



I AM GOD'S EARTH: God is creating me. I started as dust, but I'm becoming like Jesus. I rejoice in trials and hardships because Christ suffered for me, and I am a living sacrifice transformed by the truths of God.

WHAT IF THERE WERE SOMETHING BELOW THE SURFACE... // WOULD YOU WANT IT OUT?

The 10 Commandments were given to help us recognize and remove whatever prevents us from living the life we were designed to live.

Commands 6-8

- You shall not murder.*
- You shall not commit adultery.*
- You shall not steal.*
- You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.*

Deuteronomy 5:17-20

SHORT, SWEET, SIMPLE, DO THEM, GO HOME // THESE ARE THE FOUR PEOPLE PAT THEMSELVES FOR Jesus:

*But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' For out of the heart come evil thoughts, **murder, adultery**, sexual immorality, **theft, false testimony**, slander.*

Matthew 15:18-19

SOMETHING DEEP IN THE HEART...

Our hearts want to **shortcut** God's **path** for us.

DIGGING DEEPER... INTO MURDER

"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Matthew 5:21-22

ANGER: THE NATURAL RESPONSE TO MORAL INJUSTICE // RIGHTEOUS OR SELFISH CAIN AND ABEL // THE ANGRY THOUGHTS // CHANGE YOU? CHANGE ME? WAIT FOR GOD?

Murder comes from a selfish heart that wants a **shortcut**.

DIGGING DEEPER... INTO ADULTERY (PART 1)

"You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell."

Matthew 5:27-29

LUST AND STATS ON PORN // ROMANTIC COMEDIES // NEEDS, PARTIAL FULFILLMENT // SHORT PATH

Lust comes from a selfish heart that wants a **shortcut**.

DIGGING DEEPER... INTO ADULTERY (PART 2)

"It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery."

Matthew 5:31-32

GOD'S SEXUAL STANDARD IS :: HUSBAND & WIFE UNITED FOR LIFE :: DIVORCE ISN'T UNFORGIVABLE

Adultery comes from a selfish heart that wants a shortcut.

DIGGING DEEPER... INTO STEALING

[Paul:] He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

Ephesians 4:28

ILL: I STOLE FRANKIE'S WATCH • THE OPPOSITE IS WORK AND SHARING

Stealing comes from a selfish heart that wants a **shortcut**.

DIGGING DEEPER... INTO LYING

(I think you know what I'm going to say)

CONCLUSION

Selfish shortcuts **take us away** from God's will for us.

THEY VIOLATE GOD'S TIMING FOR US AND FOR OTHERS!

ILL: I LOVE SHORTCUTS, DRIVING TO SCHOOL • IKEA • CHARLOTTE, NC SON, YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE

Dig it out...

WE ARE LAZY AND IMPATIENT, WE LIKE TO TAKE THE EASY ROAD, BUT THE JOURNEY OF LIFE WITH GOD SOMETIMES INVOLVES LONG, SLOW WALKS THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES.

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Looking unto Jesus... Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:3

THERE'S A JOYFUL DESTINATION, BUT THERE ARE NO SHORTCUTS

Today, I choose to walk the path God has for me—**how** he wants me to walk,

where he wants me to go, and on his **timetable**.

I WANT A SHORTCUT, BUT GOD KNOWS THE RIGHT DESTINATION, AND IF WE TAKE A SHORTCUT, HE WOULD SAY, SON, YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE.