



FAITH IN THE FAIRWAY

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A list of Scripture versions quoted in this book is included at the back.

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Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:12,18 ESV

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? . . . To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him?

God is great, so we don't have to control everything ourselves. I'm a perfectionist. Golf is not the best game to play when plagued with this condition. In my first tournament last year, I wasn't hitting the ball the way I wanted to on Saturday. That afternoon, I walked off the course thinking my game probably wasn't going to be good enough to win. Typically, I would head to the range, but instead, I went and hit a few putts and decided to just let it go. Strangely, I rested and believed I didn't have to be perfect to win this tournament...and oddly enough, it was true! I won! I prepared well, but I couldn't completely control my game. I realized that complete control of a game with many variables is impossible.

Whatever I treasure the most will control my heart. Whatever controls my heart will control my behavior. May God be my treasure. He *is* big enough.

What things do you treasure most in your life? How might they be controlling you?

Do you need to loosen your grip on anything today?



God, help me treasure you today, and help me relax my white-knuckled grip on a few things that I can't control anyway.



Scripture Reading: John 4:13-14 ESV

Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I give him will never be thirsty again.

God is good, so we don't have to look elsewhere.

During the off-season I work hard, prepare well, and plan expectantly for a good upcoming season. Last year, my diligence paid off with my best year ever on the PGA Tour. After reflecting on the year, however, I still wasn't satisfied. Most often I left the course wishing I had played better and realizing I had lost numerous opportunities. My best golf year didn't fulfill me the way I thought it would. Why?

God has made each of us with a bigger thirst than anything the world can fill. He is the only one who can satisfy. Enjoy golf and work hard at it, but in the end, let it go! It's a wonderful game, but a horrible god. God is perfectly good!

What would a fulfilling life look like to you?

How can you find your fulfillment in God?



Heavenly Father, I'm thankful for the incredible life you've given me. Help me to never let the blessings in my life become distractions from what's most important.

—Jonathan Byrd

Scripture Reading: Psalm 103:8, 10, 14 ESV

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love... He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities... He knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

God is gracious, so we don't need to prove ourselves to him. I sat in the locker room on Wednesday at the first tournament of the season, the Hyundai Tournament of Champions. On each player's locker was a list of his tournament wins during the previous year, including some majors. I began to compare my record to the other players', and suddenly mine didn't seem to measure up. I wondered, "Am I as good as the other players in this tournament?" I began to fall into the trap of believing that I needed to prove myself. Prove that I deserved to be there, that my win wasn't just a fluke. Soon the joy I had felt leading up to this prestigious event faded, and I was left anxious and stressed.

I had embraced a lie! I don't need to prove myself. God loves me, and he saved me in the middle of my sin through his gracious work in Christ. Remembering this truth freed me up to compete well. I wasn't bound by any expectations any longer. With joy and freedom, I could enjoy my previous year's success and my Savior's love.

Are you trying to prove yourself today—to yourself, your family, your coworkers?

Do you tend to compare yourself to anyone? Who? What do you think God has to say about that?



Lord, I believe you love me, and that's enough for me. I don't have to prove my worth to anybody because you've demonstrated that I'm valuable to you.



Scripture Reading: Proverbs 3:6 NASB

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Acknowledging God is the best thing we can do for ourselves and for others.

Our sinful nature tends to desire things that will give us an immediate advantage or a quick rush. How about enjoying a few too many desserts after dinner or talking about people behind their backs? These indulgences can feel good at the moment, but they will come back to hurt us. To live by God's objectives, we should be living to give God glory and to honor and care for others. Showing humility, caring for others, practicing patience... these are ways we can acknowledge God.

Have you ever seen someone acknowledge God in an extremely classy or winsome way? How did that person do it?

What behaviors can you do today to acknowledge God?



Lord, thank you for inviting me to work for your kingdom today.

—Mark Wilson

Scripture Reading: Job 2:10

Job replied . . . “Shall we accept good from God and not trouble?”

We always have reasons to give thanks to God.

Job was one of the richest men in his time, but he was suddenly stripped of his material wealth, his children, and his health. Job's perspective is admirable—he chose to accept life's blessings as well as its struggles, its highs and its lows. Do you ever thank God for a tough day because you know it could be enlightening to you in the future? My guess is that many of us thank God later on, when we have the whole story, but seldom do we thank him while the trouble is happening.

We can pray to him about areas in our lives that we consider tough right now—our careers, our relationships with our family, or whatever—and genuinely thank him for the opportunity to grow. That sounds hard to do, but as we cooperate with him, he will give us strength to give thanks in all circumstances.

Consider memorizing 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Develop an attitude of gratitude for your life story.



God, help me to look to you in every circumstance in my life, and empower me to always give you thanks.

—Mark Wilson