





# FORMATIONS

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT SKILLS

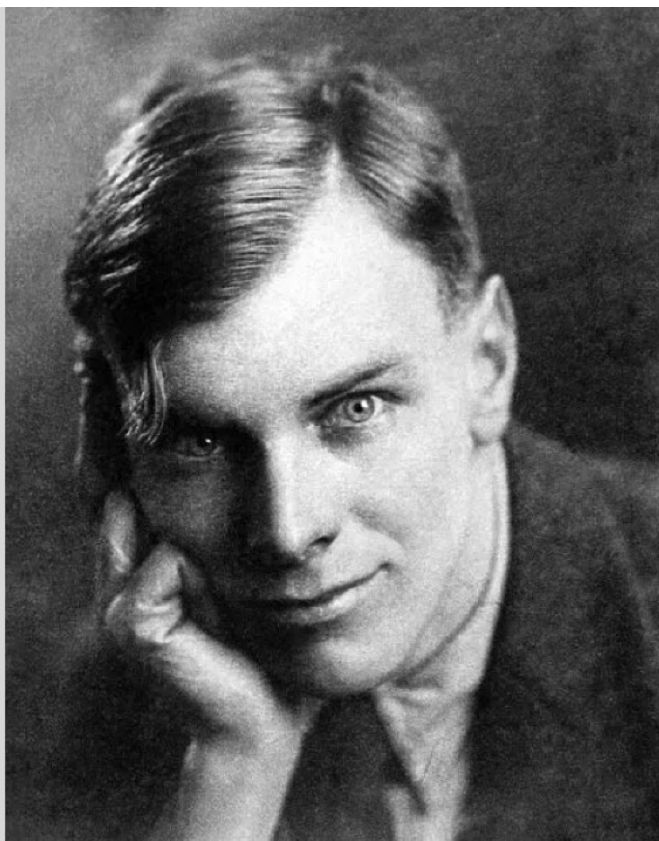




# Seasons

of Christian Parenting

Wisdomfest  
2023



Malcolm Muggeridge









“Alone in the universe, in eternity, with no glimmer of light in the prevailing blackness; no human voice I could hope to hear, or human heart I could hope to reach, no God to whom I could turn, or Savior to take my hand.”

Malcolm Muggeridge

“They were the lights of the world; they were the lights of my home, my habitat, where I belonged. I must reach them. There followed an overwhelming joy such as I had never experienced before; an ecstasy.”

Malcolm Muggeridge





“The worst moment for an atheist is when he is genuinely thankful, but has nobody to thank.”

Dante Gabriel Rossetti





Whittaker Chambers

“I was sitting in our apartment on St. Paul Street in Baltimore.... My daughter was in her highchair. I was watching her eat. She was the most miraculous thing that had ever happened in my life....

“My eye came to rest on the delicate convolutions of her ear – those intricate, perfect ears.



“The thought passed through my mind, ‘No, those ears were not created by any chance coming together of atoms in nature (the Communist view). They could have been created only by immense design.’

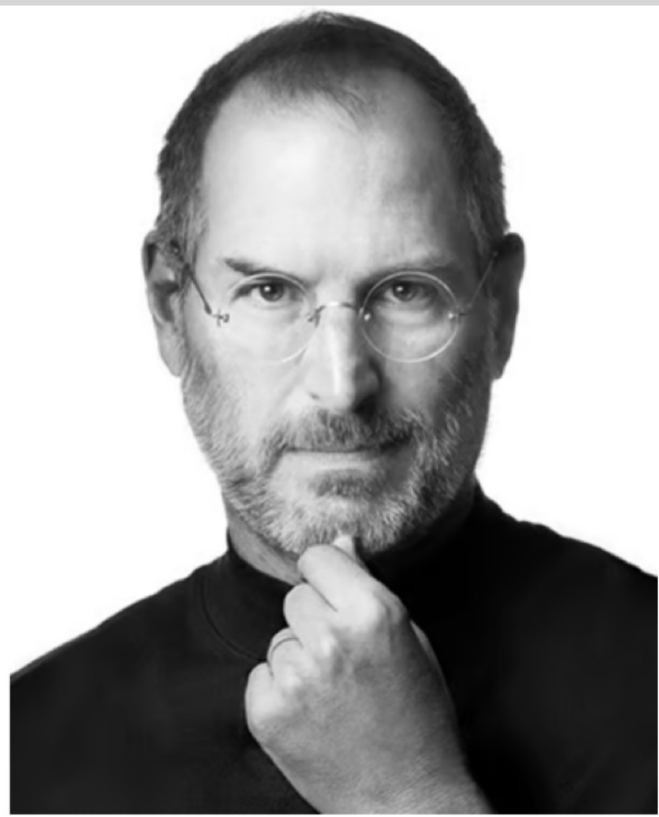
“The thought was involuntary and unwanted. I crowded it out of my mind. But I never wholly forgot it or the occasion.

“I had to crowd it out of my mind. If I had completed it, I should have had to say: design presupposes God.



“I did not then know that, at that moment, the finger of God was first laid upon my forehead.”

Whittaker Chambers

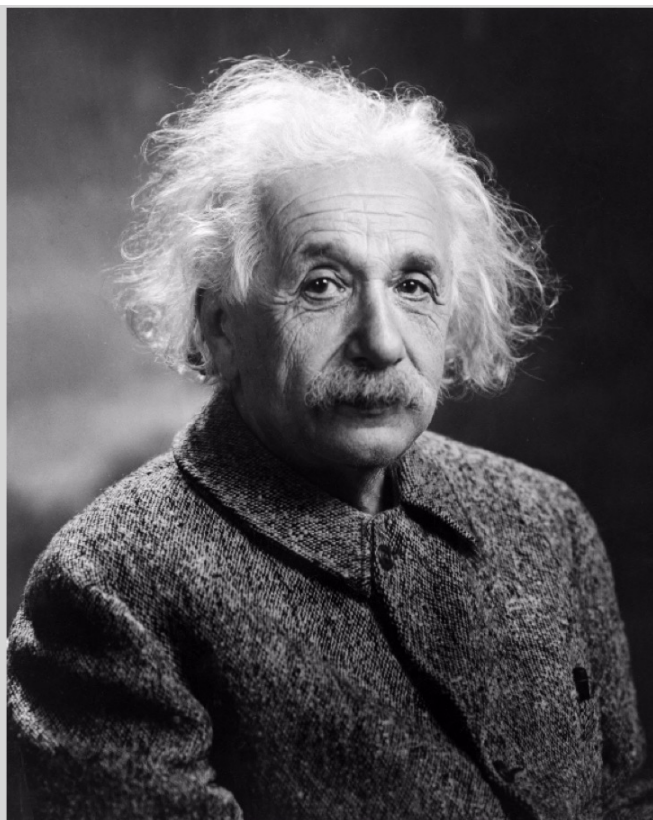


Steve Jobs



“You playing is the best argument I’ve ever heard for the existence of God, because I don’t really believe a human alone can do this.”

Steve Jobs



Albert Einstein



“The way my daughter dealt with the stillbirth of her son, I was with her at the hospital when he was delivered, and her strength in dealing with this left me in awe.

“My little girl grew up overnight and exhibited awesome strength and bravery during this difficult time.”

A Father

“Awe is the feeling of being in the presence of something vast that transcends your current understanding of the world.”

Dacher Keltner

awe = mystery + humility

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when our “why” collides with our “wow”





ISAIAH 40

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How should we respond to Isaiah 40?

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“a voice cries” (3)

“a voice says” (6)

“lift up your voice” (9)

- God's glory is coming. (3-5)

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- God's Word is **continuing**. (6-8)



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“The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever.” (9)

- God's glory is coming. (3-5)
- God's Word is continuing. (6-8)
- God's power is **carrying**. (9-11)

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- God's Word is continuing. (6-8)
- God's power is **carrying**. (9-11)

“He will tend his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms;  
he will carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead those that are with young.”

Isaiah 40:11

# Exercise

## **Exercise**

Listen in awe of God's Word!

“All these things my hand has made,  
and so all these things came to be,  
declares the LORD.

But this is the one to whom I will look:  
he who is humble and contrite in spirit  
and trembles at my word.”

Isaiah 66:2

“In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.”

Proverbs 14:26

How should we respond to Isaiah 40?

1. We listen - to God's Word above every other word.
2. We **look** - through **creation** to our **Creator**.



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“Behold your God” (9b)

“Behold, the Lord GOD” (10a)

- Look at the **nations** compared to God.  
(12-17)

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(12-17)
- Look at the **rulers** compared to God.  
(18-24)

“Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the  
earth,  
when he blows on them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like  
stubble.”

Isaiah 40:24

- Look at the nations compared to God.  
(12-17)
- Look at the rulers compared to God.  
(18-24)
- Look at the **heavens** compared to God.  
(25-26)

“Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
who created these?  
He who brings out their host by number,  
calling them all by name;  
by the greatness of his might  
and because he is strong in power,  
not one is missing.”

Isaiah 40:26

“Everyday awe, then, can be a pathway for avoiding chronic inflammation and the diseases of the twenty-first century such inflammation is associated with, including depression, chronic anxiety, heart disease, autoimmune problems, and despair.”

Dacher Keltner

“It should not surprise that people who feel even five minutes a day of everyday awe are more curious about art, music, poetry, new scientific discoveries, philosophy, and questions about life and death. They feel more comfortable with mysteries....



“A stereotype of awe is that it leaves us dumbfounded and dazed, ready to subordinate reason to dogma, disinformation, blind faith, a local guru or trendy influencer.

“The scientific evidence suggests otherwise. In the state of wonder that awe produces, our thought is more rigorous and energized.”

Dacher Keltner

“Mental health is, in great measure, the gift of self-forgetfulness.”

John Piper

# Exercise

## **Exercise**

Behold and be healed!



Clyde Kilby

“At least once every day I shall look steadily up at the sky and remember that I, a consciousness with a conscience, am on a planet traveling in space with wonderfully mysterious things above and about me.

“I shall not fall into the falsehood that this day, or any day, is merely another ambiguous and plodding 24 hours, but rather a unique event, filled, if I so wish, with worthy potentialities.



“I shall not be fool enough to suppose that trouble and pain are wholly evil parentheses in my existence, but just as likely ladders to be climbed toward moral and spiritual manhood.

“I shall open my eyes and ears. Once every day I shall simply stare at a tree, a flower, a cloud, or a person. I shall not then be concerned at all to ask what they are, but simply be glad that they are.

“I shall joyfully allow them the mystery of what Lewis calls their ‘divine, magical, terrifying, and ecstatic’ existence.”

Clyde Kilby

How should we respond to Isaiah 40?

1. We listen - to God's Word above every other word.
2. We look - through creation to our Creator.
3. We **live** - with **him** in **highs** and **lows**.

“He gives power to the faint,  
and to him who has no might he increases  
strength.

Even youths shall faint and be weary,  
and young men shall fall exhausted;

“but they who wait for the LORD shall renew  
their strength;

they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.”

Isaiah 40:29-31

# Exercise

## **Exercise**

The Lord's Supper



“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

“We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

“For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

“We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

“For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.”

Romans 6:3-8