

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.

Psalm 36:9

the LifeWord

with Michael Green



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Dear Friends:

ATTENTION ADDICTION

I know we are called to be loving and forbearing but sometimes it's just tough. That was the reminder advice I got from a friend after I vented a bit. At times, we just have to reach down and draw from the Mercy and Grace Well, reminding ourselves of why we do what we do and that God is still awake.

Linda and I recently observed a couple of gents who were self announced *"Kingdom Super Stars in the Making"*. We've all seem 'em. They love an entrance and are always the guys that want you to know that they are in the elevator. Now, I'm not against being sharp but when it creeps over into slick and sharky, the flags come up.

With every *"Hey, Bro"* or *"Hey, Champ!"* that oozed out, I felt like I was watching one of those TV shysters who got somebody 10 million for a hangnail. Suddenly, the revelation light came on, *"watch your back and your wallet"*. For years, I've seen these types shake your hand while their eyes roved for the money people in the room. (After all, you never know when God will connect you with somebody who can help with Lexus payment or the house note.) In their worlds, they may be important but they are not my *"Champs"*.

In another experience with a member of the *"Attention Addicted Club"*, I listened to one of the club's charter members drone on about how important they were to God. With each breath, wherever I steered the conversation, this one dropped name after name and let me know that whether it was on Heaven's Hotline or just the latest news, they had the direct pipeline to *"all the news that's fit to print"*. I realized that I was momentarily fortunate to be visiting their rarified air.

Some of this is a need to be noticed, some is from insecurity but the incessant requirement to keep ringing this bell is a manufactured aura designed to demand place and recognition. By the way, don't be tempted to share too much of what is on your heart with these folks. They'll just tell you that three angels already told them the same thing two weeks earlier. Although they are always just coming back from China, the North Pole or somewhere in the Congo, they're sitting on ready to top the stories or trump your revelations.

Some of them get exhilarated as they share their 3am revelations while you lazy slugs slept; not revealing their noonday snooze while you worked on the railroad all the live long day.

Seeds of busybody and prideful prating might be found in the mix here along with dashes of self deception and judgementalism thrown in. Whatever it is, it is a dreadful creature that needs to be fed, recognized and coddled. You will find them demanding and having trouble with *"NO"*.

What's wrong with just loving God, serving Him and treating folks honorably? I know God is glorified by this mindset. Micah's loving, yet stirring, challenge still rings true...*"Do Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly"*.

How do I know this? 12 angels and a marching band told me last Tuesday at 2:37am.

Michael

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"Building Christ Into Every Life"