

LEADERS NOTES
LIVING BEYOND THIS LIFE - WORSHIP PART III
“THE SEARCH FOR SIGNIFICANCE”
MAY 31-JUNE 1, 2008

What are some things that help people feel significant?

Most people feel significant based on their relationship with others. Whether this is just one “significant other,” or trying to gain acceptance and respect from many acquaintances, the way people respond to us usually gives us feelings of significance or insignificance. This of course can correspond to our position or status, level of recognition, wealth, possessions, etc. This is well understood by those in advertising, who appeal to the desire in us to be noticed by others because of the car we drive, the type of watch we wear, and so on - which can make us feel more significant.

Another source of significance for many of us is through our achievements. It makes us feel good about ourselves when we accomplish something, especially if we feel it was important or it is recognized by others. This of course is not necessarily a bad thing, but we need to be careful how much emphasis we place on what we have done. We want to make sure it is what God wanted us to do – that it has lasting value (1 Corinthians 3:10-13), and acknowledge that the credit ultimately belongs to Him, instead of taking it for ourselves.

Most of us also feel more significant when we are needed, which again is based on relationships with others whether it be as a spouse, parent, grandparent, or even friend. There is certainly nothing wrong with this, as it is God’s design that we have significant people in our lives that we help, and that help us. However, God’s desire is that we find our primary significance in Him, and who He has made us to be, before we look to others, material things, accomplishments, or fame/prestige to feel important.

What things make us significant in God’s eyes?

While there are certainly things that we can do that can have significant impact on building God’s kingdom, the main thing that makes us significant in God’s eyes is our relationship with Him. If God says that we have been made in His image (Genesis 1:26), have been created for a purpose (Jeremiah 29:11), and as believers have God’s glory in us (Colossians 1:27) - we should feel pretty special without having to do much at all. We are His children, and for any of you who are parents, you know that puts you in a pretty ‘significant’ category right there.

How does our relationship with God give us significance?

Read the following verses to see what God says about us:

- **1 Corinthians 6:19,20** - We are the temple of the Holy Spirit
- **Matthew 5:13,14** - We are the salt of the earth and light of the world
- **2 Corinthians 5:20,21** - We are God’s ambassadors, the righteousness of God
- **Revelation 1:6** - We are priests to serve Him in His kingdom
- **Romans 8:16,17** - We are God’s children, co-heirs with Christ
- **Psalms 17:8** - We are the “apple of His eye”
- **Ephesians 2:10** - We are God’s workmanship, created to do the things He has prepared for us
- **John 14:12** - We will do even greater things than Jesus did

Based on these verses (and many more) we should be able to see that we are very significant in God's eyes. It is from this relationship with the God who created not only us, but the entire universe, that we should get our feeling of worth. If we can gain a better understanding of this, it will affect not only what we do, but why we do it, and who we are doing it for.

What keeps us from doing more of what is significant in God's eyes - things that have eternal value?

Often it is probably as simple as the busyness of life. We get so caught up in doing the things that just need to get done each day and the "tyranny of the urgent" that we can miss the things that really count. The things we think are important, that can even be "good" things, can actually keep us away from doing the things that really count for eternity!

It is only as we attempt to "walk in the Spirit" and continually ask God for guidance that we can accomplish what God has set out before us - regardless of how busy we might become. Our model of course is Jesus, who explained that He said nothing or did nothing unless the Father told Him to say it or do it. He was always about the Father's business no matter what He was doing, because of the intimate relationship He enjoyed with His Father.

This is a tremendous challenge for many of us, especially if we tend to find ourselves busy most of the time. It starts with a surrendering of our will to say as Jesus did "not my will but yours," and a true desire to do things His way instead of our own. As we spend time with Him and listen for His voice, we can trust that He will lead and guide us to do what really matters.