



When God Speaks

Words shape us

Self-worth grows through words.

DC is a constant evaluation environment.

Performance reviews.

Security clearances.

Exams.

Credentials.

Rankings.

What's DC's favorite question? "So... what do you do?"

- My job defines me
 - Comparison exhausts me
 - Disagreement threatens me
 - Falling behind terrifies me
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- My job serves me but doesn't define me
 - Comparison informs me but doesn't consume me
 - Disagreement doesn't threaten me
 - Falling behind doesn't terrify me

How does self-worth become healthy?

John 6:63(NIV): "The words I have spoken to you are full of the Spirit and life."

Self-worth grows through words that communicate my value without fear, pressure, or anything I have to do to earn it.

John 1:1-5, 12(NIV): "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.... to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

John 1:1(NIV): "In the beginning"

Genesis 1:1(NIV): "In the beginning"

The Ancient Near East is where humanity first developed:

- agriculture
- cities
- writing
- law codes
- political theology
- creation stories

People were asking the biggest questions:

- Why are we here?
- Who has power?
- How does life work?
- What gives humans value?

The most famous creation story was the Enuma Elish.

- chaos is solved by violence
- the gods fight
- creation comes from death
- humans are created as slaves
- worth comes from usefulness
- fear keeps society stable

Genesis does not copy that story.

Genesis confronts it.

Genesis says:

- chaos is healed by words
- God speaks, not kills
- humans are image-bearers, not slaves
- worth is given, not earned

Genesis 1:3(NIV): "Let there be light."

John 1:5(NIV): "The light shines in the darkness."

Light isn't morality. It's reality.

John 1:12(NIV): "To all who received him... he gave the right to become children of God."

- Receive = accept what is real
- Right = permission to see yourself correctly
- Become = begin living from that truth

"Dulcinea.... I see heaven when I see thee." Don Quixote

To dream the impossible dream
To fight the unbeatable foe
To bear with unbearable sorrow
To run where the brave dare not go
To right the unrightable wrong
To love pure and chaste from afar
To try when your arms are too weary
To reach the unreachable star
This is my quest
To follow that star
No matter how hopeless
No matter how far
To fight for the right
Without question or pause
To be willing to march into Hell
For a heavenly cause
And I know if I'll only be true
To this glorious quest
That my heart will lie peaceful and calm
When I'm laid to my rest
And the world will be better for this
That one man, scorned and covered with scars
Still strove with his last ounce of courage
To reach the unreachable star

Today I am going to see the world not as it is, but as it should be.

All scriptures referenced are from the New International Version (NIV) translation of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.