

Genesis

The World from His Word

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As we continue with the creation story today, I thought it best to start with a creature. I have a dog named Forrest. He is a freak of nature. Part Labrador, part Chihuahua and 100% freak. My family loves him. He is, in general, a good boy..... now.

When we first got him, not so much.

He would do this thing where he would ask to go into the backyard and then you would call him to come inside because maybe you had to go to work, maybe it's a Sunday and you're leading the rehearsal for the worship band, and you're going to let everyone down if you don't leave soon... and the dog just would not come in. He would just stand there and stare at me.

It's not like he didn't understand what I was saying. It was deliberate sabotage. It was delight at my misfortune. It was the work of a twenty inch tall terrorist. When he was young, there was nothing I could say to make that dog obey me. My words were powerless and ineffective. I felt powerless and ineffective.

The God of the universe and everything in it is not like me.
His words are powerful. His words are effective.

As we continue our study of the book of Genesis today we encounter, in all of his power, the creator, God. The one who is over and above everything. When it comes to thinking deeply about this world and our place in it, it seems like everyone asks the same two questions:

**Where did everything come from?
Why are we here?**

Behind these questions is the longing for meaning. We want to know that life has purpose. We want to know that existence is not an accident. That we're not just scattered atoms or clumps of cells. We want to know that the world we see and feel and taste and walk through was made with intention, and that we were too. That's where Genesis begins - with the beginning. And in the beginning it was not us, but God.

Genesis 1:1 says

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

That's not just an opening sentence. It is the bedrock of a biblical worldview. The Bible doesn't try to prove God's existence, it presupposes it. He is not introduced like a character; he is proclaimed as the author. Before there was time, before stars or anything else, God was. Eternal. Self-existent. Uncaused. Dependent on nothing. And into that pre-creation silence, God spoke.

"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."

Unlike my dog, when God speaks creation obeys.

The very first act in the story of creation is the speaking of a word. God doesn't begin creation with a hammer and anvil or with a plough. He speaks and by his word, the world begins.

Genesis 1:3 through 2:3 is a declaration of God's sovereignty, our identity, and a pattern for life. These verses are not a myth or a metaphor. They are revelation. This is how God chose to tell us the truth. The truth not merely about how the world was made, but about who He is, who we are, and what our lives are for.

This passage gives us far more than information about the origins of the universe and life. It gives us a lens to see all of life. A lens to see our world, ourselves and our God accurately.

This morning, we get to walk through our passage in three big movements. Each movement reveals something about the world, about ourselves, and most importantly, about this God who brings order into chaos, meaning to life, and rest to the weary.

Here are our three points for this morning:

1. **All Creation by His Command** (Genesis 1:3–25)
2. **Our Identity by His Design** (Genesis 1:26–31)
3. **Perfect Rest in His Work** (Genesis 2:1–3)

So let's begin where the Bible does with a powerful voice, and with an obedient creation.

1. All Creation by His Command

"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light." (v. 3)

That sentence is like thunder that shakes the silence of eternity. The first recorded words in Scripture are not spoken to a person. They are not addressed to an audience. They are spoken into the void. Into the deep. Into a world that, according to verse 2, was "formless and void" and cloaked in darkness.

God speaks, and light exists. There is no hint of struggle here. No materials to work with. No divine blueprints spread out on a heavenly table. Just the Word. God commands and creation obeys.

And throughout chapter 1, a pattern emerges, beautiful in its order and unmistakable in its meaning:

- "And God said..."
- "And it was so."
- "And God saw that it was good."

This is divine speech, divine power, and divine delight. God is not reacting; he is initiating. He is not discovering; he is decreeing.

- On Day 1, God creates light and separates it from darkness. -creating time
- On Day 2, He separates the waters and establishes the heavens. - creating space and bringing his plans for earth into focus
- On Day 3, He calls forth dry land and vegetation. - completing the habitat for all life on the earth

These first three days are all about giving structure to what was formless.

Then He begins to fill the realms that he has formed:

- On Day 4, He creates the sun, moon, and stars - the rulers of time and signs of seasons.
- On Day 5, He populates the sky and the sea with their inhabitants, the birds and fish.
- On Day 6, He fills the land with animals, and sets the stage for his greatest creation: mankind.

What's important here is not just what God does, but how he does it. This is not the product of chaotic forces or evolutionary guesswork. This is the work of a wise and powerful Creator. And the tool He uses? His Word. Ancient cultures told stories of how the world came to be, but they were full of violence, conflict, and grotesque origin myths. In the Babylonian story, as Tyler shared last week, the world is created out of the corpse of a defeated goddess. In Egyptian mythology, the gods argue and conspire with creation happening as a byproduct of their conflicts. But not here.

The Bible presents a radically different account. The universe is not the result of war. It is not the spoils of some cosmic accident. It is the product of divine speech. God speaks, and it is.

Psalm 33:6

"By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host."

The Apostle Paul picks up on this in Romans 4 when he describes God as the One "who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist." The writer of Hebrews makes the point explicitly:

Hebrews 11:3

"By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."

The beginning of Genesis is not poetry to soothe the soul, this is truth that frames all of life. Because God is the creator, all of creation is his.

God did not need help. He did not need time. He did not need raw material. He needed only to speak. And when he speaks, his Word never fails.

Isaiah 55:11

"So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose..."

Before we get ahead of ourselves, let's go back to verse 2 and remember how this started.

"The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep..." (V2)

That phrase "without form and void" in Hebrew is "tohu va-bohu". It really rolls off the tongue and is fun to say. But it would not be a fun place to be. It paints a picture of emptiness and confusion. Of a chaotic, uninhabitable, disordered space. And into that place, into that shapeless, meaningless, empty void, God speaks.

He says, "Let there be light." And there is. The chaos of nothing gives way to something.

Light is more than a physical phenomenon here. It is representative of something. Something that breaks through in such a way that now darkness itself is forever redefined as the absence of light. In the first creative act, everything is different. There was nothing, and now there is something. Even before the sun is created on Day 4, light exists. Because God does not depend on the instruments of light, he himself is the source. If God wants light, he gets light and the darkness scatters.

Let's bring this closer to home.

Some of us are living in verse 2 right now. You may look at your life and all you see is tohu va-bohu. Everything feels disordered. There's no rhythm to your days, no sense of direction. The future looks dark, uncertain, unformed.

Maybe it's a personal crisis in health, finances, a relationship in pieces. Maybe it's spiritual fatigue. You feel like you're drifting. You open your Bible but nothing is getting through. You try to pray but feel like your words fail. And yet, this is exactly the kind of place where God begins his work. God does not wait for order to appear. He brings it. God does not wait for light, he creates it.

What does that mean for you? If God's word had power, it means that God's word still has power. It means that Scripture is not just a source of knowledge, it is the voice of God speaking into your chaos. When you open the Bible and read its pages, you are not performing a task. You are coming to the same voice that said, "Let there be light." And we need the light of God's word.

Psalm 119:130

"The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple."

The same Word that ordered the universe can order your thoughts, feelings and desires. The same voice that calmed the chaos of creation can calm the storm in your heart. But you must listen. Not just casually. Not just occasionally. But urgently, expectantly, consistently. To take it further, you must obey. If your life right now is a shipwreck, a great question is "what does your obedience to the word of God look like?"

This world and everything in it would not exist without God's word, and we still need it daily for the nourishment and sustaining of our souls. God's word is powerful and active, not only in creation but for us today.

Paul, writing to the Corinthians, picks up on Genesis 1 and connects it directly to the miracle of salvation:

2 Corinthians 4:6

"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

That is astonishing and beautiful. Paul says that your salvation, your awakening to the glory of Christ, is just as miraculous, just as powerful, just as sudden as the moment God said, "Let there be light." When the gospel changes a heart, it is not just an idea being accepted. It is a word being spoken and creation responding. It is the Creator God breaking into the darkness of a soul and saying, "Let there be light."

And what happens? How do you know that you are saved? Here are a few things that happen:

- The Scriptures come alive and you feel their truthfulness.
- The cross becomes beautiful.
- Sin becomes bitter.
- Christ becomes precious.

At God's command, you don't just clean up your act. Something dead comes alive in both a once and for all verdict as well as a lifelong desire to live in a way that pleases God under his rule. So here is the encouragement and the invitation.

If you are in the dark today, if your life feels disordered or uncertain, if you've lost the plot and don't know what God is doing remember that he speaks into chaos. He doesn't wait for you to make your life beautiful before he'll enter it. Whatever the situation, he'll enter the broken, the dark, the "void and without form" places and speak light.

He is not silent. You are not unseen. And his word is still powerful. This creator God can use his word to make a new creation. He is deliberate and he is near to us and it is because we are made in his image.

This is our second point,

2. Our Identity by His Design

Genesis 1:26–31

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

*27 So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.*

28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” 29 And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The rhythm of Genesis 1 is beautifully consistent. God speaks, creation obeys, and it is good. But then, in verse 26, everything slows down. The pace shifts. The tone becomes deliberate and the repetition breaks.

Up to this point, God has simply said, “*Let there be...*”
But now, we read:

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...’”

Something new is happening here. Something distinct. God is not merely making another creature on the list. He is forming an image-bearer. Humanity is not the climax of evolution, we are the climax of creation. And that’s because we are not just inhabitants of the world, we are made to represent the One who made it.

The phrase “image of God”, what it represents, is one of the most important and profound truths in all of Scripture. It is foundational to the Christian worldview, to ethics, to mission, and to identity. In the ancient world, kings would place carved statues, images, throughout their kingdoms. These were not mere art pieces. They were declarations that proclaimed “The king reigns here. This is his domain.”

In a similar way, God places his image in the world, not in statues made of stone, but in human beings made of flesh.

Genesis 1:27

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female he created them.”

From the very beginning, your life is not random or pointless. You were made to reflect the character and glory of God.

So what Does It Mean to be made in God's Image?

To be made in God's image means that we are, in many ways like God. To be clear, there are many important ways in which we are not like God. I am not omnipresent, omniscient, or omnipotent for example. I don't think you are either. But there are characteristics that we share with our Heavenly Father that we do not share with the animals or with the plants or with the celestial bodies. If you've ever thought about what makes humans special and different than every other created thing the answer is this: humanity is made in the image of God and nothing else is.

What are the characteristics that we have as image-bearers?

1. We are Relational

God exists eternally in relationship - the Father, Son, and Spirit. To bear his image means we are made for relationship as well. We are not meant to live in isolation. We were designed to live in covenant with God and in community with others.

2. We are Rational

We think. We reason. We speak. We plan. Unlike the animals, we use language to communicate complex thought. We are capable of moral judgment, spiritual hunger, and artistic expression. We design, build, and dream.

3. We are Responsible

God gave humanity a job. We were created not just to enjoy the earth, but to steward it. To cultivate it. To subdue it, not in the sense of exploitation, but of care. God made the world good and sent us out in his name. We are ambassadors under the ultimate King.

4. We are Representative

Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, so we were made to reflect the holiness, wisdom, justice, and goodness of God in the world. We are living mirrors of his nature and we are intended to make the invisible God visible in how we live, love, and lead.

And, importantly, this image is not restricted by gender: "Male and female he created them."

That's not a throwaway line. It's a theological declaration. Men and women alike bear the divine image and they do so equally, fully, and gloriously.

In a world that's trying to blur the lines of gender, sexuality, and identity, Genesis draws them clearly. Male and female are not interchangeable or accidental. They are intentional. They are part of God's good design. So when Genesis tells us that "male and female he created them," it is not offering a cultural footnote. It is laying a creational foundation that we can't escape and that we're not meant to escape. We are image-bearers, yes. But we are not gods.

We don't define reality—we receive it.

We don't invent identity—we reflect it.

We don't determine truth—we submit to it.

We are not the authors of ourselves. We are created beings. And the one who created us is both wise and kind. To defy God's design is not liberation, it is distortion. It is rebellion. It is a rejection of the image. But the church must speak truthfully with compassion, not contempt. We do not mock those who are confused and deceived about something so fundamental as male and female. We mourn how things have gone wrong. Because we know the truth: all of us have marred the image in one way or another.

We are living in a cultural moment that is deeply confused about what it means to be human. Identity is now seen as something we must create, not something we receive. The world says:

"Define yourself. Construct your own truth. Choose your own adventure. Maybe even try and rewrite your biology."

But Genesis 1 says something better:

“You are already glorious. You don’t have to invent meaning - you were made with it. Your identity is not a blank canvas. It is the imprint of the Creator.”

To be human is to be sacred. Not because of intelligence or ability, but because of who made you and whose image you bear.

This is also why we care deeply about the sanctity of life in every sphere:

The unborn child in the womb bears the image of God.

The refugee fleeing war bears the image of God.

The elderly person suffering from dementia bears the image of God.

The child with disabilities bears the image of God.

Their value is not defined by utility or productivity. It is defined by the Creator who stamped them with his glory. So when we stand for the vulnerable, when we defend the unborn, when we care for the sick and the marginalized, we are not engaging in social activism. We are bearing witness to the God who made all people in his image.

And in an example that’s a little more local for us today, just last Sunday I was told, by members of our church making their way to worship, that at the corner of Brooks and Reserve there was a group of white supremacists standing and holding signs that said “Non White mean Non-American”. This isn’t just a terrible political ideology, this is meant to be an attack on the image of God. But God has made all people in his image. Race, skin color, ethnicity, culture - these things do not determine the value and level of respect that people deserve. All people are valuable because they are made in the image of God and he has put his breath of life in them. May we be a church where we value and treat with dignity all people, because all people are made by and belong to the Lord.

Now right after forming humanity in his image, God doesn’t have humanity wondering what to do. He gives them a task, a mission, a calling. We often call this the Creation Mandate, and it appears in **Genesis 1:28:**

“And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”

This is the very first command God gives to human beings. And it is not a small one. It’s not a ceremonial gesture. It is the blueprint for human flourishing under God’s kingship.

One theologian puts it simply: “The creation mandate is the original Great Commission.”

Let’s break it down into two parts

1. Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth
2. Subdue it and have dominion

“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth”

This is a call to family, to have children, to raise image-bearers, to build households and populate the world with worshipers of God.

This command sanctifies marriage and parenting. It teaches us that childbearing is not just biology, it is kingdom work. Children are not obstacles to success, they are disciples in the making, or as Psalm 127 puts it “arrows in the hand of the warrior”.

This means that when you care for children, feed them, comfort them, and even change diapers in the name of Christ, you are fulfilling the mandate. When you disciple your children, pray over them, teach them, and train them, you are advancing the kingdom, not just in your home, but in the world. When you invest in the next generation, whether as a parent or mentor, a teacher, or even a family friend you are obeying this fundamental commission.

Not everyone will marry. Not everyone will have biological children. But every Christian can participate in this part of the mandate by multiplying spiritual sons and daughters through evangelism, discipleship, and generational investment. No matter who you are or what your circumstances are, you can be faithful to this command.

“Subdue it and have dominion...”

This is a call to vocation, to harness the raw potential of the world and cultivate it for God’s glory and human good. The word *subdue* means to bring under control in a life-giving way, not exploitation, but stewardship. The word *dominion* refers to rule. This is not domination, but governance under God. God gives Adam and Eve authority not so that they would sit passively in the garden, but to work it, guard it, and even to expand it. They are to take the order and beauty of Eden and extend it outward until the whole earth reflects the glory of its Maker.

Work is not a result of the fall. Work is pre-fall, pre-sin, and deeply good. For those made in the image of God it is not a curse, it is a calling and this mandate still applies. Although the fall in Genesis 3 introduces pain, resistance, and frustration into our work, the original purpose still stands. And Christ redeems it.

In Christ, the creation mandate is not replaced by the Great Commission, it’s fulfilled through it. From the beginning, God called his image-bearers to fill the earth and exercise dominion. That wasn’t just about population or productivity, it was a call to extend his glory across the world through faithful presence and stewardship.

But in the great commission, found in Matthew 28:19, Jesus sends his 12 disciples to make disciples of all nations. It’s the same global vision but now, the image being multiplied is the image of Christ, being restored in redeemed sinners.

The original mandate, to fill and subdue, has been reoriented by the cross. We now proclaim Christ, call people into his kingdom, and teach them to obey all he commanded. As we go into homes and neighborhoods and nations, raising up spiritual sons and daughters, we carry forward the same God-given mission: to see the knowledge of his glory cover the earth like the waters cover the sea.

The creation mandate begins in a garden. The Great Commission ends in an eternal city. And in between, our calling is to fill the earth not just with people, but with worshipers. This future hope of restored fellowship and fruitful labor gives us courage, because right now, the image of God in us is fractured. Sin has twisted our desires, burdened our work, and broken our world. But even still, God has not left us to ruin.

The story of humanity doesn’t end in Genesis 1. It takes a dark turn in Genesis 3. Sin enters. Rebellion corrupts. And though we still bear the image of God, it is now cracked. Blurred. But God does not abandon his image-bearers.

He sends Jesus Christ, called in Colossians 1:15:
“The image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”

Where Adam failed, Christ succeeds. Where we reflected God poorly, Christ reflects him perfectly. And here’s the miracle: through faith in Christ, God is restoring the image in us.

Salvation is not just forgiveness. It is restoration. God is not only saving you from something, he is saving you for something. To become again what you were always meant to be: a living, breathing reflection of his glory. We ought not settle for a lesser identity. Don't let the world define who you are. You are not your career. You are not your desires. You are not your trauma. You are not your mistakes. You are an image-bearer of the living God. And if you are in Christ, you are being renewed day by day. With the Holy Spirit's help You are becoming something more radiant, more human, more holy than you could ever imagine.

As we move into our last point we see that these explosive creative acts of God are winding down. And we see God's

3. Perfect Rest in His Work

Genesis 2:1–2

"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done."

With these words, the creation account reaches its final act, not in another event of making or shaping, but in something that might surprise us: rest. After six days of breathtaking power, of forming and filling, of light and life and glory, God stops. He pauses. He rests. Not because he's tired. Not because he ran out of creative energy, but because his work was finished. When we think of rest, we usually imagine collapsing on the couch after a long day. Rest for us often comes from exhaustion. But God doesn't get exhausted.

Isaiah 40:28

"The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary."

So what is this rest of God's? It is the rest of completion. The rest of satisfaction. The rest of delight. Think of a composer who pens the final note of a symphony, then sets down the pen to listen. This is rest, not because he's drained, but because the piece is done. It is good.

This is the rest of God. It is not absence, it is presence. It is not escape, it is enjoyment. God's rest is the declaration that nothing more needs to be added.

Verse 3 says:

Genesis 2:3

"So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy..."

Do you realize that this is the first time in the Holy Bible that anything is called "holy." And it's not a mountain or some beautiful part of creation. It's not a temple. It's not a priest. It's a day. Time itself is set apart. It's a rhythm, it's a pattern. God weaves worship into the fabric of the created order. From the very beginning, humanity is meant to live in a rhythm of work and rest. Six days of activity. One day of worshipful pause. One day to remember, reflect, and rejoice. This is not an afterthought. It is a gift and it is built in from the beginning.

Later, in Exodus 20, when God gives the Ten Commandments, He grounds the Sabbath not in Israel's history, but in creation itself:

Exodus 20:11

"For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth...and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."

Sabbath is not a legal burden. It is a creation rhythm that we still feel and need today.

If rest is sacred, why are we so bad at it?

We live in a world that idolizes busyness. We wear exhaustion like a badge of honor. We check email on vacation. We scroll through work messages in bed. We equate value with productivity. And the result? We are anxious, distracted, burned out, spiritually numb. We are addicted to the illusion that everything depends on us. That the world will stop spinning if we do. That unless we hustle, we'll fall behind. That unless we strive, we'll lose. But that's not biblical. That's not Christian. And in fact, that's pride.

God rested, not because He needed to, but because we do. And in doing so, like a good dad, he modeled for us a different way of life. A life where we put down our tools and remember who really holds the world. A life where we trust in his sufficiency. Rest is not laziness. It's humility. Rest says: "I am not God. I can stop. He is faithful."

This rest isn't just about naps or vacations. It's about a rhythm of worship. It's about finding peace in someone else's work being enough. So do you have space in your week where you can thoughtfully pause? Do you have margin for worship, reflection, prayer, scripture reading or even singing? God didn't create a world where life is one long, uninterrupted march of work. He built in seasons, days, weeks, cycles.

So what happens when we ignore that rhythm? I think a lot of us know. We become spiritually dry. Our joy fades. Our affections flatten. Our relationships become mechanical. Our hearts grow hard. But rest, true rest, reawakens our souls. It recalibrates our vision. It reminds us that we were not made to run forever. We were made to stop and remember. Remember who God is. Remember who we are. Remember what matters most.

But the seventh day isn't just a model, it's a signpost. It points forward to something greater. The rest of Genesis 2 is a shadow of a deeper, richer rest to come. The kind of rest and peace that can't be found in naps or sabbaths or sabbaticals.

As one theologian said, "God had no rest from the creation till he had made man, and man can have no rest in the creation till he rests in God."

The rest we need is found in Jesus.
Jesus who said:

Matthew 11:28

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Hebrews 4 picks up this theme:

Hebrews 4:9–10

"So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God... for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his."

The point is that the true and final rest is not merely a day, it's a person.

The seventh day marked the fullness of God's work and the beginning of humanity's life with him. But since the fall, we don't work from rest, we work to earn it. And we don't just labor to live, we labor to be enough. And into that striving world, Jesus comes. He lives the life we failed to live. He fulfills the law we could not keep. He dies the death we deserved to die. And then he rises from the grave and rests at the side of God the Father Almighty.

Why? Because the work is finished.

Hebrews 10:12

"But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God."

The rest of Christ is the rest of completion. And he invites you into it. Not by earning it. Not by proving yourself. But by believing. Maybe you're here this morning and you're tired, not just physically, but spiritually. You're worn out from trying to be enough. You feel like you're always behind. Always falling short. Jesus doesn't say, "Come to me, and I'll give you another to-do list." He says, "Come to me, and I will give you rest." Real rest for your soul now and an eternal rest one day.

Rest from guilt. Rest from fear. Rest from shame. Rest from the crushing burden of trying to be your own savior. So come to him. Come in your weakness. Come in your weariness. Come with your chaos. And hear him say, once more: "It is finished."

Here are three final encouragements to take to heart.

1. Submit to the Voice of God

Genesis 1 shows us that when God speaks, creation listens. The question is do you? Do you submit to God's voice, or do you resist it? Do you let the Word define your reality, or do you chase after your own truth? In a culture drowning in opinions and noise, you need an anchor. That anchor is the Word of God. Not just the words on the page, but the person they point to, the word made flesh, Jesus Christ.

Let his Word shape your priorities. Let it rebuke your sin. Let it renew your mind. Let it lead your family. Let it govern your emotions, your body, your budget, your decisions, your affections. His Word has power. I would encourage you as strongly as I can, let the word of God have authority in your life.

2. Live as an Image-Bearer, Not an Orphan

You are not an accident. You are not forgotten. You are not just "getting through life."

You are a living, breathing reflection of the glory of God. That means how you live matters. Not because you're trying to earn something but because you already are someone. When you work with integrity, when you treat others with kindness, when you live with self-control, when you care for the weak, when you speak the truth in love you are reflecting your Creator. And if you are in Christ, you are being renewed day by day. You are being conformed into the image of the Son.

If you have faith in Christ, stop living like a spiritual orphan. You're not left to figure this out alone. You have the word of God, the Spirit of God, the people of God. You are being remade. Don't resist that work. Embrace it.

And finally,

3. Rest in the Finished Work of Jesus

Maybe nothing else I've said today matters to you because your soul is just exhausted. You're tired of pretending. Tired of trying. Tired of religion. Tired of guilt. Here is the best news I can give you: In a very real way, I want to invite you to stop striving. Christ has done the work. To rest your hopes on him you don't have to clean yourself up. You don't have to perform. You don't have to fake it. Christ has lived the perfect life. He has died the atoning death. He has risen in victory. And now he invites you to come, not as a worker, but as a worshiper. Not to achieve, but to receive.

This rest we have in Christ is eternal peace with God. Peace that can begin now and go on forever. The Bible begins with a word but the story it tells will end with a shout. One day, the same voice that said "Let there be light" will speak to creation again. And the dead will rise. And the heavens will split. And the word made flesh will return for all those who have put their faith in him. Until that day, let us live by his Word, let us reflect his image, let us rest in his grace, let us worship the God who creates, redeems, and restores. Let's worship Christ who brings order into chaos, meaning to life, and rest to the weary.