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SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

Opening Questions:

- What is the best worldview, or stated another way, what worldview best takes into account the reality we experience each day?
- Does to be a loving person mean not speaking truth that will offend some people?
- Doesn't "unloving" mean to refuse to try and love people?
- Doesn't each person have real needs and shouldn't pursuing the resolution to those needs be an essential motivation in our lives?
- Isn't it correct that self-pride and fear and selfishness guide most people?
- If the solution identified in this book is good and right, should he not be embraced and understanding him diligently pursued?

So, did we answer the questions posed at the beginning of the book?

Let's take a look.

- Is it reasonable to believe I evolved from hydrogen gas?
- Can mere physical chemicals reasonably account for my ability to know right from wrong, or to know and experience forgiveness?
- Is love merely an emotion?
- What is the purpose of human life?
- What is the purpose of my life?
- What is truly important in life?
- What am I as a human being?
- How do I value things and why?
- What am I truly living for and is it actually valuable?
- If there is a higher form of love and can I experience a life where I give and receive that love with others on a daily basis?
- Does Christianity genuinely represent God well?
- If Christianity is wrong, what do I do about my guilt?

Is it reasonable to believe I evolved from hydrogen gas?

No, of course not.

Can mere physical chemicals reasonably account for my ability to know right from wrong, or to know and experience forgiveness?

No, of course not.

Is love merely an emotion?

As we have seen, no, it is much more.

What is the purpose of human life?

The purpose of human life is to learn to love the One who gave us Life and to help other people find this Father who loves us and doesn't want us to destroy ourselves or others. Once we find Him and have taken care of all our primary and real needs through loving one another, we pursue the purpose of creating useful and helpful and beautiful things.

What is the purpose of my life?

It is the same general purpose of any person's life as stated previously, but you get to choose all the details! The purpose of any disciple's life is to bring the Truth that matters to others; to care about what is true and right according to The Light and "fight" for it in this life, and to serve the One we love by loving and thus serving others.

What is truly important in life?

People. Not money, but people. Not things, but people. Not "careers" but people. Not people's kingdoms, but people. Not education, but people. Not _____, but people. Not self, but others.

What am I as a human being?

We are beings with a metaphysical or spiritual component(s) (soul, mind, spirit) as well as a physical component (body) and we are beings created to love, to seek what is true, to do what is right and to create beautiful, good and helpful things.

How do I value things and why?

Well, that depends upon what Standard you use to make such judgments. Whatever you do, be honest with yourself!

What am I truly living for and is it valuable?

That, dear reader, only you can answer, but the chances are incredibly high that:

- You do not love your Father back;
- You are not listening to the One who wants to be your Master;
- You do not love other people except those from whom you get something back;

Instead, you are living a life bound in self-pride and fear and selfishness, and you are only willing to be civil and kind to those from whom you get what you want.

Is there is a higher form of love and can I experience a life where I give and receive that love with others on a daily basis?

Yes, there is, as we have seen. The only thing keeping you from experiencing that higher form of love with others on a daily basis is you and others.

Does Christianity genuinely represent God well?

No. The successful failure has been laid out before you. What are you going to do with the knowledge or understanding that you might have gained?

If Christianity is wrong, what do I do about my guilt?

The question is answered. Instead of asking for forgiveness from the love-wrath god or one of the many “christs” or “jesus” of Christianity, turn in genuine faith to your Father whom the Son reveals and sincerely ask for forgiveness.

This book is attempting to bring a sea change in many people's thinking. It is trying to make a paradigm shift away from people believing and practicing religion – or those who reject God's existence based on the Hasty Generalization fallacy applied to Christianity - *to people having faith in the historical person of Joshua of Nazareth and thus starting to live by love for truth and rightness.*

Many who read this book will claim that I the author am not acting in love by writing this book. Others will say the book is downright “hateful.” Some will say this because their worldview is relativism and specifically they don't believe any truth can be known about God-things and thus “no one has a right” to make “negative” god statements or correct theological contradictions. Others will say this because I rebuke their cherished religious beliefs and practices. (Of course it is not me ultimately, but the One from whom I have learned.) Still, others will be deeply offended at some of the truths contained in this book due to personal conviction over wrongs committed or erroneous views held. I hope that some will accede to the realities in this book and start the new Life.

For most, they don't care about what is true—they have willingly or unknowingly committed to trying to live or understand life primarily through their emotions. Many labor under the belief that no creator exists to inform us about our existence. Still others are deceived in thinking their religion, and its doctrine represents the Creator.

Their reasoning (ironic that they use reason, but only when it serves to validate their emotional or arbitrary views) continues that since no truth exists about God stuff, a person who makes negative or corrective statements about God stuff is hateful. Of course, a slight mix of positive thinking philosophy to their relativism might contribute to that judgment as well.

Those who believe that are wrong.

I know that because "the Truth" tells me so, as does reason, logic, and observation. The religious folks might have bits and pieces of truth as part of their worldview, but it ultimately fails and leads them to darkness and self-

condemnation and destruction since they reject the Life or insist on holding onto a “christ” of their own making, which “christ” does not bring Life, love or change. That is the clever sleight of hand the Christians use to make the successful failure.

We have looked at relativism in a previous section so we will not rehash it here. Suffice it to say that expressing different views on existential, spiritual, origin or other such beliefs is not “unloving.” To be clear, *to be “unloving” means I refuse to love other people*—I refuse to value others and to act selflessly based on compassion towards other people.

To claim the book or author is “unloving” is irrational and redefining love to something it is not, as we have seen. Correcting what one believes is an erroneous view or belief is also not unloving as we saw in the tolerance chapter. To believe that correcting what one considers error is an “unloving act” is an erroneous belief. Profoundly deluded, dark and truth-less people are taking it even farther and saying, “If you disagree with me and my views, then you are a racist or a bigot or an evil person.” Sadly, many U.S. citizens at this point – of course including those who take some Christian label – abide in these false beliefs.

Thus, they are lost and in darkness.

The Big Picture: Needs and Change

Ultimately, this book is about changing people’s lives. Taking on religion is not an easy task – I don’t get a lot of “atta boy’s”! As I have said several times in this book, there are many well-intentioned and relatively kind Christians. As I have also said, there are also well-intentioned and kind Muslims and Jews and Buddhists and Agnostics and Atheists, etc. But as we have seen, being a relatively kind and well-intentioned person is not what is involved in changing peoples’ lives—not my life, not your life, not our neighbor’s life, etc.

What changes people’s lives is when an individual sees a need that penetrates into the fear, self-pride, selfish cage and has the power to make us want to get out. In other words, our correctly understanding reality and our needs has the potential to change our lives.

Whether we see how we are negatively impacting our children with certain behavior; or whether we lose someone we love; or whether we see something that is wrong due to it adversely affecting us or someone we care about; or whether we get a report from a physician saying we have cancer. Those are the types of things that generally have the potential to cause transformation in someone’s life. We go with truth, and we see a need and start on the road to find the way out or to find the solution.

This book has revealed several vital needs, but it is up to the reader to choose to do something about them.

- A need revealed is the need to reject that which is false and commit to understanding reality through reason and logic and observation instead

of emotions, or erroneous religious or scientific dogma, e.g., naturalistic evolution is true.

- Another need revealed is the need to overcome fear and self-pride and selfishness – to escape the cage - and thus truly love and help others.
- Another need revealed is the need to have the courage to leave self-serving groups of people (e.g. “the church”) and instead start to make real changes in our lives and the lives of others and live a unified, collective life.
- Another need has been revealed to live differently than the masses – to practice love and thus live together as harmonious groups/communities of people, unified in their faith in Joshua of Nazareth.

The Need revealed in this book is to, by faith, love our Father back and get to honestly know Him through the real, historical Messenger He sent!

Do *you*, dear reader, see any of these needs in *you* or *your* life?

Joshua said it this way to the people of his day, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand." The concept of "repentance" has been pretty much hopelessly associated with wrong religion, but it is a useful and necessary concept. Here is what is required to repent:

- I see myself for what I am – a human being listening to the darkness that is in me much of the time, as well as the darkness of others;
- I see that I am in the cage of self-pride and fear and selfishness and how I have hurt, neglected, dishonored, used, abused and ignored people due to my self-made cage—how I have not even come close to living by love;
- I understand that I deserve consequences - condemnation and punishment (justice) - for all my wrongdoings and bad attitudes.

If I can come to that state of heart – knowing the above points to be true of myself – then I am in a position to repent. To repent means to feel genuine remorse as a result of seeing the things above, and to want to change as a result.

Repentance is the best time to transfer one’s faith out of ourselves or false religious constructs (for example the many “christs” of Christian religion) or out of money or material security, and into Joshua of Nazareth and the Father HE reveals in order to accomplish the fruit of repentance. What is the fruit of repentance? It is a changed life—a truly changed life, not the religious version of giving up some “sin,” only to remain in my cage of fear, self-pride, and selfishness and thus living no differently than people who don't know The Light.

The solution to the problems identified in this book is, like most things valuable, simple to understand IF you are looking to the right person to understand things and you really, genuinely want to know.

The solution is straightforward—choose the best leader for your life! And yes, "life" is higher and greater than "career", "job", "work", "religion",

"church", etc. And no, you cannot remain part of this world – meaning you cannot remain in your cage of fear, self-pride, and selfishness and thus refuse to live by love and stay silent at all the wrong and ignore it – and at the same time follow The Light.

Joshua defines a successful follower of his as a person who listens' well to him and thus does what he teaches. Simple to understand, right? Remember the title of this book? Do you have more understanding now about the two standards to define and understand the terms “successful” and “failure”?

You can break that large success into different areas or domains that he covers in his teachings. Joshua has given his instructions priority through their repetitiveness and their emphasis in his recorded sayings. I propose only a few main areas of focus for success or failure.

First is how we do as human beings caring about what is true. After all, if we are following the One who said, "I am the truth," then surely we care about what is true! Truth would have to do primarily with beliefs and determining correct versus false beliefs and concepts. Caring about what is true is not restricted to the existential, ethical, metaphysical or spiritual realms, but to all areas or domains in life like politics or science or the lesser work we do. How well are we doing using observation, reason, and logic consistently and fearlessly to find truth? Once we see reality and we determine it will cost us something to proclaim it or reveal it or live by it, what do we do? Are we part of the multitudes of cowards unwilling to go where the truth leads them, or are we willing to become one of the few courageous change agents this world desperately needs?

Second, how we do as human beings living out the concept he taught and clarified called "love." That is to say, how well are we doing loving other people as Joshua defines love? If we are actually followers of the Light of the world, then we will love everyone, *and* we will be loved back by other true disciples. This sharing of true love will manifest itself in a collective-together Life – Families of his followers living together in peace and harmony - thus displaying the city on the hill and the little flocks of which he speaks.

Third, how we do as human beings caring about what is right. I am using “right” as primarily ethical and thus having to do with behavior—are we concerned with good versus bad behavior; are we personally trying to live rightly, and are we trying to help other’s live rightly. Are we hungering and thirsting for that which is right? Or are we comfortable in our selfish cage? By the way, hungering and thirsting for what is right will *not* include violence as a means to achieve what is right.

Last is our eternal destiny—where do we send ourselves when our bodies die and do we get to retain the love we developed and experienced with others over this lifetime? Did we enter into what Joshua identified as Eternal Life and did we remain in that Life while we lived our lives in this world? Did we respond to our Creator/Father and His love for us? Did his love transform us and motivate us to love Him back and to love others? Did our faith and love bring us out of our cage so that we could work to change the wrong we experience along the Way? Simply put,

did our faith enable us to improve and become better human beings and thus become change agents in this dark world?

One More Look: The Problem and the Solution...Family

Let us briefly paint the picture of the Solution one more time.

There is a Kingdom with a King, and that King wants his subjects to love one another. He said it this way:

A new command I give to you, that you *love one another as I have loved you*, for this is how the people of the earth will know that you are my followers, but only IF you love one another. (John 13:34-35)

Our Creator made us human beings as social beings, which is to say we like being around other people with whom we share views and interests. This social desire is right and natural, but for the followers of the Light, it is essential. Not by force or legal compulsion or guilt or wrongly motivated obedience, but by love.

The author of one of the gospels, Luke, recorded what he saw as the first disciples decided to do what Joshua said and love one another:

And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. (Acts 2:44-45)

The behavior of those first disciples recorded in Acts 2:44-45 was merely a response to the King's new command to love one another. Due to faith and love, it was a fulfillment of this teaching of his:

Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and the gospel's sake, but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. (Mark 10)

Those described came into faith in The Light; they understood love in a way they never had before. They saw how empty and foolish it was to be selfish with material things; how empty it was to allow fear to destroy attempts to love others; and they responded accordingly. They chose to actually love one another thus it was in a “rubber-meets-the-road” fashion.

The same needs to happen today, as it has needed to happen in every generation in every culture on this earth since The Light went back Home.

Why isn't it?

This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. (John 3)

Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. (Matt. 24:12)

What Joshua mean's by "lawlessness" is simply another name for truth or ethical relativism or people having no standards of right or wrong, good or bad, true or false. As we have seen, this "lawlessness" is what is happening in the U.S., and around the world for that matter.

When human beings turn away from the Creator of their operating system (which operating system includes their mind and conscience), the primary effect is *fear*. Just like when a young child is lost, they experience fear—their parents provide them with security, and they get disconnected from their parents and don't know how to get back to them.

The same is true of adults; it is just that self-pride gets in the way of admitting one is lost and the fear associated with that lost-ness. The general flow of things is as follows:

1. People are getting more and more *disconnected from even their Father's ethical desires*;
2. This disconnection causes them *not to know what is right or wrong, good or bad, true or false*;
3. This causes them *not to know how to live life* – what is valuable, what decisions to make, how to view various things, how to behave, how to properly treat and relate to other people - and thus they sense (if they have not destroyed their conscience) they are getting *more and more lost*;
4. This understanding at some level that *they are getting lost causes fear to increase*;
5. *Fear causes love to decrease, diminish or stop – to "grow cold."*

This lost-ness and growing cold are what is happening and where the U.S. culture is at this time.

If those who claim to follow the One who defeated death to prove who he was do not live out the new command – if we refuse to love one another truly - then there is no hope left for people without faith. Without manifestations of the city on a hill and the little flock, there is *no true witness* to the reality of The Light and our Father.

Disciples of The Light *must* come together and **be** the Family that the world needs to see. If we call ourselves some follower of his, and yet we refuse to leave the things the world says are necessary or valuable and thus ignore the One who informs us clearly about what is important and valuable, then we have no reasonable basis to believe that we are actually his followers.

Families must start coming together, just as described in Acts 2 above, and just as it has happened through history. Here again are the fundamental dynamics of how it should be happening.

- Someone repents and places their faith in Joshua;

- That person starts to look for other disciples to join with and share his Life with;
- Disciples who connect agree to what the best situation will be regarding who leaves what and goes where concerning living with or in direct proximity to each other;
- Disciples use the resources they have to support one another and work together in all things;
- One disciple grows to two, then to three, etc. until Families are manifest;
- These groups of disciples live together daily as Family and support one another and care for one another as they do both the Greater work (bringing people to our Father and speaking the truth to all we encounter) and the Lesser work (supporting our physical needs in this world);
- The love that we have for one another will be our witness to this dark and dying world. People should look at us and say, “wow, as much as I disagree with their God beliefs, I cannot deny that they really and actually care for one another—they do exemplify how human beings ought to live.”

It is that simple. Please note, I did not say “easy,” but simple.

As I have been saying throughout this book, we are either part of the problem or part of the solution. We are either primarily givers or primarily takers. We either have the correct Leader, or we do not. We are either living by true love or merely expressing a lesser type of love occasionally when we “feel like it” or we get something or someone from it.

The fact is that Christians seek to get things from God. They want “blessings” from God, and they usually mean material things. They ask God for this and for that, never thinking about the fact that they ought to be seeking to give to God. Not material things, for He does not need that, but instead, our lives and our love-motivated service and devotion.

As we have seen, the successful failure has its leaders, and they tell the people, “we will do God's work for you, and all you need to do is support us (give us money and material things) to comply with what God wants of you.” This “we follow God for you” view is both false as well as a critical part of the successful failure. The simple truth is that if a person love's God, they will be compelled by that love to serve God the way that Joshua teaches God's wants. And how does God want to be served? By first loving each other and being His called out people living for Him and not for the things the world considers valuable – to be part of a Joshua Family. Every person is an integral part of a Family of disciples of Joshua, and we each have our roles, talents, and responsibilities in making that expression of the Kingdom of God work.

So, why do Christians have so many things wrong about the One they proclaim as their God? It would be one thing to have a few relatively minor false understandings about Joshua of Nazareth, but this book documents that

Christians have most of his most essential concepts wrong or they are not willing to do what he says. Oh, they are eager to sing about it and talk about it, but they are not willing to **do** it.

Joshua's life, words, and deeds are readily available in the four small books named after the assumed authors of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. His teachings in those small four books are much easier to understand than almost any of the Bible authors and the other sixty-two books in the protestant Bible. There can be only one reasonable answer as to why Christians get so much wrong about his Person and teachings, and that reason is that *they do not want to get to know him - they would much rather "do religion" in his name. Why?*

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. (Luke 9:24)

Here is the answer again:

1. The real, historical Joshua of Nazareth says that "people love the darkness rather than the light," and "narrow and difficult is the way," so few see their need to begin with. Instead, most are happy and comfortable in their cage of fear, self-pride, and selfishness. Most are content with their lives in this world, and their religion is merely a shallow social function or a form of spiritual life insurance - this describes the vast majority of Christians and Biblians.
2. Those who do make some sincere effort to get to know the real, historical Joshua of Nazareth will come to a point where they will sense, at some level, the truth of this saying/truth: "Those who want to keep their life will lose it, while those who seek to lose their life for my sake, shall find Life". The vast majority say "no, I am not going to go to that "extreme" to follow that Jesus'. So, they turn away from him and settle into a form of the successful failure and make up a "christ" or "jesus" to serve them. They join the others who never fully committed themselves to the real, historical Joshua of Nazareth and his teachings, and together, they make up Christian religion in his name.

That religion is the successful failure that now operates in some form in most of the earth.

Please recall the beginning of this book when I talked about houses with different lights. Here is that content again:

The purpose of my previous book was to take the lamp out of the closet and put the lamp on the table in the room so people could see by it. However, people are not making it into the room to see the lamp and the things in the room, but instead, are being kept in or led into the house next door because this house has a really cool light that is very attractive. The lamp in the first house – the life-giving one that can help people see clearly – is a pure, bright, clear, warm light. Also, the first house has many mirrors in it, and the bright, clear light helps people see what is in the mirrors. It can be a bit disconcerting

since it shows things in the room – including the people - as we are. People who stay in this house grow and blossom just like plants and flowers exposed to the sun.

The light in the house next door, however, is made of many colors and flashes and pulses...a lot like the lights in Las Vegas! The house was built on purpose right next to the house with the bright, clear light.

Next to both houses is a lot of darkness...a cold, chilling darkness. Many are standing in that dark, cold lot because they went into the house with multi-colored lights and experienced the hypocrisy and lovelessness of those who dwell there rightfully ran out. Now they are justly frightened of houses with lights and so they are not willing to go into the house with the pure, bright, clear, warm light. So, they stay in the dark, cold lot which causes their spirits and hearts to get cold as well.

The purpose of the house with the many colored lights is to draw people away from the house with the bright clear, warm light. The lights in the Las Vegas house distorts things and makes things in the room somewhat difficult to see – fuzzy and unclear. There are very few mirrors in this house, and the ones there distort favorably the image of the people looking into it. This is very attractive to people, so as they journey towards the house with the bright, clear light – which light can help them, but which light shows them things they don't or may not want to see – they are easily distracted and drawn by the cool, multi-colored alternative. The vast majority end up on the house with the flashy light and stay there. Unfortunately, one of the effects of staying in this house is that people's spirits wither and die there.

This book is about the house with the flashy, cold lights and how it is different than the house with the bright, clear, warm Light. Thus, the purpose of the book is to describe the flashy-lighted house and to expose its true nature, and by revealing its nature and purpose, to encourage people to go over to the house with the bright clear, warm light.

For those with ears to hear and eyes to see, let them hear and see!

Chapter Summary:

- The opening questions in the preface of this book were satisfactorily answered;
- The real, historical person of Joshua of Nazareth offended people with the truths that he spoke. We who follow him will also offend people with the facts that we speak;
- It is not un-loving to speak what is true if it is done to sincerely enlighten or help people and not to humiliate or degrade them;
- We all have several essential needs that we should try, with all our heart, to find answers to and to change first ourselves;
- People are turning away from even ethical systems derived from - or contained in - religious beliefs. This turning away is and will continue to be very destructive;

- Families of the followers of Joshua of Nazareth are the most critical outward part of the solution – "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" - and must be engaged in to help other people avoid destroying themselves;
- The house with the flashy, cold lights and the cold dark lot must be forsaken/left/abandoned for the house with the bright, clear, warm Light.