean and acceptable to a holy God and enter into heaven to be with Him.

After the Rescue

Once rescued from our sins we're perfect right? Don't we wish! Just like a newly-mined diamond doesn't look like a beautifully cut stone, neither do we.



Diamonds look more like a black rock when first excavated. It still has lots of rough edges and is dull. Its full beauty is not yet showing—much like us when newly saved. Although we're clean, we don't look very pretty.

But Jesus sees the awesome potential within. And just like a master diamond cutter, He carefully chisels in a way that will maximize the beauty inside us and the amount of light we reflect—*His* beauty, *His* light.

- He chisels away sinful habits by the conviction of the Holy Spirit.
- He carves away wrong thinking and bad attitudes by transforming our minds with His Word (Rom 12:2).
- He carefully fashions us into the shape for which He has designed us to be (Ps 139).
- He meticulously refines and polishes us through trials and difficulties, so that more of *His* beauty will shine through us (1 Pet 1:7).

All of this refining can be a very painful process. None of us like pain. If you're in the middle of a trial, it may not seem like God is cherishing you. You may be thinking:

- ❖ “Is this how God shows me He cares?”
- ❖ “Why didn’t He protect me?”
- ❖ “He’s certainly isn’t thinking about me!”
- ❖ “I feel like a nobody, alone and forgotten!”

That may be how you feel, but it is not based on truth. You are believing lies about who God is, how He operates, and how He sees you.

Feelings follow thought. That’s why it is so important to get into the truth of God’s Word—to see what *He* says.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Rom 12:2)

When you get into God’s Word and allow His truth to get into you, your wrong thinking will be changed into right thinking. During those times of feeling worthless, you can speak the truth of God’s Word to your soul and choose to believe and act on it. Then right feelings will follow (even if they may lag behind a little).

The truth is: whatever pain you have—it’s for a good purpose. God is good and can only do good (Rom 8:28-29, Ps 119:68).

I know these hardships may not appear good to you and I at times. That’s because we are using *our* definition of good—not *God’s*. His good is eternal, not temporal like ours. God always has eternity in mind. He wants to produce results that are beneficial and lasting. For example, His refining may be for the purpose of saving a soul from hell, the spiritual growth

of a believer, a prodigal son returning home, and much-deserved glory for Him. Anything that makes us more like His Son is good.

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son.... (Rom 8:28-29
NLT)

This side of heaven we'll never be all that we could be. Like you, I still struggle with many bad tendencies (like impatience). But God loves us faults and all and He is in the process of making us perfect.

I am convinced and confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will [continue to] perfect and complete it until the day of Christ Jesus [the time of His return]. (Phil 1:6 AMP)

I long for that day! I'm sure you do too.

Meanwhile, God's refining process can sometimes be extremely difficult to bear. Eleven years ago, God removed my soulmate from my life through cancer. It felt like a large slab was carved off of me! Ed was my wonderful husband for thirty years. We loved each other and the Lord. It was hard to understand why God would take him away when we were effectively serving Him together for twenty-five of those years. He was a HUGE part of my life!

Remember when I mentioned earlier that God wants to put us on display? That's what God was doing when He chiseled Ed out of my life. Cancer was one of the instruments He used to make me more like His Son. He wants to display and admire the beauty of Jesus that resides inside of me, inside of each true child of the King.

*Let the king be enthralled by your beauty;
honor him, for he is your lord. (Ps 45:11)*

*He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will
display my splendor." (Is 49:3)*

Jesus rescues us out of the kingdom of darkness and brings us into His Kingdom of Light. By removing areas of our lives that block His beauty within, we'll be able to reflect His light. God wants to show off to a dark world through me and you, so that others will see Him and allow their souls to be rescued—not only from this sinful world but from an everlasting separation from God in hell.

*For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and
brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we
have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Col 1:13-14)*

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy
nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the
praises of him who called you out of darkness into his
wonderful light. (1 Pet 2:9)*

God allowed my husband to die of cancer so that He could display more of His glory through my life. The fact that I can have joy despite my painful loss is a miracle! I absolutely could not muster up this joy and peace I have on my own. It's

a testimony to a hurting world that God is alive, real and cares. That's Christ in me—displaying His goodness and love!

I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God:

many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

(Ps 40:1-3 KJV, emphasis added)

Now I see that the Lord was sculpting my life in order to produce even *more* good and lasting fruit for His kingdom than when Ed was alive on earth. God is using me more now than ever before to positively impact others! (I hope you are one of them.)

And because I am being used for a good *eternal* purpose, my sense of worth has skyrocketed. Cooperating with God to save a soul from hell? To help others understand the love of God for them? To tell others they have value and are precious to their Creator? To give others hope? *That's significance!*

Sure, I miss my man—a lot. But experiencing temporary pain to save a soul from everlasting agony is worth it to me! To bring God glory through my life—He's worth it! Oh, so worth it! (That's why I call my ministry *He's So Worth It Ministries*.)

Besides, the Lord didn't remove all of Ed from my life. I still have many fond memories, his words of wisdom to me, and, of course, his love and care. Ed's influence on my life still lives on even though he is not physically here anymore.

God may never remove such a huge chunk from your life. But He has a unique and wonderful purpose for each of us.

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD;
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you
hope and a future.” (Jer 29:11)*

You Have a Special Purpose

I have a small collection of Swarovski crystal figures, given to me by different people through the years. They are each unique and special to me.



Although this picture does not show these figurines' true beauty (because of my lack of photographic skills), each one reflects light in their own special way. Each brings me a distinct pleasure. We, are like these crystals, each specifically fashioned by the Lord to fulfill His beautiful purpose.

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Eph 2:10 NLT)

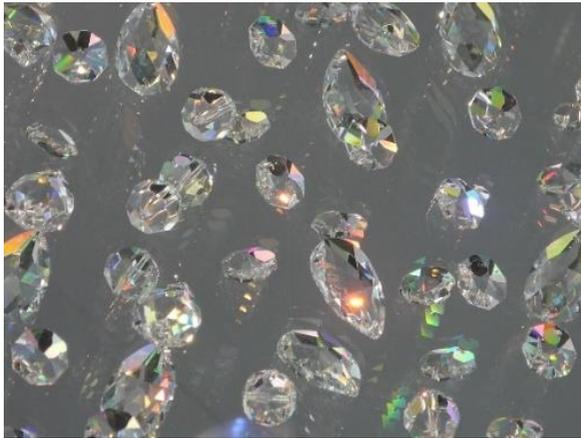
You are one of God's masterpieces—yes *you!* You matter to God. You have been chosen by God Himself—you are God's very own, bought with His precious blood.

He didn't do this simply to make you feel good about yourself! No. But that you may be a testimony to others; "that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Pet 2:9).

Your beauty and design are distinct. You will reflect God's glory differently than everybody else. That is, *if* you let Him; *if* you cooperate with Him as He chisels away those rough spots.



This is God's desire for each of us. We are not to be lone crystals, displayed by ourselves somewhere alone in a cabinet. We are not even to come together and just remain *separate* and *disconnected*.



NO!

We are to come together in our local churches. We need each other to fulfill our potential in using our individual qualities to serve our Deliverer. In that way, we will maximize *His* beauty and brilliant glory—more like a magnificent chandelier!



In this candelabra each piece is highly valued and important. If one piece is missing or hanging in the wrong spot it is noticed. If one piece is dirty or broken, it is evident, and the entire display is affected. Each piece is beautiful alone, but together the scene is glorious.

The whole is definitely greater than the sum of its parts!

You matter to God and you matter to the body of Christ, the church! Will you do your part?

Begin by getting the right view of how God sees you—precious, unique, and dearly loved. Then He'll be able to use you in rescuing others!

Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations that do not know you will hasten to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor. (Is 55:5)

One Last Thought

I need to tell you one last thing before I finish. When you accept this truth that you are precious in God's sight, *God* will become *precious to you*. Then you will praise and worship Him for who He is, as well as for what He's done. You'll start *thinking* about Him. You'll *want* to spend more time with Him. You'll want to display Him by telling the world of how He saved you from the pit and of how much He has changed you!

Receive this truth. Let it sink deep down into your very soul; your life will never be the same—and neither will the world around you!

On that day the LORD their God will rescue his people, just as a shepherd rescues his sheep. They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown. How wonderful and beautiful they will be! (Zec 9:16-17 NLT)

Pray this with me...

Father, thank You for changing this nobody into a somebody. Who am I that You, the Lord of all the earth, would care to know my name, would care to feel my hurt? Thank You, Lord, that although I am not worthy I am not worthless! You went to such great lengths to rescue me. Help me to grasp the fact that I am highly valued by You, that we are all precious in Your sight—in order that we may shine like stars in the universe for Your glory, my precious Redeemer and Friend!

Resources

Videos

Precious in His Sight

Joy Despite the Presence of Pain testimony

Blogs

[Seeing Yourself as God Does](#)

[Of Great Worth in the Gardener's Eyes](#)

[Minimizing our Pain/Maximizing its Benefits: Part 1](#)

Books

[Our Knowable God: Learning to Relate to Our Invisible Lord](#)

[On My Father's Lap: Drawing Close to Your Father in](#)

[Heaven](#)

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