

# Only Human???

by Frank Bush

A year or so ago, I had a student in my office. He was there because his behavior was much less than what I expected in a Bible college student. After discussing the matter, he crowned his long recitation with the excuse, "After all, I'm only human." When he said that, I jumped to my feet, raised my voice about 16 decibels and fairly shouted, "Only human! Do you realize what you have just said?" He moved back into his chair and his eyes were wide in surprise. I didn't wait for an answer.

"Only human! You mean in the image of God, made a little lower than the angels and in Christ, given the power to become greater than the angels, only human! You have been given dominion over the earth and every living creature on the face of the earth. The greatest of all God's creatures. The only creature able to think the thoughts of God. The object of His love and the one for whose salvation He sent Jesus to Calvary. What do you mean, 'only human'?"

Silence reigned heavily in the

room. For a long moment he stared at me in bewilderment and I attempted to look through his eyes into his soul. I was hoping that my words had driven home an important truth. Soon he began to move uneasily in his chair and said, "I guess I have been less than what He wants me to be. I'm sorry, I will do better." I nodded my head and he walked out.

To use being human as an excuse for our thoughtless and stupid behavior is an insult to the God who made us. ~

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# NAVARRE MESSENGER

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## Count Your Many Blessings—Then Weigh Them



by Tim Nichols

The old suggestion that you count your blessings in the midst of difficult times is a good one. Any realistic person who will sit down and begin to number his or her blessings will soon discover that they are many. In fact, one might discover that they are so numerous that it is virtually impossible to literally "name them one by one." Even after the list is very long and we think we've made the last entry we realize that we've left something out. Job encountered this "problem" when he attempted to make the count while he was in the midst of great distress.

I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause: Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvelous things without number: Who giveth rain

upon the earth, and sendeth waters upon the fields: To set up on high those that be low; that those which mourn may be exalted to safety (Job 5:8-11). Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number (Job 9:10).

But some pessimist might want to argue that his or her list of problems is equally long. When he compiles his list of problems he is always able to think of one more item to add. You would have a difficult time convincing him that his blessings outnumber his difficulties and it would be a lengthy debate. For every blessing he could find a problem. Both lists would, like the energizer bunny, keep going and going. Simply counting the number of items on the two lists may not be enough to bring relief to some who are dedi-

cated to the proposition that problems are things to nurture while blessings are things to minimize.

It would be a helpful thing if we could discipline ourselves to compare our problems with our blessings and to assign some relative weight to each when compared with the other. If we would make a short list of our greatest blessings and compare them with our short list of worst problems we would soon find that our blessings far outweigh our problems. Paul was reckoning correctly and by inspiration when he measured the relative weight of the two.

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us (Romans 8:18).

Moses weighed the affliction that he suffered with the people of God and compared it with the reward that awaited him in heaven. He saw that the value of the eternal reward far outweighed the temporary affliction. He looked "at others with their lands and gold" and thought that Christ had promised him "His wealth untold." He realized that "money cannot buy" his "reward in heaven" nor his "home on high."

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the

reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward (Hebrews 11:24-26).

Would you trade your worst problems for your greatest blessings? Would you give up the promise of eternal life for the eradication of your temporary grief or pain? Would you exchange your life itself for the luxury of not having a flat tire? Would you give up the love of your family in exchange for a day without disrespect or unkindness from others?

Would you trade (fill in the blank with any of your greatest blessings)

## Battling Addictions

Many of us have been blessed with various addictions. Unfortunately, most see an addiction as a curse and while that can be true it does not always have to be.

As Christians, it should be a blessing to us because "we also exult (glory) in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; hope does not disappoint" (Romans 5:3-5) The one who perseveres is able to overcome the addiction because God has designed it that way!

So the purpose of this article is to help with our perseverance. I am not going to reveal any BIG secret about how to battle and overcome addictions, but I hope to lay out a couple steps based upon Scrip-

\_\_\_\_\_?  
for the removal of (fill in the blank with any of your worst problems)

\_\_\_\_\_?  
No, you would not. Your blessings always outweigh your problems.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal (2 Corinthians 4:17, 18). ~



ture that will help us persevere and win the battle!

"No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13)

'I CAN overcome this temptation!' This must be the fundamental thought of every battling addict. We can know with certainty that God does not give us anything that we can't handle. It may look unbearable to us as humans, but He knows us better than we know ourselves—because He created us. He knows how the human body is designed. He knows how the human body is healed. He knows how our minds work. He alone knows what I can truly bear. And He guarantees me that if I am faced with a temptation I CAN overcome it! IF I look to Him as my way out.



"TRUST in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5)

For us addicts, this is often difficult because we convince ourselves that we are independent and if I got myself in this mess I can get myself out! But trust the Lord—it doesn't work that way! We can only overcome when we put all of our trust and confidence in the Lord. When we place our trust in the Lord we humble ourselves before Him and He lifts us out of the doldrums of life! We have to realize we can't do it alone.

"I am exceedingly afflicted; Revive me, O Lord, according to your word" (Psalm 119:107)

As addicts, we are exceedingly afflicted! We crave, we shake, we can't get the vice out our heads no matter how hard WE try. And David's attitude ought to be a great prayer for us when we are afflicted: Lord revive me through your word!

The problem is that often times when we are most afflicted—God is rarely in our thoughts. Therefore, praying to the Father and opening His word is often out of the question.

But Solomon says, "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:6) God must be present in our lives at all times. And for Him to be present He must be real to us! He can't be this fairy tale character. He must be revered as God Almighty! If we acknowledge Him as God Almighty we will turn to Him and His word for our way of

escape.

"But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night" (Psalm 1:2)

As addicts, we constantly have to fill our lives with some THING and for most addicts we fill our lives with the wrong THING! When we are battling our addictions we have to make the law of the Lord our delight! We have to read and study every opportunity we have. In fact, we have to make opportunities to study. We made time for our vices. Therefore, make time for God's word.

How do we make the time? We completely eliminate the things we used to do. We start to live life completely different. Instead of watching a movie, read the Bible. Instead of listening to an album, listen to a sermon. Instead of playing a musical instrument, pray to God. Whatever it is that you want to do more than read and talk with the Lord—replace it! I didn't realize that quick enough. I stumbled over that for several months.

It's not natural for us to immediately make these changes, but we must make them. It's even a good idea to start with an itinerary. If we force ourselves to get into the Word it will guide and change our lives!

And eventually it's no longer an itinerary, but a set time to grow closer to God through His word. It is this type of man that "will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water....and in whatever he does, he prospers." (Psalms 1:3)

~ by Wes Gossett