

Life:

God is the Creator of all life and as the originator of all things had a purpose for each and everything He made as well as uniquely designing them. Because He is God, He has an infinite, limitless imagination and breaks the mold after each creation ensuring no two things are the same (even identical twins have differences though they may not be easily discernible).

He said everything He created was good and for those who choose to see things thru His eyes, everything is beautiful in its own special way. He is a God of variety, shape and size which we can see if we take the time to truly look at all His creation. There are Giant Sequoias versus Aspens that bend in the wind, Sardines versus Blue Whales, Mercury as opposed to Jupiter and the list could go on for pages.

Why then is it that we are tricked into believing we should all fit into a 'perfect' (36 by 24 by 36 measurements) size/look for example. That all you have to do is 'eat less and exercise more' if your weight or measurement stretches beyond that mold/look it only takes self-control or so we are told. Then there are those who are the opposite and struggle to be able to gain weight being at the opposite end of the scale but still unfortunately taught that they need to change because they don't fit what has been determined is 'healthy or beautiful. So we spend our lives trying to change what God made into the imagine man has decided is better. It is sad but weight is only one small area where we find this to be true because it touches all aspects of our unique creation, a 'normal' mental curve (IQ) and if you don't fall in that range you at best are considered 'challenged' or worse 'stupid' and people talk down to you or if you excel beyond the 'normal' range you are considered 'gifted' but you are given 'extra' school work to keep you busy so you don't become a distraction to others. Or if you are outside the normal 'height' range you are either a 'dwarf/little' person or a 'giant') equally challenging positions. So we grow up being compared to

and comparing ourselves to others physically but also in every aspect of our lives (who is most popular, has the best parents, is the richest, most athletic, smartest, etc.) and wishing we were them often times.

I think it must break the Father's (God's) heart that we are not satisfied or happy with the beautiful unique creation He made us. One of the things God says is that we are not in a position to judge because we only see and understand with a finite mind where God sees everything yet we put ourselves into His shoes time and again determining what is 'good' and what is not. Then we surround ourselves with what we like and have deemed good/beautiful. From the trees, flowers and plants we choose to populate our house or property to the type of friends and people we are willing to have as friends and hang out with. We try to do it with our jobs (when we can) in selecting things we like to do or are interested in as opposed to taking on something we don't like or would be hard for us (that we might fail at) a struggle. We seem to want things that are fast and easy to attain or be successfully at because we are pummeled with the understanding the more you have the better life is (get quick schemes, etc.) and that success is based on your income bracket. For some it is based on being able to have the 'normal' family (a boy and girl maybe dog and cat).

But the truth is that 'things' can't make you truly happy. The perfect body, family, income, friends, intelligence, job, spouse, etc. will never fill our lives and satisfy our desires because there is someone or something out there that is different or better than what we have or can get which leaves us discontent. The only true 'happiness' comes from acceptance with who and what we are and being content with the wonderful gifts God has given us. To stop getting swept up in the lies of Satan and the world to compare and be compared and use this as a measuring rod. Satan likes to do this because he was angry/jealous when God created us and placed us higher than the angels. He is set on robbing every good thing God wants us to walk in 'peace', 'love', 'joy', etc. His design is to get us to waste all of our time on things that have no meaning and eventually pass away (fleeting) as opposed to the things that are eternal and last forever.

So we make a choice of where we are going to live: in the freedom of knowing we are wonderfully created and made, woven together by God's own hand and accept that only He knew what was good and made us uniquely different by design, or we can spend our lives striving to be something of our own design because we think we or others know best. One is a path of peace and quiet confidence in who we are (children of our Creator) loved beyond measure and accepted for who we are not what we need to become, the other is a road of constant confusion as we try to discover who we think we are or should be but never quite attain no matter how many diets we go on or plastic surgeries we have or how many accomplishments we check off our bucket list.

When God created man and woman and placed us in the Garden of Eden we were a completed work made to walk with God in the cool of the evening and enjoy the beauty and peace. 'He will keep in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee.' This life, no matter which choice we make in how we live is challenging because sin has tainted everything however it is easier to keep our eyes on God and seeing thru His perspective allows us to remain at peace instead of having our focus on ourselves and those around us where the futility of our own control becomes depressing as we realize how little we can do against the trials of life (murders, tragic accidents, disease, progression of age, crime, loss of jobs, betrayals of people, natural disasters, death, etc.).

I choose the quiet calm in knowing that we are not in control but our loving Heavenly Father is and we can trust Him to take care of everything and everyone and while we are not exempt from the taint of sins effects we have the privilege of relying on our Savior who overcame sin and death and provides the way for us to also. That we will have to say goodbye to friends and loved ones in this world until our dear Lord's return some day but it isn't the goodbye of those who have no hope but more a farewell until we see each other again in our Father's kingdom where there will be no more tears or sadness or farewells again. Beyond the curse and pain of

sin and death, time and the limits of our physical bodies. Where we will know true love, peace, joy and happiness forever.

Final Thought: Trying to live up to the expectations of others is exhausting because while they are often full of suggestions and ideas on how you can accomplish this, they cannot give you the 'ability' to become what they are asking you to be; whereas God created us exactly how He intended us to be and empowers us with all we need to accomplish His plans for our lives and while walking that path before us all He asks is for us to follow Him.

My Prayer: Father help us to see ourselves and others the way You see us. Help us to always find encouraging words of life and hope to all those You bring into our lives and to focus on what is 'good' in Your sight. Give us the courage and strength to stand for Your truth and fulfill Your perfect will. Help us walk in peace all the days of our lives and for the joy set before us endure whatever trials may come our way such that we bring You glory and honor. And give us the longing for Your return so that it is an unquenchable burning in our hearts and mind till we hear Your trumpet sound or You call us Home.

Amen