

The stars shine bright until they don't

Imagine a child dreaming of what can be.

Olympic champion, Super Bowl MVP, Cy Young winner, Noble Laureate, The Pope, or a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

In the mind of a child, everything is possible.

As we approach adulthood, rational thought and supposed logic become the frontal lobe material guiding our path.

Does a healthy grasp on reality strengthen our purpose or relocate us to a face in the crowd incapable of creating a ripple effect to make a difference?

Arrogance is perceived as making an "over-the-top" statement.  
Confidence is making it a reality.

What is your purpose?

Romans 8:28: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."

His purpose or yours? What drives you?

Imagine your childhood dreams of becoming a movie star. The accolades will follow with all the gifts, prizes, honors, trophies, and perks that follow.

Private dining areas in busy restaurants, flying first class, signing autographs to nameless, faceless adoring masses, a statue named Oscar, or a framed record made of gold.

It's all very nice and has a public perception of "making it."

Now, face the reality of a horrific fire that shows no preference or favoritism towards whose life and all worldly possessions it will destroy.

A lifetime of sweat, tears, highs, and lows are gone in a vapor and smoke.  
The lights which shone so bright in a lifetime are now in total darkness.

The gleam and brilliance that glistened in the sunlight reflected off statuettes and Olympic medals are now lying in puddles among the ruins, never returning to their original pristine state.

The feeling that your life is over, and you have no purpose occupies every waking thought.

All is lost.

My identity is gone.

I lost my purpose.

Proverbs 19:21: "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."  
...the Lord's purpose that prevails.

In the darkest of times, God provides the light.

In the best of times, God provides gratitude and humility.

Hebrews 11:27: By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible."

He persevered.

Job may have another response.

I have an image of Job standing atop the Hollywood sign saying, "Is that the best you can do to destroy me?" "Surely you can come up with something a little more devastating!"

Psalms 143:10: "Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good spirit lead me on level ground."

One positive thing that is on display more than ever is the request for prayers and giving glory to God.

God is a loving father who has given us free will along with the heartache and devastation that follow.

We stumbled. We fall. We hurt.

He lifts us, and He heals us.

Eventually, we understand it is HE, not WE.

When we face adversity and devastation, God hurts for us because we have done something to change the world He gave us.

We are His children, and He will forever be our loving father.

The gold stars along the sidewalks on Hollywood Boulevard will get dirty from the millions of people walking on them. Eventually, each of those stars will forever lose their luster with a simple question, "Who was that?"

Forgotten forever, never to shine again.

But the radiance of God shines brighter when the world we live in turns dark.

We are genuinely saddened by the devastation others are facing, but we also see those facing devastation with the loss of loved ones or battles both internal and external, which, from the outside, no one knows what we face.

God gives us an out. Him, His way, and truth bring our love, joy, and happiness.

His star is always the brightest and will never lose its brilliance, which lights the way for our dreams.

Vivat Jesu