Is Something Missing?

From time to time most of you have sensed that something is missing. There is a gnawing in your heart that speaks to you. It tells you that your life was intended to be more—much more. Your heart is right. Your life was intended to be more than you could ever dream or imagine. God offers you the life you’ve always wanted—one that redeems emptiness and overflows with hope. He offers you both love and forgiveness.

In this booklet, you’re invited to take a look at God’s way—the way of His Son, Jesus Christ. He came to earth to offer us life the way it was meant to be. He came to invite us to take a journey with Him. He did not intend that we travel alone through life, so He provided us with a community of followers of Jesus Christ called the church. The church was meant to provide support and guidance as we learn to live for Jesus with all of our heart.

This booklet was provided to you by the church or individual below:
Ernest Hemingway, one of the great literary icons of the twentieth century, made this sad statement about himself: “I live in a vacuum that is as lonely as a radio tube when the batteries are dead and there is no current to plug into.”

Hemingway traveled the world as a big-game hunter, bullfighter, war correspondent, and ladies’ man. However, early on a Sunday morning in Idaho he grabbed his shotgun, pointed it at his head, and blew himself into eternity.

Al Kaline, one of the Detroit Tigers’ most famous outfielders and member of the Baseball Hall of Fame, was attending a dinner in his honor when he made this startling statement to over two thousand people: “There must be something more to life than this—chasing a lot of fly balls, getting a lot of base hits, making more money than you can spend.”

Both of these men had reached the heights of success, and yet their lives lacked meaning and purpose. Something was wrong in the deep recesses of their hearts. Something was missing.

From time to time most of you have sensed that something is missing. There is a gnawing in your heart that speaks to you. It tells you that your life was intended to be more—much more. Your heart is right. Your life was intended to be more than you could ever dream or imagine. Sometimes our soul loses its joy and passion for life. In the repetitious day-to-day activities of life, we are unable to find the child-like happiness we once experienced.

G. K. Chesterton, a prolific English writer and philosopher, penned these words: “Because children have abounding vitality, because they are in spirit fierce and free, therefore they want things repeated and unchanged. They always say, ‘Do it again’; and the grownup person does it again until he is nearly dead. For grown-up people are not strong enough to exult in monotony.

“But perhaps God is strong enough to exult in monotony. It is possible that God says every morning, ‘Do it again’ to the sun; and every evening, ‘Do it again’ to the moon. It may not be automatic necessity that makes all daisies alike; it may be that God makes every daisy separately, but has never got tired of making them. It may be that He has the eternal appetite of infancy; for we have sinned and grown old, and our Father is younger than we.”
YOU WERE GOD’S IDEA

Your life doesn’t have to be lacking or substandard. It can be dynamic and full of a passion for living. Every day holds the potential for greatness. In order for that to happen you have to be connected to the source of all life.

You were created with a unique purpose, in the image of God, to love, serve, and to be with your Creator. You were God’s idea—created by Him and for Him. The Bible tells us, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them” (Genesis 1:27). We were originally created morally perfect—without defect, perfect in every way. Life was thrilling every day, because it was intimately connected to God, who gave life to the human race. There was no hint of sin or corruption in the heart of humankind. We were created Godlike with no predisposition to do wrong. Everything about us was good—even God said so. Life was awesome!

We were also created with a God-given sense of eternity. The Bible says that God has also put eternity in the hearts of men (Ecclesiastes 3:11). All over the world, in every culture, men and women have a God-given intuition that they were meant to live forever and it haunts our souls. That’s why we keep searching for the truth about God and eternity.

For most of us, it’s an inborn quest that we try to suppress, but it continues to resurface in our hearts and minds. It’s also why we have the gnawing sense that something is missing and we can never quite find what it is.

The reason we feel this way is because we were created to be personally connected to our Creator. When we are not connected to God, we feel like Ernest Hemingway—there is a lonely vacuum in our hearts that we cannot fill. That emptiness we feel is a God-created, God-shaped vacuum that was intended to drive us to the only one who can fill the void—God.

THE DIVINE DISCONNECTION

The first two human beings, Adam and Eve, were intimately connected to God until sin entered their hearts. They instantly felt the divine disconnection that their sin had brought to their lives. They no longer were one with God; they had fallen from perfection and the fall was hard. Their formerly perfect natures were corrupted and they slowly began to die. They were now tainted souls and they knew it.

Instead of feeling lovingly connected to God, for the first time they were afraid of God. They felt the God-shaped vacuum that occurs in all of us when we experience the distance sin creates between a Holy God and sinful people. At that moment sin entered into the world and its debilitating effects have been passed on to every man and woman. No exceptions.

We are no different than Adam and Eve...we want to run and hide from God just like they did. Our sin has created a chasm between God and us—a chasm that is so wide and so deep we can do absolutely nothing to bridge the gap. We long to be restored to a right relationship with our Creator, but it is a human impossibility.
RECONNECTING WITH GOD

But there's good news—we can have a bond with God! Though it is humanly impossible to bridge the gap and restore our relationship with God, “with God nothing shall be impossible” (Luke 1:37). God made a way for us to be forgiven of our sin and fully restored to a loving relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus Christ. God made it possible for you to have the life you’ve always wanted.

Jesus Christ came to earth and took upon Himself the body of a man so that He could pay for your sin and mine through His death. He was crucified on a Roman cross because it was the only way for us to be reconnected with God. God says of His Son, “For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven” (Colossians 1:19-20). Our sin is an offense to God and all the good we could ever accomplish cannot wipe our sin slate clean. Only God can do that! The Bible says God “hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:13-14).

God offers you the life you’ve always wanted: one that redeems emptiness and overflows with hope. He offers you both love and forgiveness. The Bible says, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:16-18).

You can, by placing all your faith and trust in Jesus Christ, be forgiven and receive eternal life. You can find the life you’ve been looking for.

A COMMUNITY OF CHRIST FOLLOWERS

You were created to be part of God’s family—part of a worldwide community of people who follow Jesus Christ—called the church. The church is not a group of perfect people, but they are forgiven. All followers of Jesus Christ can have a life that moves way beyond ordinary…an uncommon life full of purpose…a life that is eternal. Jesus said, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). The life you’ve always wanted, the life you’ve needed, is waiting. It did not come cheaply. It cost God the life of His one and only Son.

Maybe you find yourself under a thin layer of happiness, only a circumstance away from that quietly dissatisfied life. You know there is more, but you are content to move ahead “as is.” Or maybe things have gone further than that. Maybe you’re ready to admit that you’ve tried it your way and it didn’t work. Maybe it’s time to try God’s way—the way of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Forgiveness is real and available to you—for every wrong you have ever committed, every action, thought, or word that has offended God. You can ask God to make your life new, to be forgiven and experience fullness of life. Why not pray right now? And discover the life you’ve been looking for—in Jesus Christ.

2 Ibid.