

MARCH-APRIL

# Youth 83

A black and white photograph of a person standing on a sharp, dark rock peak. The person is silhouetted against a bright, snowy mountain range in the background. The person is wearing a dark jacket and pants, and is holding a rope. The mountain range is covered in snow and has several peaks. The sky is bright and cloudy.

**Keep  
Your Eyes  
on the Goal!**

By Herbert W. Armstrong

# Keep Your Eyes on the Goal

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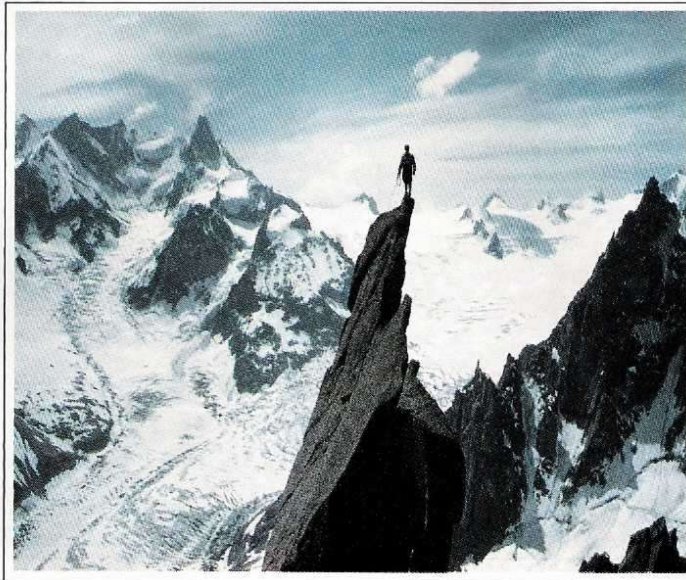
**I** have written of the *Seven Laws of SUCCESS*. They are really the seven laws of LIFE. Most people do not know or practice or apply a single one of them.

The first is to have the RIGHT GOAL. That goal involves realizing the PURPOSE of your life — the reason why God had you to be born — the reason you draw breath and exist — and it involves realizing HOW to live this temporary existence so as to arrive at that goal.

That GOAL — God's PURPOSE for having put the breath of life in you — is that you be born of GOD, to share with Him the GLORY of creation, to inherit His divine NATURE, to be LIKE HIM — to do what He does, to accomplish what He accomplishes, enjoy what He ENJOYS — peace, happiness, joy, resplendent glory in LIFE EVER-LASTING.

No other goal could be as great. It is superlative.

But consider: What are *you, now?* Just a mass of matter, put together like a machine. Your present existence has to be constantly SUSTAINED. You have to keep drawing a breath of air into your lungs about every four or five seconds. You have to eat food on the average of three times a day. You have to take care of



eliminating the impurities from food, and of bathing and cleansing your body. You have to maintain and sustain your physical anatomy to keep on existing — and even then you are ageing and degenerating every day and every year — and the most certain thing in this existence we call “life” is that this machine process is going to run down — YOU ARE GOING TO DIE.

Yet most people keep on, day after day, year after year, pumping that existence into themselves, with NO MORE PURPOSE than to try to be comfortable, free from pain and to be pleasing the five senses — with their minds on the passing physical and material things of the moment — things that are not lasting and are soon gone.

Unless God's own CHARACTER is being formed and developed in your mind and your life, replacing the human nature that is there now, you shall have missed your

GOAL. God's PURPOSE is to CREATE within human beings, during this experience we call physical life, a new and perfect CHARACTER, so that you and others may be *given* eternal life — self-containing, inherent life.

That character is developed through instruction from the Creator Himself. What kind of instruction? Instruction in the true knowledge — knowledge of God's PURPOSE for you — knowledge of and about

GOD — and knowledge of HOW TO LIVE. Jesus Christ said you must actually LIVE BY the words of the Bible. It is your GUIDE TO LIVING — your INSTRUCTION BOOK the Maker sent along to instruct you HOW TO OPERATE this mechanism that is YOU.

More, you must study His Word — your BIBLE — to find what is wrong in what you now believe, and what you are now DOING that is wrong — to be CORRECTED and reprovved by it. You must study it to let it INSTRUCT you in the ways of God's RIGHTEOUSNESS — His WAY OF LIFE. And then you must devote yourself to LIVING IT!

*This* kind of Christian life — the only kind that truly is Christian — requires, as the Bible emphasizes repeatedly, zealous DILIGENCE.

You must CONCENTRATE on it. You must be DEDICATED to it. It requires utter CONSECRATION. It  
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Youth 89 Photo



# Why Humans Were Put on the Earth

*Most people know next to nothing about God.  
To understand ourselves, why we are, where we are going, and how,  
we need to know more about our Creator.*

By Herbert W. Armstrong

**A**sk anyone where the real beginning is in the Bible. He would probably reply, "Genesis 1:1." But he would be absolutely wrong!

The real beginning of the Bible is NOT Genesis 1:1, but in the New Testament, John 1:1-2: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was

with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God."

In the beginning there existed two all-knowing, all-powerful, all-perfect SUPERBEINGS. Each possessed supreme MIND and CREATIVE power. One is called "the Word," the other is called "God." But the Word, it states, was also God — though a separate Personage.

Although the one called "God"

was supreme in authority, yet He and the Word were in all other respects equal. In mind they were in complete harmony and agreement.

There existed at first only these two Superpersons in space — no matter, no other beings or life forms, no physical universe. Both Superbeings had always existed. There never was a time when they did not coexist.

Continuing in verse 3: "All

things were made by him [the Word]; and without him was not any thing made that was made." God created all things *by* and *through* the Word. Since these two Beings thought precisely alike in perfect harmony, the Word created all things exactly as directed by God.

### God is Creator

Do you want to know what God is? Above all, *God is Creator!*

These two supernatural SPIRIT BEINGS were both Creators. But, as human beings think, plan and design — even putting their plans on paper before starting to build or construct — so these two Superbeings thought, planned and designed.

There was no hurry. They might have thought and planned for many millions (or even billions) of years, as we count time, before starting the actual MAKING OF CREATING.

Whether you believe it or not, matter was *not* the first thing to be created.

God created not only the visible, but *the invisible!*

The Bible says of the Word: "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and *invisible*, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or *principalities*, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him" (Colossians 1:16).

These two original Persons, being SPIRIT BEINGS themselves, composed of spirit (remember God is spirit — John 4:24), designed and produced a type of spirit being somewhat like themselves — only naturally of far lower degree. These beings, called "angels," are invisible to human eyes.

These spirit-composed angels were of three or more levels of power and ability in thought — simple angels; a higher class of angels called seraphim; and the highest, cherubim, of which there were only three — all inferior in mind and power to God. These created beings (angels) were equipped with minds — with the ability to know, think, reason,

form conclusions, make decisions, set CHOICES.

### The supreme accomplishment

Now as Creator, what was the *most important* creation that God could make? Was it the angels? Was it the heavens and the earth — the whole universe? Or was it man himself?

It was *none* of these things!

The supreme achievement of creation is righteous, holy, perfect CHARACTER. I define it as the ability in a separate entity with mind and free moral agency to CHOOSE the right: one who, seeing the way to both good and evil, *voluntarily chooses* the good, even against strongest temptation and pressures and desires to choose evil, and who *wills*, against strongest opposing pressures, to do good.

These created beings — the angels — did *not* have perfect character at creation. *Character cannot be created automatically and instantaneously by fiat.* Character (whether good or evil) must be developed in separate entities possessing thought processes and minds able to think, to know, to reason, to make independent conclusions and choices. And that risks development of evil character.

Of course, this righteous, holy and perfect character must of necessity COME FROM *the original perfect Beings*, yet as a result of the *independent* thinking, reasoning, knowing, and actual choice and desire of the recipients.

### Who is God?

It is vital, at this point, to know something more of God. So now consider. God is Creator, Designer, Educator, RULER. God has SUPREME MIND! He IS perfect, holy and righteous character.

The Eternal God is not only Creator of all that is, but is also RULER over all He creates. He is also Educator. He reveals knowledge basic and vital to know — knowledge otherwise inaccessible to man and some of it even to the angels (see I Peter 1:12). What God creates He *maintains*. What He creates, He creates for a

## ... as Creator, what was the *most important* creation that God could make? Was it the angels?

purpose. He intends it to be put to a use — a *right* use that *preserves* and *improves*. This use, maintenance and improvement is controlled by the GOVERNMENT OF GOD!

Just what is God? He is Creator! But He maintains and preserves what He creates. How? By His government — the government of God!

Now the tremendous supremacy of these two great God-beings was exhibited at this point. They had in mind a tremendous objective for the angels — a purpose supreme. This required the creation of a new substance, MATTER, which comprises the whole vast universe.

So now we finally come to Genesis 1:1. The first four words of the Bible are: "In the beginning God . . ." Since in the Bible God reveals Himself as Creator of ALL — the entire universe with its galaxies, its suns, planets and moons — this places God (as we have previously seen from John 1:1-3) in existence *before* all else. The next word tells us what God did: He "created." God is, first of all, Creator! And what did He create at this time — *after* the creation of the angels? ". . . the heaven[s] and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

The Authorized or King James Version renders the word *heaven* in the singular, but the original Hebrew is in the plural — "heavens" — as it should be translated. It is so rendered in the Revised Standard Version and other modern translations. Genesis 1:1 is speaking of the *original* creation of matter — the entire  
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...the government  
of God . . . was  
abolished from the  
earth. It must be  
restored. That is  
*uppermost in God's  
mind!*

(Continued from page 3)

universe, including our earth. The original Hebrew words imply a perfect creation. God reveals Himself as Creator of perfection, light and beauty. Every reference in the Bible describes the condition of each phase of God's creation as very good — perfect. It is a perfect creation, beautiful to the eye. God is a perfectionist!

#### Creation not finished!

Even though God is perfect — and He is a perfectionist, having created everything perfect — He often does *not* complete His creation all at once. This was true of the angels. The second stage of the angelic creation was the development of character — whether good or evil.

This earth, as only few know, originally was populated by angels.

God had a great purpose in mind for them. Great accomplishment was planned for them. God purposed that the angels utilize the raw materials and the many properties built into the matter of the earth to complete its creation — for God is the Author of beauty, harmony, peace, joy, perfection and glory.

This, of course, demanded law and order — harmony — and that all the angels pull together for their grand accomplishment. So the Creator set over them a GOVERNMENT — His government, with His constitution and laws. God's LAWS were — and are — a way of life; the way of love — outgoing concern for the welfare of others; the way of peace,



harmony, helping, serving, sharing.

The government of God is a way of life. It is the way that develops righteous, holy, perfect character. It is the way that produces peace, harmony, happiness, joy, abundance. It is the way of love. It is love to God in implicit *obedience*, adulation, worship, reliance and faith — knowing that *God Himself is love!*

So God established on earth a throne to administer His government. On it, He placed a super-archangel named Lucifer. This great Lucifer was *originally* a bringer of light and truth. He was perfect as created.

Next to God, this superangel was the most powerful and most mighty being that it was possible for God to create. He was *perfect* in all his ways *until iniquity* (lawlessness) was found in him of his own free choice (Ezekiel 28:15).

#### The first rebels

This Lucifer led his angels (one third of all the angels — and it is probable that it was the same third that populated the earth under Lucifer) into sin — transgression of the laws of God's government.

God had wisely chosen to make angels, and later humans, *free moral agents* — with free choice. Otherwise neither angels nor humans could attain God's holy, perfect, righteous character. God gave the angels minds of their own. And He made them immortal — they never die. They were each individually created. They

do not reproduce themselves.

God bestowed upon angels minds possessing *great knowledge* — superior to that possessed by man. One might suppose that, endowed with such great knowledge and being created holy, they would never choose wrongly or commit sin.

But some of them did! Their superior knowledge did not prevent rebellion, sin and worldwide chaos and destruction.

Originally, the angels under Lucifer were holy — and Lucifer himself, sealing up the sum of wisdom, perfection and beauty, was created perfect. Yet he led the first rebellion, and evidently induced his angels to follow him in this super sin. Thus the angels sinned (II Peter 2:4). They rebelled against God's way. They deliberately formed within themselves *evil* character. They turned from God's government to vanity, lust and greed; jealousy and envy; competition leading to strife, violence, war. They resented any rule over them. They wanted to choose *their own way*, not God's way.

Thus the government of God was rejected, removed from the earth.

The creation of this group of angels *was now* complete! They had formed evil character. They became *demons*. And the great Lucifer became Satan the devil.

So possession of vast knowledge and endowment with free choice does not constitute perfect righteous character.

#### What God is

But now look at God Himself and consider what He must have considered. God possesses perfect, righteous character. God will not sin. God will not go contrary to the perfect, holy, spiritual *law* that He created and set in living, active, inexorable motion, to cause and produce *all good*. God has *so set* Himself that He cannot sin.

So here we have the state of things, as God saw them, after the sinning devil and demons were cast down to the earth they had ruined.

When the earth first was created, the angels shouted for joy (Job 38:7). There was happiness, joy, ecstasy, perfect peace on the earth as long as the government of God was administered on earth. But the universal sin of the angels on earth had apparently brought universal destruction! The earth was in a state of ruin.

Can we see, therefore, that God had these facts to consider? That immortal beings possessing great knowledge and freedom of choice, but *without* proven righteous character, could not guarantee the preservation and improvement of His creation.

You see, *God is Creator and Preserver* of His creation. It is Satan and his angels who turned to destruction — and became destroyers.

### **The second phase of God's great purpose**

God knew that if the angels chose evil character, it left Him as the only Being in existence who could possibly be relied upon never to deviate from His government, its laws and its way of life.

We have now reached the point where the government of God — the means of building and instilling righteous, holy, perfect character — was abolished from the earth. It must be restored. That is *uppermost in God's mind!*

God must have said: "There's just not enough of me." He needed millions or billions of perfect and righteous beings, governed by His government, to complete in beauty, majesty and glory not only the other planets of our solar system, but of our Milky Way, and the countless other galaxies of the limitless, vast universe. So now comes the next phase of God's overwhelmingly grand purpose: to REPRODUCE HIMSELF into billions of God-beings. □

Mr. Armstrong's free booklet, *Why Were You Born?*, contains more information on this subject. See the inside front cover for the address nearest you.

## **FAMILY CRISIS?**

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rebuild their self-esteem by showing them that you respect them, their opinions and their ideas.

### **Money matters**

Think about all the ways your family spends money. Did you realize that a good portion goes for things that can't be bought at the store?

When you turn on the faucet or the stove or turn the furnace way up, you're making some significant purchases for the family. How would you like to pay for it all yourself?

Be as frugal as you can — don't waste! It will not only help out by making the bills smaller, but it will show your parents that you are trying and that you *do* care.

When the going got tough on Walton's Mountain, the family banded together. They made it a goal to work together. You can do this with your family too. One way is to plant a garden. Offer to do some of the work it would take to care for one. Find other projects as well that you can all work on together.

There are many other ways you can help save money around your house. But remember, by far the biggest contribution you can make is through a cooperative, giving spirit.

### **Keeping healthy**

One doctor has called the recession the world's greatest cause of disease. Not smoking or pollution or eating junk food. The recession! Why does he say this?

As the recession has deepened, doctors have noticed that more and more stress-related health problems are appearing. Statistics have even been compiled showing the number of stress-related deaths that will be caused by each 1 percent rise in the unemployment rate. These doctors have discovered a definite link between a rise in the rate and a rise in stress-related deaths.

These very real dangers threaten the health of anyone who has

been out of work for a while. The hazards of unemployment are not to be taken lightly. Both of your parents are exposed to enormous amounts of stress that can cause high blood pressure and heart attacks. Alcoholism and — in extreme cases — suicide are other results.

The guidelines we talked about earlier can do much to head these hazards off at the pass.

You can also encourage your parents to get in some sort of exercise. Even if it's just a short walk each evening, exercise helps counter the effects of stress.

### **Get some extra help**

There is yet one other thing you should do — the most important of all: Ask God for His help with this problem.

In Matthew 6:31-33, God makes a promise to you. "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' . . . For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Revised Authorized Version, also called the New King James Version).

That's a promise — hold God to His promise! Tell God, in prayer, about your family's problem. Ask for His guidance. He may not provide a job immediately (although that is very possible), but He will one way or another make sure your family's needs are always met.

We hope your dad won't lose his job to begin with. But if it should happen — or has already happened — apply the principles outlined in this article. It will take sacrifice on your part. It will take a giving attitude. Once you have started, though, don't give up. You'll soon see results.

Your positive, helpful outlook will spread through the whole family. The problems won't seem nearly as big as they once did. Your family will survive, and could even benefit, from this trial. You can help conquer your family crisis! □

## Friends Are 'In'

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sense? Friendship is based on two things: love and loyalty.

"A friend loves at all times" (Proverbs 17:17). He loves when he disagrees with his friend. He remains faithful when his friend slights him or gets angry at him or her. He rejoices when good things happen to his friend and sorrows when he or she is in pain. Circumstances do not alter his attitude or action toward him.

Choose your friends carefully, because they exert a powerful influence on how you think and act. "He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm" (Proverbs 13:20). We are affected by the company we keep. An old Chinese proverb observes, "He who lies with dogs will get fleas."

We should encourage our friends. We should be builders in their lives. We should inspire them by what we say and do. "An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up" (Proverbs 12:25).

We also build up our friends by being ourselves, not by trying to conform to what we think they want us to be or saying what they want us to say. If they are about to make a terrible mistake in their lives we should speak up. Solomon noted that as "iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). God uses friends as a gentle abrasive to sandpaper the rough edges off our personalities; to teach and mellow us and help us grow into mature adults.

It's hard now to believe your parents, or older brother or sister, when they say that once you're in college or out of school entirely, having been in a school "out" crowd doesn't matter. As a matter of interest, ask them where the members of the "in" group of their school days are today. I think you will be surprised.

Cliques are limiting. As a teen, now is the time to develop unlimited friendships that will last a lifetime! □

## Eyes on Goal

(Continued from page 1)

requires total EARNESTNESS.

It requires, in addition, the application of the other six laws of SUCCESS — education, in which the Bible is the main textbook; good physical health; DRIVE, or concentrated DILIGENCE and EFFORT; resourcefulness; sticking to it — enduring; and continual contact with, and the guidance, help, and power of GOD.

Remember what a GLORIOUS GOAL we have before us! Make it your supreme overall life VOCATION, and WORK HARD AT IT! □

For more information about this vital subject, send for Mr. Armstrong's free booklet, *The Seven Laws of Success*. See the inside front cover for the address nearest you.

## The Nest

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neys to search for and retrieve little pieces of building material. And then without glue or plaster or tools of any kind it was all put together into a well-formed nest. Now that's a lesson in skill and diligence!

Do you think you could gather twigs, straw, animal hairs and similar items, and weave them into a nest? Why don't you try? To be more than fair, we'll allow you to use one whole hand. But only one. The bird only has its bill, remember. It is doubtful you can construct anything resembling a genuine bird's nest.

Why can they do it while you can't? Not because of evolution, that's for sure! The truth is that God gave each kind of bird the knowledge and ability it needs to build its nest. He put it in their little brains.

He didn't give that skill to humans though. Humans don't need it. Birds do.

How wise is the Creator of all living things! □

## Rejection

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how much our kind words have helped others.

In short, the best way to overcome feelings of rejection is to accept (not reject!) others and to try to make them feel happy.

### Values: true or false?

Often, people are accepted or rejected because they do or don't measure up to some overemphasized value. For example, we live in a world that worships physical beauty. The muscular guy with broad shoulders and a lifeguard tan or the shapely girl with a model's looks is often popular, even if he or she is devoid of character, personality and intelligence. Sad as that is, there is little that we can do to change the way the world thinks.

Acceptance at home can compensate for some of the rejections life throws at us. The family can offer a shelter from these wrong ways of judging human worth. By stressing each other's strong points and character, your family can reflect the true values.

Talk to Mom and Dad about it. They have probably suffered all the kinds of rejection we have. Don't hesitate to go and ask them for help.

God looks on the heart, not the outward appearance, and He is no respecter of persons. We can be accepted in His sight no matter what others think. The account of Samuel setting apart David to be king in I Samuel 16 shows that God wasn't using the same criteria to make this decision that men were. Instead, God looks on the inside.

God wasn't as impressed by David's older, taller, stronger brothers as He was with David's potential, his wisdom and his sterling character. What's on the inside counts.

As much as we humanly desire to be liked by others, we must remember that to be accepted by God is more important. And, if we do our part, God will never reject us. □