

Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”
Isaiah 40:31*



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What Am I Worth?

How we relate to the world around us is largely determined by how we view ourselves. That self-image is determined by our relationship with God.

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).

What am I worth? Based on the value of the base elements that comprise the human body, I’m worth about \$4.50. If you consider the market for live organs and other body parts, the value jumps to \$45 million.

Of course, other than a few models and star athletes, nobody gives a second thought to the monetary value of their bodies. For most people, the concept of self-worth is entirely a psychological measure, not physical. And for many people, that value is quite low.

Self-worth is the currency with which we trade with the rest of the world. If we see ourselves as insignificant and worthless, we will sell our lives cheaply. We will fritter away our time and talents on meaningless pursuits, and settle for small achievements, when we are capable of so much more. We will expect little from our relationships with

others, and get it. Ironically, a low self-image can even hamstring individuals who are blessed with the most remarkable talents. Their low opinion of themselves overpowers their natural gifts, and their great potential is wasted.

Where does our sense of self-worth come from? Certainly our upbringing in childhood shapes our opinion of ourselves. But we can’t keep on blaming our parents for issues that sit squarely in our laps today. At some point in early adulthood, we settle on a view of ourselves that frames most of the decisions we make for the rest of our lives. From that point forward, we own it. And the world around us seems geared to reinforcing that negative perception. Satan (“the accuser”) will make sure we are confronted again and again with the message that we are dumb, incompetent, worthless, etc. And as we carry that baggage forward into old age, it becomes harder to change that inner perspective.

But it *can* be changed—in some cases, dramatically so. The key to this transformation is to repair our relationship with God.

Paul’s description of his new life in Christ illustrates this changed relationship. It was no longer “Paul” who lived — the zealot trying desperately to prove his superiority — but “Christ lives in me”; that is, a heart wholly surrendered to the unselfish spirit of Jesus. But notice what motivated this changed life: “the Son of God . . . loved *me* and gave Himself for *me*.” The wording here is crucial. It was not merely that Christ died for humanity, but that *He died for Paul*. In other words, whatever his imperfections, Paul was worth the sacrifice of the very best God had to offer. That new awareness turned a bitter, angry young man into a powerful instrument of God’s grace. Paul discovered what he was really worth, and it unleashed his potential.

We, too, can find our own purpose in life, once we realize the infinite value we possess in the sight of God. That knowledge will not make us perfect — there will always be room to grow — but it will arm us with the strength to do our best, confident that God believes in us and will reward us in the end.

– David King