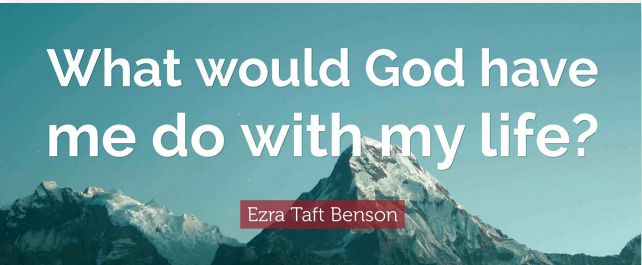


Our Choice:
Live Near or Far
From God

by Bill Lembright

This morning, I woke up a little early and asked God for something to share with you that would be life-changing. He didn't disappoint! Abundant life and fulfillment are available to any of us that seek it. It starts when God gets our attention. It begins when He comes to us with the offer of forgiveness



for our self-serving lives in which we resisted Him. His Son, Jesus Christ, paid the price for OUR rebellion by dying in our place which allows US to become God's children and to live in His presence. But that closeness doesn't need to stop there. He gives us free will, a key ingredient of true love. And THAT free will is a key that determines the depth of our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

When we earnestly seek Him, we find Him. He WANTS to be found by us. He desires US more than any of us humans desire HIM. But by our choices we keep His Holy Spirit at arm's length or open up to live closer to Him. Part of our stubborn HUMAN nature is our insistence on making life decisions ourselves rather than surrendering those choices to God. For example, being more concerned about the happiness of our spouses, families, relatives and friends more than we are concerned for GOD'S happiness and approval, is a step away from God. Jesus made this clear by saying, "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me." Matthew 10:37 NIV.

Let's get specific here. When God's Holy Spirit puts an idea in our minds that turns us toward Him, and we recognize that as an opportunity to turn toward Him, but then an invitation comes from friends or family that interferes with that offer from God, if we yield to friends or family instead of yielding to that offer from God, we are moving AWAY from Him. On the other hand, if we let others know we have a commitment from God to which we must attend first, then we are moving closer to God. As we make these choices, we not only define our relationship with God, but are also repping God to those affected. Either GOD is more important to us, or THEY are.

Now let's look at other uses of our time and talents. Assuming we have asked God what HE wants us to do with our time; do we open-endedly ask Him if and how He wants us to be employed? In all of these decisions it is wise to ask them in the presence of other followers of God to minimize the chances of being blinded by our own desires rather than REALLY wanting to know what GOD

wants. We humans are like kids in a candy shop. Our HUMAN nature shouts, "Gimme, gimme, gimme!" It's ALL about US! On the other hand, the Holy Spirit living IN US asks, "What do YOU want, Father?" When we surrender OUR wills to HIM, we grow closer to Him. Now back to employment. If He allows us the opportunity to serve Him through a job, let HIM decide what that job should be. Apart from God, we understandably desire jobs that maximize our feelings of self-worth, high pay, the approval of others, and that are challenging enough to make us WANT to go to work each day. If WE select our employment based on OUR desires, we step away

from God. If, on the other hand, we ask God what HE wants us to do, and then do THAT, then we are stepping closer to God.

Another use of our time, talents, and possessions is what we decide to do when we are not at work or worshipping God with others. Most of us think, "Oh, boy! Now I can do what

I want to do! That attitude is a step "away" from God. To say, and to mean it, "Father, what would YOU like me to do?" is a step closer to God. To our pleasant surprise, as we surrender and yield to Him more and more, His Spirit inside us changes us so that we see things more the way HE sees them and grows the desire IN US to do what pleases HIM. Those things that are a pleasure to God become a pleasure to US. And by the way, God is NOT a boring fuddy, duddy! He is exciting and more fulfilling than anyone or anything!

Jesus told a story about a man who discovered a treasure buried in a field, then pooled all his resources and bought that field! That treasure is LIFE WITH GOD both

Give your life to God; he can
do more with it than you can!

DL Moody

in THIS life AND the life to come. He told that story for OUR benefit! God WANTS US grow closer to Him. All WE have to do is surrender our self-determination to HIM. Will you join me today while we ask God what HE would like US to do?

LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

Monday, August 25th
5:00 pm at the Moose Lodge
on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road.

- ✓ Reports from our **County, State and Federal representatives.**
- ✓ Progress reports from **CHP, Code Enforcement and Sheriff's Dept.**
- ✓ Road projects, Rancho Lucerne, etc.
- ✓ Gold Fire effect on Mitsubishi's restoration sites.
- ✓ What's happening around town.

Is something bugging you?
COME TO THE NEXT MEETING
TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION!

Thirsting
for God
in the Dry
Places



"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God" (Psalm 42:1).

There are times in life when the soul feels dry, worn, and desperate for something more. Joy feels like a distant memory and hope seems hard to find. The writer of Psalm 42 understands this state of mind. He compares his longing for God to a thirsty deer searching for water.

This is not simply a poetic image. It is a cry of deep spiritual need.

The psalmist finds himself far from home, possibly in exile, far from the Temple and the worship he once enjoyed with others. He is surrounded by sorrow. His tears have been his food day and night. People around him question his faith, asking, "Where is your God?" But the greater cry is deeply internal. His own heart aches with the same question.

Still, his longing turns him toward faith and hope.

"Why, my soul, are you downcast? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him" (Psalm 42:5).

His circumstances do not change, but his focus and mindset does. He remembers who God is. Even when his heart feels crushed and forgotten, he speaks truth to himself. God remains faithful. God hears. God will respond.

In other words, his situation never dictates his reality or perception of God. He recognizes that God answers those who cry out to Him. He responds to those who long for him as the thirsty deer does the streams of water.

This kind of longing is not weakness. It is worship. The psalmist brings his pain honestly to God and trusts that the One who fills the thirsty will fill him again.

If you are in a season of spiritual dryness, do not be afraid to cry out to God. Longing for Him is a sign of faith. Just as a stream refreshes the weary deer, God refreshes the hearts of those who seek Him.

Are you experiencing a dry or distant season with God? What would it look like to bring your longing to Him right now today and trust Him to meet you?

Prayer

Father, I thirst for You. Even when I feel distant or overwhelmed, my soul reaches for You. Please be my source of refreshment and restore my hope. I trust in Your love and faithfulness. Amen.



On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web

Man With Strong Urge To Eat Wicker Basket Settles For Triscuit Instead.

From The Babylon Bee

Me sending different memes to different friends according to their humor level.

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

Israel Botches Genocide With Millions In Food Aid

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

LVM Commentary - Aug. 21 - 27, 2025

WHAT YOU SEE

WHAT CRIMINALS SEE

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

"Our people are starving!"
~ Hamas leader, Osama Hamdan.

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

BAD JEANS

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

Psalm 73:26

THE PATRIOT POST IS CLOSED ON SUNDAY

WHEN THEY CALL US "FAR RIGHT", IT ACTUALLY MEANS... "SO FAR WE'VE BEEN RIGHT ABOUT EVERYTHING".

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

Democrat Voters

Democrat Politicians

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

All communist theory is essentially this:

I want you dead and I want your money.

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

Smoking will kill you. Bacon will kill you. But smoking bacon will cure it.

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

MEXICAN WORD OF THE DAY: HOOCHIE

WE DON'T LIKE KAMALA CAUSE WE KNOW HOOCHIE REALLY IS

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS