

By Dr. Andrew Corbett

A self-absorbed life is life bound to be miserable! We have not been created to focus on ourselves. The Psalmist of Psalm 115 opens this instructive Psalm by making a bold claim about this.

1. According to Psalm 115:1, where should our life-focus be and why?

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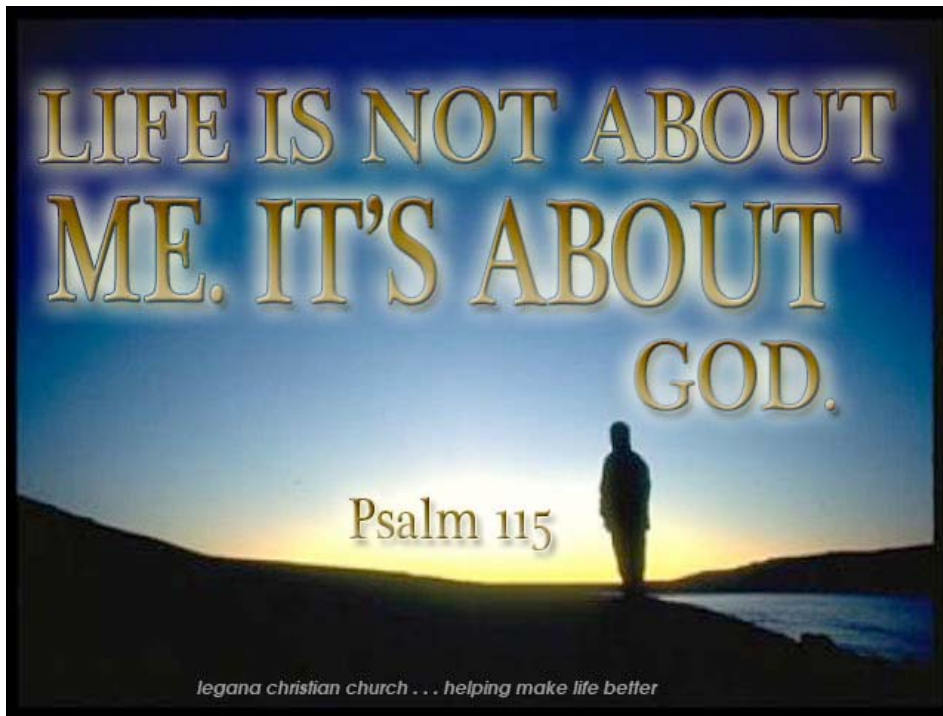
2. According to Romans 4:20, how did Abraham grow strong in his faith?

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3. How can we live out 1Corinthians 10:31?

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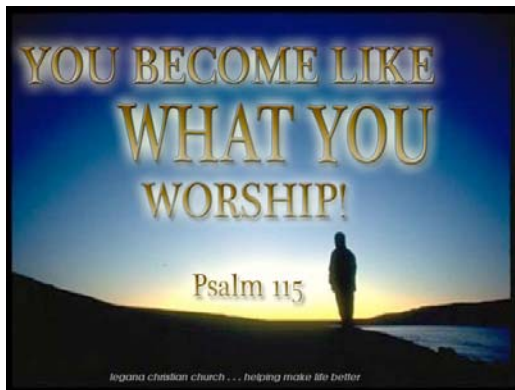
Life is about God. We find our highest purpose and greatest happiness when we live to give Him glory!

4. Some people teach that we must pray to or worship God in order for Him to be able to act on our behalf. How does this fit with the statement in Psalm 115:3?

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Increasing numbers of Pentecostals are blindly putting their faith in rituals and objects rather than God Himself. Psalm 115:4-7 describes the futility of trusting in mere objects (idols). We must be careful not to think that unless we pray, or fast, or worship, or read our Bibles, that God is unable to help us. Similarly, we should abandon foolish notions of waving magical banners during a worship service with the belief that they actually perform some spiritual task.



5. What is the implication, based on Psalm 115:8, of trusting the Lord? How would we be different if we did so?

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“Blessing”, to the Hebrew mind, meant a cause for happiness. If someone was blessed, they had reason to be happy. Three times the Psalmist says that God deserves to be trusted because He is a *help and shield*. The Israelites could look back and see how God had both helped them and shielded them.

6. Can you recall a time when the Lord clearly helped or protected you?

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King David led Israel in praise when in First Chronicles 16 he sung repeatedly of what God *had* done for them. Several times he tells Israel to “remember” the deeds of the Lord. When we remember what God has done for us, it is reason for us to trust Him with our future. When we are trusting God we have good reason to be happy!



7. How does Matthew 6:25-32 relate to trusting God?

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Psalm 115:12 declares that God will bless.

8. What does Deuteronomy 7:7-8 reveal about why God blesses His people?

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9. According to Psalm 115:13, who will the Lord bless?

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Psalm 115:16 says that God dwells in the heavens, but He has gifted the earth to mankind.

10. What are the implications of this verse for how we treat our planet?

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11. Based on Psalm 115:17, what can we do (and therefore, *should do*) that the dead can't do? What reasons has this Psalm given for doing so?

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*Amen.*