

Single

AND SATISFIED



R O N H U T C H C R A F T

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How to have relationships without regrets
and success without scars.

NAVIGATING THE SINGLE LIFE

There has never been a generation like this. Singles are nearly 44% of the adult population in America today. They are part of a very, very powerful group. In fact, the word “single” means so many different things these days. Some people are single, some people are single again, and some people are single parents. Some are a blend of those.

Someone who has been single his whole life and is known for being very joyful and very content as a person was once asked, “How can you be so joyful?” He said, “I’d rather go through life wanting what I don’t have than having what I don’t want. The desirable has always been unattainable, and the attainable has always been undesirable.”

In the whole area of people relationships these days, we are in a whole new territory. Whether you’re single or married, whatever category you’re in, it is a challenge trying to live with the stresses and the pressures of life.

In the first century BC, they didn’t have very good maps. There was a Roman battalion and their mission took them beyond the line on the map. The Roman Commander sent a messenger back to Rome with a simple message. He said, “Please send new orders. We have just marched off the map!” That just might be where we are in our world, don’t you think? We have marched off the map.

There is no map for relationships like there are today. This generation is nothing like the ones that preceded us. Marriage doesn’t mean what marriage used to mean. Sex doesn’t mean what sex used to mean. Family doesn’t mean what family used to mean. Job security doesn’t mean what job security used to mean. Financial security doesn’t mean what financial security used to mean. We’ve marched off the map!

Generations before us had a map and everyone went by it, but today the map is out the window. When you're living in a world without a map, it's real easy to get lost...and easy to end up buying some lies.

Our society today has created certain ways of living and certain ideas about love, happiness, security, significance, and success that sound good, and the majority of people are buying them. One generation after another has tried to follow these lies, and still so many people end up with disappointment, disillusionment, and despair. Our goal here is to expose the lies that too many singles buy into, and try to come up with the truth about love, success, and significance.

Do you remember what kind of adventure Bill and Ted had? Excellent! If you were to climb a large sand dune, you would probably have a beautiful view after an excellent adventure. You would climb and climb, and your legs would work very hard to try to get up there. When you go up sand, though, it's much activity for little progress. It's just not very much fun. You think you're finally at the top and there is another sand dune! You think, "What I'm looking for is just over the next hill." Unfortunately, it's usually not.

Some people live their whole life like that— trying to find love, fulfillment, and worth. Some of us started climbing a sand dune a long time ago. Then when we got to the top of the hill, there was just another sand dune. We've been climbing sand dunes to nowhere all of our life and putting out a lot of effort, but there isn't much to show for it in terms of love and fulfillment. Those sand dunes represent the lies that too many of us buy into.

FOUR LIES THAT SINGLES BUY

There are at least four lies that singles buy. With each one, we're going to discuss the truth about love, success, and significance. To know the truth, you have to have some standard of measurement to decide whether something is a lie or not. Our standard is going to be the world's best-selling book— the Bible. Most everyone has one, but not everyone knows what's in it. Inside is incredible ancient wisdom that has stood the test of time for centuries. Fads, cultures, and empires have come and gone, but it's still really solid. Using that as a standard of what is really true, let's look at what the lies actually are.

1. You Find Your Happiness By Pursuing It

Here's lie number one that is a sand dune to nowhere: "You find your happiness by pursuing it." The American way is the pursuit of happiness. It's even in the Declaration of Independence. Did you ever notice that happiness always runs a little faster than you do? You can't quite catch it. If you do catch it, you have it for a minute and it sneaks out on you. Then you're chasing it again.

Our whole society is basically set up to say, "Pursue your happiness. You have to look out for your own happiness." When you're single, you have to be independent and learn how to make your own way, and it is very easy to slip into a whole approach to life called self-focus. It's almost a natural outgrowth of having to be independent. Having to make your own way is to becoming a self-focused person. We all have the disease of "me." "I would like to be the sun and I would like the planets to revolve around me." That disease of self-focus is what actually keeps us from getting the very happiness we thought looking out for "me" would give us.

Have you ever owned a goldfish? If so, did your goldfish die pretty soon after you got it? You bring it home in a little bag full of water, put it in a little bowl, and it usually lasts about three days. Do you have a guess why they don't live long? Have you ever seen how they live? They get their speed up in their little bowl and they run into the wall. They hang a left, and they go bump! They just keep bouncing off the edge of the goldfish bowl. You say, "That is a life?! No wonder they die young!"

If you take the goldfish out of the bowl and take them down to the pond, they grow. They can get to be a foot or two feet long. When little goldfish are in the goldfish bowl, they produce this little enzyme that tends to poison them and retards their growth, so they won't grow. But if you take them out of the goldfish bowl and put them in a big pond, they start to grow to a size they never dreamed they could be.

Many of us are living life in the goldfish bowl, and we can feel it. In pursuit of happiness, we've become so concerned about my needs, my problems, my pain, my issues, my work, my relationships—the disease of me. Welcome to the goldfish bowl! We might as well sing with the little dolls at Disney World, "It's a Small World After All," because it is. It doesn't make sense to live in a world that's only the size of you.

Here's the truth. You find happiness, not by pursuing your own, but by pursuing the happiness of others. It's all about living each day to make a difference. When the Creator put us here, He didn't put us here primarily to make money, make good grades, make a team, or to make an impression. He put us here to make a difference.

Are you living as a make a difference person? We are not here to go build an empire for ourselves; we're here to make a difference. When you live a "make a difference" lifestyle, you blow the walls off the goldfish bowl. You've graduated to the big pond that says, "I'm going to find my happiness by seeking the happiness of others, not seeking the happiness of me." Then you're on your way to swimming in the big pond we're all supposed to be in. You wake up in the morning and ask, "Who needs me today?" and not "Who do I need today?" That's self-focus. Someone needs me at

work, in this neighborhood, on this campus, or in my family today. Someone needs me today. That's the greatest way to find your own happiness.

In the book of Proverbs in the Old Testament, it says, "He who refreshes others will himself be refreshed" (Proverbs 11:25). Isn't that interesting? To get out of your pit, you must help someone else out of theirs. If you want to graduate from the little bowl to the big pond, you start to live a make a difference lifestyle.

First of all, you start to make a difference for the people in your world by being the person that is known as the "others" person in your circle, wherever you are. The "others" person gives praise to people instead of put-downs. The "others" person stops the gossip in the office, so that gossip never gets past you. The "others" person will protect the name of others, and is known for that. The "others" person is the one who is the encourager. The "others" person is the builder-upper. The "others" person notices when someone is not there and calls and says, "I missed you today." You make a difference in your world, because when you get up in the morning you're not working on your needs, you're working on theirs. Maybe you would say, "Well, what about my needs?" That's the fastest way to have your needs met. The fastest road to happiness strangely is to quit trying to get yours and start trying to bring it to other people.

After people have been with you, do they feel important? You don't have to be a musician, a great orator, have any great talents, or be a Miss America. It doesn't matter. If you are the person who makes other people feel important, they will never forget you. There is not anyone who does not have the ability to focus on another person, and when you are with them make them feel like the only person on this planet. We've all met a few people like that, but you haven't met very many have you? The make a difference person says, "I'm going to act like you're the only person on this planet right now. You've got all of me."

Be a make a difference person in your world. Then if you really want to get into the big pond, be a make a difference person in the world outside your world. Someone wrote to Mother Teresa from another part of the world and said, "Tell me how to make my

life count like yours.” She wrote him a four-word reply. That’s about all it took. She said, “Find your own Calcutta.” Isn’t that interesting?

Find some people who need you. You are surrounded by them. There are people dying from diseases. There are children with very special disabilities who need someone to love and care for them. There are elderly people who have no one who cares about them. There are refugees—people who are new in the country. There are lonely people. There are help lines or hot lines that need volunteers and churches that need volunteers. Why don’t you get out of the goldfish bowl if you haven’t already? Maybe you already have, and you know that you’ve found more happiness helping other people than you’ve ever found looking for your own.

Jesus Christ said in Matthew 16:25, “For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me will find it.” You’re not going to find your happiness by pursuing it. The truth is you’re going to find your happiness by pursuing the happiness of others. Why don’t you break out of the goldfish bowl that’s marked “me,” and swim in the big pond that’s marked “others.” Self-focus is such a lonely and depressing world.

2. You Are What You Do

The second lie that too many of us buy is “You are what you do.” We are defined by our work. When a little boy is asked, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” He doesn’t say, “I want to be a gentleman.” “I want to be patient.” “I want to be kind.” No, no. He says, “I want to be a doctor.” That isn’t what you are. That’s what you do, and you aren’t what you do. With a lot of people who are single, the tendency is to get married to their work. A lot of married people do the same thing and ruin their family. You were never meant to find your identity in what you do.

When you’re trying to figure out what to hang your identity on, you better hang onto something heavy and your work isn’t it. Your work is a pretty shaky foundation, if you are what you do. When you lose your job, do you lose your abilities? When something happens, like you’re in an accident and you can’t do what you do anymore, did you just lose you? Is that your worth? See, that’s not

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something heavy enough to hang onto. In a working world, let's face it, you're as good as "how many you sold" this week. You're as good as your latest review.

Sometimes if a model shows up for a photo shoot and they've gained two pounds, they're out of a job. That's a lousy basis for work, because your worth is going to keep going up and down on a conditional basis. If you are in sports, you are as good as your last game. Nobody cares about the game before; they don't care if you were champions last season. All of life is like that. If you are what you do, you are never secure. It's a shaky foundation for your worth and to base your priorities on.

There was a guy that was a really good runner. He was always trying to go faster and farther. One night he went out and he noticed he had a little pain in his head, but he just kept running and it passed. He got back home and everything was fine until he started to write. He couldn't make things work when he started to write. It took many hours to discover, but he had been on what the doctor said was a runner's high. He said, "Bruce, you've had a stroke, but you didn't know you did, because you were on a runner's high. You didn't even feel the pain. You were running so hard, you didn't even know the damage you were doing."

Do you know what happens to people who believe that they are what they do? They run so hard on that track to success, they have no idea who they're running by and who they're running over. It's a lousy thing to base your priorities, worth, and fulfillment on, because you can never get enough. The movie *Chariots of Fire* contrasted two Olympic runners in the 1924 Olympics, and it won an Academy Award for best picture. Harold Abrahams was an athlete from Great Britain—one of the greats actually over many years. Everything in life for him was winning. He was what he did. He was winning in sports, but he had just lost in the 200 meter. It was just before the 100 meters. In the movie, he said, "I'm forever in pursuit and I don't even know what I'm chasing. I'll race down that narrow 4-foot wide corridor, ten lonely seconds to justify my existence, or the next sales quota, or the next promotion. I've known the fear of losing, but now I'm almost too frightened to win."

Ken Hatfield was the football coach at the University of Arkansas for a number of years, and before that he played for the University. The University of Arkansas won the 1964 national championship against Nebraska. This was what Ken had lived his life for—to be on the number one college football team in the country. Here’s what he said to thousands of people. He said, “You know what happened? The day I saw the headlines, I had everything I ever wanted in my life. Arkansas is Number One. The thing is, I’d never been more depressed in my life. My god had died. I got my god, and the next day he died.”

It’s a mistake to think that you are what you do. That is called extrinsic worth. Extrinsic worth means “I’m getting my worth from something outside of me. If you take that away, I lose me.” Too many people have lost positions after 30 years of doing everything they were asked. They danced to the tune of the company, they did it all, and they had 20 minutes to clear out their desk. They said, “Is that what 30 years is worth to you? Who am I now?” You’d better not be what you do when that day comes. That’s extrinsic worth, and you’ll never be secure.

Here’s the truth. You are intrinsically valuable. You are not what you do. Your worth is not based on who rated you, complimented you, or dated you. Some of us have to learn that our worth is based on Who created you. It is not what you do. It’s Who made you that makes you valuable. As the Bible says in Ephesians 2:10, “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

King David prays this prayer to God in Psalm 139:13-14: “For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” You got all the worth you could possibly imagine, the moment the Creator began you. It was built into you from conception. We keep walking around saying, “Would you validate my ticket?” “Would you please give me some approval?” “Would you please love me?” “Would you please let me know I’m attractive?” “Would you please let me know I have some worth?” “Here, please stamp my ticket...stamp my ticket...stamp my ticket.” God stamped your ticket the moment you were conceived and said, “Masterpiece!” Do you

know what's beautiful about that kind of worth? There's no one on earth who gave it to you, and there's no one on earth who can take it away from you. They may leave you, abandon you, abuse you, and not know how valuable you are, but you have to go on what your Creator knows about you.

At the Louvre in Paris is where you will see many masterpieces. You will find police guards, special lighting, and a huge crowd. A whole wall is taken up by this one lady—Mona Lisa. At the bottom of the painting you will see the signature of Leonardo DaVinci. That painting is priceless; they can't even put a price on it. But out in the lobby you can buy the Mona Lisa for around 25 cents. It's true. Though it is a postcard, it is still the same picture of Mona Lisa. What's the difference between the postcard of Mona Lisa and the one on the wall? The one on that wall is a handmade, hand-painted, one-of-a-kind original masterpiece signed by the creator. The other is a copy.

Originals are priceless; copies go for cheap. You are, because of the nature of our Creator, a unique, one-of-a-kind, handmade, signed by the Creator, original masterpiece unless you try to copy someone else. Then, you'll go for cheap.

You are not what you do; you are very valuable because of Who created you. Now what is your approach to life? You shouldn't say, "I am valuable because of what I do." You should say, "I do valuable things because I am valuable." There are three liberating words you can now live by: nothing to prove. What freedom there is to say, "I have nothing to prove. My ticket has been validated by my Creator. I'll appreciate anything you give me, thank you, but it is a bonus."

3. You Have a Right To Be Bitter

The third lie singles sometimes buy is: "You have a right to be bitter." There are more people walking around today wounded than there have ever been. There are people who have been abandoned, deeply hurt, abused, betrayed, disappointed, rejected, and passed by. Logically, after what you've been through, you have a right to be bitter, but there's only one problem. Being bitter hurts yourself the most; whoever you're bitter toward is

probably doing fine. It isn't hurting them at all, but it's killing you. That's the ugly thing about bitterness.

You don't hold a grudge, a grudge holds you. It's like emotional cancer. It eats you alive, and you keep displacing this anger on other people who didn't do anything to you. The person you're bitter toward isn't there, so you unleash on other people. It just chews up your own insides. The Bible says it very clearly in Hebrews 12:15, "See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many." When you let a little bitter root grow up to become a bitter tree, it will undoubtedly cause trouble and it will defile many.

Bitterness is the longest chain in the world. That is the ironic thing about bitterness. You can't stand the person who hurt you. Because of your bitterness, you're chained to them. You can't stop thinking about them, but they're ruling your life because you're chained to them by a grudge. You're chained to them by bitterness. Bitterness diminishes you because you end up having pity parties for yourself and nobody wants to come. You start to get a negative attitude, and then bitterness isolates you because who wants to be around you? Everywhere he walks, dust falls off of him. Some of us have been carrying bitterness around with us. Because of that, people go, "Here they come. Here comes the problem person. Here comes the attitude." We're creating our own loneliness. We're creating our own isolation, and it can be really depressing. For some of us, our business card says "victim." Maybe you really have been, and that's a big deal. There are victims, but it's a lousy identity. There is an alternative.

Forgiveness is not justifying a person or denying what they did. It's saying, "I'll let God punish them instead of me." He will do a much better job than you will. Don't mess it up. He'll do fine. "I'll let God punish them. What I'm going to do is I'm not going to carry this around anymore; I'm not going to base the present and the future on the past." It can all stop with you. You can be free if you forgive them. You might have a right to be bitter, but you can't afford it anymore. It's just too expensive.

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It is possible for you to make a choice and say, “I’m going to end volume one. This is the beginning of a new volume in this relationship. I choose to make this page one of volume two and let God take care of whatever the fallout is.” You have a right to be bitter—that’s the lie. The truth is this: Your hurt can make you better instead of bitter.

There are two things you can do with garbage. One is to just leave it there. You know what happens to garbage, right? It will stink! Some of us have let the garbage of our life just sit there and rot inside of us, and it has started to smell pretty bad. The other thing you can do with garbage is recycle it. They can take that garbage and make it into something useful again. If you’ll bring your hurt to your Creator, He can turn that hurt into sensitivity and compassion, and make you a “make a difference” person, because you know how hurting feels. You become an ambassador to hurting people, because you have just become better through it instead of bitter.

4. You Are Nobody Till Someone Loves You

The last lie that many singles buy is “You are nobody till someone loves you.” That’s a lie, though we tend to believe it. When you’re younger, you say, “I know what I need. I need a best friend.” Kids have friends and then they want to be able to call someone their “best friend.” Then they need a boyfriend or a girlfriend. We start right away saying, “My worth is based on approval. My worth is based on having others validate my ticket.” Then you become a single adult. So much of what goes on in singles’ bars and singles’ clubs is people preying on each other’s loneliness. Everyone is looking for someone to “stamp their ticket” because they believe they have to have someone love them. Many of us have had a lot of frustration in relationships.

When our oldest son became a freshman in high school, things looked a whole lot different. Now he noticed high school girls. To him it was like he had died and gone to the “happy hunting ground.” He said, “I can’t believe it! It’s unbelievable!” Though it was all so superficial, he said, “I’m a freshman! I’m into superficial!” Most of us are sick of superficial, aren’t we? You don’t need another superficial relationship. The fact is that for many

of us, the relationships have been superficial, broken, or they have not been there for us. Sadly, we believed you're no one until someone loves you."

There was a two-hour special called "On Lonely Street" on 48 Hours on CBS. The entire episode was on loneliness, and they said that social scientists are saying that there's an epidemic of loneliness in America today. Maybe you have experienced part of that epidemic of loneliness. If you believe that you're nobody till someone loves you, there are some mistakes you tend to make. First of all, you tend to smother someone who starts to love you. You think, "I must have them because I'm nobody if they don't love me." Some of us have learned that by trying to chase them, hang onto them, and control them, we crush them and they run. It's called smother love.

Some of us have squandered sex because we believed we're nobody until someone loves us. So many have given this gift—that is so beautiful when given to one person in a lifetime marriage relationship and thought, "This is the way for closeness." Then afterwards they found out they were farther apart being intimate, not closer. Is it any wonder that half of our marriages end in divorce? People end up sexually well known to each other but yet strangers, all in the search to try to find someone to love.

Some probably shut down and say, "I've given a piece of me away so many times, I'm afraid to give anymore because the hurt is so deep." It's a pretty scary basis for security. When you lose the person, do you lose you? If you're nobody until someone loves you, and someone loves you and you lose them, then you're nobody again. We spend our whole life insecure.

The relationship zone of our life is where we place our greatest hopes, it's where we have our greatest fears, it's where we've had our greatest pain, and it's where we've made our greatest mistakes. Relationships—it's such a loaded word. For many of us, the word that goes before relationship is bad.

From the time we are a teenager, there's a little voice inside of us saying two words with a little whisper, "Someone's missing. Someone's missing. There's a love I'm supposed to have that I

don't have." We go after that best friend, and then we go after a lot of friends, and then we think if we just have a boyfriend or a girlfriend. Then some say, "Well, maybe if I live with someone." Some say "Well, maybe if I get married," or "Well, if I get married again." Some say, "Maybe if I have children." Then you have all of that and the voice is still there saying, "Someone's missing. Someone's missing." For many of us, in a lonely midnight, the voice becomes almost a cry, "Someone's missing!"

THE ULTIMATE RELATIONSHIP

There is an anchor relationship we're supposed to have that is the deepest need of the human soul. You've been around; you've lived long enough to know what it would look like. It will be someone who will love you unconditionally. It will be someone who, no matter what they find out about you, will never stop loving you. That's the

anchor relationship—unconditional love. Someone who won't stop loving you whether you're fat or skinny, young or old, acting beautiful or acting ugly. Your heart cries out for it...all of our hearts do. This ultimate relationship will be unloseable. Though you love your family and friends, and you need them very much, they're not anchor relationships, because they're not unloseable.

The great news is that there is Someone who is. Here is His personal promise found in Hebrews 13:5, "Never will I leave you. Never will I forsake

you." Romans 8:38-39 says, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

This is the anchor relationship—a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This answers all the questions about why we're on this planet. It would be nice to know before we leave, wouldn't it? It says in Colossians 1:16, "All things were created by Him and for Him." Put your name in there. You don't have to believe that, but you can't change it. You were created by Him, you were created for

Him, and you're going to have a hole in your heart until you know Him. If you were created by Him and for Him, how come you can be so lonely? How come you still feel like someone's missing?

Here's why. That same book—the Bible—says this, “We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6). Here's the one relationship we can't do without. It's the love and peace that we've been looking for a whole lifetime, and the fulfillment that no job or earth person can give because it's a God-sized hole. He's on the other side of a wall.

Do you know what sin is? It's like self-rule. It's like God was supposed to run my life, but I ran it instead. I was created to live by Him and for Him, but I've lived for me. This disease of “me” is terminal. It has cut me off from the One I need now, and the One I'm going to need forever.

That same 48 Hours television report on loneliness had an incredible statement. It said this: “The loneliest place in the world is the human heart.” Many of us know that. The loneliest place is right here. Cosmic loneliness means that I'm missing a relationship with my Creator, whom I was made by and I was made for. If I could just get this wall down between me and my Creator, I could finally have the only love that's enough love.

The most amazing love statement ever written on earth is one of the best known statements in the Bible. It's found in John 3:16 and it says this: “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” That whole thing comes to life when you put your name in it. That's the love you could spend the rest of your life looking for or you could have today. Jesus said to those who believe in Him who belong to Him, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” This is the ultimate relationship. Why would anyone wait any longer to begin it?

Did you notice how it said “to begin it”? “Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” To believe is to grab Jesus as your only hope because you have nothing to give. You pin all your hopes on Him, and He will rescue you. That's what believing

in Jesus Christ means. It isn't just being religious; you might be the most religious person and still not have a relationship with your Creator. God sent His only Son, Jesus, to take our death penalty that we deserve. We can trade in the death we deserve, for eternal life we don't deserve by saying, "Jesus, like the lifeguard I've been looking for my whole life, I grab You like You're my only hope."

Many of us know this very well from our own heartache—one-way love doesn't work. It doesn't work unless you respond. Though God loves you so deeply, He would give the life of His one and only Son for you. Some of us have never known that love deep in our soul. The loneliest place in the world can be our own heart because God isn't there yet. It hurts to spend everything you have because you love someone and then they hand it back to you. God knows how that feels because He spent everything He had to demonstrate His love for you and to make possible a relationship with Him. Please don't hand that back to Him and say, "I don't want it."

THE LAST HILL

Some of us have spent our life climbing dunes to nowhere. Look back over all the hills you've climbed to try to find love, peace, fulfillment, forgiveness, and worth. There are a lot of hills to nowhere, aren't there? You have to climb just one more hill, and on that hill is a cross. On that cross is the only Son of God paying the price for us running our life so that we could be forgiven and begin a relationship with God.

Have you ever been up that hill and said these words, "For me. Jesus, what you're doing there is for me. I want to make You mine. I've had this hole in my heart long enough. You are my only hope of having my sins forgiven, having a relationship with my Creator, and going to heaven." If you haven't, stand by that cross of Jesus and say, "Jesus, I'm Yours. I want the ultimate relationship, and I want it now. I will not live one more day without it." The truth is you're someone because God loves you so very much.

It is no accident you are here. The God who created you for Himself knows the pain of your past or the loneliness, and He wants you to belong to Him. This is about you and your Creator. This is about you and Jesus. It doesn't matter what religion you are or how religious you are in it. This is a matter of a relationship with Jesus Christ. If you're not sure you have one and you would like to have one, it is life-changing. It is heartfilling. It is sin-forgiving. It is eternitygiving stuff.

If you're not sure that you have ever made Jesus your own personal Savior to forgive your own personal sin and to give you a personal relationship with God, you have an opportunity to make this prayer your prayer. It's a prayer that says, "God I want to begin with You." If you never have, you can pray it quietly in your heart, almost as if Jesus were standing right there next to you.

"Lord, I've been running my life. I resign. I was made by You. I was made for You. I've been living for me, but not anymore. Lord, I'm sorry because I've sinned. I've hurt You, I've hurt others, and I've gone against the way You said to live. I believe that Your Son, Jesus, was paying my bill when He died on that cross. Though I deserve the penalty, I thank You that He paid it instead. Right now, Lord, I'm pinning all my hopes on Jesus Christ, like a drowning person would grab a lifeguard. You're my only hope, Jesus, of having my sins erased from God's book, my failures replaced with a new beginning, the hole in my heart filled, and receiving eternal life. Jesus, I am Yours. You died for me, so I will live for You." You can talk to God in your heart right now.

God has been watching as we've climbed the dunes to nowhere. We kept thinking what we were looking for was over the next hill, and we've even had another hill in sight. God has directed us to the hill where His son died, and sure enough, there's the end of our search. Invite Jesus Christ into the gaping hole in your heart, if you haven't asked Him to fill it already. Make the One you were made by and the One you were made for part of your life today. Your life will never be the same and you will have spent your last day alone because you can walk hand-in-hand with your Creator.

About: Ron Hutchcraft

Ron Hutchcraft is a passionate, contemporary evangelist, speaker, author, and radio host. As President of Ron Hutchcraft Ministries, Ron and his team specialize in developing, authentic, relevant, and creative tools to reach people with the message of Jesus.

Ron is committed to communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost in their language and to motivating and equipping believers to communicate Christ to the lost in their world.

Mr. Hutchcraft is also involved in work with Native Americans, and is founder of the “On Eagles’ Wings” Native leadership program.

Rev. Hutchcraft frequently speaks in partnership with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Ron was honored as Moody Bible Institute's Alumnus of the Year for 1997. Ron’s closest partner in life and work is his wife, Karen. They are the parents of three grown children and have nine grandchildren.



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