

Lighten Your Load 3

Pure Imagination

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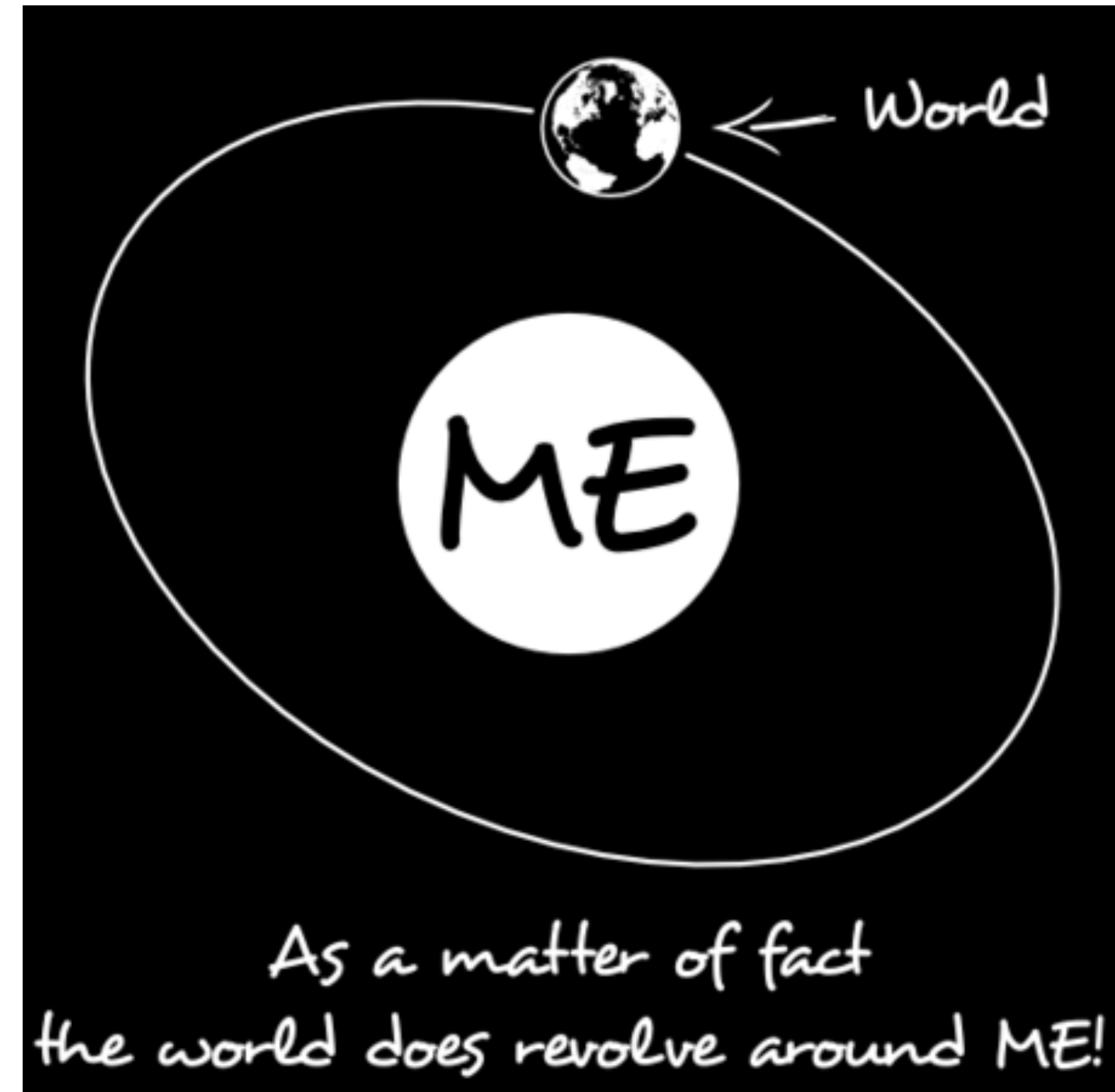
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- Our society conditions us to believe that success is represented by material possessions instead of good character and godly living. *1Tim. 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.*
- This ideology has bled into the minds of Christians and caused many of them to focus on achievements and financial gain instead of marriage and child-rearing. *1Tim. 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.*
- When we place material gain above God's plan, we sabotage the next generation and cause them to neglect their creation roles in order to achieve selfish ambitions. *Prov. 16:25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*



- In order to truly reach goals, you must imagine obtaining what you desire to achieve. These thoughts are the basis of our hope that gives us faith to persevere until we receive it. *1Chr. 29:18 O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee:*
- Our imaginations are cultivated by our upbringing. What we are trained to pursue is what we usually imagine becoming. *Prov. 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*
- An unhappy childhood or traumatic experience, changes our imaginations which in turn, modifies our behavior. *Rom. 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*



- When our imaginations are tainted with selfish goals that contradict God's plan, we begin to live outside of God's will. *Jer. 7:24 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.*
- This causes us to load ourselves down with goals that please people but hinder God's plan, which harms the future generation. *Hos. 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*
- We must fill our hearts with imaginations that coincide with the purpose that God desires for us. All that we do and imagine should be submitted to Godly wisdom and purpose. *2Cor. 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*



SUMMARY

One of the heaviest weights you can carry is the pressure of achieving goals that are superficial versus God given. God has created all of us with the potential to achieve His creation roles. But when we add imaginations of material possessions, excessive finances, or social status and fame, we weigh ourselves down. These burdens are heavy and cause character issues and even health problems. But the greatest and most damaging side effect of selfish ambition is the damage it does to our progeny. When you make possessions and worldly status more important than family and child-rearing, you are causing your children to seek the approval of the world over the approval of God! When they see you setting them aside for your own ambitions, they will do superficial things to gain your approval and the approval of the world! God says that the world is nothing but the lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and pride of life! He says that if you love the world, then the love of the Father is not in you.

The vain imaginations that permeate our society are creating people that are exceedingly selfish. Marriage is looked at as an option and children are deemed “goal destroyers” and placed in the care of others while parents grind out their worldly desires. Sacrifices for children turns into the sacrificing “of” the children. When these children grow up they will be self-centered and absorbed with their social status instead of desiring stable families and solid children. In order to fix this, we must change our imaginations and begin to envision what God desires. Then we can have the faith to establish it and deny ourselves for the sake of our family’s future.

Psa. 24:3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?

Psa. 24:4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

Psa. 24:5 He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.