1Peter 2:25 SHEEP SURVIVAL STRATEGIES © 2009/2026 WF Cobb Truthbase.net

*1Pt 2:25 For you **were** like sheep going astray (turned everyone to own way Isa 53:6=sin),*
but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls
Mt 7:15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing,
but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. (cf 1Pt 5:2; Acts 20:28)

Oh, to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be.

Let Thy goodness like a fetter bind my wandering heart to Thee.

Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.

Here's my heart, oh take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

Even as the Lord has made us new and even as we long for heaven, we continue (in this life) to battle our sinful flesh. We are all debtors, owing all we have to the Lord Jesus. In this song, we beg Him to allow His goodness to shackle our wandering hearts to Him. We acknowledge our tendency to wander, even as we ask Him to keep us for heaven, which He does (1 Peter 1:3-5).

Interestingly, this last stanza must have resounded greatly for its songwriter. Robert Robertson (1735-1790) had led a life of great rebellion. He surrendered to the Lord but struggled, as we all do, with the temptation to wander.

Many years after writing this song, while riding in a stagecoach, it has been reported that a woman, sitting near him, was singing this song. When she asked if he had ever heard it, he replied, **"Madam, I am the poor, unhappy man who composed that hymn many years ago. I would give a thousand worlds, if I had them, to ENJOY THE FEELINGS that I had then.**"

Robert (Methodist then Baptist Minister and Hymn writer, 12 children, coal and corn merchant, 80 acres + 171 acre farm) had, apparently, fallen away or, at least, lost his zeal for the Lord. (Whitefield on "The Wrath to Come,)

1780, he began to incline towards UNITARIANISM, and at length his people deemed it essential to procure his resignation. https://hymnary.org/person/Robinson_R

Wiki: Unitarian Universalists (Uus) Most modern Unitarians belong to the Unitarian Universalist Association. [1]

- **No Shared Creed:** UUs do not have a set statement of dogma or required religious belief. [1, 2]
- **Individual Conscience:** Members trust personal experience, reason, and conscience as the primary authority on spiritual matters, rather than an official church hierarchy or a single sacred text. [1, 2]
- **Pluralistic Beliefs:** Congregations include people from various backgrounds, including humanists, atheists, agnostics, Christians, Buddhists, Jews, Pagans, and Muslims. [1]
- **Shared Values:** Instead of a creed, UUs are bound by shared values centered on love: interdependence, equity, transformation, pluralism, generosity, and justice. [1, 2]
- **Deeds Over Creeds:** They focus heavily on social action, human rights, environmental sustainability, and community service. [1, 2]

Biblical / Christian Unitarians Traditional or historical Unitarian Christians hold specific theological views rooted in the Protestant tradition: [1, 2, 3]

- **One God (Non-Trinitarian):** They believe God is a single, unitary being—God the Father—and explicitly reject the traditional Christian doctrine of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as one coequal God). [1, 2, 3]
- **The Nature of Jesus:** Most Unitarian Christians view Jesus Christ as the inspired, virgin-born Son of God and the Messiah, not as God Himself. [1, 2, 3]
- **The Bible and Reason:** They consider the Scriptures to be inspired by God, interpreted through reason, logic, and study rather than rigid church creeds. [1, 2]
- **Rejection of Original Sin:** They generally reject the doctrine of original sin, favoring the idea of human moral responsibility and the ethical teachings of Jesus. [1]

Wants become Directives *Ps 23:1 The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want.*
*6 surely **goodness** and **hesed**…all the days of my life*

Autonomy becomes Divinity *Jer 7:24 But they did **not listen or pay attention**; instead, they followed the stubborn inclinations of their evil hearts. They went backward and not forward.*
Pr 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways **acknowledge** Him, He shall **direct** your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; **Fear** the Lord and **depart** from evil

Needs unmet due to Disobedience
*Php 4:19 my God shall supply all your **need** according to His riches in/by glory in/by Christ Jesus.*

Deceived by Demons *Ps 119:118 You reject all those who **stray** from Your statutes,*
*for their **deceit** is vain falsehood.*
*Mt 24:24 false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to **deceive***
Rev 13:14 he **deceives**…by signs

Evaluation ADOS *1Tim 4:16 Take heed to yourself and doctrine…continue…for in doing this you will save both yourself and…*

Rebellious *Isaiah 30:9 NIV These are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the Lord's instruction.*

2Thess 2:1 brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,
2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though
The Day of Christ had come.
3 **Let no one deceive you by any means**; for that **Day** will not come unless the
falling away/departure {**rapture**} comes first,
and the **man of sin**/lawlessness is revealed, the son of **perdition**,
4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped,
so that he **sits as God** in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

5 Do you not **remember** that when I was still with you I **told** you these things?
6 And now you know **What** is **restraining**, that he may be revealed in his own time.
7 For the mystery* of lawlessness is already at work; only **He who now restrains** will do so
withheld knowledge* -Vine until **He is taken out of the way/**become gone** -*transition*

8 And **then** the lawless one will be revealed, whom the **Lord will consume**
with the breath of His mouth and **destroy** with the **Brightness of His coming**.

9 The coming of the lawless one is acc to the **working of satan**, with **all power, signs, and lying wonders**,
10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who **perish**,

BECAUSE THEY DID NOT **RECEIVE/ACCEPT/WELCOME** THE **LOVE OF THE TRUTH**, THAT THEY MIGHT BE **SAVED**.

11 And for this **reason** God will send them **strong delusion**, that they should **BELIEVE THE LIE**,
12 that they all may be **condemned** who did not **BELIEVE THE TRUTH** but had **pleasure in unrighteousness**.

13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord,
because God from the beginning **chose**^ you for **SALVATION**
*^[The Greek middle voice emphasizes the **self-interest** of the one preferring (deciding) to grasp or take.]*

thru/*by means of* **SANCTIFICATION BY THE SPIRIT** and **BELIEF IN THE TRUTH,**

14 ***eis* which** He **called** you **by our Gospel**, for/***eis*** the **OBTAINING OF THE GLORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**.

15 Therefore, brethren, **stand** fast and **hold** =*{to use **strength** to seize, obtain, retain Hub Word Helps}*
the traditions/**transmissions** which you were **taught**,
whether by **word** or our **epistle**.

*Jn 8:44 the devil does not **stand** in the Truth, because there is no Truth in him.*
When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own character ESV, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

1Pt 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. 8 Be **sober-minded** and **alert**.
Your **adversary** the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
9 **Resist** him, **standing firm in your faith** and in the knowledge that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.... *BSB Hub*

1Jn 4:4 You, little children, are from God and have overcome them,
because **greater** is **He who is in you** than he who is in the world.

SUBMIT to God-ordained Authority (Jesus, Body, Elders, Govt, Parents *see "The S-word: Submission" on Truthbase)*

2Pt 2:10-15 ~CEV The Lord is especially hard on people who disobey Him,
don't think of anything except their own **desires**, and **despise authority**.
They **not fearful but self-willed** and are not afraid of reviling the honorable

12 These people are no better than senseless animals that live by their **feelings**…
They speak evil of things they don't know anything about.
But their own corruption will destroy them… their minds are filled with desires for more.
But they are headed for Trouble!
15 They have left the **True** road and **have gone down the wrong path**

Surrendered - because anything else is stupid
*Lk 9:23 If anyone desires…deny self, take up his cross daily, and **follow** Me.*
Jn 10:9 IAM the Door (of the sheep).
If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

Under God's Authority - because the alternative is being under Satan's authority
*Js 4:6 . Therefore He says: "God **resists** the proud, But gives **grace** to the **humble**." Pr 3:34*
Submit *to God.*
Resist *the devil and he will flee from you.*
Draw near to God and He will draw near to you;
Cleanse your hands you sinners;
Purify your **hearts** you double-minded;
Humble yourselves under the mighty Hand of God and He will lift you up.

1Tim 4:1 Spirit expressly says that…some will **depart from the faith,**
giving heed to **deceiving** spirits and **doctrines** of **demons**,

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Bitter-free - because you know our Sovereign God knows best *-Rm 8:32 works **all** together for good*

*Heb 12:10 chastened for our **profit**…**partakers** of His **Holiness** 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of **bitterness** springing up cause trouble…many defiled*

Malleable - cz tombstones are set in stone

Js 3:14 if you harbor bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast in it or **deny the truth**. 15 Such wisdom does not come from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, **demonic**. 16 For where **jealousy** and **selfish ambition** exist, there will be disorder and **every evil practice**

*Js 3:15 earthly wisdom…**demonic***
*16 envy and **self-seeking** 17 **WISDOM FROM ABOVE** is first pure, then peaceable, **equitable**, **WILLING TO YIELD**, full of **mercy*** and good fruits, without partiality and without **hypocrisy.***

HUB WORD HELPS **{*hesed-loyalty?** #1656 *éleos* (translating OT #2617 /kataisxýnō, "covenant-loyalty, covenant-love" in the OT-LXX over 170 times) – properly, "mercy" as it is defined by **loyalty to God's covenant**.}
God's active, **fierce loyalty to His covenant promises**. [1, 2, 3, 4]
Unfailing loyalty, relational obligation, and grace born out of a covenant commitment.

CAMBRIDGE:The conjunction shows that the Heb. word trans, mercy, *ḥesed*, is, as especially in Hosea, more than an affection; it is a **relation and duty** better rendered by **LOYAL LOVE**.

WIKI: In Judaism, love is often used as a shorter English translation.[8][9][10] Political theorist Daniel Elazar has suggested that chesed cannot easily be translated into English, but that it means something like **'LOVING COVENANT OBLIGATION'**.[11] Other suggestions include grace[12] and compassion.[13]

Dt 7:9 "Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the **faithful** God who Keeps **COVENANT AND LOYAL LOVE** for a thousand generations with those who **love Him and Keep His commandments**;
7:10 and He **repays** those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them.
He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will **repay** him to his face.

Dt 7:12 "Then it shall come to pass, **because** you listen to these judgments, and **keep and do them**,
that the LORD your God will Keep with you the **COVENANT AND LOYAL LOVE** which He swore to your fathers.

1Kg 8:23 and he said: "LORD God of Israel, there is no God in heaven above or on earth below like You,
Who Keep Your **COVENANT AND MERCY** with Your servants who **walk before You with all their hearts**.

2Ch 6:14 and he said: "LORD God of Israel, there is no God in heaven or on earth like You,
Who Keep Your **COVENANT AND LOYAL LOVE** with Your servants who **walk before You with all their hearts.**

Neh 1:5 And I said: "I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God,
You who Keep Your **COVENANT AND LOYAL LOVE** with those who **love You and observe Your commandments**,

Neh 9:32 "Now therefore, our God, The great, the mighty, and awesome God, Who keeps **COVENANT AND LOYAL LOVE**:
Do not let all the trouble seem small before You that has come upon us, our kings and our princes, our priests and our prophets, our fathers and on all Your people, from the days of the kings of Assyria until this day.

Dan 9:4 And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who Keeps His **COVENANT AND LOYAL LOVE** with those who **love Him, and with those who Keep His commandments**...

Interdependent - because **INDEPENDENCE IS THE ESSENCE OF SIN**

*Eph 5:21 submitting to one another in the **fear** of God.* ***(5:18 filled/controlled by HS)***

Transparent and Teachable - because we can easily be **deceived** *Titus 1:10 there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and **deceivers**...11 They must be **silenced**, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach*

Mk 6:34 Jesus...**compassion** for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd.
So He began to **teach** them many things

(*context=disciples return & report; rest; 5k feed; 12 baskets; walk on water; immediately heal...v54**)***

Hear and Follow
*Jn 10:4 when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep **follow** him, for they **know his voice***
Pr 19:27 Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will **stray** from the Words of knowledge.

Enclosed by Elders for Safety
Acts 20:29 after my departure savage wolves will come in among you (+within you), not sparing the flock.
Heb 13:17 Obey those who **rule** over you, and yield/submit to their **authority** NIV, for they **watch** out for your **souls**, as those who must **give account**. Let them do so with **joy** and not with **grief**, for that would be **unprofitable** for you. *2Cor 10:8 authority for edification*

Example of the Shepherd's skill
*Jn 10:11 lays down his life for sheep 21:17 Do you love Me?… **Feed My sheep**". Ps 100:3*

Productive for the Shepherd (reproduce)
*Jn 15 **bear** fruit or **burn**; Mk 11:21 fig tree cursed; **Mt 28:20** teach disciples to **obey***
Jn 15:2 "Every branch in Me that does **not bear fruit** He takes away;
and every branch that **bears fruit** He prunes, that it may **bear more fruit**.
Jn 15:6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered;
and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.
Jn 15:8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you **bear much fruit**; so you will be My disciples.

Heb 6:7 For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and **bears herbs useful** for those by whom it is cultivated, **receives blessing from God**;
8 but if it bears thorns and briars, it is **rejected** and near to being **cursed**, whose end is to be burned.
9 But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that **accompany salvation**, though we speak in this manner.
10 For God is not **unjust** to forget your **work** and **labor of love** which you have shown toward **His Name**, in that you have **ministered to the saints**, and do **minister**.
11 And we desire that each one of you show the same **diligence** to the **full assurance of hope** until the **end**,
12 that you do not become **sluggish**, but imitate those who through **faith and patience inherit the promises**.

***Lk 19:15** And so it was that when he returned, having received the **kingdom**,*
he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him,
*that he might know **how much every man had gained by trading**.*
*17"he said to him, 'Well **done**, **good** servant; because you were **faithful** in a very little,*
have **authority** over ten cities.'

Secrets of Contented Sheep: Acknowledge & Follow the Shepherd's Sovereignty & Sustaining Power/Grace

Eph 1:2 INITIATED INTO THE SECRET MYSTERIES OF CONTENTMENT © 7/93 5/09 WF Cobb Truthbase.net

There is no calamity greater than lavish desires. There is no greater guilt than discontentment, there is no greater disaster than greed. *(Lao-tzu - Daoism)*
Of all the worldly passions, lust is the most intense. All other worldly passions seem to follow in its train. *(Buddha)*

Just as a tree, though cut down, can grow again & again if its roots are undamaged and strong, in the same way if the roots of craving are not wholly uprooted sorrows will come again & again. *Dhammapada v338 Tanhavagga*
Contentment is the greatest wealth**.** *(Dharmapada)*
Contentment is the kernel of happiness. *(Kabir {~cx institutional Hinduism-Islam})*

*Phil 4:10 opportunity 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have **learned to be content** whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have **been INITIATED into the secret of being content** in **any and every situation**, well fed or hungry, living in plenty or in want.* NIVish *13 I can do all things through Christ who **strengthens** me.* cf 2Tim 2:1

Grace - the coin of the realm of heaven; power and desire to do God's will and **experience His favor**
Peace - cessation of hostilities/conflicts from without and within

Contentment – 1. having all that you want or could desire; 2. being satisfied with what you have;
3. having no unmet needs or desires; 4. desiring nothing more than what you have;
5. **Freedom** from covetousness and the love of money;
6. a lack of **conflict** between our experience and **perception of what is necessary for our well-being**;
7. being independent upon outside circumstances for our inner peace

Sources of Discontent: desires raised to needs; greed, comparison; envy; circumstances;
poor self-esteem/insecurity; lust; love of money; satan

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Commit to Christlike Obedience so Christ can give **Power** (Phil 4:13) and **PEACE**
(as well as worth and value - Ps 84:11). Jn 15
(God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble
–Js 4:6. The humble don't demand nor insist on anything. They assert no rights.)

*Isa 48:18 If you had listened to my commandments! then... your **PEACE** been as a river, & your righteousness as the waves of the sea:*

*Jn 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in me you may have **PEACE**.*

*Ps 34:14 Depart from evil, & **do** good; **seek** **PEACE**, and **pursue** it*

*1Pt 3:8 Finally, all of you be of **one mind**, having compassion for one another;*
love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;
9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing,
*knowing that you were called to this, that you may **inherit a blessing**.*

10 For "the one desiring to love life and see good days,
*let him **refrain** his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit.*
"bait"LXX
*11 Let him **turn** away from evil, and **do** good; let him **seek** **PEACE**, and **pursue** it.*
12 His ears are open to their prayers but…the face of the LORD is against those who do evil."

*2Tim 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts; but **pursue:***
*righteousness, faith, love, **PEACE** with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

*Rm 12:18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live **peace**ably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather leave room for God's wrath; for it is written, "**Vengeance** is Mine, I will **repay**," says the Lord*

*Phil 4:9 Those things, which you have both learned, received, heard, and seen in me, **do**:*
*and the God of **PEACE** shall be with you.*

Occupy yourself with One consuming Passion/objective; everything else becomes immaterial;
make that passion something that's accessible, intransitory, eternal:
Serving/glorifying God...mastering His Word...making disciples;
squander your life on a **worthy Purpose**

Ps 27:4 **One** thing I have **desired** of the Lord, that will I **seek**…dwell in the house of the Lord…behold the beauty…to inquire in His temple.

*Mt 6:33 But **seek** **FIRST** the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

Need only what is Necessary. Diminish the **fire of desire**, don't add more fuel to the flame.
Enjoy the simple pleasures, don't develop a taste for truffles (not the chocolate kind) nor morels.
Exalt in the everyday blessings. [Can't do unless worth and value is fixed in God.]

Ecc 5:10 He that loves silver shall not be satisfied with silver;
nor he that loves abundance with increase: this is also **vanity**.
Lk 12:15 "Take heed and beware of covetousness,
for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."
Anything beyond food and clothing is a bonus *1Tim 6:8 And having food and clothing with these let us be content.*

Mk 7:21 For from **within the hearts** of men come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery,
22 **greed**, wickedness, deceit, debauchery*, envy, slander, arrogance, and foolishness.
23 All these evils come from **within**, and these are what **defile** a man.

*The term designates a person whose life is detached from reverence toward God, characterized not merely by passive neglect but by **active disregard** for His majesty, moral order, and covenant claims. It appears in contexts that either highlight the saving initiative of God toward such persons or warn of the **inevitable judgment awaiting persistent irreverence**. {wanton caprice!}

Strong's Greek 766, ἀσέλγεια, describes unchecked sensuality that flaunts moral restraint. Scripture presents it as an open, shameless indulgence in bodily appetites that rebels against God's created order and despises neighbor. Whereas other words for sexual sin may emphasize the act, ἀσέλγεια highlights the insolent **attitude** that **celebrates vice** and entices others to join.

Pastoral and Discipleship Implications

• Call to repentance: Paul mourns unrepentant ἀσέλγεια (2 Corinthians 12:21), guiding shepherds to compassionate yet firm confrontation.
• Discipleship of desires: Transformation **begins with the heart** (Mark 7:22); renewed minds (Romans 12:2) restrain disordered appetites.
• Guarding the flock: Elders must recognize doctrinal error tied to moral laxity;
false teachers often cloak ἀσέλγεια in distorted grace.
• Accountability and light: Romans 13:13 urges transparent living "as in the daytime," recommending accountable community practices.

The New Testament antidote remains: **crucify the flesh** with its passions (Galatians 5:24), **walk by the Spirit** (Galatians 5:16), and proclaim grace that trains believers "to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions" (Titus 2:12).

Transform your Desires from the earthly to the ethereal, from the carnal to spiritual,
into God's desires (if we want what He wants to give us or what He wants, then it's a done deal)
[closing might take a little longer than we'd like]. *Rm 12:1-2 transform renew experience*

Rm 8:6 For to be carnally minded is **death**; but to be spiritually minded is **Life and peace**.

Col 3:2 **Set your mind** on things above, not on things on the earth.
5 Put to death, therefore…sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed/covetousness, which is idolatry

Express needs and desires to God and Evaluate them through the grid of His perfect Will
Phil 4:4-8 rejoice…pray…do

Ps 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want/lack.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures: he leads me beside the still waters

*Lk 22:42 (prayed) saying, "Father, if it is Your Will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless **not My will**, but Yours, be done."*

Notice the chisel of God in the circumstances of your life
*1Cor 4 - temporary trials produce an **eternal weight of glory***

*2Cor 12:9 And He said to me, My **grace** is sufficient for thee: for my **strength** is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the **power** of Christ may rest upon me.*

Instead of being bitter, number your blessings (not: could be worse)

Trust that God will supply all your needs in His perfect timing,
so you don't have to worry about how to gratify your needs and desires

*Heb 13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be **content** with what you have.*
For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Mt 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knows that ye have need of all these things.

Phil 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. NIV

P*s 84:11 Lord God is a sun & shield: the Lord will give grace & glory:*
***NO GOOD** will He withhold from them that walk uprightly*.

Questions for Discussion/Reflection/Response on Contentment:

1. Is discontent the dynamo of human progress or the design of the devil?
   How does contentment differ from complacency/indifference?

2. When did you become satisfied with your:
   outward/inward appearance, job, dwelling, bank account, schedule, social life?

3. List some signs of discontent. Is desire for contentment discontent?
   Can contentment co-exist with a desire for change or something different?

4. In what areas is contentment most difficult in our culture? Why?
How (and why) are your values different from your culture?

5. What's your most beneficial response to not getting what you want?
[Fussing, bitterness, acceptance, change, transformation, patience, etc?]

Questions for Reflection/Discussion/Response on being a saintly sheep:

1. Does a sheep know it is straying?
   What does it look like when Jesus is shepherding and overseeing someone's soul? When He's not?

2. Is there ever a time when a believer doesn't need a shepherd?
   Why do people resist authority in their life? Why do they resist God?

3. Why do we always think the bad guys are unbelievers?
   Why do wolves wear sheep suits? How do you know what's true and right?

4. Where are you most likely to be deceived and go astray?
   How can you prevent yourself from being deceived and going over the cliff?

5. Which survival strategies would be most profitable for you to incorporate into you're life?
   What's stopping you (besides you)?