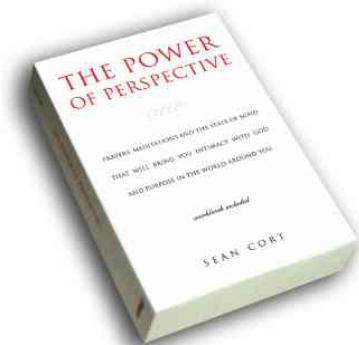


*HAPPY ONE YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY !  
SNACK FOOD FOR THE  
SOUL*

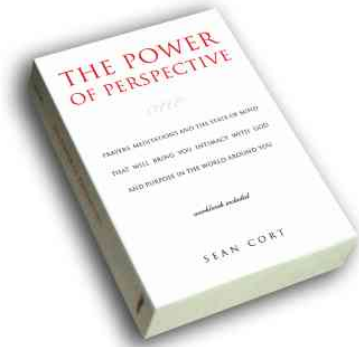
**52** LIFE ENHANCING  
DEVOTIONALS INSPIRED BY THE  
BOOK, *THE POWER OF  
PERSPECTIVE.* WRITTEN BY SEAN CORT  
WEEK OF 8/30/2010

Feast on this...

HIS CHARACTER, YOUR REPUTATION



We all indulge in some level of false pretense as a means of protection or pride. It's one thing to be consumed with what you want people to perceive you as and it's entirely another, when you realize what you actually are. It gets more interesting when you know they don't see the truth about you and yet you're not sure if they like the role you are portraying. So this performance begs the question of; can they see the cracks in the vase as I work so hard to contain that which doesn't belong there to begin with? Life truly gets sweeter when your private faithfulness to God seemingly goes un-noticed but the world applauds the mention of your name in your absence. This is called having a good reputation. The world strives for a credit rating while God recognizes your credibility rating.



My spiritual father gave me a valuable piece of wisdom. He said that once you take care of your character, God will take care of your reputation. You may not be able to control the way people think about or treat you, but you can certainly control your behavior and the way you treat people. There is a humorous commercial on television that utilizes the phrase "Life comes at you fast." That fact is so true. Some things in life seem to sneak up on you and just like a prankster; they all of a sudden say "Boo" and completely throw you off balance.

These are matters we can't control. But because of the gift of the Holy Spirit we do have an option that will aid in selecting the proper way to respond. You see, when a first responder such as a firefighter or a paramedic has finished their day, they survey their tools and instruments to make sure they are clean and functioning in pristine order and that all inventory that was used is replenished for immediate use when necessary.

Life truly comes fast for these heroes and lack of preparation or disorganization can never be an option because someone's life may be at risk as a result. Air traffic controllers have a similar responsibility, in that they too must mentally always be at the ready and alert for every detail and deviation

from the norm. One mistake here can be catastrophic.

The father of a friend of mine is a craftsman who makes custom furniture. He takes great care in making sure that he maintains sharp blades for his saws and that his sanders and chisels maintain their precision. I once watched the pride he exacted just in sanding the edges of a cabinet. It took days for him to achieve the smooth contour that only a master craftsman could appreciate. The pride and care with his hands taught me a great lesson. Most, may never appreciate his inward attention to detail and passion for excellence. But he doesn't pursue the validation of man; he aspires to appeal to Christ's attention to detail and passion for excellence. This makes it personal all the time.

As I grow in Christ I realize that carpentry was not just His vocation, it was His passion. He took great care in the words He chose when teaching or explaining a complex issue. He took the time to instruct people and His disciples how to restructure their thought patterns and behaviors toward each other and their faith, while He methodically broke the laws. Jesus didn't have much time, so His character had to speak beyond the dimension of His words.

We all should take the care and time of a first responder by tending to our character as they tend to their tools. We should be well aware of our tendencies and how we treat people. We should maintain full stock of the proper amount of kindness, humility, patience, understanding, forgiveness, self control, wisdom and knowledge. When we see some dull edges that need sharpening or some corners that need buffering; the craftsman in each of us should take pride and care in sanding down those edges for as long as it takes. Then we should carefully and neatly dispose of the residue so as to not create a mess for others to see. Job suffered silently, Jesus wept discreetly, the woman with the issue pursued boldly yet with integrity.

Even if no one ever says please, thank you, good job, I appreciate you, or your welcome; rest assured that your passion to pursue His character traits in you, will speak for you before God. Then He will speak for you in the hearts of men. (Hebrews 11:6) reminds us that "He is the rewarder of them who diligently seek Him." (Proverbs 22:1) encourages us by saying, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver

and gold." It's great to know that others applaud your name when you're not even around to say it. How awesome is it to know that when you sit down, the Holy Spirit stands up?

**IN APPRECIATION FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO SUBSCRIBE TO SNACK FOOD, I WANT TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING.**

***NO MORE FEAR* will remain on my Blog post for you to download. Other affirmations will be done for Singles, Single Parents, Life Storms and other situations.**

**For an interesting read on stereotyping please check out my Blog for Psychology Today called, "*Please Don't Label Me.*" You can also access this article on my Blog post at *Sean's Blog.***

**Have an indescribably blessed week!**

*Sean*