



Best Connections

08

Resources for The Journey

This final section of Best Connections has even more insights from ‘world thinkers’ for your reflection about the rest of your journey on earth – if you’ve found some or all of this resource useful, there are options to share it with others you care about. If not, now’s the time to lob it on the compost heap of things you’ve rejected – but if you do, check it in a few months and you may find a pip has germinated that needs a bit of TLC and there can yet be fruit!

“Sharing will enrich everyone with more knowledge”

– **Ana Monnar, Cuban-born Contemporary Philosopher**

Who are the top three people who have enriched your life? Will you be in the top three for someone else?

“Sharing is sometimes more demanding than giving”

– **Mary Catherine Bateson, American Anthropologist (born 1939)**

**Why does a child find it hard to share?
Do you enjoy giving more than you used to?!**

“Often, we are too slow to recognize how much and in what ways we can assist each other through sharing expertise and knowledge”

– **Owen Arthur, Barbadian Politician (b. 1949)**

What is the greatest insight someone shared with you? Which one would you share with someone?

“The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance; it is the illusion of knowledge” – **Stephen Hawking, British Theoretical Physicist and Cosmologist (b. 1942)**

Do you know people who have great knowledge? Do they also have wisdom of the deepest things of life?

“We are drowning in information but starved for knowledge”
– **John Naisbitt, American Author and Public Speaker (b. 1929)**

How often do you feel ‘information overload’? Are you still acquiring knowledge?

“All knowledge is connected to all other knowledge. The fun is in making the connections” – **Arthur Aufderheide, American Palaeopathologist (b. 1922)**

Do you find it easy to make the connections? Why do some see connections and others not?

“There is no substitute for understanding what you are doing”
– **Loren P. Meissner, American Thinker (b. 1929)**

Have you found true understanding comes when trying to teach others? What helps you understand things?

“There are only two mistakes one can make along the road to truth; not going all the way, and not starting”
– **Buddha, also known as Siddhartha Gautama (b. in Nepal in Sixth Century BC)**

**Do you think that truth can pursue you?!
Have you been surprised by truth?**

"To be surprised, to wonder, is to begin to understand"
– José Ortega y Gasset, Spanish Philosopher (b. 1883)

**Did you know that CS Lewis likened his
Christian conversion to 'being surprised by
joy'? Have you been?**

*"In vain have you acquired knowledge if you have not imparted it to
others"* – Deuteronomy Rabbah, circa 900 AD

**What is your reason for learning? Do you like to
'share' good sites and links on line with friends?**

"It is good to rub and polish our brain against that of others"
– Michel Eyquem de Montaigne, French Renaissance Philosopher and
Writer (b. 1533)

**Does more rub on or rub off?! Have you found
the saying true that iron sharpens iron?**

"An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest"
– Benjamin Franklin, American Founding Father (b. 1706)

**Do you invest your limited time for maximum
return? What's the best return so far?!**

*"Knowledge is like money: to be of value it must circulate, and in
circulating it can increase in quantity and, hopefully, in value"*
– Louis L'Amour, American author (b. 1908)

**What is the most valuable knowledge you
possess? Have you shared it with anyone, yet?!**

“Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow”

– **Ralph Waldo Emerson, American Poet (b. 1803)**

Did you know that in Greek, a disciple of Christ is ‘mathetes’, meaning an apprentice? Are you one?

“A man can only attain knowledge with the help of those who possess it. This must be understood from the very beginning. One must learn from him who knows” – **George Ivanovich Gurdjieff, Russian Psychologist (b. 1866)**

How do you ascertain if someone is genuine or manipulative? What is the measure of true knowledge?

“The best way to have a good idea is to have a lot of ideas”

– **Linus Pauling, American Chemist and Educator (b. 1901)**

In what ways is an idea different to knowledge? Do you build your life on ideas or knowledge?

“Do they not travel through the land, so that their hearts (and mind) may thus learn wisdom and their ears may thus learn? Truly it is not their eyes that are blind, but their hearts, which are within the bosoms, that grow blind” – **Al Hajj 22:46 (Islamic quote website)**

How do you decide what to believe? What impact does Jesus’ invitation have on you?

“Search for the truth is the noblest occupation of man; its publication is a duty” – **Madame de Stael, a French ‘Woman of Letters’ (b. 1766)**

If Jesus entrusts truth to you, what is to be done with it? Have you thought of someone to share it with?

"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it"

– **Margaret Fuller, American Journalist and Women's Rights Activist (b. 1810)**

Have you got a Bible? Why not use a free one on line or get an app? –

<https://www.biblegateway.com/>

"Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared" – **Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama (b. in Nepal in Sixth Century BC)**

"Find new ways to spread the word of God to every corner of the world" – **Pope Francis, (b. in Argentina 1936)**

How comfortable would you feel sharing your faith? Do you know about C4L Grace Connections?

<http://connect4life.org.uk/unconnected/unconnected-introduction>

"Sometimes it's necessary to go a long distance out of the way in order to come back a short distance correctly"

– **Edward Albee, American Playwright (b. 1928)**

Could this describe any part of your spiritual journey? Which bit are you on now?

"Life was meant to be lived, and curiosity must be kept alive. One must never, for whatever reason, turn his back on life"

– **Eleanor Roosevelt, American Politician (b. 1884)**

If life is God's gift to you, how might you turn your back on it? How might you embrace it?

"There is no wealth but life" – John Ruskin, English Art Critic (b. 1819)

When Jesus offers you 'life to the full', what do you think he means? What does 'life in Christ' mean to you?

"I know what things are good: friendship and work and conversation. These I shall have" – Rupert Brooke, English Poet (b. 1887)

Is this all most people want out of life? Has this app helped you see the best life is connected to God?'

"Do you believe that what you believe is really real? Because if you really believe that what you believe is real, then Christians will change the world" – Del Tackett, Contemporary American Preacher

Do you know any Christians who live like they truly believe? If you do, how might it change your world?

"I have always marvelled that so many religions exact such revenge against dissenters. It only weakens the appeal of their faith and contradicts any claims they might have made that 'all religions are basically the same.' If all religions were indeed the same, why not let someone be 'converted' to another religion?"

– Ravi Zacharias, Canadian Philosopher (b. in India 1948)

If you were at some risk for following Christ, would you still follow him? Why does he give us the choice?

"The disciple of Christ cannot lose; when he gives all, he gains all; when he loses his life, he finds it" – David Watson, English Anglican Priest (b. 1933)

Are you excited about the journey with Christ? Are you ready to live life to the full in a new way?

THE APPRENTICE GROWTH PLAN – an implementation checklist for as an apprentice of Jesus Christ!

Consider each one and give a score on a sliding scale 1 – 10

1 = I do not want this; 5 = I am open to this; 10 = I want this

GROWTH POINT TO CONSIDER	Score 1-10
<i>Jesus Christ calls you to follow him and become like him – the Greek word ‘disciple’ is ‘mathetes’ (apprentice)</i>	
<i>He came to earth to remove everything blocking your relationship with God – the cross dealt with our sin</i>	
<i>Repentance is not just ‘I’m sorry’, but means a changed way of thinking and action – now living to please God</i>	
<i>Self-centred living does not bring lasting happiness but living in relationship with God does</i>	
<i>God shows himself to us through his Son, his Word (the Bible), his Spirit and through creation</i>	
<i>You are called out of ‘slavery’ to new freedom - through Christ as your ‘older brother’, you become a child of God</i>	
<p><i>Not only do you have a new identity and know you are loved, but you have a clear sense of purpose for life</i></p> <p><i>You are unique and precious to God – he has some specific gifts to match your other gifts for life’s purposes</i></p> <p><i>As well as specific things he has for you to do, he also calls us to share his love and the good news of Jesus</i></p> <p><i>You need a Bible, to find a church – perhaps think about an Alpha Course or Christianity Explored (see web sites)</i></p>	
Total	

10 – 20:	A life with Christ is all gain – it is not to intimidate you or lay rules upon you! The freedom Christ gives means you can grow to reach your full potential, being the person God has called you to be and fulfilling all the things that he has uniquely shaped you for. To miss this would be the greatest loss in your life. Maybe sleep on it, but come back to it...soon! Have a look at http://connect4life.org.uk/unconnected/unconnected-introduction or the booklet 'Unconnected? Give it 7 Days' – http://connect4life.org.uk/resources/order-resources
21 – 60:	Following Jesus is the way to find freedom from guilt, sin and death that separates us from God– but don't think it is the easy way out! It is no crutch for 'softies' but it is to be a 'new creation' with the challenge of now living for God and becoming like Christ. You are not left alone for this as God gives you his Holy Spirit to walk with you every moment of every day. Find a church minister or Christian you respect who can help you forwards on the journey. It would help you to get hold the relevant Personal Study Guide from Connect4Life – either '21 Days Reconnected' or '21 Days First Time Connected' - http://connect4life.org.uk/resources/order-resources
61 – 100:	Those who find life in Christ have found the greatest need of the human soul. To live 'in Christ' means that you have an inheritance prepared for God's children – this connected life brings many amazing privileges that await your discovery. As Jesus is The Light of the World, he calls you to share that light in and through your life. Ask him to give you his Holy Spirit to help you. Find a church minister or Christian you respect who can help you forwards on the journey. It would help you to get hold the relevant Personal Study Guide from Connect4Life – either '21 Days Reconnected' or '21 Days First Time Connected' - http://connect4life.org.uk/resources/order-resources

"A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle"

– **Father James Keller, Irish-American Catholic Priest (b. 1900)**

**Is your 'candle' lit? See how many other candles
you can share that light with in your life!**

Church Growth Resources –

To help you onwards on your journey from here, a wealth of free resources has been compiled for outreach (lighting the candles of others) and discipleship (making sure your own candle burns brightly): access them - <http://connect4life.org.uk/church-growth-resources>

You will also find two other resources there:

Church finder – www.findachurch.org.uk

Need to talk 24/7? – www.groundwire.org.uk/index.php/connect-menu/chat-now

SHARE OPTIONS – if you've found any or all of this useful, please share it.

