

# ARE YOU LISTENING TO YOUR NAVIGATION?

## 1.3 GOD'S DREAM FOR YOU

Have you ever met someone and discovered they were nothing like what you thought they would be?

Before you met them, you knew about them, but knowing about someone is not the same as *knowing* someone.

Everyone knows something about God, but when we really encounter God, most of us discover that he is not like we thought. You may know about God, but now it's time to get to *know* God. And you may discover that much of what you thought you knew was wrong. . . .

The first thing you discover when you really encounter God is that *God wants good things for you.*

Sometimes God wants better things for you than you want for yourself.

In 1 Corinthians 2:9 Paul teaches us, *"No eye has seen, no ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love Him."*



What's Paul saying? You cannot even imagine what God has in mind for you.

God is the ultimate Father. You may have a great father here on earth, and you may not. But whether you do or you don't, you know a great father when you see one. God is that great Father. When earthly fathers shine, it is because they act like our heavenly Father.

Everything good in this world flows from the goodness of God.

God your Father created the universe for *you*. This world is his gift to you. He wants you to enjoy it and take care of it. He created all the beauty that surrounds you with you in mind. Then he looked at it and said, "It is good."

You too. God created you and he created you in his image. Deep in your heart you are good. But staying connected to that goodness is not always easy, and requires real effort.

Like any good father, God has dreams for his children. God has a dream for you. God wants you to become the-best-version-of-yourself.

He wants you to become all he created you to be—by living a good and full life. And God wants you to help everyone who crosses your path become the-best-version-of-themselves. But more than anything else, God wants to have a *dynamic relationship with you.*

**1 CORINTHIANS 2:9**  
**KNOW IT:** What is Paul talking about?  
**THINK ABOUT IT:** Do you want to go to Heaven?  
**LIVE IT:** Are you living a life that leads to Heaven?

**EVERYTHING MAKES SENSE IN RELATION TO GOD'S DREAM. WHEN WE FEEL LIKE LIFE IS NOT MAKING SENSE, IT IS USUALLY BECAUSE WE HAVE LOST SIGHT OF GOD'S VISION FOR OUR LIVES.**

I never really understood this until my first child was born. After Walter was born I found myself yearning to be with him. He couldn't walk or talk. All he did was eat, and sleep, and need his diaper changed. But I loved being with him. When I was at the office I could not wait to get home to hold him or roll around on the floor with him. When I had to travel I missed him so much.

Over the years, that hasn't changed. As my wife and I have had more children, I yearn to be with each of them in the same way.

I love my children so much. It's crazy, really. And before I had children I just didn't understand. But as I began to think about this great love I have for my children, the love of God took on a whole new meaning. Because if I can love my children as much as I do, and I am broken and wounded and flawed and limited, *imagine how much God loves us.*

This was overwhelming to me and took my relationship with God to the next level. And it has made me take God's dream for me and my life even more seriously.

God wants you to become the-best-version-of-yourself. This is his dream for you and everything makes sense in relation to God's dream.

This is the idea that got me hooked on Catholicism. I was fifteen years old and nothing was making sense.

I grew up in a Catholic family, went to Catholic school, went to Mass every Sunday, but *I never really got it.* One day a friend of the family let me in on the secret. He talked about the **universal call to holiness.** He said that God calls everyone to live a holy life, and explained that some things I think, do, and say help me to grow in holiness and others don't. He also explained that I am happiest when I am doing the things that help me to grow in holiness.

There is a connection between happiness and holiness.

I finally got it. Catholicism finally made sense to me, because I started to see that everything the Church does is designed to help me become more perfectly the person God created me to be and everything I do each day matters.

Everything really does make sense in relation to God's dream for us.

What makes a good friend? Someone who helps you become the-best-version-of-yourself.

What makes a good meal? Food that helps you become the-best-version-of-yourself.

THE DESIRE FOR GOD IS WRITTEN IN THE HUMAN HEART, BECAUSE MAN IS CREATED BY GOD AND FOR GOD; AND GOD NEVER CEASES TO DRAW MAN TO HIMSELF. ONLY IN GOD WILL HE FIND THE TRUTH AND HAPPINESS HE NEVER STOPS SEARCHING FOR:

THE DIGNITY OF MAN RESTS ABOVE ALL ON THE FACT THAT HE IS CALLED TO COMMUNION WITH GOD. THIS INVITATION TO CONVERSE WITH GOD IS ADDRESSED TO MAN AS SOON AS HE COMES INTO BEING. FOR IF MAN EXISTS, IT IS BECAUSE GOD HAS CREATED HIM THROUGH LOVE, AND THROUGH LOVE CONTINUES TO HOLD HIM IN EXISTENCE. HE CANNOT LIVE FULLY ACCORDING TO TRUTH UNLESS HE FREELY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT LOVE AND ENTRUSTS HIMSELF TO HIS CREATOR.

(CCC #27)



MODERN CULTURE'S NIGHTMARE

WHAT YOU DO NOW IS GOING TO MATTER LATER IN YOUR LIFE IN WAYS THAT YOU HAVE NOT EVEN BEGUN TO IMAGINE.

What makes a good book or movie? Those that inspire you to become the-best-version-of-yourself.

Why do your parents send you to school? To torture you! No, the word education comes from the Latin verb educare, which means "to draw out." Education at its best draws out the-best-version-of-you. Looking back on my life, I can see that the best teachers, mentors, coaches, and managers were all men and women who were trying to draw the best out of me.

What is the purpose of study? When you study hard you become a-better-version-of-yourself.

What is the meaning of work? Making money? No. This is a secondary outcome. The primary value of work is that when we work hard and pay attention to the details of our work, we develop character and virtue—and become the-best-version-of-ourselves.

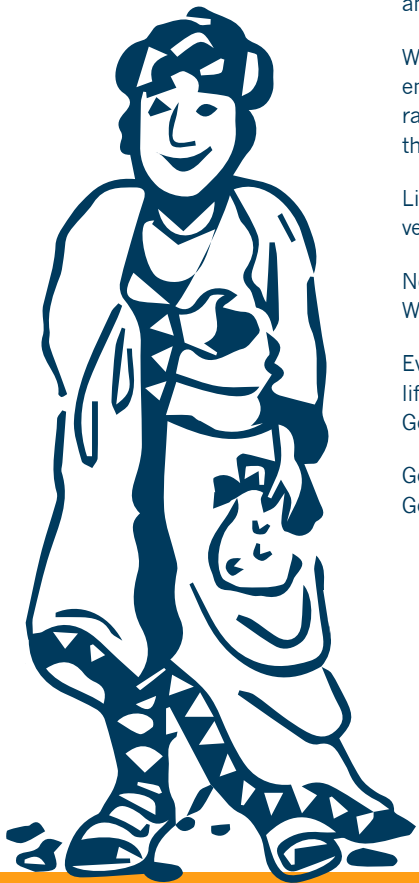
What is the purpose of marriage? Husband and wife challenging and encouraging each other to become the-best-version-of-themselves, and raising children and encouraging them to become the-best-version-of-themselves.

Life is about saying yes to the things that help you become the-best-version-of-yourself, and no to the things that don't.

Next time you are confronted with a decision, simply ask yourself: What will help me become the-best-version-of-myself?

Everything makes sense in relation to God's dream. When we feel like life is not making sense, it is usually because we have lost sight of God's vision for our lives.

God wants you to become the-best-version-of-yourself. Will you choose God's dream or the modern culture's nightmare?



ANTHONY OF THE DESERT

# GOD'S DREAM



1. HAVE YOU EVER MET SOMEONE AND DISCOVERED THAT PERSON WAS NOTHING LIKE WHAT YOU THOUGHT HE OR SHE WOULD BE LIKE?

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2. WHO IN YOUR LIFE IS HELPING YOU BECOME THE-BEST-VERSION-OF-YOURSELF?

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3. WHAT ARE TWO THINGS YOU CAN DO TO BECOME A-BETTER-VERSION-OF-YOURSELF THIS WEEK?

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# WHAT'S ENSLAVING YOU?

