

## Naked

Written by James Washington  
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One of the things I've come to understand along the way on this faith walk of mine is an understanding that some things that serve you well in this natural world can actually be detrimental to you in the spiritual world. Independence, self reliance, self motivation, talent, drive, a never say die attitude, supreme confidence, these and other human traits including pure determination and confidence can give us a sense of invulnerability and accomplishment attributable to ourselves.

We achieve solely as a result of our own efforts. We even admire and praise and to a large extent envy those people who achieve great things due to what we see as extreme motivation to the exclusion of all else. Dare I say they are held in great esteem by a lot of us?

Popular admiration is given to those whose lifestyle we would otherwise condemn, simply because we consider them special, talented, geniuses or just plain famous. We honor their individuality because we love their acting, athleticism, their propensity to make money. Therefore, sometimes subconsciously, most times consciously want to be just like them, rather than achieving the same distinction by emulating the only one worthy of such an attempt; his name Jesus. Now before you stop reading hear me out. My point is that in order to truly accept the reality of faith, we must become naked to those things man honors and transparent to those things God expects and adores. I'm talking about submission, selflessness, humility, charity, love and reverence. I know how difficult this is to digest. We know the world to be cruel to what it defines as passive, submissive people. History is full of pacifist peace lovers who have been tortured and annihilated. Become an advocate of peace and justice and become a target of greed and injustice. It's the way of the world. Who wants to be associated with those we deem unable or unwilling to fend for themselves? I GOT MINE! You need to go get your own.

Through Christ, the bible teaches us that the principles of faith take us to a level of conviction and purpose that exceeds what this world thinks is important. Pride and ego can be dangerous

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to our eternal existence. Misdirected determination and drive, that which doesn't have a spiritual purpose, invites spiritual suicide. Self reliance is revealed as human folly. We exist at the pleasure of the Almighty and perish at His whim. We are, I am God's child. He made me and can take me out if He chose to. However, I understand His love for me is unconditional and only hope that I can return it in some small way by trying to be obedient to his will. That effort, that core conduct, that adherence to the values of Christ is really all that matters. This life will be exalted every day by those who see this in you. If you still achieve greatness in this world so be it. God gets the glory. But remember "What good will it be for man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?" Matthew 16:26. Kind of gives new meaning to striving to get ahead. Forgive me while I ponder and pray on this.

May God bless and keep you always.