

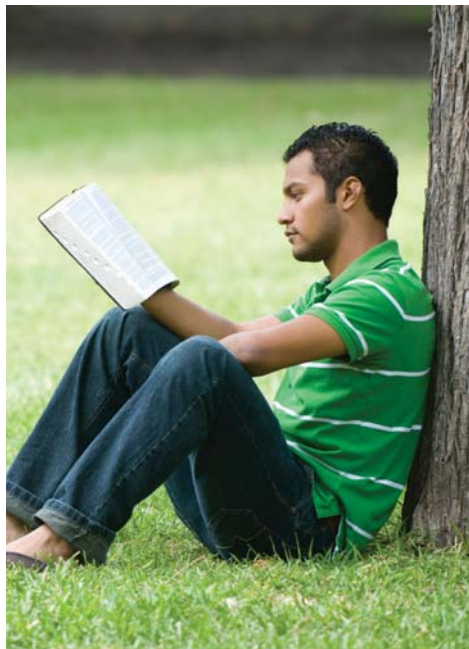
“ O Lord, you awaken us to delight in your praise,
for you made us for yourself,
and our heart is restless,
until it rests in you. ”

That's a quote from Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (A. D. 401) in his book, *Confessions*. He hits on something basic to being a human being. It involves a relationship with God and a restlessness without him.

That relationship is what the Bible talks about. It's a subject that reaches to the very core of life.

This little booklet traces the broad strokes of the Bible's message. It addresses the issue of the restlessness, discontentment, loneliness, out-of-whackness, ill-at-easeness, wondering-what-it's-all-aboutness we all face in life.

Please find a quiet spot and spend some time reading what follows. You might even offer a prayer, asking God to help you think through these things. The Bible passages from which these thoughts are drawn are listed toward the end of the booklet.





CREATION

(krē-āt, to bring into being from nothing; to cause to exist)

God created us for a relationship with himself

The opening chapters of the Bible make one thing abundantly clear: life has everything to do with God. We were created by the eternal God to know and enjoy him. The book of Genesis tells us God made us *in his image*.

“God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”¹

Being made in the image of God has to do with relationship with God and our very existence in this world. As image bearers of God:

- Of all living creatures, we alone have the **ability** for spiritual relationship with God. God has endowed us with a rational intellect and a spiritual capacity to know and relate to him as God. Animals don't pray. We can and do.² Prayer reminds us of this ability for relationship.
- Like a reflection in a mirror, an image finds its true **identity** in the one whose image is reflected.³ As ones created in God's image, we can answer the question, “Who am I?” only in relationship to God.⁴
- **Meaning** in life for us is found in respect to God. He gives direction and purpose in life.⁵ The image of God gives us understanding of why we are here and what life is all about.



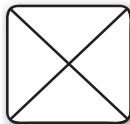
The image of God we bear says that we belong to God and that our lives are understood and lived in reference to him⁶. The psalmist declares:

*Know that the LORD, he is God. It is he who made us and we are his.*⁷

God's design in creation paints a picture of fullness and delight⁸ in knowing, loving and serving our Creator.

But something happened...





ALIENATION

(ā'-lē-ə-nāt, to estrange;
to make unfriendly
or hostile where a
relationship formerly existed)

The relationship with
God was broken by
sinful rebellion

The same opening chapters of the Bible that describe personal and intimate relationship of people with their Creator also tell of the *tragedy* of that relationship being broken by sin.⁹ This account is not only an event of history, but is the

story of every ordinary human being since.¹⁰ Because of those events, every one of us is a sinner, in rebellion against God, in violation of his moral law, in danger of eternal punishment, in desperate need of salvation, and deprived of true life. The Bible declares in sweeping terms:

*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*¹¹

*Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God; your sins have hidden his face from you.*¹²

This broken relationship with God has left all of us lacking and looking—lacking in the joy and meaning of lives lived with God, and looking for some way to fill that void. The image of God in us is now deformed and defaced.

- Now our lives are characterized by **hollowness**. We have lost that meaning, purpose, and identity that were part of God's design in

