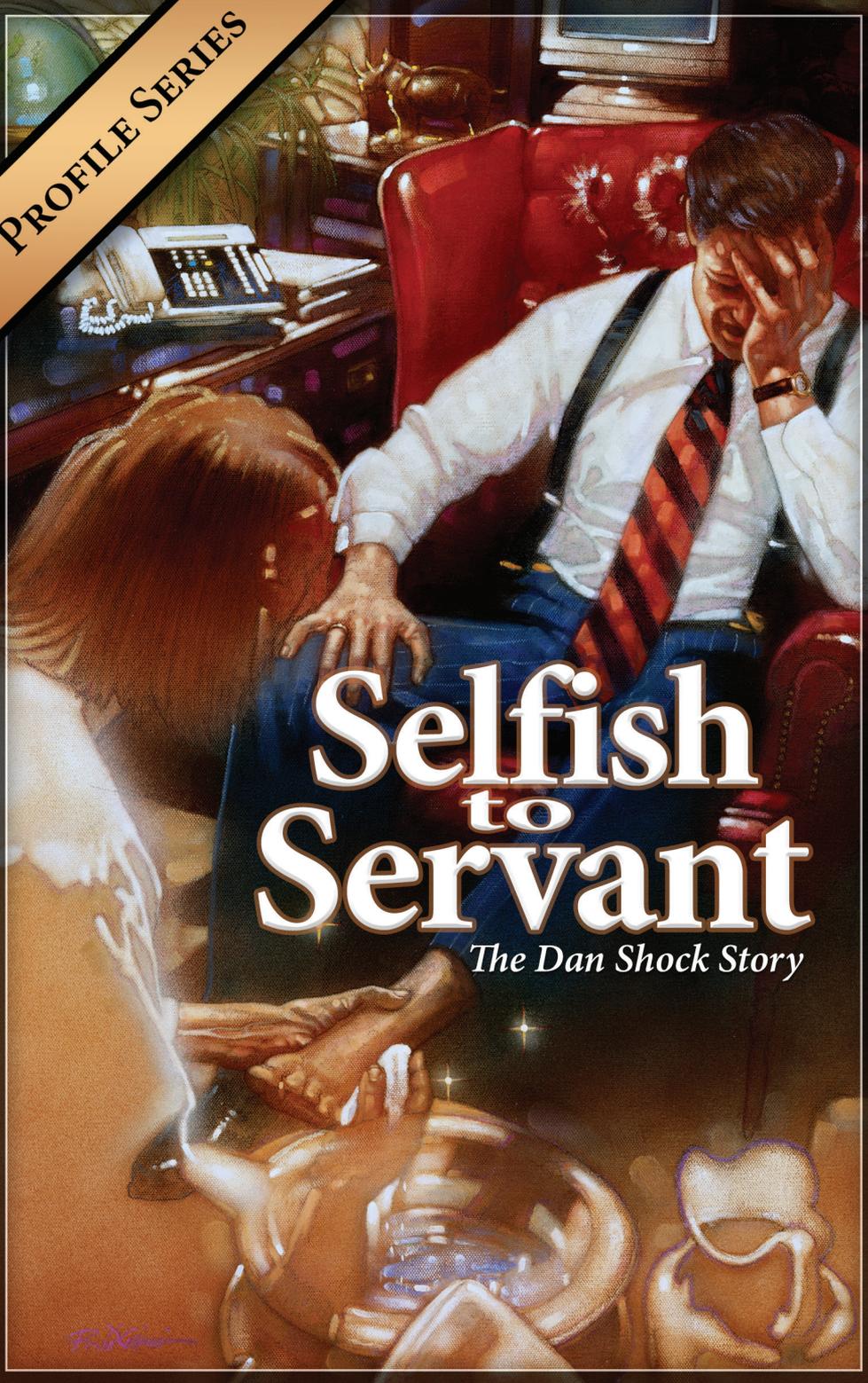


PROFILE SERIES



Selfish to Servant

The Dan Shock Story

Frederick Schuler

SELFISH TO SERVANT

By Dan Shock

“Selfishness says, “What will I get?” Service says,
“What I have I’ll give to you.””

By Warren Wiersbe in On Being a Servant of God

Cover Art:

The Servant by Ron DiCianni

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I love dogs. In fact, in 2006, I had two giant chocolate labs, Buster and Fannie Brown, who were my exercise partners. Each night, they would insist on a run. It is important to understand that I was at the top of my game at this stage of my life, both physically and financially, yet far from spiritually. I was the national director of sales for a fortune 500 company and the selfish businessman personified. I existed to have fun and to work hard. I judged success and purpose by paycheck amounts and things I owned, which really owned me. I had become idolatrous without ever understanding the definition.

Don't get me wrong, I attended church. I even went to Bible studies and was a part of a business ministry called CBMC. All these were important in my checking off of various boxes on my spiritual task list. I was a human doing, not a human being. That all changed on February 26th, 2006. It was a Sunday afternoon and to relieve the ever increasing work-stress, I exercised with Buster and Fannie, my chocolate labs. But while crossing an elementary school crosswalk across from my neighborhood, as we'd done hundreds of times before, a car sped out of nowhere and raced right through the red light. It hit me at over 50 mph.

Time seemed to stop as windshield glass exploded, metal twisted, and bone shattered. My 230-lb body flew 30 feet through the air to the center median. Not only was the car totaled, but so was I. I was briefly knocked unconscious, but came to with a lady lying beside me, squeezing my hand. "What's your name? What's your name?" she kept asking. "Daniel!" I finally blurted out. She said, "Daniel, you've been hit by a car so don't try to move."

That was easy because I was pinned facedown. I laid half on and half off the 6 inch center median curb with my right arm and leg touching the

street. I couldn't move. The lady immediately asked me if I knew Jesus and if I would like to pray? "Yes!" I said, thinking this was a good idea. I had accepted Jesus in 1994 but was ready to cover all the bases. I guess I didn't have true assurance. I knew much of my life as a young and single high-performance professional did not reflect that Christ had died for me. As I laid broken and bleeding, it was only then that I realized she was giving me last rites! I begged her, "Please be honest with me. Am I going to make it?"

There was a long pause as she stared right through me. Somberly, she said, "There's no way." I was incredibly distraught and in shock. The pain was unbearable. I couldn't feel anything below my waist. I had compound fractures everywhere. My left leg and arm had bones protruding out of them. My back was broken as were my ribs and shoulder blade. I was stuck to this curb bleeding profusely. For the first time in my life, I was cornered- truly cornered. I couldn't talk, buy or manipulate my way out of this situation, as I was used to doing.

I was scared and in pain. I realized I was dying and yet, even at this most critical time, I found myself insanely worrying about what would happen to all my "stuff." What would become of my job, my house, and my money-all the things the world had programmed me to fiercely compete for? My mind raced. I prayed for a Scripture to comfort me-anything that would relieve the gripping terror that was growing inside me. Nothing came. After years of Bible study, my mind was void of Scripture. I couldn't think of a single verse!

Through all this, I was fully conscious of the chaotic activity taking place around me, but I was pinned to the concrete and my mind was in over-drive. Then, all of a sudden, the maddening thoughts vanished as I had a great moment of clarity. All the anxiety, fear, and terror were pushed aside and scenes from my life appeared. Specific instances of wasted opportu-

nities to serve at church, go on mission trips, or give money to a worthy cause such as missions or outreach came to mind. The Lord was clearly showing me all the good works I could have done with my life that would have mattered in eternity. It was clear that these were the things that had been prepared for me, and I had chosen not to do them. Then it hit me. I had selfishly squandered everything I had been given – thousands of dollars in income, the vast talents to motivate people, and most of all, time. I had been a poor steward of all that had been entrusted to me! My terror returned as it dawned on me that, at the age of 35, I was now about to give an account of my life to the living God, Jesus Christ. My time had come. I had thought I had plenty of time to do all these “things” for God, and now it was over, except for the reckoning.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body...” (2 Corinthians 5:10, NIV). I was going to show up empty handed. I would be saved, but everything I had done was meaningless because none of it had been done for Christ. (I Corinthians 3:15). What a sad day this would be. How much of eternity would I spend thinking about my insignificant earthly race and poor stewardship? “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize (i.e. heavenly reward for Christian character).” (I Corinthians 9:24, NIV).

Jesus had become my Savior in 1994, and now our first face-to-face conversation would be about what I had done with everything He had given me. Where was the proof of His lordship in my life? From my church attendance? My spiritual head knowledge? All this time my ladder had been leaning against the wrong building! I feared that it was too late. My priorities had been badly misplaced when facing eternity.

The LifeFlight helicopter took me to Tampa General Hospital. The searing

pain was beyond belief, and I agonized over these clear revelations of entering eternity. The air medics screamed in my face to fight for my life as they punctured my 2nd lung with a tube to reinflate it. It wasn't until we were airborne and this new pain hit that my cries for a Scripture were heard. Psalm 23 unfurled before my eyes and I read, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want... Yea, though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me..." (KJV) I lost consciousness knowing that the Lord had me in His hands.

I awoke from a coma four days later with one of my brothers at my side. He leaned over close to my face and said the most marvelous words my ears had ever heard, "You're going to live!" If I hadn't been in a body cast, I would've surely danced and jumped for joy. Waves of emotion poured over me. I knew the hourglass of my life had run out and the Lord had turned it over, purchasing my life with understanding it was now truly His life. I cried for a long time as I realized that I had been spared having any regrets in eternity and loss of any eternal rewards. Think about that for a moment. We are each definitely going to stand before the Lord and give an account.

The recovery and rehab were difficult. I was in a wheelchair for five months. Subsequent surgeries to repair and replace titanium hardware in hopes of saving my leg were fraught with suffering and much pain. I lost everything in that accident. It was the worst thing that has ever happened to me, and yet, strangely, I can declare it to be the best thing as well. I was transformed in the twinkling of an eye from a self-centered, manipulative businessman to a jar of clay—a vessel that the Lord could finally use in some small way—perhaps even for an eternal impact.

When I had no job or pressures of the daily grind, I finally listened to what my pastor had been teaching me for over a decade. Start your day

with a morning quiet time, a daily devotional. It was then that the Lord began to speak to me. It was then that I started to understand my personal encounter with the Living God. Jesus became my Shepherd of Psalm 23. I got to know Him personally, learning of His love and devotion to each one in His flock. He began to reveal Himself to me in personal ways.

I started to hear His voice, and He became my wonderful Counselor through this tragic event. Throughout the many months and years of recovery, He counseled me directly, sometimes in morning Scripture study or with mature believers. I came to understand Him as my Healer when my broken back was healed at a simple Wednesday night church service over a year after the accident. The searing pain of broken and chipped bones had finally gone after my ole' Pastor Viv anointed my head with oil and had several elders pray in faith over me. I came to know Him personally as I completely surrendered my life to His control.

I learned that Jesus didn't want what I could do for Him. He simply wanted me! I've learned that life is, in fact, all His Grace (unmerited favor) as He pours out immeasurable amounts for my free spending to impact others for Christ. I've learned that we only have a short time here on earth, and the race we are called to run must be intentional. We can have an eternal impact, if we seek to do so in His power as He works through us. I finally whole-heartedly surrendered after the accident in 2006 and went "ALL IN". No more doubting and seizing control of the uncontrollable. Now Jesus was the Lord of each area of my life. No more lip service... my heart is His. He owns me and everything in my life is His. I am a temporary manager of the things and people entrusted to me. I will give an account of my stewardship to Him one day. Rewards will be given and taken away for all of eternity based on this. I am in an intimate relationship with Jesus all the time. He plays an active role in this.

Jesus saved me, and now He sits on the throne of my life instead of me.

I thank the Lord for giving me this eternal perspective and for allowing my dogs, Buster and Fannie, to be faster than I was. In June of 2012 - I married my sweetheart Sara. We welcomed our little boy in 2014 and named him Shepherd after my encounter with the good Shepherd, Jesus, on the LifeFlight helicopter and Psalm 23. In 2016, we welcomed our little girl, Sunny, into our family. I'm so grateful for this 2nd chance at what life is truly about. Through my personal relationship with Jesus- I am called into true purpose and true blessing. My priorities are now correct. He has purchased my life and I now belong to Him. I am aware of His daily presence.

My testimony is that God is in the business of saving wretched people and restoring them to paths of righteousness for His names sake (Psalm 23)! Provision through Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross has been made for everyone who wishes to come and be reconciled to God the Father. A daily, living relationship with our Creator is not only possible but is repeatedly encouraged in the Bible. Why wait any longer? Can you point to a specific date when you trusted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? Think about that for a moment, are you locked into what the world calls "success" or is your life simply part of the "rat race" with no true purpose or higher calling? Are you tired of sitting on the fence?

There is a LifeFlight being summoned in your own life, can't you see? Are you willing to take it? If that's you then by faith won't you ask Him to make Himself known to you and place your faith in Him once and for all? Here is a simple prayer, prayed from your heart, to begin this relationship and that will change everything:

"Dear Lord Jesus, I realize I am a sinner who has broken your holy law and have lived life selfishly. Please come into my life and reveal yourself to me and forgive me for my sins against you. Save me and help me live the rest of this life for you. In Jesus name I pray." Amen.

While this simple prayer is not what saves you; the living God does hear from a sincere heart. Church traditions and good works do not save you, Jesus does. Like a baby who is just starting out in life, you need help to grow spiritually. Again, God has made provision but you must learn how to grow spiritually. A Bible teaching church is a good start as well as finding a mature believer who will help you grow in your faith. This is called discipleship. I was fortunate that a mature Christian businessman took me under his wing many years ago and introduced me to CBMC and their discipleship course – “Operation Timothy”. CBMC has a distinct mission to help develop the business and professional man to become who God intended him to be.

The abundant life spoken of in John 10:10 will be realized when you find your purpose anchored in Jesus Christ. Pray for such a godly, earthly relationship and church family. They are invaluable to the spiritual riches that await you! Remember, Jesus doesn’t need what you can do for Him, He wants YOU.

I am learning that Jesus has a Shepherd’s heart for His people and came not to be served but to serve. Even washing feet to clearly demonstrate how we should live this life in the light of where we are going. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord and praise Him all of our remaining days. He deserves nothing less. Come drink from the living waters and live the rest of this life surrendered to Him. I can think of no better investment....

My Christian mission is simple: to help others become all that God has intended for them to become, to find their calling as His Ambassador (2 Cor 5:20) and to live out the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20) by pouring into others lives by faith. Jesus Christ loves you so very much, won’t you open your heart to His calling and direction today?

To learn more about inviting Christ into your life,
we encourage you to explore Steps to Peace With God.



Step 1: Discovering God's Plan

Good News! God loves you and wants you to experience peace and a purposeful, abundant and eternal life.

“...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

John 10:10 NKJV

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

John 3:16 NIV

“... We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 5:1 NIV

Since God planned for us to have peace and abundant life right now... why are most people not having this experience?

Step 2: Acknowledging Man's Problem

God created man in His own image to have an abundant life. He did not make us like robots to automatically love and obey Him, but gave us a will and freedom of choice. We chose to disobey God and go our own willful way. The Bible calls this sin, which results in separation from God.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 3:23 NKJV

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:23 NKJV Illustration

Through the ages individuals have tried to bridge this separation in many ways without success. The only way our relationship with God can be restored is for our sins to be forgiven.

“It's your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.”

Isaiah 59:2 NLT

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”

Proverbs 14:12 NKJV

There is only ONE remedy for this separation. GOD.

Step 3: Recognizing God's Remedy

When Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave He paid the penalty for our sins and bridged the gap from God to man. Jesus Christ is the ONLY answer to the problem of separation.

“God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Jesus Christ, Himself man, is between them to bring them together.”

1 Timothy 2:5, The Living Bible

“God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”

Romans 5:8 NLT

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’ ”

John 14:6 NKJV

God has provided the ONLY way. We must make the choice.

Step 4

You must admit that you need forgiveness from your sins and believe that Jesus died for your sins and rose from the dead.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out...”

Acts 3:19 NIV

“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

John 1:12 NIV

“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Romans 10:9 NIV

By receiving Christ you will receive God’s gift of eternal life.

Is there any good reason why you would not consider receiving Jesus Christ right now?

How to receive Christ:

1. Admit you are a sinner and need salvation.
2. Be willing to turn from your sins. (Repent)
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the Cross and rose from the grave.
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit.

Receive Him as Savior and Lord

The Prayer

Dear Lord,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that Your Son, Jesus Christ, died on the cross for my sins. I want to turn from my sins and ask You to forgive me for my sins. I now receive Your gift of eternal life, and I am willing to trust and follow You as my Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

If you prayed this prayer, the Bible says...

“...Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Romans 10:13 NIV

“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

John 1:12 NIV

“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

1 John 5:11-13 NIV

When we receive Christ, we are born into God’s family through the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit who lives within every believer. This is called regeneration or the “new birth.”

Memorialize Your Decision

Your Name: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____

This is just the beginning of your new life in Jesus Christ.

To grow in your faith we recommend that you:

1. Obtain a Bible and read it every day.
2. Talk to God by praying to Him in your own words.
3. Meet, worship and get connected with other Christians in a church where the Bible is believed and taught.
4. Tell others about Jesus and what he has done for you.
5. Give of your time, talents and money as you are able.
6. Meet with another believer in First Steps or Operation Timothy, CBMC’s personal Bible discussion workbooks.

*To receive your FREE New Believers Kit or your copy of
Steps to Peace With God, go to <http://cbmc.com/stp>*



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CBMC discipleship materials such as Operation Timothy can be found at
Advance.cbmc.com or simply websearch for a CBMC chapter
or event near you.
