

MOVING UP HIGHER

with *Joyce Meyer*



Every person on earth needs to know they matter—they need to know they're valuable and they mean something to someone. The problem is when people don't get a good start in life, they often waste their lives searching for self-worth in all the wrong places.

In the world today, people so often base their value and importance on what they do, how much education they have, who they know, what kind of clothes they wear, how they look, their job title, and the list goes on.

But when worldly standards determine your sense of self-worth, you'll always be striving to please people...and it will derail you from your God-given destiny. The only way to find true security and have a healthy self-esteem is by knowing and experiencing the love of God.

The apostle Paul talks about this in Galatians 1:10. He says: "Am I now trying to win the favor and approval of men, or of God? Or am I seeking to please someone? If I were still trying to be popular with men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ" (AMP).

He's basically saying, "If I were trying to be popular with people, I wouldn't be serving God and know that He loves me."

I can say with certainty that if I was trying to be popular with people, I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing today. When God spoke to my heart about His call on my life to teach the Word, I didn't receive much support from those around me.

As I began to step out and do what God placed in my heart, some of my friends and family told me I shouldn't be doing it. I was even asked to leave the church I was attending at the time, and I ended up losing friendships that I thought were important to me.

It was a very difficult season, but I discovered that while it's not always easy to do what God calls us to do, obedience to Him is

always worth it in the end. Doing things God's way is the only thing that works in the long run. There are people in your life—I'm talking about people other than your spouse and children—who may come and go over time, but God will always be with you because He loves you and He promises to never leave you nor forsake you (see Hebrews 13:5).

The bottom line is you are valuable because God loves you and He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die for you. Your worth is not based on how you look, who you know, your title at work or any of the other superficial things the world considers impressive.

After Paul met Christ and became a born-again believer, he came to realize that everything else was meaningless compared to the priceless privilege of knowing God. I absolutely love what he says in Philippians 3:8:

"I count everything as loss compared to the priceless privilege and supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord [and of growing more deeply and thoroughly acquainted with Him—a joy unequalled]. For His sake I have lost everything, and I consider it all garbage, so that I may gain Christ."

The truth that God loves you is what makes you valuable. He created you because He loves you and wants to have a personal relationship with you. He has wonderful plans and purposes for your life, and His love for you is unconditional—He loves you just as much on your worst day as He does on your best day!

No matter what your past is like, where you're from, what you've done, or where you are today, God is there for you and He loves you! He loves us all the same, and He wants to meet us right where we are to heal our wounded souls and bring us out of the messes we're in—whether it's a mess we've created or the result of what other people have done to us.

After the years of being abused by my dad and abandoned by my mother (who knew what he was doing but didn't have the courage to stand up to him), I was so messed up! I felt worthless, guilty, damaged, used, condemned and terribly insecure. I tried to find my worth and value in many things, especially in work. And living this way just made me more miserable, angry and messed up.

It was so wonderful to discover that God loves me and to find the healing and restoration I desperately needed through my relation-

ship with Him. The truth is God is so much more important to us than any person in the world could ever be!

I want to encourage you to spend time seeking God in prayer, studying what the Bible says about who He is and how He loves you. Meditate on scriptures like Ephesians 1:4-5, Romans 8, Psalm 27:10 and Isaiah 38:17. Ask God to help you learn to receive His love and find your true worth in Him. He chose you on purpose... He wants you and He loves you...and there's nothing more valuable than that.

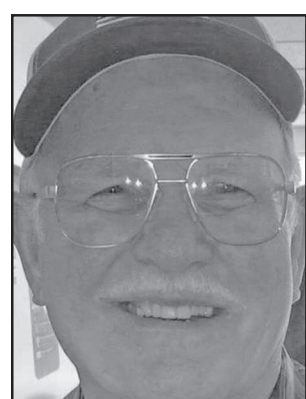
For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-CD series Moving Forward. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting www.joycemeyer.org.

Arnold (Spotted Bear) Queener 1945-2018

Arnold (Spotted Bear) Queener, 72 of Cottage Grove, Oregon passed away January 7, 2018. He was born January 15, 1945, in Cottage Grove, OR to Thomas and Grace (Plueard) Queener. Arnold graduated from Cottage Grove High School and Lane Community College. He served in the U.S. Army as a Staff Sergeant doing two tours in Vietnam and received 3 Purple Hearts. Arnold worked for Weyerhaeuser and Seneca saw mills. Arnold enjoyed hunting, fishing, making Native American crafts and was an historic recreationist. He was a member of the American Mountain Man Association. Arnold is survived by son Brian Dean Queener, daughter Jenny Marie Queener, sister Mary Lou Mitchell, grandchildren; Brice, Cheyann, BreeAnn, RaeAnn Queener, Dakotah and Owen Petersen, both Jessica Kunz and Shane Rodgers who thought of him as "Dad", and loving friend Patty Jones. He was preceded in death by son Brian David Queener, brothers; Robert, Kenny, Frances and Gary Queener, sisters; Rose Kite, Clairia Turpin, and Donna Chambers. A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at the Creswell VFW Hall. Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, 123 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove, OR 97424.



Howard K. Bennett 1935-2017



Howard K. Bennett of Cottage Grove died on December 15, 2017. He was 82.

He was born in Long Valley, SD on January 29, 1935 to parents John and Grace

(Wilcox) Bennett. Howard graduated from Arcata Union High School in 1954.

He served in the Air Force from 1956-1977, TSGT, Flight Engineer. He was a

Vietnam veteran. Howard worked for Kimwood Corp, retiring as a machinist. He

also worked for Fir Crest Farms in maintenance, and for Dave Doge Services as a machinist. He was a past Master in the Masonic Lodge, and had received the

Hiram Award from the Masons. He is survived by daughter, Carrie Anderson of Gresham, OR; daughter, Cheryl

Gerads of Cottage Grove; son, Michael Bennett of

Buda, TX; son, Kenneth Bennett of Cottage Grove; sister, Janice Dore of Rio Dell, CA; 13 grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren. A Memorial service will be held at

1:00 PM on Saturday, January 20, at the Masonic Lodge in Cottage Grove. Inurnment will be at 11:00 AM in Fir Grove Cemetery, Cottage Grove. Arrangements in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel.

Obituaries available at cgsentinel.com



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Jimmie Young 1947-2017



Jimmie "Jim" Wayne Young, 70 of Cottage Grove, OR passed away December 18, 2017. He was born April 25, 1947, in Roseburg, OR to Wayne and Marion (Johnson) Young. Jim graduated from Sutherlin High

School, class of 1965, and attended Southern Oregon College for 3 years. As an adolescent Jim started working with his family in the logging business. He transitioned to the rock crushing/construction industry starting his own company and eventually ended his 19 year career with Wildish Sand and Gravel as Plant Supervisor. Jim enjoyed traveling, his family, landscaping, and was a football enthusiast and a huge Oregon Ducks fan. He was a member of the Cottage Grove Studebaker Club, and the Good Same Club. Jim married Karlene Davis in March 1972, later divorced and then married Janice Seals on September 16, 2000, in Springfield, OR. He is survived by his wife Janice Young, Cottage Grove, OR, mother Marion Young, daughter Tina (Randy) Davis, Damascus, OR, daughter Brandie (Brian) Imperial, Fairview, OR, son Brian (Cori) Young, Damascus, OR, step-daughter Michelle (Brad) Wheeler, Eugene, OR, stepson Jeff (Dee) Wedmore, Vancouver, WA, sister Karen (Mike) Hanson, Newport, WA, sister Carol (Delmar) Towler, Sutherlin, OR and 9 grandchildren. A Celebration of Life will be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday January 27, 2018, at El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant, Cottage Grove, OR. Please wear your favorite sports gear! Arrangements by Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, 123 S. 7th St., Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

Marie Sampson 1930-2017



Marie "Sweet Marie from Tennessee" Sampson of Cottage Grove, OR died December 13, 2017, at the age of 87 from natural causes. She was born November 6, 1930 in Sevier County Tennessee to parents Oscar and Rhoda (Meyers) King. Marie was a waitress in Knoxville Tennessee where she had the pleasure of hosting some of country's old time favorite singers from Nashville. She loved to read and was a regular on 93.3 Barret and Fox morning show, sharing her life experiences with radio listeners as "Sweet Marie from Tennessee." Marie won a presidential award for her volunteer hours from both Presidents Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush. She is survived by her daughter Patrice Marie Wade of Ridgecrest, CA; son John Robert Clarke of Cottage Grove, OR; sister Blanche Lacey of Knoxville, TN; brother Roy King of Sevierville, TN; 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and 4 siblings. Please make memorial contributions to Meals on Wheels of Cottage Grove. A memorial service will be held Saturday, January 27, 2018 at 1:00 PM at Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel 123 S. 7th St. Cottage Grove, Oregon.



Ron Pupke will turn 94 on January 19. This photo was taken last week at Hayward Field on the University of Oregon Campus, his alma mater. Dad taught and coached in Lane County for over 35 years, was married to our mom for over 68 years, and has been retired since 1984.

We love you dad!
Shauna, Renn, Vonn & Camee

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