

FAST Lesson 2E: A Real Man Does What God Wants – Loving God

John Kain, 2009

- I. What characteristics separate people from animals? (Our minds are able to process and analyze and accumulate knowledge, we are able to love unconditionally, and we have a soul).
- II. We are physically unique in comparison to all other living things (Our mental and muscle control skills have ultimately enabled a certain level of dominance over nature – within limits).
- III. We are spiritually unique because we combine both body and soul (a unique combination made possible by God).
- IV. Not only are we a unique creation, with material and spiritual elements, but we also have a purpose for our existence. We have been created to have fellowship with God, and to not let anything hinder that relationship. This relationship should be our highest priority, impacting our thoughts and feelings and actions each day.
- V. God takes a personal interest in us – he wants to be first in our hearts, in our desires. He also represents our ultimate destiny - all which is right for us and our world is embodied in him.
- VI. Anything we do outside of love for him, however significant in human terms, falls short of our ultimate purpose for living. Real men offer their highest recognition to God and find joy in celebrating him with other believers because he is the only one worthy of their complete love and respect.

“Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." (Genesis 1: 26)

“The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” (Genesis 2: 7)

“**But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty that gives him understanding.**”
(Job 32:8)

“The lamp of the LORD searches the spirit of a man; it searches out his inmost being.”
(Proverbs 20:27)

“As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.” (James 2: 26)

“Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. **Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.** For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.” (Psalm 95: 1-7)

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." (Revelation 4: 11)

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. **God did this so that men would seek him** and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by man's design and skill. **In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.**"
(Acts 17: 24-30)