

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your paths.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

I had a plan that I felt God had ordained, validated and supported. I had played the game, just as I understood I was supposed to play it. I achieved success academically and professionally. I married an extraordinary woman and had a son that I adored. I moved quickly up the ranks in the corporate world, traveled for business throughout the US and Europe, designed and implemented successful business ventures, met interesting people and experienced all the world had to offer. I was a leader in my church and felt I was seeking God in a way that pleased Him. What I failed to realize was that I was executing my plan, not God's. The person I had become, the person I had created (the False Self) was not the person I was created to be. I was unfulfilled, self-focused and unaware of how my pursuit of the desires of my heart had impacted my relationship with my family and more importantly, my Lord.

Through some very difficult personal and professional circumstances, the grace of Christ awakened me and the Holy Spirit helped me to discern that the way to peace and restoration was through submission, obedience and complete vulnerability. It was a very difficult path to self-awareness. As a result, the trajectory of my spiritual, personal and professional life has changed and the False Self is slowly dying. I never understood what it meant to “die to self” or what John meant by “He must increase and I must decrease,” but I now know the wisdom and freedom of those words.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit for pursuing us even when we willfully choose the world over Your love and acceptance. Lord, we humbly ask You to replace our heart of stone with a heart of flesh and restore us to whom You have created us to be. Amen.

Scott Hansel

