

## Monday Quotes



### Grain

“Make the subtle shift from pushing yourself to be the best *in* the world, to allowing yourself to be the best *for* the world.”

National Geographic Photographer Dewitt Jones  
Submitted by Vernita Kennen, Roseville, MN

### Field

9 For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe. 1 Cor. 15:9-11

### Thoughts

If you wrote a few key sentences about your journey in understanding God’s love for you, what would you say? Would locations and people pop into your mind when looking back at turning points in your life? Would you recall reading certain parts of scripture or other books that graced you with a sense of forgiveness? How about the way you feel called to witness to that same love in the world?

During Paul’s dramatic change from bullying a fragile, already persecuted church, he realized the extent of the harm he had done to other people. Paul could have gotten stuck wallowing in his past way of being, and then disappeared in shame. What God discerned in Paul, however, was different than what he could at first recognize in himself. Paul’s conversion had to do with realizing that. It seems he came not only to believe in himself but in what God perceived in him.

New messages and old tapes about not being worthy enough for God’s love or to play a role in proclaiming resurrection hope can seep into our minds. I’m not bold enough, I’ve really messed up, I live a regular life, the bully in my life doesn’t change the way Paul did and says I can’t do anything right, I’m not an expert enough to lift my voice for justice. As followers of Christ, we are compelled not only to believe in ourselves but in what God sees in us.

Along with addressing his own sense of unworthiness, I wonder if Paul had to counter a temptation to feel superior. He did become quite a hotshot in the early church after all. It was probably good he remembered his past, not as a history to become trapped in, but as a way to recall the power of grace and a call for all of us to be our best for the world.

What does God see in you? Happy Monday!

### Prayer

Highly recommended.

### Share

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy