

Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

# Happy Thoughts

3rd-5th Generation Positive Writings  
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# Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

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# **Art Theory / Poetry**

## Define Spiritual

What is left when you close your eyes  
What is it in you that really matters  
Who you really are is your spirit  
Our identities are primarily spiritual  
Spirit is where decisions and pain meet  
Spirit is in all the choices we make  
We are spiritual beings  
We are created by God  
The breathe of God creates spirit  
The Holy Ghost is God's Spirit  
Your spirit is what you think, feel, and believe  
From your spirit you know what is good and evil  
Your spirit is the one in control  
If God's spirit is within you  
He resides in you heart, mind, and soul  
Mind is what you think, heart is how you feel, and soul is what  
you believe  
Spirit is how we know who God is  
Spirit is the recognition of who we are and who God is  
Spirit is sentience or self awareness  
Spirit is what gives life meaning and purpose  
Spirit is your will and is defined by your choices  
You create who you are by the choices you make

## Real Dreams

We seek a banquet and music  
For a celebration of good news  
But better is the one  
Who celebrates by providing his bounty for others  
We travel the world to understand life  
But greater is the one who understands himself  
Instead of finding an adventure in tragedy and danger

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Find joy in common life experiences  
It is human and wise to fear suffering and persecution  
It is also human but not so wise to fear living a boring life  
There is a sense of lacking when we are really young  
As we grow older, so does our confidence  
We first seek after our ambitions  
Which we define as bigger, better, and faster  
Later we seek only to be satisfied with what we already have  
We collect things in our youth  
And buy them for family as we age  
We give away things to strangers as we grow yet older  
When we are near the end of this life, we write our wills  
It is seen as a measure of our legacy what we have earned and accomplished  
When I die, I care little what people think  
And see no need for others to remember me  
We continually struggle to achieve and influence others at the beginning of our lives  
Later we understand how weak and ineffectual we are  
We are then satisfied by even small victories  
We think that it is our responsibility to save the world in our youth  
As we age, we accept that we can only do our best  
We are raised thinking we can do anything  
When we get out on our own, we learn how hard it is to just survive  
When we age still more, we are satisfied when we can do simple things like still walk

## **Spiritual Beauty**

We see beauty as exemplified by human skin  
We see beauty as evidenced by a brilliant mind  
Why don't we see the kind of beauty admired by the Creator of these organs

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When we see beauty in nature, this is the cue we should follow to honor the Creator's art  
But what is really beautiful is spiritual  
The spiritual world is the bigger more important world we all live in  
And our physical one a tiny less significant subset  
Spiritual beauty is about beauty in actions and beauty in attitude  
Spiritual beauty is about who we are in the present eternal moment  
Christ is the best example of spiritual beauty  
Spiritual beauty is attainable and real even in the midst of so much evil and suffering  
Just like a campfire is easier to find in a clear night without the city lights  
Following our conscience makes us shine brightly enough so others can follow on  
If you really want to start a revolution that will really fix the world today  
Change the one thing you can - your own body, mind, and spirit  
Christ values the spiritual because it is the only thing that lasts forever  
And it is those things that are only physical are the things that bring us suffering

## Creation of Living Things

Life is the greatest art  
It is the direct creation of God  
It is His most complex creation  
But it can only be made by God directly  
Life can then create other things  
Living things can create their own future by the act of their wills  
Eternal life is even greater  
Heaven is the ultimate work of art  
Compared to everything else in Heaven, gold and precious jewels are worth nothing

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Heaven is like a perfect garden tended to by God  
Living in Heaven is the opposite of suffering  
Heaven is about full reconciliation with God family and His  
Church  
Heaven is completely spiritual in its essence  
In Heaven, nothing ever dies or even decays  
Being a created living being is like being planted as a seed in the  
ground  
Then you become a beautiful flower after death  
Just like the water ritual of baptism where we die to evil and  
suffering and our own will  
Then we are born back into God's family as we are raised back  
again out of the water  
Being spiritual is all about choice  
The essence of the spirit is the will  
The will is what makes a living creation sentient and self aware  
It is the part that makes life more than a very advanced machine  
and allows it to make independent choices  
It is the will that becomes spiritually ugly when we turn against  
God  
And the loss of its complete independence is the cost of eternal  
life  
The real beauty of creation is that we were always designed to  
live symbiotically with the Creator within us  
He came into this world He created to bring us back to Him so  
that we might suffer no more  
In the process, He lived a spiritually beautiful life  
Transcending our understanding of what is important in life  
Showing us how to resist evil and prevent unnecessary suffering  
Teaching us what living spiritually and in constant connection  
with God is all about  
Most importantly, He defeated evil and suffering by doing the  
completely unexpected  
He died physically in great pain in place of us  
He then defeated death and rose again and ascended back to  
create Heaven for us all



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His life is the perfect illustration or teaching of how to live a spiritually beautiful life

### **Spontaneous Love**

Love is one of the most beautiful of emotions  
But there is more to love than just romance  
Love is the greatest of the virtues  
The Bible talks about unconditional love  
One of the really unique and beautiful things about Christianity is forgiveness  
This makes Christianity a game changer  
Both extremely simple to explain and very difficult to practice  
Christianity bases ethics on forgiveness because God hates arrogance  
If you were God, would anything impress you from what you see people do  
By its very nature, mathematically anything compared to infinity is zero  
There is a long list of attributes you can find in the Bible that exemplify love  
But love is simply defined in the Bible as the motivation for Christ to descend to earth and then even hell  
Many people think that it is weak to be kind and generous  
But if God did not intervene, we would exist forever just in darkness and despair  
Soon earth may be much like hell, as it is compared to burning trash  
Burning trash is truly ugly and sickening  
God really believes in freedom and equality at all costs  
This transcends any attempt of America to trash talk other nations about its superiority  
The American soldier is a kind of Christ like figure  
The analogy holds because the Army wants you weak, not heroic  
Just like in Christianity, it has a unique ethical philosophy

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The Army values two things: instant obedience without question and 150% effort

Life in the Army is never easy and never lets up

You are married to the Army in that you are never really off duty

The example of Christ baffles non-Christians because Christ is the ultimate anti-hero

It is a belief system and revolutionary movement that encourages you to submit to everyone

It is like launching a war by unconditionally surrendering to your enemy before the first battle

It works this way because your enemy is you

Christians often give the devil too much credit

Sin comes from our rebellion against God's will and rule in our lives

Just like the Army is hard for everyone, just not intellectually

Christianity is hard because it requires us to sacrifice our pride

If Christianity had a flag, it would be white signaling surrender

If Christianity had one symbol, it would be a blank sheet of paper

Life is suffering but God has broken its power over us and created a perfect life for us forever

## Church Art

Like a living gothic fantasy straight out of the medieval period of history

The agony set in the stone of the cathedral walls

The blood of Jesus Christ burns through the chains of pain and death

Like a prisoner's feet being slowly roasted over hot coals

Although He never did anything wrong, Christ endured a brutal death

He even entered the underworld and stole the keys from Hades

The greatest anti-hero then ascended to Heaven to retake His throne

After God raised Himself from the graveyard

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From Almighty God to enslaved non-citizen back to God in His full glory  
He returned in triumph to His throne to finish building Heaven for us  
While we started building His church on earth and help it take its place in history  
He is the basis for any beauty or joy we still find in this life  
Unlike the plagues of the ancient world that were started for our punishment  
We now are creating our own hellish trash fire which flows directly from our greed and arrogance  
Rebellion against God and our responsibility to shepherd His creation is ugly and sad  
He then breaks through the stone of our self-made prisons  
Shining down through the brilliant colors capturing His life and ministry among us  
His miracles and faith did more than just feed the hungry and heal the sick  
He led a spiritual movement that has outlasted the agricultural, industrial, and information revolutions  
Growing stronger and more numerous each generation through 3 major technology revolutions  
My country now lives in spiritual poverty as the world loves Christ more than ever before  
But this generation does not listen to its parents who had nothing to say about Christ  
Our country is now accepting the supernatural in the form of national myths and for artistic expression  
We are nearing the end of the world as we know it, but it is not really the end of the world entirely  
While we see every major institution transformed or made irrelevant religion is more important than ever before  
God's work in the world has lasted for thousands of years and we raise our glasses to ten thousand more

## Still Life Crosses

A heavy cross with a smaller one on each side  
A cross of rusted iron with a giant nail representing Christ  
An cross with an ancient ornamental design on plain wood  
A heavily weathered and dense wooden cross draped with a royal robe  
A smooth black cross with golden letters  
Seven crosses total making a complete eclectic set  
A look of respect and sorrow  
An intent gaze of curiosity  
These are the kind of toys you do not play with  
The other toys are quiet but happy  
To them this is a type of holy place  
What does worship look like for a stuffed toy  
To the greatest Baby Sheep that ever lived and still does  
The cross is sometimes scary and extreme when the lights are off  
But all in all a better feeling for the shelf and the entire room  
Animals all know and respect the Creator by name and voice  
It is never necessary to explain God to His better creations  
And every other thing that exhibits having a spirit  
Whether or not it meets the scientific requirements for being alive  
Praying that it will always be dusted carefully and continually  
The ultimate symbol of strength and masculinity

# Praise

## Holy Spirit

My Best Friend  
My Eternal Companion  
My First Love  
And my Muse

Like a breath of fresh air  
After being pulled under the ocean  
Or inhaling a mouth full of acid reflux

As gentle as a stuffed toy  
Wiser than an animal  
My Best Counselor  
Who truly understands my mental illness

If I am fearful  
You bring me peace  
When depressed  
You encourage me

Each day You guide me  
You are more real everyday  
You are the source  
Of all good within me

Knowing You will always  
Live within me  
Soothes my wildest fears  
And gives me courage  
To do what is right  
Despite the consequences

Your character is without blemish  
You are God within me  
You are my conscience

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I can always trust You  
As You never lie  
You speak softly  
Your words are like music

May I see through Your eyes  
So my world is less troubling  
So I can face the future  
Without assuming the worst

Only You can satisfy  
My heart, mind, and soul

You are older than creation  
But You make me new again  
You are God  
You always give a second chance

I do not always  
Recognize how You work  
And I don't always appreciate You  
Like I should

I can feel You within my soul  
And You calm my mind  
You reveal to me the secrets of the Bible  
You direct my thoughts towards good things

I am blessed by Your presence  
And understand spiritual truths  
Because You have healed my mind

I find my way in a hostile world  
Because You gave me a creative mind

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You are the only hope for the world  
Everyone who is creative  
Owes You for their ideas and their creative works  
You deserve the copyright for every creation

You control history  
And all reality is smaller than You

You were with Jesus and the Father  
At creation and in the life of Christ  
You started the Church at Pentecost

We have a real connection with God  
That only exists because of You  
We are honored  
That You choose to dwell within us

I do appreciate Your Church  
In both people and spiritually  
But You are both more real to me  
And a greater blessing

You are the source of all  
That is good in the world  
Without You creation would never have happened  
What was it like to live  
Before You created us?

I cannot imagine the sorrow You experience  
When we do not follow You  
Or when we break our contract  
You are ever merciful

You speak through us  
When we do not know  
What words to say



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When we do not know  
What to pray for

I appreciate that You respect me enough  
To never force me to do anything I don't want

But I cannot understand  
Why You gave people free will  
When we make such bad choices

You do everything for me  
And all I do in return  
Is try to be better  
And learn from my mistakes  
And those of others

Please stay with me forever  
And give me the strength  
To do what is right  
Even when I am stubborn  
And fight Your perfect plan

## She is The Only One

Can a person be too kind?  
Can a person be truly good?  
Dropped straight from Heaven  
Like an angel walking among us  
Wise as a prophet in Scripture  
Sharp in mind and soul as a diamond  
The best human counselor  
The softest heart and strongest mind  
Spontaneous in spirit and subtle in decision-making  
Of the highest order of service and sincerity  
She becomes brighter each day  
And stands out more at night  
Even if she now walks a little slower  
And is a little less steady in stride  
She is more careful with others feelings  
And more gentle in words  
She has fought the good fight with pain and illness  
With honor and distinction  
With each decision her family grows closer  
Her only critic is herself  
Always a Mary at heart  
But a Martha in action  
She has the inner strength  
To make mountains move  
She is faithful and true  
Her candle never grows dim  
Her faith is like a lighthouse  
She is always ready to see the Lord  
She is the subject of the Sermon on the Mount  
Her life is a beatitude

Perfectly Balanced Life  
My life is perfectly calm

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Even my dreams are entirely peaceful  
People expect the mentally ill  
To not act like they are mentally ill  
I know how to follow orders  
I always try to blend in  
I am always completely balanced  
I always draw only rainbows and hearts  
Even in my dreams I am always upbeat  
I express myself in controlled words  
Even my thoughts are always steady  
I am always stable and ok  
Even in my strongest emotions  
I never break a blank look on my face  
I feel only mild happiness  
I never encounter difficult feelings or situations  
I am never in need of help  
I would never accidentally step on a weed  
I would never raise an eyebrow  
I will never mispronounce a word  
I will never be angry or afraid  
After all, I would never be someone  
You need to deal differently with  
I would never overreact or overstate things  
I would never be sarcastic  
Under any conditions

# Stories

## Maybe a Screw is Loose

Time is not eternal  
But now is forever  
In each shift in light  
Our digital future is uncertain  
Sunrise to annoying alarm  
I laugh in my soul  
I cry in my heart  
Sometimes things are so clear  
Other times light and dark  
All blur together  
Be always alert  
We are all under the watchful eye  
Better than a wandering eye  
Rolling off the bed  
A loud cracking sound  
My head always hurts  
When I try to think  
In each step off the bed  
I stumble less every day  
Is sleep better in darkness  
Is silence better than laughter  
Why can't that buzzing stop  
Pops all around  
I flip over in place  
I switch my position  
Like a politician  
In each step I grow bigger  
Now I have giant feet  
I pull the fleece over my eyes  
As learn how to escape the nightmares  
With glee and stubborn determination  
I awake to the sunset  
Where did the day go?  
Chasing darkness all my life

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I can only stand so much light  
Laughter burns in my ears  
I can barely stand  
If my life depended on it  
How do I sort through my fears  
How do I open the door  
My keys are lost in my wallet  
I listen to the grass grow  
And watch the paint peel off the wall  
Sometimes time disappears  
The clock breaks all the time  
Sometimes the pain is too great  
To break the beat of the drums  
Exercise can be painful  
Only when you are there  
For the wrong reasons  
I make it across the yard  
Dodging toy soldiers and silly string  
I cannot stop the silence  
When will it be gone  
They all say go home boy  
All in unison  
A choir motivated by fear  
A really great conductor  
That can't stop talking  
And the music just sounds louder now  
I can dance on my toes  
But only when you scratch my belly  
It just seems weird  
When I cannot hear the sound of my voice  
Over the incessant mowing of the lawn  
It is like a constant war  
I just cannot find my jungle boots  
I put my pants on  
As I go through one belt and another  
I forgot to take a shower

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What is deodorant for  
I am now stuck to the glue  
Spilled all over my coach  
Stop playing with paper airplanes  
Until the paint dries  
I take a turn at breakfast  
Until I drop eggs on the stove  
The fumes are hard to take  
I play a song for children  
And cannot stop the music  
The most terrifying thing  
Is how loud the color of red was  
We mix and match cheeses  
As the plate turns in circles  
I point forward to the future  
The only future I can see  
Is building a fort in the living room  
We need to invest in defense somehow  
Its not like the ants will ever stop  
Their loud rock music  
Besides the neighbors will rejoice  
Until the ants become really smart  
Why are there so many holes in my wall  
If I have such a hard time being heard  
I can barely see out my windows  
Maybe they are painted shut  
If only I could sell the painting  
Off the front of my door

## King and Queen

King of Hearts  
Queen of Spades

If you lose yourself  
To find yourself  
If life only matters  
In royal service  
Who do you fight  
And who do you trust

If choosing one  
Means offending the other  
You cannot please both  
But if the choice  
Is between joy and misery  
Don't you already have the answer  
One will dig your grave  
The other will be the love of your life

On the board of chess  
The King can only move one space  
And the Queen anywhere  
But only the King matters in the end  
Victory goes to the King always

We are only pawns or peons  
We struggle with the knights and bishops  
In our daily lives

But what if the King shared his moves  
With all the peons  
What if they could all become knights  
And live on after crossing the board



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Maybe the Queen is the problem  
Maybe she is only a bishop  
And just has delusions of grandeur

Each move goes towards one set of events  
One act leads to others  
And a course is set  
There are only so many moves left  
You can find yourself cornered  
Before you know it

If only we knew all the possibilities  
Would we make all the same choices  
But if we knew the ending  
Would we try the same gameplay  
And would we find success

The possibilities are limitless  
But in the end all that matters  
Is the heart of the King  
And how you make it  
To the other side of the board

Each step builds the other  
And determines who you are  
But the ending is decided in a moment  
And you can reflect so long you lose your turn

Each will be forced to make a move in the end  
Sometimes in the very first move  
The game pace and strategy is set

Other times the entire board shifts  
And the game itself is transformed  
Then you are no longer playing chess

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And then not even a game  
Then you are all alone  
And it is just you, the King, and the Queen

## Wise Ones of the Soft World

Leaning back on a soft pillow  
Day comes in a flash of light  
Night comes equally fast  
We rest on a wide expanse  
A tall rock stands above us

Sometimes we roll and tumble  
Due to the disruptions occurring in the dead of night  
Our world is smaller than others  
But it stands above and beyond our nearest neighbors  
We don't travel often or far  
Our days are empty of excitement

We all earned a place here  
By virtue of our leadership roles  
If the clothes fit and we accept  
White, black, brown, red, green, and blue  
We are products of the rainbow of our creators imagination

The Chinese proverb says  
This is where we are mostly from  
Softness and warmth are better than hardness and strength  
We are soft to the touch  
But strong of mind  
Our hearts bleed for our friends

We have a white glow that comes from within  
We love being hugged and held  
We are not tall in stature  
Or strong and in shape  
Just like the water we try to avoid  
We are subtle  
As a reflection of our furnace  
We emit warmth

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We sit so still that we can pick up dust  
But our imaginations race far and wide  
Our adventures and growth are usually internal  
It is said that the sage never travelled but knew all things  
We who live in close quarters  
Try not to sit on sharp things

Bits of money sometimes rain down  
As well as receipts from new recruits  
We are all friends mostly  
But we have the occasional revolt  
There are only two faction though

We sometimes itch  
But there is often someone to scratch us  
We get cold in the winter  
And summer is equally cold  
But the furnace keeps things toasty  
Especially at night  
We do sometimes get moist with sweat

Our guardian angel is visible  
And we can directly ask Santa for presents  
We are of many different species  
But we all bleed white  
Our bodies seldom move  
But we have real souls

We have to leave our soft spot  
Every other week  
As the expanse shifts and changes color  
We accept our role in life  
As many have learned to  
In your world as well

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When we are sad  
Our faces show it  
So the others can cheer us up  
Even though smiles are sewn on our faces

In times of great change  
When our world turns upside down  
We hold on to each other  
There are times when  
Our world fundamentally changes

And sometimes things even  
Crawl on us in the night  
We fight the little invaders  
By setting out bad things for them to eat  
We don't need to eat  
There is nothing those scary little guys can take  
Most are very small  
As the giant doors close tightly

It seems every few years  
We are in a new location  
They seem to be getting better all the time  
Several times our world actually shrank  
But none were left behind  
But each new location was an opportunity  
To find new ways to arrange our world  
We like challenges  
As they give us something to do

We enjoy the live concerts  
The voices come from a little blue box  
Sometimes the Bible reads itself to us  
Other times it sings a wide variety of songs  
It blinks blue at night  
To let us know it is all right

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We watch our guardian closely  
More like an older brother  
To make sure he takes his medicines  
One time he talked of parachuting us  
We don't want to take any chances

He seems to sleep a lot  
He makes a lot of noise  
So we know he is still alive  
But many days can be gone half the day  
Recently he stays in more often because of a cold

He is not afraid of much  
He can even move quite fast  
And he can trap and release  
The scary little things easily  
As he is many times their size  
He is bigger and stronger  
Than the biggest among us

Sometimes he gets hurt  
If he sleeps on the wrong side  
Or if he jumps up in the night with burning heart  
We can watch his dreams  
Much as we watch his little screens  
These are magic boxes  
Where people talk  
And there are words and pictures  
And some even move

Our guardian seems to get up at random times  
And we don't see the real sun often  
As the window being closed makes us cooler  
Recently important things  
Now have bright colors attached

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We often sit on his wallet and keys  
So he can't go out  
But he quickly finds them now  
Due to the bright colored markings

He also seems to write for quite a while  
After the music plays for a while  
Or he talks to his father  
There is this long list of processes  
To put things on a line  
He uses a bunch of little boxes  
And he goes outside our world  
Coming back with his writing  
Now written on paper more neatly

I am glad we don't have to eat  
I think he would forget to feed us

## Young Earth

A sound in the early morning  
Like a single ray of light  
Bursting in like a robber  
From out of nowhere  
Growing slowly  
Like a child in the womb  
To a young adult

Then a break in the noise  
And the fall of soft rain  
Another melody starts  
Like a single note  
From a single instrument  
In the audience of a symphony

An invisible hand  
Orchestrates the start of morning  
The sun races across the sky  
And the day is like night  
Slowly fading into yellow

Did I miss the day  
Lost in a dream

Sleep is a strange thing  
Spontaneous and subtle in nature  
Exporting us to another reality  
The other side of our mind  
That takes backstage  
During our waking hours

When we are not asleep  
We fixate on little things  
Like the tapping of the rain



## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

Upon the window  
And the footsteps pacing above

But although we think our minds empty  
When we dream  
It is in these silent times  
That our minds race  
Creating thoughts and reconciling events

Emotions are more vivid  
As our logical side diminishes  
We experience dreams as impulses  
As an older time in our history  
Before the modern world  
Before even farms and cities

When the land was at rest  
And it was we who were hunted  
That early development in our minds  
That predates our understanding of history

A reality like that of a foreign world  
Where we responded to action  
Without excessive thought  
We need to be people who fought  
Not in a metaphorical sense  
But ones that struggled just to live

Where we experienced freedom  
In its rawest form  
Where fear was ever present  
And sights and sounds were heightened  
And our daily experiences  
Were surreal and eventful

A day did not go by

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

That we did not struggle for our lives  
Our minds were clear as the outdoor air  
Unclouded by the factories and megacities  
Our minds were so clear  
That we could see even in the dark  
Our thoughts took flight and emitted light

We were not separate from nature  
And every experience was spiritual  
We did not need to find enlightenment  
As wisdom was not challenged by technology

The first tool was fire  
Like a double edged sword  
It cut both ways  
And enemy and a friend  
Much as other people, animals, and our entire world

With each step forward  
Everything was new  
There was always plenty of wood  
And the rivers were full of fish

We did not sit down in school  
We were always running  
As soon as we learned to crawl  
There was no need for speech  
For ages sound was a luxury

We treated each other as rivals  
We respected each other  
But were able to respond to violence  
In less than a moment's notice

What we knew at the time  
Was not like what we now write down

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

Even then we had no words  
For most of what we felt and believed

God was very real to us  
Much as He is in your time as well  
We respected God  
And He did not anger us

With each passing day  
We looked to the stars  
And just accepted His role  
We knew that He was our Creator  
And we were His children

We lived in a vast garden  
Tended to by Him  
As we grew older  
We began to walk with Him  
In the cool of the day

We never thought of technology  
Like you do today  
And our knowledge of fear  
Was of merely a warning  
And pain was similar

We did not fear death  
As we did not die yet  
What you think of now as violence  
Started out just as a game  
To test our skills and strength of mind

We used to leave our homes  
With no locks or guards  
There was no reason for walls  
As no one was trying to steal

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

As we had no possessions

We had heard of a great city  
A city of light on a hill  
It was thought of as an idea  
But some believed it real

The way to it was like a gate  
The gate was overgrown with vegetation  
And there were no people around it  
It stood in the center of the garden

We knew to not go near it  
Because it was our one rule  
We called it the golden rule  
Because from the gate it glowed  
Like the golden fish in our rivers

This color was unlike any other  
It was not just a color  
But a mist and a living and moving thing  
We approached it with reverence

From the water surrounding it  
We drank for strength and vitality  
Only one at a time  
In each family

We had one person  
Be drawn into the light  
And pass on to the other side  
We never heard of them again

Soon we saw a great warrior  
Stand before us with a great blade  
And he was surrounded with fire

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

With each swing of his sword

The vegetation caught fire  
And we were soon left  
With a patch of dirt and ash  
Much like that of a volcano

We then scattered across  
The entire planet  
People feared death then  
So many died soon after

It was hard to grow things  
And we starved for many years  
Without the light from the portal  
The nights were even darker  
And sleep was less satisfying

Even in our darkest moments  
We held out hope of our Creator  
To provide us a way forward  
From the consequences of our sin

We heard a prophecy about a book  
That would be written  
That told our story  
And that God Himself  
Would enter our world  
And defeat the evil within us

Many people wanted to join together  
And build great stone monuments  
And live under the rule of other people  
In exchange they were protected and fed well

Those who resisted this change

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

Would have to fight wars  
To stand their ground  
And worship God instead of technology

We would not bow down to the leaders  
So the cities rejected us  
And we began a great migration  
To the other side of the world

Some thought the world was ending  
But this was just the beginning  
Our descendants did not survive long  
But our story did

## The Color Red

A procession formed across the open road  
A long line of people  
Wound its way back  
Across fields and forests

Everything was red  
Brilliant red  
And reds of all shades  
The people were all dressed in red  
The forest, the water, and the grass  
All red in their entirety

They played in the river  
Each person was dipped into the water  
Like an apple is dipped into caramel  
The river ran red as well

It was not just the moon  
That was the color of blood  
But the sun was as well  
Even when the night came  
The sky still has a reddish glow  
The stars were all crimson  
Every one the same color as Mars

The man leading the procession  
Leaned on a red and white striped cane  
His nose glowed in the dark  
He rode a red deer

As the procession continued  
The deer picked up a scent  
The aroma of cinnamon apples

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

They followed the scent  
Until they saw a path of red stickers  
On signs pointing the way onward

A bunny rabbit with a red tail  
Darted across the road  
The deer halted course  
The man stepped out and greeted the bunny

The bunny now led the procession  
Into a hole in the ground  
A hole the rabbit dug  
In this hole there was a passage  
To another world

As you passed through  
You were covered in clean water  
The water was pure white  
And filled with soap bubbles  
All smelling like lavender and vanilla

Upon entering the new world  
They saw a man playing a card game  
But the playing cards began to dance  
The dancing surprised the man  
He backed off to the corner  
And set down his giant red and white striped hat

He scratched his long red beard  
He thought of what he would do  
After having a small tea party  
He and the little elves attending the party  
Decided to use their magic  
Which they were given one a week  
If they were good and did their work  
To pay the wizard to shrink them



## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

As soon as they began to shrink  
They noticed a giant fat cat  
Looking down on them with disgust  
The giant cat looked like a stuffed toy  
Except that he could sing and dance  
He made a lot of noise

This made the monster angry  
And he took the cat toy  
And ran off with it  
Carrying it in his mouth

He didn't destroy it though  
He thought to play a trick  
And hide the cat toy  
He buried it in the rabbit hole  
And then the monster disappeared entirely  
Into another world

The cat fell back into our world  
The crowd gathered near the gateway  
As the group wandered  
They made up songs  
That they heard in their heads  
They picked up the musical instruments  
That they found under a small lighted tree  
In the middle of a small clearing

The deer sat down next to the tree  
And the man with the candy cane  
Started to build a little candy house  
The people gathered for a party  
Inside the candy house

During the party they ate so much chocolate

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

That when the rest of the dinner was served  
They could eat nothing else  
As their stomachs ached

They got out of control and disrespectful  
This really stressed out the candy cane man  
But he was a kind man  
So he just ignored the silliness

He started to dance  
And everyone joined in  
To get rid of the excess energy they acquired  
From eating all the candy

Later on they got so tired  
That they wanted to take a nap  
While they slept  
The leader began to fall asleep as well

In all the excitement  
No one had realized  
That they had grown big again  
But the plain cards were still small  
As the people began to dream  
The playing cards woke up  
And began to dance and sing

The candy cane man found the big toy cat  
The toy was then washed  
And given back to the people  
Now with a pleasant expression on his face  
He was all clean and new  
As he had been washed  
In the vanilla soap bubbles

Out of the hole came a few elves

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

The elves then made the hole  
Into a dedicated passageway  
So that others knew just where to cross

The elves held onto a rope  
As they walked  
So that no one would fall down  
Off the little bridge between the two worlds  
The man with the candy cane  
Guarded this same spot  
Where the two worlds met

There were giant trees  
With branches covering the passage way  
And the people decided to never cross  
Into the another world  
Unless they were with another group member

The only time they were alone  
Was when they were sleeping  
A locked door was constructed  
So that it required 2 keys that joined together  
So no one would cross by themselves

After spending much time  
Traveling between worlds  
They realized they could go faster  
If they rode red deer  
They became obsessed about riding red deer  
So that soon they became red deer themselves

So then the man with the candy cane  
Would bring them together  
For one night of the year  
To bring presents to both worlds

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

In one world they were giants  
And in the other one they were very small  
As time passed by  
They began to get bigger  
But they noticed the bigger they got  
The more the world shrank around them

Eventually they tired of traveling  
As they missed being with the entire group  
You may ask why the group  
Didn't just stay together  
But there were only a few people  
Who could be on the bridge at once

And arguments began to divide the group  
They didn't understand  
Why everyone else in the world  
Kept telling them to do things  
That were annoying and disruptive

Whenever they got together  
The leader with the candy cane  
Would lead them off to another location  
They never knew where they were going

Eventually they learned to watch  
When the candy man starting getting sleepy  
They gave him milk and cookies  
Because that made him sleep  
Then they would be free to sing and dance

## Superheroes: The Santa Soldier

Like an inter-dimensional force for good  
We are all a kind of spiritual Christian soldier  
We are the infantry  
We are the hands and feet of God

Like the military we neither choose our mission  
Nor can we use our powers for our own gain

We are like a physical conduit  
Of God's supernatural power  
Serving as the face of God in this world

We are truly of another species  
We are not really from this world  
Our home world is being  
In close proximity to our Lord

Our weapons are there  
To bring peace and joy to the world

We are a kind of soldier Santa  
But we are not a myth  
We are as real as anything you can touch

We are merely mortal people  
But within us exists a greater power for good  
Than all the gravity of a galactic black hole  
A great power packed into a mere person

What is greater than feeding hungry people  
Or healing people of deadly diseases?

The combined three part gift of  
God living within you

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

Spending forever after in  
His golden city of paradise  
And having the global network  
Of support from people like you

We are not trying to recruit you  
As God Himself will knock on your door  
To give you an invitation

But we do screw things up from time to time  
Like the military has a habit of doing  
Many of us are clumsy and sick

We also have a variety of issues and emotional baggage  
That may actually be harder to deal with  
Than the issues you are going through

We understand if you think you have no need for us  
But we want to know we are always there for you  
And when we can't be our Lord is  
He never screws things up like we do

We are but common peasants by birth  
Serving in the forces of the King  
Our Lord actually does the cleaning  
So we feel honored to be able to work in His service

We have a strong desire to include everyone  
Good news is we have no ranks  
As we are all completely equal

One of the things negative about us  
By some people's standards  
Is that we are neither cool nor modern in our thinking

We are working on modernizing our thinking

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

Please be patient with us in the process  
We are also accepting others to help with this

Many of us you hear about live in luxury  
But most of our members  
Are some of the world's poorest

As far as being cool is concerned  
We are ok with being nerds  
We do have good times though

We just don't feel the need to do drugs to have fun  
Having God live within you  
Provides the positive effects  
People often seek in taking drugs  
But without the dangerous side effects and addiction

We live a life of  
Both moderation and engaging with the world  
Even though many of us  
Strongly disagree on how it is run

We know the King not only created all worlds  
But won the battle on our behalf centuries ago

Our biggest problem is that we  
Still don't follow orders well

Today we think it not possible to reform people  
That society says are bad  
And make them change their behavior

The King has the power  
To restore people to be good  
And He has also given us this power as well

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

He has such power and authority  
That what He says becomes reality

He says many good things about us  
Even though we are in the process of reformation  
We are trying to live up to who He says we are

Some of our beliefs are not just unpopular  
They are actually looked down upon  
But as we said we come from a different world

We understand that we are so different  
So that you may not be ready  
To be part of our group

Just remember you can join and  
Be just as important as anyone else  
When you first join

But realize that some members  
May be hard to deal with  
Because we take everyone

But we don't really decide on membership  
The King does all the recruiting

Just know He will knock on your door  
Only a certain number of times

Either way you choose we wish you best  
And we will be there to help you out  
As long as we are still here

After all we are not from this world  
We will be returning home sometime  
We don't know when



# Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

But when it happens it will be fast

## Far Out Community

I fell down  
I rolled off onto my side  
I fell into the dust

And saw a flat wilderness  
The smell of sweat  
I ended up  
On the other side of the cliff

It was like a vacation  
From the reality of my life  
And the fears in my mind

Living in the land of my enemy  
Being hunted down  
Amidst a land full of obstacles  
Everywhere I turned there were distractions

My heart was full of joy  
And there were reminders  
Of a time of greater calm

Friends always surround me  
We represent every race  
All on the same level

We can see all that happens  
Looking down from safety

Our world constantly changes  
Sometimes it is so dry  
I have to travel far to water

In the mountains

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

Streams come from nowhere  
Water so soft and pure  
That I float on in ease

Always a smile on my face  
We all work and live together  
A community like no other

Every moment forms a beat  
Each thought I have  
Is part of the rhythm

Colors fade over time  
And so do our memories

The community is growing  
We are recruited one by one

I found this place by accident  
As many others have  
A fantasy world out of the way

Sometimes I struggle with isolation  
Even as I feel crowded in

The light is different here  
Beyond the sun and moon

The piercing sound of the train  
Wakes us up periodically

The whole world stops  
And I get out of my vehicle

The road extends far ahead  
And we are blinded by the light

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

The pathway is always dark  
It leads to other worlds

My world in a mirror reflected  
The comforts of a life of ease  
Time goes by more slowly

I survey the horizon  
I have no place in this world  
But here there is no conflict  
We can truly celebrate peace

There is a dark side to every world  
And this one is no exception  
Some only stay for a time  
And never return

I leave at regular intervals  
To harvest the fruit of the land  
And search for water

I ride out on a cloud  
And survey my kingdom  
Always on a journey

I am a historian  
And the others follow me  
But I am no leader

Those I call mine  
Live in a perpetual state of disarray  
All are clumsy and out of shape

Our stomachs are all round  
But our steps are light  
We float out into the night

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

We can survive long periods  
Without light and water  
Like plants going to seed

The great wind came back  
And it killed off the smell

We live our entire lives  
With nothing but our clothes

We seldom are able to lie down  
But it feels good  
To sit next to friends

The hours of the day  
Seem to bleed into each other

We may be small in stature  
But we have great courage

We have little control  
And only exist  
Because of the mercy of others

Tomorrow is cleaning day  
Our home will finally be clean

This is about Stuffed Toys

# Imagery

## Psychology of Water

Nothing is softer than a drop of water  
Nothing is clearer than the sound of thunder  
Nothing is as unclear as the edges of a cloud  
Nothing is more intense than the reflection of the sun off of water  
Nothing is as cold as a coat soaked in water  
Nothing is as clean as when the soap makes contact with water  
and cloth  
Nothing is more common than water on earth  
But most of it we can never drink  
Our form of life needs water to live  
We fight wars over it and build entire civilizations around it  
The water below is another world like the sky above  
This parallel world is full of life unlike ours

Nothing hurts less to the open wound than pure water  
Nothing cools hot coals faster than water  
We are born again by passing through water  
While many are afraid of drowning in it  
Transforming rocks to sand and metal to rust  
Nothing infiltrates as subtlety as water  
Nothing transforms human creations more than water

The repeating sound of a rainstorm  
Beating the side of the building  
Like a drummer's stick  
The rain hits the window so hard  
It is surprising the glass doesn't break  
Sometimes I feel as cold inside  
As winter rain with a leaking jacket  
Sometimes the water just soothes  
It is easier when it burns less inside my heart  
For what is right and for what is not  
Water can make you feel new like nothing else  
It feels as if you no longer carry a burden

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

Dreams are like water  
Soft but intense at the same time  
Sometimes I feel like someone dropped  
A bucket of water on me  
Sometimes I feel so little control  
That I might not make it to the bathroom in time

It is in our waking dreams  
That we plan our goals  
And fantasize about possibilities  
To experience better feelings about life  
Is waking not like walking through a waterfall  
With your eyes closed  
Is not the sunrise better than the sunset  
Isn't the sunset the beginning and the sunrise the end  
We spend more time in the dark than the light  
We put more effort into changing  
Things we have no control over  
Surely we can do greater things  
In the heat of the day  
Than in the cool of the night  
Especially when it stops raining



## Like a Diamond

Faith shines like a rainbow  
A bridge between God and people

Like a portal to another world  
An inter-dimensional road  
That leads to paradise

People think Heaven is far away  
Or dying is traumatic  
Maybe it is like waking up  
From a bad dream

Like a wounded animal  
It cries and bleeds  
The echoes of the cross  
Can be heard throughout history

Suffering is the human condition  
But Christ is the best answer  
When we look to what faith is  
The most direct answer is Christ

Like a diamond simple from afar  
The brilliance spreads out  
In every direction  
Just like the grace of God

Why does taking on the life of Christ  
Lead to less suffering?

The source of our suffering is our sin  
We are not always protected from  
The consequences of the sin of the other

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

We can be protected from our own sin  
If we would but fight for it

When we fall we hit hard  
But we can always get back up  
Because the soul cannot be destroyed  
And God absorbs what we cannot take

We are as morally elusive as water  
And our hearts hard as ice  
Let God warm our hearts  
And lead the flow of our emotions

Just like you can see rainbows  
In the middle of mud puddles  
So God's grace shines in even the dirty

No matter how big our problems get  
Or how much we think we have learned  
We can never get beyond the cross

At every stage of life and history  
We all need God to deal with life

In this age we seek to explain everything  
But our questions are all oriented around the how  
When we think we have the answers  
We cannot hear the voice of God

Is it still worth questioning life's problems?

We can never solve problems  
If we do not examine them  
But we need to focus on the Who more  
Than the how or even the why

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

It is worth noting the source of our problems  
But let us not forget the origin  
Of all human problems

We cannot heal our hearts  
Until we are willing to let them break  
We cannot see the brilliance of grace  
Without the second sight of faith

Maybe we became spiritually blind  
When our culture became too visual  
Maybe there is a correlation  
Between the loss of sight and the start of wisdom

We currently live in a world of lies  
The most valuable thing today is the truth  
Knowledge is just a commodity  
But the truth is harder to find than ever before

Just as a diamond is transparent  
So should our character be

We can only be the light of the world  
If we allow God  
To burn off our imperfections

And we can only be clean  
By the blood of Christ

Like a diamond  
We are to reflect the attributes of Christ

We cannot live the life of Christ  
But we can be a poor reflection  
Of how much He cares

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

If there is enough light  
Even a cloudy diamond  
Can reflect the light

And light is most visible  
When it is so dark we cannot see

We are righteous by Divine declaration  
Even as we have not reached that in our actions

We are lights to the world  
As God has chosen us to be that light

We cannot step back  
Or sit on the sidelines  
There is no turning back

We are chosen  
And have accepted the call  
We are already fully committed

God will not allow us to outrun Him  
There is no escape from His love  
And we will be sanctified  
No matter how much we fight it

He has already prepared the way  
And He carries us when needed  
Once we see the light of His grace  
We will never be the same

May the light of God  
Blind us to all lies

May the brilliance of His love  
Heal us from all sorrow

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

May the world see us no more  
But only Christ's reflection in us

# **Faith and Ethics**

## Art and Kindness

Today I saw one of the most beautiful paintings ever  
And it was almost entirely designed by software  
With a person literally just choosing amongst a number of pieces  
And it won a state level art show

In an age of artificial intelligence  
Biblical aesthetics still requires people  
God's idea of what is beautiful  
Is doing kind things for others

Maybe as we find it possible  
To create more easily  
And art becomes more democratized

We will start leveling the playing field  
For those who want to to be creative  
But don't have the time or ability

Our teachers were right  
That today we can do whatever we want  
Everyday of our lives can be like a vacation

The flip side is that we make not make any money at it  
Of course that is always a struggle with art  
Try making money off a website, writing, or creating software

But ultimately what ability do humans have  
That a machine is not capable of doing better?

For those who argue the purity of art  
I bring in the example of photography  
I also bring in the example of modern art  
And finally I bring in the example of design software

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

Maybe we can end the elitism  
The average person can now enjoy making art too  
The process can be more the point  
Entertainment transforms into creating

This is only one relatively minor change  
That our society will experience over the next 100 years  
But this will only be true if no new things are invented

Everything now is up for grabs  
What I am writing to you now  
May soon be done by a robot instead of a person  
Or some sort of artificial intelligence

Most jobs can be automated  
This is how blue color workers must have felt  
In the later 20th century  
When they lost their jobs due to robots and software

It might be that wealth becomes distributed more evenly  
Throughout the entire world  
And get people to focus on creating rather than consuming

It might also take a bite  
Into the power of and wealth of Hollywood

This is just a minor milestone  
In the transformation of our lives and economy

So maybe the focus in life can shift  
From how much can I get  
To how much I can give

The art of the Bible  
Is trying to reduce suffering  
This is a much harder task



## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

I wish the robots well  
If they ever take on this endeavor

The Bible talks about how  
All physical things deteriorate over time  
One of the greatest challenges  
We have in our country today  
Is the preservation of our wealth

A person or society has to guard what it creates  
Legally, physically, technologically, or morally  
What cannot be secured  
Is not going to remain their property

As people become lazier  
And do not want to work anymore  
This is a gift from God  
That we can now do more complex things electronically

Robots work harder and get no pay  
What a great enabler of capitalism

Aesthetics or the philosophy of art  
Has always been a fun topic to write about  
But it is hard because there is little to draw on

Most artists do not like to be self reflective  
Because they think it will make them less creative  
Many also have little interest in academics or abstract thought

What I look forward to is sharing the joy of creation  
With ever more people

The robots are making the life of the consumer better  
And currently they are volunteering their labor  
What is not to love about it?

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

If someone wants to give away something for free  
For someone else to sell  
Is that not their right?

This is the way government works  
The government is well know for giving money to the poor  
But it also redistributes wealth to the rich as well

Society will be rearranged  
And everything invented  
After the transition from a hunter gatherer society  
Is up for grabs  
Art included

There is nothing sacred about creating beautiful things  
Who are we to determine what is beautiful?  
Is not beauty to be judged by the individual's perception?

This may appear to be a profound change in society  
But it is not conceptually  
There will be greater changes

What happens when people can generate  
Whole theologies or religions this way?  
Maybe this has already happened?

After all we only know what we can experience  
And everything else we know by faith

## Something Small

A great wind comes from all directions  
I hold my hand close to a small flame  
I shield and protect it  
As a member of my family

I suspend judgement for but a moment  
Self doubt is under rated

In the midst of waves of destruction  
I stand on a tall mountain  
On a tiny island

Sometimes I think there is no more room  
But sometimes the rushing wind  
Calms my mind or at least distracts it

Many see meaning in their cause  
I see meaning in challenging my mind

When there is no direction  
And hope is not easily found  
Sometimes you cannot trust your heart  
This is the most important time

Stepping forward in faith  
Often means doing nothing but waiting

Warfare need not be violent  
An resistance can be a purely internal thing

We see nothing ahead but suffering  
But maybe the end in not anymore painful  
Than the beginning was

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

We fear our future  
But maybe we should pray for His return  
We struggle to silence our critics

But maybe this is where we need to be

Jesus did not speak  
When challenged and berated  
Maybe this time we need internal growth

Learning self control is never easy  
As it is almost impossible  
To be relaxed in the midst of fear or pain

We think to prepare for disasters  
We need to horde supplies  
But maybe we are our own enemies

Maybe the last battle  
Is taking place in our own minds

Is the revolutionary aspect of Christianity  
About gender or sex?  
What does the Bible say about masculinity?

Is it more difficult to create or destroy?  
If Christ changed the world more than any other Person  
Then why do we think we need to travel  
To spread the Gospel?

What if the hardest convert  
Is the Church itself?

Questioning God is a tricky thing to do respectfully  
But it is Christian to doubt ourselves  
Many great Christians in fact doubted their very faith at times

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

If we are to overcome our evil intentions  
Can we always avoid the darkness?

We think of the darkness as only about evil  
But spiritual trials can be used for good

The absence of light can just be giving you evidence  
That you are going somewhere you have never been before

The future is open and empty  
Even Christ does not know when He will return

Sometimes fear of being wrong is not strong enough  
And certainty of pain and loneliness can lead to evil

Do not give up on God  
He is not just in control of our history  
He has planned it out directly

We sometimes think serving God  
Means we have to fight someone else

But if we take a step back  
Maybe now who we see as the enemy  
Could eventually be a friend of God

Our journey is not over  
Until we are in a coffin

God can and does quicken us  
After all spiritual strength  
Does not correlate with age

The best trained soldiers in history  
Have often seen combat as a kind of dance

## Happy Thoughts by Ben Huot

Gunpowder was first used for fireworks  
And not explosives in war until much later

Our biggest opposition is not the other  
But our own ability to be distracted  
And our lack of commitment

Proof of your faith does not need to come from pain  
There are better ways to serve God than dying for Him

If we cannot see past our current circumstances  
We need to step forward in faith  
And do something deliberately small

What does Christ call us to do until He returns?  
Simple acts of kindness  
Maybe we can kill the opposition with kindness

## Hope for the Future

Sight is only one kind of knowing  
Darkness is not a color  
There are things we may never know  
But also things we wish we didn't

Waiting upon God is hard  
Like waiting for food  
Especially when in pain

Each day that we live  
We learn a little more  
But without hope for better times  
It is easy to get lost

I wish I could save everyone  
But some things are only God's to do  
I try to learn from others' experiences  
But that is not so easily done

With my mental illness  
I seek symbols and connections  
Even places where there are few to none

Our lives can have meaning  
Even in a world that makes little sense

What is the point of discovering why we suffer  
If we cannot use it to reduce suffering?  
What is the point of knowledge  
If it does not make us better people?

As we get older do we really grow?  
Does experience actually result in wisdom?

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When the smartest people in the world  
Believe that things came out of nothing  
And our decisions create separate time lines  
Is life a cruel joke?

Are we part of a grand game  
Initiated by a higher power?  
The pagan world is cruel  
And so is life without God

Christ may not be the answer  
For why your computer doesn't work  
But He is the answer  
To what I should do with my life

If we are to truly evolve  
Maybe we need a moral revolution

To go forward we need better memory  
We need to look into the past  
To find a way into the future  
That does not bring severe depression

Can we get past God?  
Can a computer achieve enlightenment?  
Or can a person become a virus?

We seek answers in the form of math  
Maybe for some problems poetry is more useful

In an age where everything is temporary  
And most things are stolen  
Where does our truth come from?  
Who can we trust?



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When no one cares about anything anymore  
Than their fame, money, and power  
Seeking wisdom is futile and irrelevant  
But this is only an illusion

Just as we see this moral battle  
Played out on the world stage  
So this moral battle also takes place  
Within each of our minds

Does anyone care anymore?  
Is God relevant today?  
Are eating and sleeping still relevant?  
Do we no longer need water or air?

Some questions may be better answered  
By the choices we make  
Than the creeds we commit to

Just as getting rid of vice laws  
And increasing the aggression of police  
Are slowly unwinding trust

So giving up on God  
Gives us few reasons  
To want a society at all

Being around people can be discouraging  
This is truly why we need  
Time alone with God

The greatest desire today  
Is what it has always been  
How can I be happy?

Is happiness the absence of pain?

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Or satisfying our need for God?

As we reduce our existence  
To finding food, shelter, and clothing  
What empowers us to make good choices  
Is harder to find

As we increase the volume of our voices  
It is harder to hear God

With each decision we make  
We become different people  
Has your experience in life  
Brought you closer or farther from God?

I have learned to trust no one  
Least of all myself  
But my respect for God grows  
The more I learn of Him

Christ is the best example we can have  
But if we do not have the Holy Spirit  
Living within our souls  
We are never going to be better people

Without being better people  
We will never have a better world  
And without progress it is easy to give up

Maybe the world will just fade away  
As everyone just gives up  
As society seems to get worse  
No matter how we try to fix it

Maybe we will remember God  
And allow Him to work in our lives

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And therefore transform our world  
This is my hope for the future

## Attributes of Victory

So what does victory look like?

Realizing I was happier before  
Believing God will provide  
Stopping to think before acting  
Getting back up again  
Letting the old me die  
Listening to the rhythm of God's voice  
Letting God take the burden  
Realizing things get worse over time  
When I try things on your own  
Not believing the lies of the enemy  
Amplifying the voice of God  
Minimizing the influence of evil  
Understanding I need to fear myself more than God  
Accepting that I cannot do it on my own  
Understanding how to give God control  
Seeking God with all my heart  
Accepting the peace of the Holy Spirit  
Becoming addicted to God

Slowing down and cleaning up my life  
Concentrating on putting God first  
Finding ways to prove my devotion  
Refusing to give up at any cost  
God closing doors as well as opening them  
Society changing sometimes in good ways  
Understanding better who God is  
Being surprised by the relevance of Scripture  
Many years of prayer  
Allowing God to transform my mind and heal me  
Time passing by  
Learning to trust others less and God more  
Minor successes and a glimpse of the power of good

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Seeing the mirror of serving God  
In being burdened by sin

Many years of trying to understand myself  
And trying to communicate it to others  
A breaking of my heart  
Internally divided by moral compromise  
A long process of sinning less  
Realizing how much the sinner suffers  
Realizing the cost of sin  
Victory over other addictions  
My heart finally broke  
And my depression was removed  
I had a mountain top experience  
Focusing more and more on God  
Increasing my exposure to God  
Decreasing my exposure to the world  
The influence of caring family  
The fear of sin escalating  
Concern about how others see me  
More concerned about how others see God in me

Seeking devotion from God  
Realizing how my bad choices affect others  
Not feeling alone anymore  
Returning to church  
Finding the support of other Christians  
Getting solid Bible knowledge  
Realizing how many others  
Deal with similar issues  
Taking care of myself and my house  
Realizing sin ends up not being fun  
You can only pursue sin so long until it gets ugly  
What appears like acceptable compromise at first  
Does not stay there  
Understanding what things are problems for me

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That are not problems for others  
Things that are not evil for others  
That are evil for me  
Realizing how much is spiritual  
That appear secular or psychological at first

The fear of following God leaves  
Putting God first makes everything better  
Realizing preparing for future uncertainty  
Is all about being vigilant spiritually  
You must work hard spiritually  
As well as mentally and physically  
Sin never allows rest  
Taking back my life  
And praying back against the devil  
Breaking ties with past sins  
Confidence that the devil's plan has no teeth  
The devil's entire plan is based on deception  
All the idols are empty  
They have no power over us anymore  
Understand that God answers prayers in creative ways  
God is much more creative than me  
And much smarter than the devil  
God is also the key to relaxation  
This is why animals are so good at relaxing

# Essays on Heaven

## End of the Womb

What if this is not all there is? What if this is just a waiting room for our real lives? Many often think of death as the end but what if it is just the beginning? Maybe this world is just like being in the womb or in a bad dream. Will this world still be real to us, once we die to this world? If we want to experience Heaven on earth, we must give up this world already.

Many think of death as an ending even if it is never ending; even many Christians do. Heaven is more than a place to rest. It is meant to be a life without suffering and without ending. It is a return to the Garden of Eden, but it exists beyond anything we can imagine.

If you think of time as placing limits on what you can do, imagine there being no limits even on what you can imagine and then being able to create without having to know how to do it. But we will all be working together in pursuit of God's objectives. There will be entire universes for each of us where we can travel farther than our imaginations can go and still be right with our fellow believers and our God.

Completely breaking down the hostile wall between people and God breaks down more than just suffering. It breaks down all possibility of evil. Eternal life is the greatest creative effort for God and offers the most limitless expression for us to make out of it.

If you compare everything you know to a seed in the garden described in a sentence and then you wake up to see it for the first time fully blooming with thousands of its friends with no imperfections at all, this is something like Heaven. The beauty is not so much in the possibilities but in the impossibility of doing evil.



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It always requires much more to create than to destroy things. This is likely why it takes so long to build a civilization from scratch but it can often be removed from memory in a very short amount of time and with much less effort.

Our understanding of Heaven and the afterlife on earth is like a child who doesn't yet know how to speak trying to understand what it is like on the other side of the galaxy in a thousand years. We cannot even understand how far away the moon is from us and yet we think we can describe Heaven with words.

The Kingdom of Heaven describes both everlasting life in paradise and the Church. What does this say about what is important in Heaven? We think of the jewels on the streets of Heaven or its physical size and are in awe, but true joy and connection with our Creator is infinitely greater.

The same God who created the universe is creating a future for all of us to live with Him without suffering or boredom. This is after knowing full well that we are in the process of destroying His creation and His plan for us out of our pride and foolishness. We are like prisoners coming out of a lockdown into greater safety and freedom than we give to those who sacrificed everything for us get.

The gift of Heaven is that we no more need to worry about anything. The limitations we experience on earth are not relevant anymore. There are no rules because God rules directly over us. There is no need for any army because there is no evil anymore. God finally makes it impossible for us to hurt each other as we no longer seek more of anything. What is there to steal when the whole thing is made of gold, everything you want is there for you, and there is no market or scarcity of anything good?

Many seem to fear running out of things to do as if we are merely there to do crafts or play card games. Think of how amazing it is

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how God created people out of absolutely nothing. Not dark matter, not black holes, not empty space, no other realities or universes, singularities or superstrings, absolutely nothing and not even an empty vacuum. When you compare a person to a rock that doesn't give you anywhere near enough to understand what making a soul out of nothing even means.

So if we are to exist in Heaven in bodies that never deteriorate and we still have all our memories and personal spiritual identities preserved, this sounds like the best of being in a dream, being a child, and being retired with perfect health, immense wealth and technology. But again even things like having perfect health would pale in comparison to not having to suffer and being royalty alongside our Creator.

How can you possibly discount or be frightened of eternity with God? Just because we cannot fully describe it doesn't mean there is anything disappointing about it. Certainly if all we get is a seat next to Christ and nothing to do but look at Him, certainly this is better than anything we could possibly come up with. When and if you are truly happy and content and never suffer, does it matter if you have everything or not?

So just like a birthday party or a meeting with your best friend any preparations necessary are not burdens or responsibilities but fun activities to do in anticipation. We need to stop thinking of doing things for God because we think we owe Him something. We certainly do, but God has given us this gift freely and so we need to focus on gathering the rest of the guests.

We could ponder forever as to why God wanted to save us, but for whatever reason He did. Yes we are unworthy and yet He stands at our door with a gift for us even though we destroyed His house beforehand partying without Him. Let's focus on the next step of preparing for His homecoming by creating the kind of party He would want.

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He wants everyone at the party and time with Him is better than any gift we could make. To get ready for the party we need to create a space for Him in our hearts, our churches, and our society. We have to pray that He will return. And we have to make peace with Him and everyone else. He is not coming back to destroy our enemies as they are invited as well.

We need to give up and get over the idea of being right and being rewarded for being faithful. God sees no rank amongst people because all people need a miracle to come to faith in Christ. We all have been promised great futures that none of us have sufficiently earned and never will. Our inheritance is not about possessions or even possibilities but about being children of our Creator.

Christ defeated sin permanently but we will not experience this fully until after we physically die. We do evil because we do choose to but our motivation is different once we choose to follow God and so we will not need to fight evil in God's Heaven. We will no longer be tested and our side has been chosen. This is why there will be no suffering in Heaven.

## A Better Reality

Better than a drug, like the happiest moment of your childhood, Heaven makes your life on earth look like living in a computer by comparison. The Bible uses similar words for both the afterlife and space. I think this might be a reference to both the size and magnitude of reality that Heaven is all about.

The Kingdom of God is about true equality and true freedom. Think of Heaven as a utopia better than people's greatest dreams for America in terms of the best and most universal American ideals. There will be true peace in Heaven just as Jesus is described as the Prince of Peace. This means we will experience peace, on all levels: peace with God, peace with each other, and inner peace.

Everything on earth has records and so does Heaven. All who are saved are written in a book called the Book of Life. We think of records as punishments, obligations, and bureaucracy. Heaven is very much not like that. The kind of records necessary are minimal because God already know everything, evil we be impossible, and God is accepted by all as the supreme authority.

Imagine how well things would work on Earth if we had complete peace on all levels and had a supreme authority we could trust to be fair. Even better would be if there were a system where we could have kindness and mercy along with justice and equality. This can be possible only through Christ and His death and resurrection. That is truly revolutionary by itself.

Christ says that once He left and returned to Heaven He would prepare a place for us in Heaven. After He returns to earth He will make a new Heaven and a new earth. Imagine Earth before the flood where people lived hundreds of years or more and there was so much more abundance than even in America when the Europeans first stepped on soil in the Americas. Then also

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imagine Earth before the fall and how we could grow things easily and never have to work hard to produce food or anything. Even nakedness had no shame in it or any weird meanings that it does today.

Imagine sex which we are so obsessed with today was actually designed by God, but that there is no sex in Heaven. Imagine having things so much more enjoyable than sex to do so that people don't even miss it. Men especially spend much of their lives trying to find either spouses or relationships with a big focus on sex. Imagine if people had no sex drive and no desire for it. This alone would help heal us tremendously.

In the Earth today, we see the power evil as being real and it is hard to find God in our society. God speaks softly and the devil shouts. We are so busy doing what we are told today that we have no time or energy to have rest and have a relationship with God.

Imagine if you didn't need to maintain your image to keep a good paying job. Not keeping an online presence alone would lower most peoples' stress levels tremendously. Think of how more relaxed many retired people are who have secure incomes. That would be all of us in Heaven.

Christ was a servant as well. Imagine if you have ever had the experience of everyone just getting together and getting the work done so you can move on and do something fun. Have you ever had a manager or employer who would work along with the employees to do whatever was necessary to get the job done? Have you ever had a leader in your life who would do whatever was necessary for you and everyone under their leadership to be successful? This is the kind of leader Christ is.

Christ is always described, as we will see Him in Heaven, as human even down to the scars on His hands and feet from His

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crucifixion and likely He will look the age He was when He died, 33. We are also told we will have bodies that will never age, wear down, or stop working for any reason. We will have perfect health and never will need to worry about anything medical going wrong.

Not only will there be peace in our lives in our daily life but there will be no hostilities, wars, disagreements, or even awkward situations to deal with. The lions are said to live with the lambs like they did during the flood. Imagine animals where one is a prey and one is a predator being friends. This also means there will be animals in Heaven and they will be happy on a level that even the best pampered pets on earth are not.

God is also our Creator and He first wanted us to share in creating with Him. Adam was charged with naming the animals and people were given the responsibility of taking care of His creation and making sure animals were well taken care of and had good lives. Obviously we fouled this up so bad that we have a hard time relating with this, but in Heaven we will be able to follow through with this again.

Christ also talks about us having responsibilities in Heaven as well. We are given in the parables examples of how in some ways earth is training us for Heaven. We are told that God wants us to use the gifts He gave us to make the situation better on earth and tell people about the Gospel. The Apostle Peter was told by Christ that He would be a fisher of men and we are told that the harvest of souls is great but the workers are few.

It is hard to imagine what Heaven will be like but if you look closely through what scripture talks about Heaven and compare that to our experiences on Earth, this should at least encourage you and give you something to look forward to.

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Of course there is also a Hell too that is just as real. We don't know much about it but the best analogy on earth is a place of burning trash. But you will not accidentally screw up and end up here without many experiences and people leading you away from it. God designed hell for demons, not people. Remember Christ talked about how no Christian with genuine faith will be taken away from God by foolishness or attack by evil.

The world has suffering and pain because we screwed up. God never designed for us to live as we do now. We have changed everything fundamentally so that things don't work well for anyone. But God has seen this coming as He knows everything and so made a plan that we can not screw up no matter how much we try.

The apostles definitely screwed up majorly in numerous ways when the situation was the most pivotal. God can and will use any of us. Christ even brought a man back from literal death to serve God (Lazarus). Christ said that God can raise stones to be the sons of Abraham and that if no one worships God, the stones will cry out in praise of Him who created them.

So do not worry about Hell or losing your faith. God will do everything to get you to Heaven save He wants you to choose to be with Him of your own free will. This is because human choice and free will are very important to God.