

Un-Earthed

Hunting Transcendent Treasure

August 21, 2022



Today, we're talkin' 'bout how the temptation of treasure *reveals* how our lives are *all* aching for a shaking! So, let's dig in and answer this: **How would treasure change your life?** We've all played that game, *right*? What *if I won the lotto?* I just did (*play not win*), cuz someone came into my office when it cleared \$1 billion and convinced me to go get tickets (*literally ten seconds later*). And first, I'd *tithe* on it. I mean, I just want to make *sure* that God *knows* I won't forget Him if He *was* to bless me like that. But then – well, let's just say I got plans for our church to be a sort of camp-monastery-waterslide *thing* that you're *all* invited to live in...

Because **when something life-changing happens to you – you change your life!** That's why we call it *that*. And that's when all of our '*what-if*'s suddenly become '*been-there's*' and '*done-that's*'. Which is *quite* different from our usual life of '*if only's*'. I *would* volunteer *if only* I wasn't so busy; I *would* donate *if only* I had a bit more money; I *would* go vote *if only* the game didn't go into double overtime.

And this is because **we're wired to take the path of least resistance to the place of maximum comfort.** That's what our *flesh* desires. Because it seems *safe*, it feels *simple*, and looks *satisfying*... to our earthly *self*. So **why does that all change when we imagine a life of riches?** Well it shakes things up and let's us look at life *without worrying* about satisfying our earthly *selves*. And when we shut our *flesh* up, we can start to hear the *Spirit* speak. Which we need cuz:

The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. – Romans 8:6 NIV

But we need to a *reason* to reject our *predictable* path and a *spark* to stir us to take life-changing *action*. Something has to *disturb* our status quo or we'll slowly slip back into *spiritual* sleepwalking while our *flesh* takes the wheel. Bottom line is this: **to keep things from settling down they have to be shaken up!** And nothing does that like life-changing *treasure*. Which is why God hid a hoard for each of us in plain sight.

And as we've seen **His treasure is the truth in His Word**, we just gotta *unearth* it! And when we wait, read, seek, and receive – **we're guaranteed to encounter a treasury of life-changing truths.**

"Boo! I knew you'd try some church trick like that! Truth is the treasure? Cute, but I'm looking for quit-my-job-tomorrow' riches."

I know! But **God's truth is that kind of treasure!** Because when you *really* get it in your hands, it can *shake* you enough to *change* your life just as dramatically as a \$1 billion dollar payday.

Because an *actual encounter* with **God's truth will shake your position and power, your perspective and perception, and your priorities and plans!** And here's how: First, **God shakes your position and power when you unearth His TRUE IDENTITY.**

Who is He, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty, He is the King of glory. – Psalms 24:10 NIV



Let's just start with *that*. **He is the King of glory.** Literally, in the Hebrew, the King of 'weight'. Because He is the *epitome* of *substance*, of *importance*, and of *reality*. He is the *maximum* of every measure on every scale – and that allows us to gauge the weight of everything *else*. Because we can compare anything *to* Him and see how short it falls *of* Him. And when we weigh what we think of as heavy – like *wealth*, *looks*, *power*, or *approval* – against an omnipotent *God*, we quickly conclude that **God alone is permanent, real, and all that matters.** He has so much *gravity* that everything else orbits *Him* and is *defined* by what He does.

So **whenever He enters our light little lives, things get shaken up** because that's what *happens* when heavy things drop in! You ever notice how there's always *earthquakes* and *trembling* when the presence of God shows up in the Bible? That's the weight of *His* glory against *this* place.

And when we are truly shaken by *that truth*, it should *change* us because we can know; **compared to God, everything else is light.** And that's as *freeing* and *stirring* as any amount of money! Who cares about earthly ease when:



Our *light* and *momentary* troubles are achieving for us an *eternal glory* that far *outweighs* them all. – 2 Corinthians 4:17 NIV

But God's truth only has this effect to the degree that you *really* treasure it in *your* heart. You have to *buy in* to get that *payoff!* God's truth can't be really *possible* to you; it has to be really *real* to you! Because possible treasure doesn't weigh much. In fact, **God as a possibility is lighter than you.** **Only God as a reality is heavier than you.** And He needs the *full* weight of His *full* glory if you want *Him* to shake *you* up.

So, **has God 'the reality' come into your life?** Well, has *His* shaking stirred *you* to change? Has *your* earthly life made way for the *weight* of *His* glory? Have your previous positions and personal power been *changed* by His Word? Did you just *fit* Him into your *old* agenda, or did He become the *center* of your *new* agenda? Because **when you know Him as the King of glory, it changes how heavy earthly things feel:**

For what *was* glorious has no glory *now* in comparison with the surpassing glory. – 2 Corinthians 3:10 NIV

Cuz *second*, **God shakes up your perspective and perception when you unearth His TRUE LOVE.** And *that* happens after you've been shaken out of your comfortable *position of power*; because it takes a change of position to give us a different *perspective*.

Seeing where we land in our *new* picture of true glory ought to cause a reevaluation of everything we *think* we perceive. **If He's the King of glory, what does that mean for everything else?**



Well, it means He *loves* you. *Huh? How?* Well, follow me on this; what effect does an *airplane* have on an ant? Not a pleasant one, right? Well, how on earth does the *King of heavy* not crush *our* little lives? There's only one logical answer:



We *all* once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our *flesh*, fulfilling the desires of the flesh ... just as the others. But God, who is rich in *mercy*, *because of His great love* with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses [obeying flesh over Spirit], made us alive.
– Ephesians 2:3-5 NKJ

When we see who *He* really is, it also reveals who *we* really are, and by all accounts, we *could've*, *should've*, and *would've* been crushed if God, *Himself* didn't take great care to *not* break us but merely *shake* us! And **when you receive that kind of mercy from that powerful of a King, you gotta ask yourself – why?! Who is this guy?! Why is He like that?!** Well:

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. – 1 John 4:16 NIV



But God-love is foreign to our flesh. For *example*, imagine you've won the lotto. And shortly after, you meet the love of your life and get married. But *then* they discover you've *donated* all your wealth to charity, and they decide to leave you. *Ouch*. I guess they didn't love *you*, they loved the *money*. You were just the *means* to an *end*.

Well *that's* our default; self-centered, earthly love. We care for something because we *get* something out of it. And **even our love for God can be selfish** – secretly expecting His *power*, *blessings*, or even *wisdom* to be given to us in *exchange* for *our* love. But that's *all* marrying God for His money! So why would He ever love us?! He gains *nothing* but *heartache* from loving us!

Well, because **He is love.** He *values* and *connects* with the pure *truth* behind all creation, knowing its *purpose* and seeing its *beauty*. Perhaps the closest we come is in our love of *music* or *art*. We generally *gain* nothing from loving it – but our *appreciation* for its beauty *alone* stirs our heart to love. It's not *useful*, just *beautiful*. Not a *means*, just an *end*. It's good in and of *itself*. And when we discover *that* motivation in His love, it shakes us up; showing us how *shallow* our self-centered perspective is. But here's the real treasure: **the moment that we realize how awful we are – is the same moment we realize how awesome God is!**



That's the truth that can change your life like a billion bucks! Because before we discover *God's* love, we think of our value as performance-based; *'I'm good and lovable because I do or produce something beneficial'*. So when we *meet* those standards, we're *bold* and *confident*; and when we fall *short*, we're *ashamed* and *humbled*.

However, after unearthing the true *God* love behind His *grace* and *mercy*, miraculously, we can be *simultaneously* bold *and* humble. Because we know our *failures* are forgiven and our *successes* are in *spite* of us not *because* of us.

And the more you treasure *that* truth, the more unshakable you become. Because like a billion bucks, **God's riches drown out our earthly worries**. Whatever you *do* with whatever life throws at you – *won't* change your value to the King of glory, if it's His *love*, you're after and not just His *money!* And that truth *itself* leads to another treasure that *Paul* points out:



At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures [of the flesh]. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His *mercy*. ... ⁸And I want you to stress these things, so that those who *have trusted in God* may be careful to devote *themselves to doing what is good*. These things are *excellent and profitable for everyone*. – Titus 3:3-5, 8 NIV

Treasure for everyone! *That's* the goal, and you better believe, **God shakes up all your priorities and plans when you unearth His TRUE PURPOSE**. Look, if God's *truth* can change *you* into a humble but *bold* billionaire, it can do it to *anyone!* So when He tells us that He plans to shake the *whole world* and we can *partner* with Him to spend *our* lives giving out more life-changing treasure, well, *sign me up!* All we have to do is to be *ready* and *willing!*

Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. – Ephesians 6:18 NIV

Being ready means you're on *alert*, not on a *schedule*. Because **God's not asking for your help, He's asking for your hands**. And if you've discovered the truth that's given *you* the luxury of looking *past your earthly self*, you ought to *always* be *ready* to surrender *it* when God wants a vessel to take someone *else* on a treasure hunt. And it's that constant *prayer* that makes your *flesh* ready – by keeping your *spirit* willing.

Because we stay *spiritually focused* by praying "*on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests*." Cuz *that's* what it *takes* to keep us from slipping *back* into spiritual sleep when our *flesh* fights to get us back on that path of *least* resistance. So, if you're serious about digging deeper to lighten the load of your earthly life, put this gold nugget *directly* into our chests right now:

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." – Galatians 5:13-14 NIV

Because if we can do *that*, everyone will get to undergo the life-changing *shake* of a truth that *unleashes* our spirit and *un-earths* our *own* true *identity*, true *love*, and true *purpose*.

Father God, thank You for loving me in spite of my sin; forgive me and cleanse me by the sacrifice of Your Son, my Savior; and free me and lead me by Your Spirit and Word, as I seek to trust and follow Jesus Christ, as the Lord of my life. Amen.