

Good Morning Friend,

Last week, I had the privilege of returning to my high school, Minnehaha Academy, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I was asked to be the chapel speaker. As I prepared my message, my thoughts went back over fifty years to my student days there. I decided to focus on one major event that became a huge factor in my personal development. Let me share the event, the process, and the result.

**THE EVENT:** Dr. Bob Smith was the chapel speaker for our annual Spiritual Emphasis Week. He spoke for five days on the theme, WHAT ARE YOU WORTH? In the privacy of my heart, I answered the question . . . *not much*. I truly meant it. As a teen-ager, I had a very poor self-image. Perhaps it was (and still is) rather typical for teens. Dr. Smith kept asking his key question, WHAT ARE YOU WORTH? And I kept answering . . . *not much*. During the week, he restated the question in relationship of our worth to our friends, to our families, to ourselves, and ultimately to the Lord. By the end of the week, I knew something was taking place in me. All of a sudden, I truly believed that I was worth a lot to the Lord. Dr. Smith built a strong biblical case to teach me . . . to persuade me . . . of my worth chiefly to Him. It was the beginning of a transformation in me.

**THE PROCESS:** I started in the Old Testament and continued through the New Testament. I underscored truths that He stated about me. I have continued to do the same throughout my life. For example (to mention but a few) . . .

- He created me in His own image.
- He knows me and calls me by name, as He did with Abraham, Moses, Gideon and others.
- He has given talents and gifts to me . . . *just as He has determined*. I Corinthians 12:11)
- He has written my name on the palm of His hand.(Isaiah 49:16)
- He indwells me, since the day I invited Jesus into my life.
- He tells me that I am a co-worker and joint-heir with Him.
- He has a plan for my life.
- He has convinced me that I MATTER TO HIM.

Just the other day I was reading Exodus and I was blessed to focus on this phrase that He spoke to Moses . . . *I*

*am pleased with you*, in Exodus 33:17. What an amazing phrase for Moses to hear . . . really for any of us to hear. Moses' life was far from perfect yet God was *pleased with him*. I have wondered what caused God to say that? Perhaps God was pleased because Moses trusted God, as strongly stated in God's Hall of Faith, Hebrews 11. There I read these words . . . *Without faith it is impossible to please God* (11:6). It also says specifically that Moses . . . *persevered because he saw Him who is invisible* (11:27).

Many of us cannot imagine that God is pleased with us. But Moses heard God tell him that . . . *He was pleased with Him*. In the previous paragraph we learned that God is pleased with us too, as we trust Him. So add these words to your memory bank . . . **GOD IS PLEASED WITH ME.**

**THE RESULT:** For me, Dr. Smith's teaching quickly started the process of transformation. That process is continuing to this day. The Book, **TELLING YOURSELF THE TRUTH**, by Dr. William Backus, continues to be helpful. He tells us that too often we allow our lives to be shaped by lies that we have believed, all orchestrated by Satan. Perhaps they were spoken years ago by kids on the playground, or by teachers or even parents. The most important things for us to believe about ourselves do not come from others. Not even from ourselves. We must believe the truths that God says about us. It is never too late for the transformation process to begin . . . and to continue.

Be encouraged,

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