



HEAVEN IN BUSINESS

LIVING FROM PERFORMANCE OR PRESENCE

God says that we have been made in His image (Gen. 1:26-27) and that we are His beloved sons and daughters (Gal. 4:5-7). Because of this, our lives have worth and significance and, thus, we are able to rest in His presence. Unfortunately, we often forget this and, instead, root our sense of worth and significance in our performance and/or how others see us.

Where do you find your sense of worth and significance? By striving to perform for and/or please others, or by living each moment in His Presence?

On the continuum below, circle the number that best represents how you would rate yourself:

Living From Performance

Manifest anxiety and fear	1	2	3	4	5
Desire praise from others	1	2	3	4	5
My will is primary	1	2	3	4	5
God is always angry	1	2	3	4	5
God can't wait to judge me	1	2	3	4	5
Value accomplishments	1	2	3	4	5
Anxious about tomorrow	1	2	3	4	5
High need for control	1	2	3	4	5
Independent/Codependent	1	2	3	4	5
Rely on my strength/ability	1	2	3	4	5
Disappointed in self	1	2	3	4	5
My wisdom and direction	1	2	3	4	5
Always hurry, busy, rushed	1	2	3	4	5
Changed by atmospheres	1	2	3	4	5
People feel used around me	1	2	3	4	5

Living From Presence

Manifest peace and joy
Desire praise from God
His will is primary
God is always good
God can't wait to bless me
Value relationships
Hope for tomorrow
High level of trust
Interdependent
Rely on His strength
Love self
His wisdom and direction
Always present, focused
Change the atmosphere
People feel valued



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Questions

What is behind striving to perform for and/or seek the approval of people in unhealthy ways rather than resting in the presence of God?

What does God say about who you are?

How might fully understanding how God sees you affect how you choose to live your life?

Describe one thing you will do to intentionally to live more from His presence rather than your performance.

Parting Thought

We work as if it depends on us, but we rest knowing that the results depend on God. In his book, *A Timbered Choir*, poet and farmer Wendell Berry has a few lines of poetry that help illustrate this idea:

Harvest will fill the barn; for that
The hand must ache, the face must sweat.
And yet no leaf or grain is filled
By work of ours; the field is tilled
And left to grace. That we may reap,
Great work is done while we're asleep.
When we work well, a Sabbath mood
Rests on our day, and finds it good.