

What is God Saying to Me About God, Life, and Man?

1. Many things in this world promise life but they can never really give you life. They can't because Jesus is the only source of life; this is why He can deliver on His promise of life even during the most unimaginable circumstances, even in the face of certain death, 1:1-10.
2. God understands our weaknesses and failures and when we fail, He doesn't pounce. Instead, He reminds us that we're still His beloved children, that He's still with us, that we still have what He gave us, that we still have what it takes, and then He encourages us to get up and keep moving...notice how He encourages Timothy in the face of his fears, 1:1-10.
3. Does your conscience bother you? Perhaps you cheated someone, perhaps you hurt someone, perhaps you failed someone. If you want to have a clear conscience, the Lord is the only one who can wipe your conscience clean...notice, after everything Paul has done, after everything he's gone through, after everything he's been accused of, and as he sits on death row, how does Paul feel about himself? His conscience is clear, 1:3.
4. Do you sometimes feel like a coward? Do you struggle with fear? Are you afraid of confrontation, of uncomfortable situations, of facing your emotions, of losing your job, of not getting another job, of suffering, of the future? You don't have to fear anything anymore. Why? Because God has replaced your inability and cowardice with power, love, and a disciplined mind. That's what He gave you when He gave you His Spirit, 1:7-8. It's all there inside you waiting to come out, 1:14.
5. Are you embarrassed to share your faith? Are you afraid to tell people about Jesus? Perhaps you tried it but you ended up walking away feeling awkward and ashamed. When this happened, were you by yourself or did you take the power of God with you, i.e., were you speaking from your own power and wisdom or was the Spirit of God speaking through you? Was He by your side as you talked about Christ? You can bear the most unimaginable shame if you're walking with God, 1:7-8.
6. There's nothing we can do to save ourselves from hell or the difficulties of this life; in fact, whatever works we can do won't save us. The Goodnews is that God showers us with His grace. He saves us by means of Jesus Christ. Jesus has abolished death in all its forms and replaced death with life and immortality, 1:9-10.
7. Are you without a purpose? Do you wish you had a purpose in life? God has a purpose and calling for everyone: He gave Paul a purpose, 1:1, Timothy a purpose, 1:6, 14, and He's given you one too, 1:9.
8. Death can no longer harm you beyond the grave because Jesus, who is life itself, 1:1, now owns death, 1:10. This means that you don't have to fear death, period.
9. How well do you trust Jesus? Do you trust Him with your career, with your single status, with your married status, with your ups, with your downs, with your future? Jesus is able not only to protect everything that you put in His trust, He's able to make it flourish...notice how Paul, even though he's sitting on death row and will be executed, absolutely trusts Jesus with his life (he gave up 30+ years of his life for Christ) and future, 1:12. He knows that on the day of reckoning, Jesus will take care of those who were faithful to Him, 1:16-18.

2 Timothy Chapter 1

10. Sound preaching is not enough; your life must be a godly model for your converts to follow. You have to show them how to live a godly life by means of the faith and love that are found in Christ Jesus, 1:13.
11. God's Spirit beats inside you. Can you feel it? Do you sense Him as you go about your day? When something bad happens and you react, are you alone or is the Spirit there with you? The Lord's Spirit has made you His permanent residence....is your life any different? 1:14.
12. God will give you the courage to face life and death situations. You will be bold in the face of danger and He will not forget your service; He will reward those who put their lives on the line for Him, 1:16-18.