

CHAPTER 7

THE ISSUES OF LIFE (e²)

"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

"Be careful what you think, for your thoughts run your life" (Proverbs 4:23 NCV).

THE ISSUES OF LIFE

Most of us grow up dealing with the daily problems that constantly press upon our lives—employment, the economy, marriage, raising a family, sickness, divorce—and we find little or no time to contemplate the larger issues of life. Where did the earth come from? Who is man? How did he get on the earth? Where did he come from? What happens when he dies? Few of us have spent much time contemplating the answers to life's most important issues. As you read the spiritual success principles taught in this book you may have concluded that I have always had a strong belief in the Christian-Judeo God, but nothing could be further from the truth. My university's "Darwinian-Freudian" education had severely retarded my belief in the supernatural nature of God; perhaps you also have experienced a similar condition. As we discussed in the opening chapters of this book, what you think and believe is extremely important because it affects what you have and where you are in life. In the following paragraphs, I relate my disillusionment with the supernatural nature of God, and my subsequent enlightenment to that nature, in hopes that it will help and encourage others who may have experienced a similar mindset.

MY EARLY YEARS

I grew up on my paternal grandmother's farm in a small community in the northwestern part of the United States. My father was an entrepreneur who owned and operated a small construction company. Dad started his company in 1932 at the height of America's great depression. Just as his business was beginning to flourish and he was able to spend more time with the family, along came World War II and once again he was required to be away from home, working long hours to further the war effort. From the time I was born until the time I was fourteen years old, I saw my father only on an occasional weekend or a special holiday. My mother was forced to raise our family of three active boys and one girl alone during the depression years of the thirties and the war years of the forties.

A TEST TO MY BOYHOOD FAITH

As a boy I enjoyed the outdoors and spent my summers in the farm fields planting and harvesting the crops. Mother would faithfully take me and my siblings to church every Sunday where I learned the basic tenants of Christianity. Growing up in the fields and forests of the Northwest made it easy to believe in God the Creator. How else could the earth exist? Who else could have made man? I never considered that there might be an alternative. That is until my younger brother died of acute appendicitis when he was four years old. It was then that my young mind was confronted with one of life's most perplexing questions: *if there is a God, why would He allow my brother to die?* My mother was devastated, but my brother's death never shook her faith in God. My father handled my brother's death by blaming the incompetence of our small town doctor.

My father, like many American men in the forty's, never accompanied the family to church. About the time I started to attend high school, I began to skip church and stay at home with my father, and gradually God became less and less important to me.

THE UNIVERSITY CHANGED MY THINKING

It was after I graduated from high school and went to the university to study architectural engineering that my university studies began to erode my faith in the concept of a creator God. My biology professors exposed me to a whole new theory concerning the origin of life. All the top scientific minds, they said, believed in Charles Darwin's Theory of Evolution, which surmised that man had evolved from a primordial soup by a process known as the survival of the fittest. They presented evidence collected by the world's most eminent scientists that

proved the Darwinian Theory. At the same time my social science and psychology professors indoctrinated me with Sigmund Freud's theories concerning the conscious and unconscious mind. We no longer need to accept society's prudish morals concerning sex. Freud had discovered that our unconscious mind contained hidden primal sexual desires which controlled our actions independent of our conscious mind, therefore we should just let it "all hang out." Suddenly in a few short years everything my parents had taught me concerning the issues of life were brought into question. After all, I reasoned, my parents had never studied in the university, so how could they know about the latest scientific findings? Weren't these professors among the nations brightest? Certainly they must know the truth! I, like so many who attend the university, accepted the Darwinian and Freudian theories as a proven truth, and unknowingly became a theistic evolutionist. I simply changed my views on creation to believe that God used evolution to create the universe and everything in it. Perhaps you have had a similar experience.

CONFRONTED A SECOND TIME WITH THE ISSUES OF LIFE

In my second year at the university, I was once again confronted with what is undoubtedly the most important issue of life, the issue of *what happens when a man dies?* My brother, who was one year younger than I, suffered a severe head injury in an automobile accident. During the week following the accident our family spent a great deal of time in my brother's hospital room. My mother and her pastor spent considerable time in prayer. My father, who was otherwise not a religious man, dealt with the tragedy by letting my mother's pastor (and indirectly God) know that he would build him a new church if God healed my brother. My brother died a week after the accident. Once again my mother was devastated, but my brother's death did not shake her faith in God in any way. My father simply buried himself in his business activities. I was also devastated, and inwardly I wondered *if there is a God why didn't he answer my mother's prayer? Why didn't he heal my brother? What happens when a man dies? Is there life after death?* I simply didn't know.

IS THERE LIFE AFTER DEATH?

"For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come" (1 Timothy 4:8).

Many men prosper in this life, but make no provision for the life which is to come, the life after physical death. You may be like I once was—you may not be sure that there is life after physical death. I definitely understand, as I once had the same doubts concerning the issue of life and death that you do. But the quest for the answer to the question "is there life after death?" is the most important answer that you will ever seek. Which view of mankind will you believe? Will you believe the Darwinian-Freudian view taught by my university professors that described mankind as a "mortal being" who has evolved from a primordial sea by a process called evolution; and that when a man dies, his consciousness simply ceases to exist...an individual whose unconscious mind contains primal desires which override his conscious will. Or will you believe the "Creator's Handbook" view that describes mankind as an "eternal spirit" who has a soul (mind, will and emotions) and lives in a mortal physical body, and is required by God to exercise his will against evil. The SSMT for the most part believe in the Darwinian-Freudian view of man, but I no longer believe in that view of man. I believe and teach in *Business by the Spirit* the biblical view of man, and in the provisions that the creator of the universe has made to bless mankind with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). As you read the opening pages of this book you have a decision to make, a decision that will not only affect your prosperity in this life, but the life to come.

KOREA ...AN EXPERIENCE WITH MASSIVE DEATH

When I graduated from the university shortly after the cessation of the Korean War, I was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. Upon completion of my Officer's Basic Training, because I was a graduate architectural engineer, I was sent to Korea to help rebuild that nation's war-torn infrastructure. In order to maintain troop moral, the Army would rotate us to Japan every six to eight months for two weeks of rest and recreation. When it became my time to rotate to Japan, I had to wait until the next day for the Air Force to bring in another transport plane from Tachikawa Air Force Base near Tokyo. The Air Force plane that was to have transported me to Japan crashed and burned near the Hahn River as it

was landing in Korea. There was very little left of the plane's burned out remains. This was not the first time that I had come face to face with death, but it was the first time that I had witnessed massive death, as every one of the young soldiers on that plane had been killed; no one had escaped. The plane they sent to transport us to Japan was called "the flying boxcar" by the Air Force, but we soldiers called it "the flying coffin." It had a reputation among the troops for crashing. As I waited for that plane I couldn't get the image of that burned-out aircraft and those dead young men out of my mind. I wondered *what happened to those men when they died? Is there life after death? Is there a heaven and a hell?* I simply didn't know. Besides, it seemed there was no way a person could ever know for sure short of dying themselves. That trip to Japan and back to Korea was the worst airplane flight I have ever taken. For the first time in my life I realized that I had a fear of death. Once again I was confronted with the most important issue of life—is there life after death?

IT'S EASY TO IGNORE THE ISSUES OF LIFE

After I returned to the United States I put my thoughts concerning life after death out of my mind; they were simply too unpleasant and painful to ponder. Besides there were other things to occupy my mind—a new civilian job, marriage, raising children, working hard to become successful in business. Anyway, I figured, in civilian life, death never really occurred that often, certainly not among my young friends and the business people with whom I associated. God was only an abstract individual invented by primitive people to explain life, but in the twentieth century we knew the "truth," that there was no God. The headlines of the 1960's boldly proclaimed, "God is Dead." The concept that there was no God was readily accepted by my carnal (body-ruled) mind. If there was no God, then there were no absolute moral values, and if there were no absolute moral values, then I could live the way I wished, and I could simply follow my primal sexual urges.

When I returned to civilian life, I went to work in the construction industry, was married, adopted two children, bought a house on a lake, and launched out to live the American dream. When I was thirty-five years old I was asked by two college friends to join them as a partner in their small architectural firm. I determined to make that firm a success, and over the next several years I was on the road constantly, driving or flying somewhere to obtain new business and to design new and exciting projects. Two years later my wife divorced me, and over the next several years both of my partners left the business. I was working harder and demanding more than any of them wanted to give. I had become very hard-driven; I had become like my father.

AN EXPERIENCE THAT CHANGED THE WAY I THOUGHT

As I mentioned elsewhere in this book, in February of 1975, I was attracted to a beautiful blond lady named Barbara, and in December of that same year we were married. When Barbara and I returned from our honeymoon I found a book on our living room table, which had been left by my new mother-in-law. It was entitled *Power in Praise* and it was written by Merlin Carothers, a retired Lt. Colonel in the United States Army. Carothers had served with the famous 82nd Airborne; he was a master parachutist with over 90 jumps. He was my type of man. I thought *Power in Praise* was another success motivation book touting, "*If you praise your employees it will give you more power!*" But as I read the book I realized that Colonel Carothers was not talking about success motivation principles in a conventional sense; he was talking about God's gift of eternal life. He said, "*Many Church going people think of God's plan of eternal life as a ten-cent gift. They believe they have to struggle to live a good life to keep their "free gift." Trying hard to live a good life puts them under such a continual strain that they often wonder if trying hard to be a Christian is worth it. To them it just means going to church on Sunday, staying away from things that might be a lot of fun, and giving their hard-earned cash into the offering plate*" (1) Well, frankly that's what I thought Christianity was. I found the book extremely interesting, and I began to read it nearly every day. As I read and reread *Power in Praise*, it began to change the way I thought...and faith in God's word began to develop in my heart.

STARTING A NEW WAY OF LIFE

Then on the Sunday afternoon of March 8, 1976, I asked Jesus Christ to be my personal Lord and Savior. I remember the occasion vividly, because I sensed a peace within my soul, and I

also knew that the fear of death of which I had become acutely aware during my service in Korea had departed from me. Most importantly, I knew that if I died I would be with in heaven with Jesus. You might ask how I knew those things. I don't know how to express it; I just knew it in my innermost being. I continued to read the book *Power in Praise* particularly the third chapter of that book entitled "Power Unlimited." In that chapter, Colonel Carothers described his experience in receiving what is referred among Christians as the "baptism of the Holy Spirit." In September of that same year, after reading that book another seven months, I also received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. As I prayed in my new found prayer language, Jesus became very real to me. I knew that he was alive, and I knew that the Bible was true. Suddenly the issues of life became clear. How could I have ever believed that man evolved from the slime of some primordial soup into an intelligent, conscious being with the ability to love and live in community and cooperation with others. Suddenly I knew there was a Creator God, and that he had given us a "Handbook" (the Bible) to guide and direct our lives. Regretfully, however, it has taken me far too many years to understand the details of that Handbook.

If you would like to know how a person can also be born again and baptized in the Holy Spirit turn to the final chapter of this book where I discuss it in further detail. But in the remaining paragraphs of this book I would like to share with you how my born again experience began to change the way I thought about the issues of life, and how the Holy Spirit has taught me to use the spiritual principles found in the Creator's Handbook to live a prosperous and fulfilled life.

DARWINIAN-FREUDIAN TEACHING - FACT OR THEORY?

So if you are as I once was, pondering the meaning of life, or if you have ever wondered as I once did if God is real, or if there is life after death, but are deterred by your Darwin-Freudian indoctrinated mind from believing in the creator God, let me share several truths with you.

Darwin's Theory of Evolution declares that life on earth arose from non-living matter by way of some unknown, unconscious, natural process, and then over billions of years proceeded to evolve into more complex life forms through the process of random mutation and natural selection. This theory of evolution is being taught in our schools as if it were an established scientific fact, but nothing could be further from the truth. More than one hundred and fifty years after Darwin first published his book *Origin of the Species*, science has still not been able to find the transitional forms (the so called missing links) in the fossil record that are required to substantiate his theory of evolution.

To the atheist evolutionist, man is a cosmic accident; therefore it is not surprising that in an article in the *Scientific American* written by Stephen Jay Gould, one of America's leading atheist evolutionists, he quotes Sigmund Freud. Gould notes: "Sigmund Freud often remarked that great revolutions in the history of science have but one common, and ironic, feature: they knock human arrogance off one pedestal after another of our previous conviction about our own self-importance." Gould relates Freud's three examples: a) Copernicus's demonstration that the earth was not the center of the universe, b) Darwin's relegation of mankind to a mere branch of the animal world, and c) Freud's theory concerning the unconscious mind, which in his view exploded the myth of a fully rational mind. Both Gould and Freud regard the idea that a man's life has meaning because they are made in God's image as "human arrogance." In Gould's view, the Darwinian revolution remains woefully incomplete, because human thinking remains hopelessly teleological, which Gould perceives to be "*the last pedestal of human arrogance.*" Teleological thinking is the belief that life has a purpose and that everything that we do has a plan and a design. To Gould and his atheistic evolutionist colleagues, mankind "*is but a tiny, late blooming twig on life's enormously arborescent bush -a small bud that would almost surely not appear a second time if we would replant the bush from seed and let it grow again*"(2). In other words, man is the result of thousands of linked events, any one of which could have occurred differently and eliminated the evolution of man as we know him.

Though Freud's basic theories have been largely discredited in the years since his death, he is still heavily quoted in many books on human behavior and in numerous news stories by the secular press. Freud theorized the human mind as an iceberg, the conscious mind being that

small portion observable above the water, and the unconscious (subconscious) mind being the larger portion existing below the surface. His theories concerning the mind defied what the Judeo-Christian religion had taught for thousands of years, "that the devil was the perpetrator of evil," and that men were to exercise their will to resist evil. Freud taught that some aspects of the mind were not subject to our will, as the sub-conscious mind contained hidden primal desires which control mankind's actions independently of their conscious mind. Neurotic phobias and compulsions therefore were not the devil's work but that of unconscious primal forces over which man has no control.

Like they did with Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, the atheist intellectual community accepted Freud's theories with open arms. It was comforting to have their godless view of life confirmed, and to know that their sexual and aggressive actions were not the result of sin. According to Freud, they were caused by unconscious primal desires over which men have no conscious control. Therefore men were free to live life as they desired, without a moral conscious and without the fear of divine retribution, especially as it related to their sexual activities. But Freud, the man who had weakened the faith of many, ended his own life discouraged, embittered, and gravely ill; he lived in constant pain. Near the end he asked his physician Max Schur to assist him in committing suicide, and on September 22, 1939, he lapsed into a coma and died the next morning. Freud's pessimistic view of human existence no doubt reflected the emptiness of his own Godless life.

Darwin and Freud's work are not established scientific facts as our university professors led us to believe; they are nothing more than unproven theories. In fact Darwinian Theory is rapidly being overtaken by a new theory called the "Theory of Intelligent Design." Intelligent Design is not really something new; it was declared to be a fact in the first chapter of the Creator's Handbook thousands of years ago. But for now because evolutionists generally control higher education, the scientific journals, and the media, Darwin's Theory of Evolution is still being taught in our schools and universities as an established fact.

PRESIDENT BUSH STIRS DISCUSSION OF INTELLIGENT DESIGN

President George W. Bush in response to a question by a reporter in a group interview on Monday August 3, 2005, said that he believes that intelligent design should be taught along with evolution as competing theories: "Both sides ought to be properly taught...so people can understand what the debate is about," he said according to an official transcript of the meeting. Bush added: "*Part of education is to expose people to different schools of thought...*" (3) His remarks brought a firestorm of objection from the atheist evolutionist intellectuals. They objected to teaching of intelligent design because "it cannot be proven by the scientific method." But after more than a century and a half, these same evolutionists have been unable to prove Darwin's theory by the same scientific method.

OVER 500 SCIENTIST DISSENT FROM "DARWINIAN THEORY"

The American Public Broadcast System (PBS) in a 2001 television series entitled *Evolution* stated "*no scientist disagrees with Darwinian evolution.*" In that same year the Discovery Institute first published its "Statement of Dissent from Darwin" as a direct challenge to the PBS pronouncement (4). As of March of 2006, more than 500 scientists from all disciplines had signed that statement. The list of 514 signatories includes member scientists from the prestigious US and Russian National Academy of Sciences. Signers include 154 biologists, as well as 76 chemists and 63 physicists. They hold doctorates in biological sciences, physics, chemistry, mathematics, medicine, computer science, and related disciplines. Many are professors or researchers at major universities and research institutions such as MIT, The Smithsonian, Cambridge University, UCLA, UC Berkeley, Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, Ohio State University, the University of Georgia, and the University of Washington. The Discovery Institute's dissent maintained: "*The fact is, that a significant number of scientists are extremely skeptical that Darwinian evolution can explain the origins of life*" (4).

In the spring of 2008, Ben Stein released a documentary film entitled *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*. It exposes the incredible bias that exists in scientific and educational communities toward those who question Darwin's Theory of Evolution or believe that the

complexities of life suggest an intelligent designer. In one particular scene the documentary takes the viewer on a visual tour showing the complexity of a single simple cell, which is like a miniature universe in complexity. Then a noted scientist points out that it might have been easy for Darwin to believe that life began with a single cell, but since we now know the incredible complexity of even the simplest single cell, it should be impossible for any honest scientist to believe that today.

LEADING ATHEIST CONVERTS TO THEORY OF INTELLIGENT DESIGN

Antony Flew, one of the world's leading atheist philosophers, recently changed his mind concerning Darwinian evolution as the source of life. He now believes that it is impossible to explain the origin of life without a creator and has become a believer in the theory of intelligent design. *The Times* of London has referred to Flew as "one of the most renowned atheists of the past half-century, whose papers and lectures have formed the bedrock of unbelief for many adherents." Flew won the prestigious John Locke Prize in mental philosophy. He has written twenty-six books, many of them classics like *God and Philosophy* and *How to Think Straight*. But while Flew no longer believes in Darwinian evolution, he says that he cannot become a Christian because he is unable to accept the idea that a loving God would send anyone to hell, therefore making Flew a Deist. A Deist is an individual who believes in the existence of God solely on the basis of reason. He believes that God created the universe, and after setting it in motion he abandoned it, and assumes no control over it (5).

TO THE ATHEIST, INTELLIGENT DESIGN IS "UNTHINKABLE"

Sir Arthur Keith, the famous British evolutionist who wrote more than twenty books defending evolution, stated, "*Evolution is unproved and unprovable. We believe it because its only alternative is special creation, and that is unthinkable.*"(6)

The atheist evolutionists have committed their lives to a godless worldview because they do not wish to submit their lives and their sinful desires to the God of scripture. The idea of a creator God is to them unthinkable.

WHICH UNDERSTANDING OF MAN WILL YOU BELIEVE?

If one wants to understand the make up of man they have two sources from which to obtain that information.

- ❖ The first source is the physiological and psychological studies of man made by our eminent scientists and psychiatrists.
- ❖ The second source is the Creator's Handbook, the Bible.

Scientists have used the scientific method very effectively to accurately observe, describe, and understand the physical laws that govern the earth, such as the law of gravity or the law of thermal dynamics. Other scientists have also made giant steps in accurately observing, describing and understanding the physical characteristics of the human body, but they have been decidedly less successful in accurately observing, understanding, and describing, the mental and spiritual aspects of man. Neither have they been able to prove the source of life, nor the probability of life after death.

Over the years I have come to favor the information provided by the Creator's Handbook concerning the origin of life, and how to successfully live our lives both in this world and in the world to come. The Creator's Handbook, like the Darwinian and Freudian theories, can not be proven by the scientific method, and it is not written in the scientific language of our day, but it has been time tested over a period of thousands of years.

In order for you to successfully operate the Spiritual Laws described in this book, I believe that it is necessary for you to decide which understanding of creation and of mankind you will choose to believe.

Most secular success motivation teachers have adopted the Darwinian-Freudian view that man is a mortal physical body with a conscious and a subconscious mind. I

have chosen to believe the Creator's Handbook's view, that man is an eternal spirit, who has a soul (mind, will and emotions) and lives in a mortal body.

In order to develop strong faith in God's desire and ability to prosper his people, you may need to change the way you think about the world you live in.

- (1) Power in Praise, © 1972 by Logos International, Merlin Carothers (Pg 20)
- (2) Stephen Jay Gould, "The Evolution of Life on Earth" *Scientific American* © 1994 Scientific American Inc, October 1994, (Pg 91)
- (3) Peter Baker and Peter Slevin, Washington Post Staff Writers, Wednesday, August 3, 2005; (Pg AO1)
- (4) Discovery Institute Website, <http://www.discovery.org/>
- (5) Article entitled "Thinking Straighter" by James A. Beverley, © 2005 *Christianity Today*, April 2005, Vol. 49, No.4, (Pg 80)
- (6) Sir Arthur Keith, *Evolution and Ethics*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1947. (Pg. 230)