

17 Days to change
your life.

Why am I here?

By Del F. Griebel

Dear Friend,

A fellow combat soldier and PTSD patient named Jeremy sat with me at the breakfast table. He had been through some horrific experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan; he came home damaged and confused. He kept asking the question, "Why am I here?" Most of us have asked that question; we want to know if we have a purpose in this universe. This book was inspired by that question.

Yes, we do have a purpose and a path. We are needed to make a difference in this Universe. But, we have a CHOICE about it all. We can choose to be part of the answer or part of the problem.

Wise people are turning to serve Jesus Christ. He is the Creator and Redeemer; He is the Lord of all, and He is our Resurrection and Life. Etc. Etc.

He is calling many people around the world, to get back to the basics. You too are called by God to choose which team you are on. The Bible is His story and His plan. So, please consider this to be an invitation for spiritual friendship and a free lunch. You will be welcomed and loved.

Blessings,

Pastor Del

17 Days - Why am I Here?

Day 1

Let me introduce myself. I am your Creator and I care about you very much, more than you can fully know. But, don't let me overwhelm you. I will speak softly to you and I will respect your freedom to choose what you believe. You are a unique person among the multitude of my people in this world; but I can see you and I care about you.

The purpose of this book is to give you a HOPE and a LIFE. You may be surprised by what you read; but I hope to convince you to choose me. Read one page per day and pray about it. I have laced these pages with words of truth and encouragement. I want to bless you and give the future and the HOPE that you need. "For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans to good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah

I existed before time. I am the source of all energy, all matter, and all life. In fact, I am LIFE; and only I can give life. Death is not well understood in many religions and some have it wrong; but that is for another day.

Death is difficult to comprehend; but, to perish is a very real danger. So, I appeal to you to listen to my words. Truth and Life is what I am; and I want to give you both. You are one of my children and like a good father, I want the best for you. I will always be available to you. So, please consider my words; they can change your life and your understanding in 17 days. OK?

Read Genesis 1 and John 1. (from the Bible)

Day 2

Thanks for taking me seriously. I look forward to our time together each day. It will be good for you and for me. So to start with, I need for you to do something. Could you go outside and find some living thing?... Look at it; evaluate its design. What makes it live and grow and reproduce?

Science gives you a few insights into life; but I assure you, there is much more to learn. Can you grasp the laws of life or the size and physics of the universe? I made this universe and the laws that guide it. Human brilliance has yet to rival my creative power and intelligence. Just look at nature all around you; pick any living thing and notice the miraculous things it does without a teacher. How do plants transfer oxygen into the air? How do they create new matter or harness the energy of the sun?

Go to any part of nature and contemplate what you see. Yes, there are things that many do not understand; but you can still be impressed with the beauty and adaptive design. I am the Designer. And, I provide for all living things. And, there is adequate evidence pointing to a wise Creator to the open minded. It is this evidence that I give you so you can catch a little glimpse of me.

But, I am more than an impersonal law of nature. I created law and order because I care. That law is love. And, love is the most powerful force in the vast endless space of our universe. It is the essence of who I am. I designed it all and You can see it too, if you want to. However, there is a problem... and you are affected. A terrible, fatal disease has infected the entire human population. It is called sin.

Please read Genesis 3 and Revelation 12.

Day 3

There is an enemy who teaches that I am not telling the truth and that I cannot be trusted. I gave him freedom to think for himself; but, he chose to turn inward and be selfish. He then refused to take counsel and turned against me. He learned to lie and deceive. Freedom has risks; so I took responsibility for this and devised a plan for love to be the ultimate security in the Universe.

I value the freedom of choice and all my children have been given this power. But, freedom has risks. Many of my children have chosen to believe the enemy instead of me. He lies to them; seduces them and sets them up for failure and death. Why? Because, he is not willing to admit he is wrong. He was an angel of light; but now he has hardened himself and become the enemy, the devil.

He went far beyond the boundaries of love. He turned away from the light to walk into the darkness. Soon the universe will understand this Great Controversy and the devil's life too will perish. He is the father of sin and death. He was one of my children; but he has gone way too far. When He brutally murdered me on a Roman cross, he showed his true character. He lost his opportunity to be forgiven. His love turned to anger and he wants to take you and many others with him into the darkness of death.

But, it is not too late for you. I made a great personal sacrifice to give you an opportunity for reconciliation and life. Please hear me out. I am your real DAD... I love you. All you must do is **choose which side** you are on. It has been very painful for all of us. I have lost many children.

Read Revelation 12 and 20.

Day 4

Thank you for continuing. It may take you time to trust me. I am OK with that. You are a child of mine and a unique person. Unfortunately, you and all others were born on the wrong side of a Great Controversy. You inherited this fatal disease called sin. The entire human race is affected. And, I am trying to win as many as possible back so that I can take them all out of this painful place. My plan is to re-create this world to its original beauty and give it back to you and others like you who have been rescued. My Father and I agreed that I would make a personal appearance on earth. My mission was to make it possible that the human race could be forgiven and saved.

I came to do what no one else could do. I lived with the human race, faced the fury of the devil daily; but I lived a sinless life of service. I faced many of the problems that you face. I experienced hunger, temptation, distrust, and abuse. Finally, I was brutally beaten and bled to death on a government cross. I did all of this to open darkened minds to the stark contrast between myself and Satan.

For those who acknowledge their need of me, I can forgive and save. As you know, all people will experience death; but you have my promise; I will raise you from death as I was raised. It was to redeem you that I did all this. I am the only one who can solve this sin and death problem. Mohammed can't; Buddha can't; and Satan himself cannot solve it. Satan is the father of lies and the cause of death. But, I made this personal sacrifice plan in order that evil would never rise again. I gave my life so that anyone could choose me could be forgiven and live.

Read John 3 and Luke 23.

Day 5

Today, I want to help you understand that you really are one of my children. I love you whether you are good or bad. I have given you free will to choose good or evil. If you will choose good, I will forgive you and give you life. But, without me you are on the enemy's side. Remember, you are already my sons and daughters; but to save you, you must choose me and keep choosing me. Then, you will grow in grace and goodness. I do have the ability to make all things work together for good for them that love me.

I originally created mankind with noble powers and a beautiful mind. But, disobedience has polluted the whole human race and you and all others have become damaged and perverted, unable to resist the power of evil. You need my help and I want to help. I promise to be with you your entire life and save you if you will just humbly acknowledge your need and my willingness.

It is impossible for you to escape the huge pit that you have fallen into without my help. Even my disciple Paul recognized that he was still a wretched man and constantly needed me. I helped him and I can help you. Just look to me. I desire to have you back into in my family, within my care. No other person can take your place in my family. I love you. Please believe it.

So, what can you do? You can admit that you need my help. You can just turn your face toward mine and I will save you. I have made this possible; so just do it. **Choose to be my fully committed follower**; choose my side of the battle. Trust me; not yourself. (John 3:16-17)

Read Romans 3 and 8.

Day 6

So what is your next step? You must turn your back on the evil in your life. I know this is hard. It is a problem that you have little power to resist. Again, you must trust me. You must turn away from sin. You must run for your very life, away from evil and into my arms. I will help you and I will forgive you. I will have mercy on you and create in you a clean heart. I will do for you, what you cannot do for yourself. Then, the mystery of redemption will begin to unfold in your life.

You can choose to accept me or not. But, if you are willing, I will draw you back into safety. You will begin to be a blessing instead of curse. You will become a new person. You will begin to understand that your good deeds without me are like filthy rags. You will begin to embrace my kindness and goodness. You will become loyal and generous. You will develop a true spiritual nature and be able to do genuine acts of kindness and enjoy it.

Your temptation will be to delay. To delay is easy; but, it is the very worst thing you can do. I am asking that you act now and give yourself to me; choose life. I need you in my family. Don't wait; because the evil one will fight to keep you. He will make it difficult for you. So, choose me and be drawn in; I will forgive you, cleanse you, and bless you. Let yourself become one with the most powerful force in the universe, love. Let your heart be filled with tenderness and compassion. Look to me, the author and finisher of your new faith. Choose me at least 7 times a day; this is your most powerful weapon. These choices and my strength will do what you cannot do alone.

Read Psalm 23 and Psalm 20.

Day 7

Next, you need to admit your rebellion and specific sins. If you can humble yourself and acknowledge me, I can help you. I desire to have your trust and friendship. With these steps you will find your way home. You must be willing to confess and forsake your wrongs. If you have wronged someone, make it right; if someone hurt you, forgive them; they too are my children. By hurting them you just hurt me. This is the path; just humbly confess.

It is a tough job but it is the right thing to do. It is admitting that you need my help because I am your father and creator. You need my forgiveness and peace and I am able to give it to you. As you humble your heart, I am able to come near to you and love you and hold you in my arms and comfort you, as you would comfort a wounded sobbing child. This step is vital. Even the devil could have been saved if he would have been willing to acknowledge his need and confess his wrongs.

I am not able to forgive anyone who refuses to take this first step. Sincere confession with the **willingness** to turn from evil is the key to making any real change in your life. Then, I am freed to gather you up in my arms and bless you and stay with you to help you change.

Remember, this is a critical step, because when you are in the devil's darkness you are partially blind to your own defects. You must be willing to admit the possibility that you are wrong. Then, you can enter my light and love. You will begin to see the beauty of redemption and the terrible cost of sin. This choice is your first act of faith.

Read Isaiah 1 and 1 John 1.

Day 8

Progress! Soon you will begin to appreciate these actions more and more. It is like coming into a warm lighted room after being in a cold dark place. I will accept you and love you and warm you up. I will welcome you back into the family. I will give you a hot bath and a warm meal. **Confession** is your part of this new life. It is difficult but it is part of change. It is the strengthening part of your new and better life. Then, “You will seek me and you will find me when you search for me with all your heart.” says Jeremiah. I love you and am proud of you; just keep reaching out like sinking Peter did on the lake.

This process takes time. But, you are now on the path of life, a journey to change. Your change will be like the metamorphosis of a caterpillar to a butterfly. I will be with you. Sometimes it will be painful; but you will make it. And remember, I will never leave you.

In summary, take time to acknowledge me. Then, choose to trust me to guide you through the darkness and into the light and the life. Next keep coming back to me or seeking me when you fall. Confess your bad deeds and ask for help. Then, choose me often, 7 times or more per day. This most important step is for you to choose me and life over and over. Give me your will and stay on the path of life. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose.

Know, that I will not punish like an angry parent. I will forgive and save as many as possible. So I invite you to take the steps. Yes, baby steps are good! Choose and choose and choose. Keep it up; I am proud of you.

Read Jeremiah 29 and James 5.

Day 9

Now this next step is a little more difficult. You must stay yielded to me. The bad news is that most people are prisoners of the Devil whether they are aware of it or not. To save you, I need your total consent. You must seek me with a whole heart. The good news is: that you changed sides in the battle. You are taking some wonderful steps. I will keep my promises to you and save you; so I need your full and complete commitment. You have declared war on the evil that is within you. And this battle is not easy. But, if you will be patient, I will transform you into a valuable and purposeful person. The road will be bumpy; but if you will persist, I will take away your love for money and honor and ease. Unfortunately, these are what bind you to Satan. Eventually, you will forget about your selfish desires and you will enjoy being an heir to my kingdom. Your mind and your health will improve and you will become a better person. How? Choose, choose, choose.

You must use your God given power to choose. You cannot change your own heart or the color of your skin; but you can **CHOOSE** to serve me. You can choose to trust me instead of the one who wants to destroy you. So put on your steel-toed boots and stand up. When you make a resolute choice to be a Christian, I can help you to become a new person. My sacrifice made it possible for you to be rescued from the consequence of sin which is death. So, choose to follow me no matter what; and I will bless you and guide your life; I promise. You do have the power to turn your back on evil. That choice is the best choice of your life. What have you got to lose?

Read Joshua 24.

Day 10

Let's talk about **faith**. Your conscience is waking up and you are somewhat aware of the chaos around you and in your own life. Peace is what you need and I can give it. You have turned to acknowledge me and you are still reading this little book. You have asked for my help and you have confessed your sins, and you have chosen to be a Christian. Now you must believe that I have the power to count you as totally good.

So now, you can stand up without shame. Believe you are forgiven and that you belong! You are no longer under the power of Satan. It feels good, doesn't it? You are forgiven and I will mold you into a new and better person. Now, your job is to believe and take the baby steps forward and keep believing. It is a **choice**. Don't wait; just do it. Say, "I have given myself to God. He died that I might live." "He loves me. Even though I have abused His love, I will believe and I will arise and become a new person." Like I said, you belong to me now. I am your helper and I will be with you no matter what; that is my promise.

So say it, "I am a Christian." "I belong to Christ." "I am forgiven and I am loved." Now believe it and act like you believe it. This is faith! You don't have all the answers but you do have some evidence. You make a choice; that is your part. I will do the rest. I will help you along the way. I will save you and in the end; I will give you eternal life.

Are we in this together? OK! You are changing; you have changed sides; you are now on the winning team; and that makes all the difference.

Read Hebrews 11 and Matthew 9.

Day 11

Remember, I am your Creator. I love you and am trying to bring you come home to safety. My Spirit can help you change. My Spirit works imperceptibly; but positive things are beginning to happen in your life. Soon, you will see a marked contrast of what you were and what you have become. Change will come; and you will be a witness.

Sometimes, you may feel even worse; but be patient. I am drawing you in, closer and closer. You will begin to see your own faultiness; but just be patient, I am putting my love in you and love lifts you up and changes you.

You have declared whose side you are on; now I can change your selfish heart into one filled with love. And, love does what is right and enjoys it. You will begin to reflect my image and breathe my Spirit. You will love my laws and they will be written on your heart. Your pride will change to humility; your vanity will change to modesty; your sacrifices will become a pleasure. Because, LOVE is changing you.

Your job is just to keep abiding with me; let me do the work. You see, I lived a sinless life; I fought the evil one on every level of life and won. I am offering to take your history and give you my history.

I died for you so you could be counted righteous. So, just keep giving yourself to me and I will take care of the rest. If you mess up, I am also your advocate. If you fall, I am your judge. I will forgive you and help you back up to the path of life.

Read Isaiah 1 and Hebrews 1 and John 3:16-17.

Day 12

So far, so good. You are doing well; you are “born again”. It is a wonderful experience. Just like a germinating seed, you are slowly growing into a new person. Just keep breathing my life and feel my love. Expand the things and people you **appreciate**. Enjoy how it makes you feel. You will be like a tree planted by rivers of water. You will grow strong and good.

Consecrate yourself to me each morning and walk with me all day. Give me your plans; I will guide you through the day. Choose often to be my disciple and abide with me. Come to me with your trouble and your issues, I will give you rest and peace. The devil will try to divert your mind and prevent you; but you can choose. You have this power. You can live by faith; I gave myself for you and I am willing to live in you.

So, look to me; and abide in me; your heart will soften and your whole nature will be transformed. I promise to be with you no matter what, even to the end. My Spirit will be with you each day because I prayed for you. I love you with an everlasting love; a love that will never fail. So, don't worry about tomorrow; I will be there.

So, endure the pain for now; soon I will take it away. Grow like a tender new plant. Grow like a new born baby. Grow and stretch and breathe and live. That is my will for you because I love you and long for your company. I want to restore you and give you a new purpose. Your intended purpose is in my hands. “Acknowledge me in all your ways, and I will direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

Read Psalm 1 and Proverbs 3.

Day 13

Do you feel some thing great happening? Keep up the good work! I am proud of you. Remember, I am the source of life and TRUTH and order in the universe. I provide for the needs of the whole world. When I walked this earth, my greatest joy was to help people; I healed them and forgave them and gave them hope.

That is what I want to do for you. When my love fills you, you will serve like I served; you will be a fisher of men. Joy will enter your life and even in hard times you will help me win back others. We are new partners working together to save a sick and dying human race.

Continue reaching out to others and that will cause you to depend on me even more. It is not easy; but it will help make you a better person. Then, join in with some others who are trying to serve me too. Together, you become my family, my church, my people. Your mission is to give people hope. It is to give the good news that I have opened the way to LIVE forever. You can have a part and you are needed. Together, we will make a lasting difference.

No matter how insignificant you may feel, your life and your witness will help me win some and secure the universe forever. You don't have to worry about success; just humbly work with me and my family. Because, I have a plan. So, use your own talents and I will bless the outcome. This humble unselfish service will help you too! It will help fit you for eternal life and heaven. OK? Will you consider my words and say yes to my request? Please say yes, you too can serve.

Read Matthew 28 and 1 Corinthians 7.

Day 14

Together, we can seek ways to penetrate the deep darkness to reach my other children. If they will look, they too can see me in nature and scripture. Even though nature is marred, they can enjoy my character in the quiet beauty of a sunset or a living flower. If they will listen they too can hear my voice in the wind. I sustain all things in the universe because I care. But, the future home that I have prepared for you and others like you, is beyond your best imagination.

When you watch quietly, you will see my providence all around you. You will feel my Spirit working in your heart. As you humbly read the Bible, you will hear my voice. You will become acquainted with me and your appreciation will grow. Your perception will become keener, your memory better, and joy will flood your heart.

The words of John were right, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin.” Remember, I have called you; I know your name. I know everything about you and am still willing to take you into my care and service.

And, would you like to strengthen your brain? There is nothing more calculated to strengthen the intellect than the study of the Scriptures. It will elevate your mind and ennoble your character. So, keep your Bible close and read it often. It is a way that you can begin to understand me and the universe. Try to fill your mind with the great thoughts and concepts of scripture and history. Choose to think about good things; learn from men and women who have walked through life with me.

Read John 4 and Revelation 21.

Day 15

Now, I want to talk to you about prayer. Prayer is like opening your heart to a friend. Prayer is just talking to me, your Creator. You can do it out loud or you can do it in your mind. Nothing is too hard for me; I can hear you and just appreciate it when you recognize your need of me. Prayer will lift you up to a higher level of life and give you spiritual energy to connect with me in an intimate way.

When I was on earth, separated from the Father, I needed time in prayer to give me strength to complete my mission. I prayed for myself and I prayed for you. I prayed for all my children, especially those who accept my offer. It is a privilege to talk to “Our Father”. It was my connection to the unstained reality of Heaven. It was my way to walk and live “in the Spirit”.

I was able through prayer to access the power of God and all the resources of Heaven. I was able to tap into the mind of the infinite and given the strength to go on through pain and even death. Prayer is like the incense on the altar in the ancient Sanctuary. It rises up and fills the area with a sweet smell.

Prayer is like a breath from Heaven’s air. As you learn more about me, you can lift your mind up to the purity of my presence and I can hear you. I can see you and I love to have you connect with me. I will answer you in the way that is best for you. And, as you mature, you can learn to praise and that will lift you higher yet. So, learn to appreciate what is good around you and that will help you endure the bad. OK?

Read Mathew 6 and John 17.

Day 16

What about doubt? Doubt and skepticism are encouraged by the evil one. All believers experience times of doubt. And, I do not ask you to believe blindly. I will give you enough evidence for you to make a choice as to whether you believe or not. Sometimes, it will be a little stretch for you but that is by design. I want you to learn to trust me so each time I will ask you to stretch your faith just a little.

Choose to believe the evidence that is available to you. Remember, my ways are beyond human understanding; so don't feel bad or reject me when you cannot understand some things. Just do the best you can. There are many things that are very hard to understand, like how sin began, like my incarnation, regeneration, and resurrection. Even life itself is a mystery. The creation of something from nothing is a mystery etc. Continue learning; there are many mysteries to be studied. Think about the wonder of life and the grandeur of the universe. Be awed, not confused or discouraged. Let the things that are too big for you rest with me. I've got this thing under control.

Nature and the Bible are still the best resources for you to begin to see that I Am The Living God. My wisdom and my treasures will become more reachable in time.

Doubt is the easy way out. Anyone can do it. Just honestly evaluate the evidence and choose. This is the first step of wisdom. Don't let your own pride get in the way of enlightenment or revelation. If you will trust me just a little, my Spirit can guide you and teach you things that will thrill you.

Read Matthew 5 and John 7.

Day 17

Now, to answer your question: Why are you here? You are one of my children and you have a divine destiny. You also have a purpose here and now. I want to help you find and live that purpose. I love you more than you can understand. So, I appeal to you to read the Bible and consider my words. I Am the Living God. And, I can be your friend. I can give you life, true liberty, and real happiness. So, get to know me and trust me. You can become a light in a darkened world.

Check it out and see that I am good. Look for the genuine truth that I offer. Look at the positives; leave the negatives in the dark. Look for the flowers instead of the thorns. Use your voice to cheer up your fellow man. Be kind when you can. Choose me and I will make you a river of living water.

And, you will have an inheritance that is better than your wildest dreams. You will be welcomed into my home and it will be your home. So come, it is YOUR DECISION that opens the door. So pray to me; ask me anything. I will be your helper and your best cheer leader. Your life will make a difference and your understanding will grow.

Remember, I am your Creator. I am Jesus. I am the very essence of life, love, and law; I am your Redeemer. So, choose to be my disciple. This is why you are here. This is the reason you were born. This is your gifted purpose; and I promise never to leave you. I prayed for you and I paid for you. You belong to me. So, choose me and hold on to your faith until I return... Yes, I will RETURN! SOON! Jesus.

Read Revelation 22, Matthew 24, & John 10:10.