



chosen.

An online mindset journey
to walking in your worth

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#chosenlife



Module One

*The One you
are chosen. by*

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Module One - The One you are chosen. by

"Have we made our God too small, too small? Have we made our God too small?"

Don't you find it's often those cheesy kids songs* which remind us of the greatness of our God through some simple line like the one above?

*- When I say cheesy, [I'm not exaggerating.](#)

Seriously, though, we've made God way too small.

My Story

I was 21. I'd just finished university and, after a year of yo-yoing between falling into temptation and following God's will (all whilst trying to write a 20,000+ word dissertation), I was finally back home and had the option to draw a line in the sand regarding some of my bad choices. (More on those later.) So, here was this fresh start, and with it, an opportunity to go back to church.

So I did.

I swallowed my pride (and erased the idea that my old church family had been following my university life on Facebook) and walked through the doors not quite knowing what to expect.

That was undoubtedly one of the best decisions I've made to date. I was welcomed, I was pointed to Jesus and I was shown His love, mercy, and grace by and through those around me.

Amidst all of that, something shifted not only in my heart but also in my behaviour. I actually enjoyed and looked forward to those sweet moments of quiet with God more than anything else. Pages and pages of journaling and chapters and chapters of Bible reading. It was like no matter how much time I spent in His presence, it would never be enough.

My times of quiet with nothing more than a coffee and a Bible truly blessed my soul.

The real blessing in all of that, though? God loved it even more than I did.

The fact that God longs to meet with His children more than we have the desire to meet with Him is truly astounding.

First John, chapter four, verse nineteen tells us that we love God... But oh, how He loves us! ~~He loved us before we even had breath.~~ Scratch that. He loved us enough to *give us breath.*

To be loved by those around us (our families, our spouses, our friends) is one thing. But to be loved by *God*? Before we embark any further on our own journeys, we really must remember that it is *God* who first loved us.

To understand the depth of the love we've been chosen. by, we must begin to understand the One who has lavished it upon us.

His Story

"Yesterday, I went to work."

"In 2013, I went to Mexico."

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

"Tomorrow I'll probably..."

Wait. What? Let's take a couple of steps back...

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

These nine words of Genesis 1:1 change everything, and yet they sound so throwaway. They sound as if, for God, creating the heavens and the earth was all in a day's work. To be honest, it kind of was.

Six days to be exact. He didn't even need a full week to get things together.

Of course, most of us know this already. But let's just look at the start of that verse one more time...

"In the beginning, God..."

Before there was anything – God.

He wasn't created, He just was.

Remember my very first question of this module? ***Have we made our God too small?***

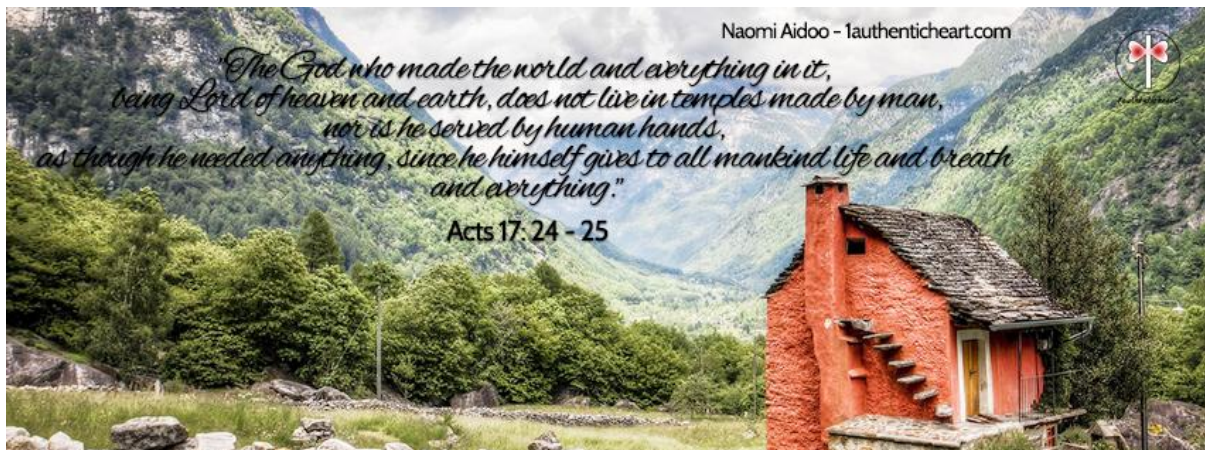
No matter how many times we hear this age old story of creation, it should never cease to amaze us.

But let's be honest for a minute, lovely.

Are you actually amazed?

Does it take your breath away to know that the one who flung stars into space as an afterthought (see Genesis 1:16) has *chosen you* to be His child?

How often, in our day to day lives, work and businesses have we tried to 'fit God in' as opposed to remembering that He just *is* and our job is actually to fit around Him?



The verses above (Acts 17:24-25) are simply stunning and the picture illustrates them so beautifully.

Here, Paul is speaking to the Areopagus - a group of men who had authority over both the civil and the religious goings on in Athens. The authority and status of these men didn't phase Paul, as he answered to a higher authority.

In the verse preceding this one, Paul is making the Areopagus look ever so slightly silly by pointing out the fact that they worship a god who they have named 'unknown'.

Paul goes on to spell out where they're going wrong and starts at the end of verse 23 by saying "...what therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you." He continues with the verses you see in the picture above.

To suggest that the one true God could be boxed in alongside all of these other gods who the people of Athens seemed to worship was insulting to Paul.

Look at the picture for a moment and try to fathom the fact that God created those trees and mountains, He spoke the grass and the stones into being. What power and strength! Then, notice the red brick house in the bottom right hand corner. Imagine someone designing that amazing, picturesque, and beautiful landscape, and then someone else

coming along and telling them they could only enjoy it by sitting in that little red brick house and looking out of the window.

No one would be that disrespectful, surely? If someone has created and designed something, they have total rights to do with it as they please, right?

Have we made our God too small?

Have we given Him a window seat and said that we do appreciate Him watching over us as our lives unravel before His eyes, you know, just to make sure we're safe. It's just, we don't want Him *too* involved. We'd rather He didn't leave that red brick house unless things get *really* messy and at that point, we'll shout and scream for Him as though He's not been watching all along anyway.

Our God is limitless. He who was before anything else cannot be contained in or confined to something we've made for Him. He wants access all areas and doesn't really need to wait for permission to be granted. Although, He does occasionally humour us by waiting for an invite.

The best sort of communion we can have with the One who was and is, is relishing the fact that His being involved in everything is *such* a good thing!

Have we made our God too small?

Pause Point

How does the fact that God desires 'access all areas' make you feel?

(Use your favourite journal or a notebook to make a note of your response to this.)

The desire to withhold parts of ourselves from God is, of course, nothing new.

Most of us will be familiar with the story of Job.

The book of Job documents one man's extreme suffering and pain whilst three of his friends try to decide why it's happening to him and, in fact, try to decide why God allows suffering to happen at all.

The answers which Job and his friends are searching for are not clear cut. Essentially, the enemy has suggested to God that Job only trusts in him because of all the good things he's been given (wealth, house, family etc.) God, as ever, is one step ahead and knows that this isn't true. So, in perhaps one of the most challenging verses in all of scripture, God allows the enemy to test Job's faithfulness.

“And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life.”
(Job 2:6)

Ouch.

It seemed as though Satan now had access all areas, not God. But let's remember...

The enemy is *always* powerless to be able to do anything without the Lord's say. That said, Job's friends decide to take on the roles of counsellor/advisor to try to get to the root of why Job might be in this predicament.

All the way through this story, even when Job is angrier with God than ever before, he never denies His existence. Even when his wife tells him to 'curse God and die' (See Job 2:9) he doesn't.

In fact, in a particular moment of strength about halfway through the book, Job makes this declaration –

“For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.”
(Job 19:25)

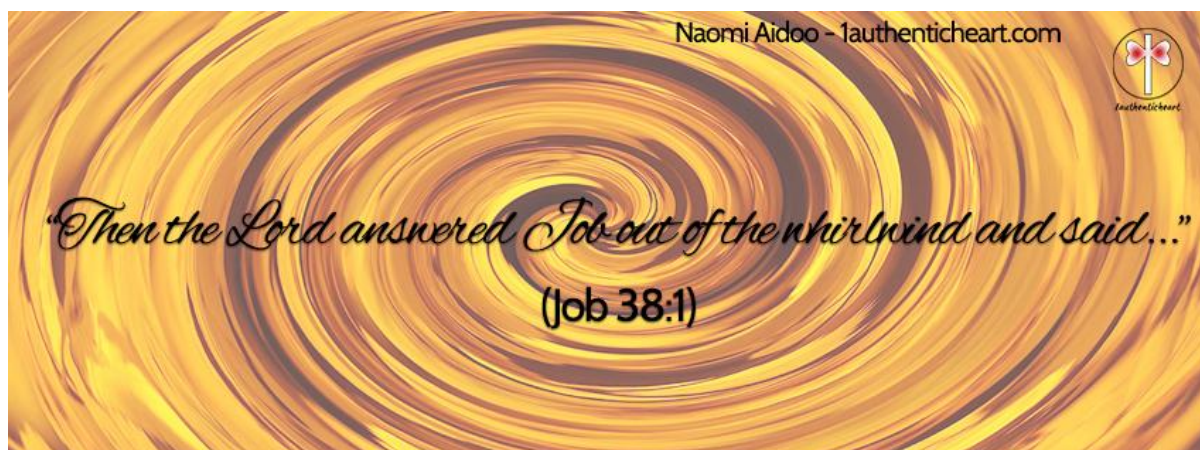
Angry? Yes. Bitter? Check. Confused? Absolutely! But there was something Job possessed which enabled him to declare the goodness of God in spite of it all.

Pause Point

How able are you to acknowledge that God is still God and still good, even when it hurts? What do you do to remind yourself of His goodness?

(Use your favourite journal or a notebook to make a note of your response to this.)

Now before we start labelling Job as the golden boy and begin ever so slightly envying his cheery disposition under such intense pressure – don't. Another *nineteen* chapters of complaining/counselling/lamenting happen before God had to intervene.



The things which God says following this opening line span four chapters and continue to declare His supremacy and power above all things.

Action Step

Read Job 38-41 and soak in the majesty and the power of God.

What are key verses in the text which remind you of the overwhelming power of God?

Make a note of them and keep them visible in order to remind yourself that God is SO powerful!

Backtracking just a little though, can we take a few seconds to appreciate how God even showed up in front of Job? (The verse is in the picture above.)

A whirlwind, people! Again, almost totally overlooked, this short verse says so, so much about who God is.

Have we made our God too small?

As we close this module, I want us to reflect on how Job responds to God after this humbling appearance. Jump with me to Job, chapter 42:2.

"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted."
(Job 42:2)

Job *knew* how powerful God was, he always had. But, understandably, due to the pain and loss he had experienced, he had an extremely hard time seeing it for a while.

This can happen to us too, of course. As we live our daily lives and face our daily difficulties, we can forget to look and listen for God's voice in it all. Yet, He's always, always there.

That's what this module has been all about, lovely. A reminder of who God is, what He did and what He will continue to do if you invite Him into all of your life.

Look at the end of that brilliant verse above. – “No purpose of yours can be thwarted...”

Just take a moment and say that out loud.

Nothing which God has planned or purposed to do can or will be stopped. **Nothing.**

... and with that incredible revelation, there's some amazing news, because do you know what one of His purposes was, lovely? Way before the beginning of time...

Choosing you.

Before earth and sky and sea and creatures, God knew you'd be here. The same God for whom nothing is impossible *chose you*.

Can you even fathom?

Before diving any deeper into this journey, it was so important for me to reiterate just how HUGE God is, and yet, that huge and glorious God is not so 'above' that He doesn't know you intimately and intricately. This truth *must* be the foundation we walk in before we take another step in moving our mindset mountains.

So, soak it all in.

If you don't move on for the next few days because you just need to absorb God, do it!

Ah, God is just so, so good. And you, lovely, are so, so chosen. It's time for a praise break... (Yes, we're having a few of them on this journey.)

Praise Break

As you soak in the goodness of God and your chosen state in His sight, close the door, raise your hands, dance around – whatever worship looks like to you – take a quick praise break and listen to [this wonderful song](#).

Did you catch the lyrics to [our praise break song](#)?

Here's the chorus again in case you missed it...

I was made by you,
I was made for you,
I am unfulfilled without full communion.

Chosen.



Module One

Imagine that. Total fulfilment as we surrender our all to the one who was and is and is to come.

Lovely, you are chosen.

See you on the next leg of the journey – I can't wait!