

Not Vain for You

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Preacher: Rich Pfeffer

[0 : 00] Story books where Alice reads the story and she goes through, you have a big screen that, you know, her book opens up into a big screen and she walks into Bible land. Anybody know about that?

Oh, I'm just crazy. I'm the only one. Me and my wife, you know about it? No. Come on. Carla? No? Maybe it's a back, maybe it's a West Coast thing. I don't know. But, you know, I Googled it because I couldn't remember what it was.

It says the book that Alice read, Alice is reading a story with a friend. And it says the book that Alice read became a great big special screen. Alice walked on through the Bible land and came upon this scene.

And we're going to look at something tonight that, you know, it may be hard for you to visualize some of it. But what I want you to try to do is I want you to try to walk through the screen with me and walk into Bible land.

You know, I already thought it all. I already had the big conversation with myself. I already had the whole conversation with myself about how it would be. And you ever talk to yourself? Hopefully you do.

[1 : 00] You know, the Bible says in water, face, answer to face. So the heart of man to man, right? So you ought to spend plenty of time talking to yourself. That's a good thing. But so I get it that, you know, your passion is not as much as I am.

But I want you to try, just try to see if you could walk through Bible land with me tonight.

Deuteronomy chapter 32. Deuteronomy chapter 32.

I want to look at, we're going to start in verse 47. And this is, this will be basically where the message will be. Deuteronomy 32 is, Deuteronomy 32 is the last message that Moses says to the people.

Right before the last blessing he gives the people. Right before he goes on to heaven. This is not a message. This is not a deathbed message that you just happen to say before you die.

You know, son, will you meet me in heaven? Or, you know, make sure you get saved. The Lord showed me this. It's not, we're not, that's not what I'm talking about. This isn't a deathbed message. This is a planned message.

[2 : 13] All right. So this is one of those messages that like Jesus told his disciples before he left. This is a message like John wrote on the island of Patmos to the last church.

A planned message. Okay. And so I want you to try, you know, I thought about it. I went through, I went, I went into Bible land and I thought, you know, I thought if I was in there and I just came upon the scene and I'm with the people of God and Moses is talking and Moses gets done and I walk up to him and I go, so Moses.

In 6,000 AB, because he's at 25, I think at this point, AB. So if you added everything up, you'd be about 6,000 AB today. He goes, so I say, so Moses, what, how would you encourage me?

And 6,000 AB about the things you just said. And Moses would say, just read it again.

That's what he would do. He would say, just read it again. It ain't going to change. This is going to work. All the way from here to then, it'll work. And by the way, I'll see you in 6,000.

[3 : 22] Right? He's going to say, I'll see you in 6,000. You going to be there still? And I'm going to go, oh, no, no, I'm not going to be there when you get there. Right? He's coming later. But he didn't see that. Right? They don't get to see that.

I'm not going to go there. Okay. Deuteronomy chapter 32. So this being the last message Moses tells the people, you think maybe we should consider that?

Do you get the same vibe I get that there's probably something there that I can use? Now, Moses is talking to God's people. He's talking to God's people.

Is that what you are? Right? That's what we are. So some of the principles and some of the things he's going to say are going to work. They're going to just keep working.

Deuteronomy 32 and verse 47. I want to start there, but it says, it says, for it is not a vain thing for you because it is your life. And through this thing, you shall prolong your days in the land, whether you go over Jordan to possess it.

[4 : 36] He says, for it is not a vain thing for you because it is your life. Can anybody guess what he's probably talking about? Can anybody guess what he's probably talking about?

He says, it is not a vain thing for you because it is your life. He's talking about them serving God the way he's led them for the last 40 years.

We're talking about Moses, who's been in the ministry now 40 years, leading these people. And this is the last message he gives to them.

I want to look at this passage and consider some things that might help you stay serving God. And the title of my message is Christianity is your life.

Christianity is your life. How many of you feel that way? I mean, I get it. You know, sometimes you say I'm a Christian, but Christianity is your life.

[5 : 44] I remember when I was young and I told you the story before, you know, I was at work and I told the guy, this is what I do on the side. He asked me what I did for real money. I said, no, no, it's not about that. I'm a Christian. I serve God. I just work because I have to.

Right? This is your life. I don't know where you're at. I don't know where you're at in service. I don't know if you're serving. Maybe you're looking for a hole in the fence.

Maybe you're even on the other side of the fence. I don't know. You know the prodigal son's heart was in the far country long before he got there. You know that? You know that, Samuel?

The prodigal son, his heart was in the far country long before he got there. I've seen them fall out. I've seen them fall out all ages. Young, old. I've seen them in Christianity for a long time and fall out.

[6 : 41] I know I think about a missionary couple right now from this church. And they got married. They were both here. They ended up getting married. They had several kids.

They were serving. They moved down to San Diego. They were serving. They went off to the mission field in Papua New Guinea. They're not married today. And they're not serving today.

So I want to encourage you that you need to understand some things that are going to help you stay in. Because Christianity, it is not a vain thing for you.

Because it is your life. It is your life. I remember Brother Alan Ryman. I remember him telling me about young people.

He said, you got to get them to love God. And you know, I've been doing this for a long time. And I thought, you know what? That's it.

[7 : 46] That's it. You kids, you need to love God. If you don't, you need to love God. You need to love God. That's what's going to keep you.

Love, love is going to really help you stay in that thing. If you remember one thing tonight, that's my signature. You know, for some, you know, my brother Pilkington was using the, you know, I'm only going to be five more minutes.

You know, just stay with me. I'm telling you, I won't be long. My signature is, and it's, you know, in the last years or whatever, is if you remember one thing tonight.

I just want you to remember one thing. If I could just get you to remember one thing, that'll be it. So if you leave here tonight, you're going to remember that one thing. If you just remember one thing, remember this.

It is not a vain thing for you because it is your life. It's not a vain thing. Serving the Lord is not a vain thing.

[8 : 55] There's a lot of vain things in this world, but that ain't one of them. It's who you are. It's what you are. You know, there's a lot of vain things out there.

But this isn't one of them. Tell me what some vain things are. What some vain things people do? You know, I'll say the first one, you know. Going to the gym to get buff.

For what? You know, I get it. You know, people like to do that sometimes. They enjoy that. I remember working out when I was a kid, and I got bigger, but I couldn't stay big. And it was like, you know, I look a lot of work.

But in the end of it, it's a vain thing. It's a vain thing in the end of it. Bodily exercise profits little. But God knows it's profitable to all.

Right? I mean, there's nothing wrong with enjoying some things in life, but those vain things, don't spend too much time on them. What else are some vain things?

[10:00] Can you think of something? Give me something. Somebody. Huh? Okay. Beauty. That's what it says. You're quoting a verse, right? Beauty is vain.

What does vain mean? Vain is empty, worthless. That's the meaning of vain.

So when this passage says, it is not a vain thing for you, we're not talking about the empty stuff. We're not talking about the worthless stuff. We're talking about something that has some value. You know, I put down, I put down, here's a vain thing.

How about Jeopardy? You know, some people get into Jeopardy, you know. I knew some people, you know, they would watch Jeopardy and it would be like, they couldn't wait to guess all that stuff. Okay.

Okay. You know what? If you don't guess, all right. But in the end, it's just a vain thing. It's just a vain thing in the end. Be rich and get richer.

[11:08] In the end, it's just a vain thing. It's just a vain thing. Ungodly pursuits. We're in this time now and it's called March Madness.

I never got into March Madness, but, you know, this is that, you know, wow, everybody's got a college basketball, whoa, whoa, whoa, you know. Really?

You ever watch some guys play? I just can't, I just can't stomach it half the time. But, you know, we're talking about vain things. Those are vain things.

Is that what we're talking about? Huh? This thing in Deuteronomy 32 is not a vain thing. Christianity is your life. As far as I know, everybody here is saved.

So that means at some point, at some point, you chose Christianity. At some point, you chose it.

[12:11] God, God, in his mercy, God, in his mercy, made it in such a way that you can't get out.

Thank God. So, let me just encourage you. God, it's not a vain thing because it is your life.

You know, it would be like, it would be like the maniac of Gadara, if you could picture him, being clothed and in his right mind and deciding, I want to go back to the tomb and cut myself.

That's really what it's like when you've tasted the goodness of the Lord and then walk away.

Something's got to make you crazy inside to think that somehow it became a vain thing. It's not.

[13:25] It's not. Notice the verse before. Verse 46, 45, it says, And Moses made an end of speaking all these words to all Israel.

And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which you shall command your children to observe the dew, all the words of this law.

And then he says, For it is not a vain thing for you. It's not a vain thing for you. So he says, he says, set your heart. He said, set your heart unto all the words which I testify among you this day.

And obviously, you know, he's testifying you the word of God. He says, set your heart. What is your heart set to? You've got to analyze that.

You've got to know where your heart's at. Look, you would do well. I know the Bible says, The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.

[14:30] Who can know it? You know how you know it? You may not know all of it. But you know more of it the more you open it up to the word of God and the more you let the word of God talk to it.

You need to set your heart to the words of this law. I understand you're not under the law, but you're under the law of God.

And I'm talking about, when Moses says, I'm testifying you the words, I'm not talking about those thoughts that you have that you think might be biblical.

I'm not talking about how your heart feels that you think it's God. I'm talking about this book, the one that we know we hold in our hands to be the word of God.

The one that, this stripe of ours, this stripe of ours is the ones who believe we actually hold it in our hands and believe it's it. You know, most of the other Christians out there, they don't believe that.

[15:45] You understand that, right? They believe they just have a book that has most of the truth in it and it's full of mistakes and you can trust some of it. That's how they live.

The book isn't what it is to us and it wasn't what it is, what it was to Moses. I get it, he's writing it. So set your hearts and it says, which ye set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe and do all the words of this law.

So you have to command your children. It's right for them to do that. Okay? Yeah, but listen, you're gonna get to that place one day.

And if you don't learn the words of this law, it's gonna break down with you. Right? You have to pass it on. You have to absorb it and learn it so you can.

Like I said, I'm not talking about the thoughts that you have that you think are godly. I'm talking about you passing on the book. You have to pass on the book.

[17:16] You have to pass on God's precepts. And when you pass it on, you're gonna command your children to observe, to do all the words of this law.

You need to observe it. You need to observe it to do it. And he goes on and he says, for it is not a vain thing for you because it is your life.

And through this thing you shall prolong your days in the land whether you go over Jordan to possess it. Now you know, this is, how many of you know this is referred to as the promised land? Right? Everybody? Anybody? Anybody? Anybody? I got one. I got two. I got three. I got another one over here. Anybody over here? So you know that he's referring to the promised land. You know what the promised land is a picture of?

Anybody know what the promised land is a picture of? Yes. If you don't know. Yeah, you got it. Right on the tip of your tongue. The victorious Christian life. Right? That's what the promised land is a picture of.

[18:27] That's what it's supposed to be a picture of. The victorious Christian life. It's kind of like husband and wives are supposed to be a picture of what? The church. Right? That's what it's supposed to be a picture of.

So the promised land is a picture of the victorious Christian life and who wouldn't want to do that? I mean, God tells these people about the promised land and I don't know about you, but if I was the one hearing about the promised land being a place of flowing with milk and honey and you have no need there, God supplies everything, man, I'm wanting to go.

Not only am I wanting to go, I'm wanting to stay there. Right? I mean, God tells them, hey man, you do these things and you get to stay there. What did he say?

He said it right here, right? In that verse, prolong your days in the land. He wants that. God wants them to be in the promised land forever. But you know they don't last long there.

Right? I mean, I think I get it now. You know, I've read it for the longest time. You know, Israel, and I don't know about you, but when I read Israel and I read those things in there, I'm always going, there's just no way.

[19:46] There's just no way that, because we're a picture of the same people. And I picture, I said, no, there's no way that we're that bad. I mean, you know, you go up in the mount and we just got out of the, you're just part of the Red Sea and I'm going to make a golden calf.

What? What? What? That doesn't even seem logical. You know, God protecting them, they're going up and they're wiping the nations out.

And then, Moab, they mix with the, mix with the people and, and they, and it was the council of Balaam. What? But you know, I thought, I thought, you know what that's a picture of?

That may not be a picture of what you do every day, but it's a picture of what goes on in here every day. Okay?

I may not be that outward, what you would, you look at Israel in there and you're going, there's just no way. You can't do that. You can't, what was that one where they, David Cornelbyer, right?

[20:59] Get your censors out here. Come on, we're going to, you get your censors, you take too much upon you, Moses, and Moses goes, okay, this is what we're going to do. Get the censors out here. Tomorrow we'll come out and we'll, we'll see, we'll see who's right.

And they do it. These are the people that have already seen the smoke on the mountain and the temple and God's glory there and then they've heard Moses and they watched him raise a rod and this is these people and they go, no, you take too much upon you.

Something's got to really make you go sideways. Right in here. Right in here is where it happens. And eventually, you'll do it out here.

But this is where it's going on all the time. And then God opens up the earth and swallows them and the next day they go, you killed the people of the Lord.

Shh, don't tell anybody. Don't open your mouth about that because he didn't. Don't accuse him of that. You understand, you just watched the earth open up, swallow a bunch of people, everything

they had closed back up like nothing ever happened.

[22 : 15] And you're going to, you're going to go back at him. That's what goes on in here. That's what goes on in here.

So if Christianity becomes a vain thing for you, you're going to start right here. This is where it's going to happen.

First. And if you don't deal with it, you'll be out before you know it. And it went on right here.

And for some of you, for some of you, it might be going on right now in there. What I want to encourage you tonight is, if you remember one thing, just remember, it is not a vain thing for you because it is your life.

God is worthy of our service. You know, I talk about, I told you about the people, I've seen them fall out young and old. You know, many kids, they get, they get out of there, they get out of, they get away from the house, they're 18 years old, and bang, they're out like that.

[23 : 27] going on all the time. I told you about the one that became a missionary. Boom. It happens.

Somewhere along the line, somewhere along the line, it became a vain thing for them. You know, talking about the heart, can anybody tell me any verses about the heart?

Any verses come to your mind about the heart? I did this to myself because that's what you, look, you need to understand that thing from the word of God.

You don't need to understand it from how you feel or what you think. You need to understand it from the word of God. Just, you know, if it first comes to your mind about the heart, boom.

My son, give me that heart. God wants your heart, right? Anybody got anyone? Another one.

Nobody think of one about the heart. Here's, here is the top four for me. And these are just the top four. So I wrote them down in order as I thought of them.

[24 : 40] Hebrews 4, 12, right? How did that go? The word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

You want that. You need that. That's the only thing that's going to reveal, reveal what your heart is. Psalms 119, 11, and, uh, thy word of I hidden mine heart that I might not sin against.

The Proverbs 4, 3, keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life, all of them.

Jeremiah 17, 9 was, um, I believe that was the heart was, the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.

The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. That's yours. That's mine. Do you understand that about your heart? Do you believe that? I get it. You're a very nice person. It's your heart.

Whew. Your heart is deceitful above all things desperately wicked. That's what it is.

[25 : 58] You would do well to memorize some verses about the heart. You need to. You need to memorize those. If you don't have them memorized, I'm going to encourage you to memorize them. For it is not a vain thing for you because it is your life.

If you don't, you're sitting there and you go, you know, I'm just not going to do it. I don't want to memorize or whatever. You may be on your way.

You may be on your way. Time will tell. Time always does.

Which ye shall command your children. Which ye shall command your children. It'll die if you don't. It'll die and it'll be gone if you don't.

Determine you will. Children, determine you're not going to kick against it. You know, I probably won't get through the whole message.

[27 : 12] It's probably a two-hour message. That's okay. The point will be made and that's all that really matters. But it says in chapter 32 and verse 15 and we may get to it, we may not, but I want to point out something.

It says, but Jeshurun waxed fat and kicked. Thou art waxing fat. Thou art grown thick. Thou art covered with fatness. Does that sound good or bad?

Now fat's okay sometimes. The blessings of God. Matter of fact, in verse 14 it says, butter of kine and milk of sheep with fat of lambs and rams of the breed of Bashan and goats with the fat of kidneys of wheat and thou didst drink the pure blood of the great.

Does that sound good? Yeah. Right? Didn't that have that ring to it? Didn't it have a good ring to it? Right? But then you get to that next verse it says, but Jeshurun waxed fat and kicked.

Does that have the same ring? No. Thou art waxing fat. Does that sound good? No. Thou art grown thick. Thou art covered with fatness.

[28 : 24] Then he forsook God which made him and lightly esteemed the rock of his salvation. Young people, you know, anybody, anybody within the rule of a parent, don't kick.

Don't kick. And for us older folks, you know, when God's dealing with your heart, don't kick. Kick is, I think it's only mentioned like three times in the Bible. Anybody know of another one? Right? Saul. Saul, Saul, why kick his down against the pricks, right? And then the other one was, the other one had to do with Eli. That's a good, that's actually, look at that passage real quick, that verse, 1 Samuel 2.29.

1 Samuel 2.29. You know the story of Eli, right?

Eli was a very, wasn't he a fat man? Right? Just what it is, you know.

[29 : 33] And when we're picturing what Jeshurun is here, watch what it says, 1 Samuel 2.29. 2.29, it says, wherefore, kick ye at my sacrifice, and at mine offering, which I command that in my habitation, and honor thy sons above me to make yourselves fat with the cheapest of all the offerings of Israel my people.

Did that sound good? No, that doesn't have the right ring to it. Those are the three times that kick is mentioned. Kick ain't good.

So I want to encourage you young people, especially, you know, your parents are going to try to tell you, right, don't kick. That's the point. Just don't kick.

You know, it is what's happening to our stripe today. I'm watching them, I'm watching them take a step down just right and left.

They don't get it. They don't, they don't hold to the value of the book, really. They're kicking.

[30 : 52] They're kicking against you. So they take a step down to avoid it, to avoid that, that military, you know, stand. And you look at those verses in the Bible that talk, that mention that word kick in there and it shows you where they go.

It shows you what happens. You know, I'm not big on, I'm not big on everything's a formula in the Bible. You know, just because something happens, I don't, I don't take that and say, that is the formula.

This is what you have to do in order to avoid this or do this. That, in that passage, it was. But there's another passage. But, formulas?

Deuteronomy 32 looks like one. You'd do well to read Deuteronomy 32, just read it. Try to get some passion about it like me right now.

I don't know what to tell you. I think it's, it's a formula. He says, you want to prolong your days? He's going to go through 32 and we're not going to have time to do it.

[32 : 06] But he's going to go through chapter 32 and he's going to tell you the do's and the don'ts. It is not reasonable to not pass it on or prepare to do so.

See, we, us older folks, we've been in the pass it on stage. But you younger people are in the prepare to do so stage. If you don't prepare to pass it on, you won't be able to pass it on.

And when the older people are passing it on, don't kick. Don't kick. That's the lesson. I mean, I mean, you got in on the best God.

Right? You got, do you realize that? You got in on the best God. You got in on the best life.

Okay? You didn't only get in on the best God, you got in on the best life. And you also got in on the best employment. I mean, God says, he counsels that last church and says, hey, I'm going to counsel you, buy of me gold and the dry and the fire that you may be rich.

[33 : 32] He wants you to be rich. That's a pretty good employment with a pretty good dividend there. I mean, he doesn't say, hey, poor is good, man, just stay poor and worry about it.

It's all going to be poor in heaven and we're all good and we're homeless and it's okay, we're all going to be in heaven. That's great. That's not how it works. Right? He says, I go to prepare a place for you. In my father's house are many what?

Man, I want to get into that. I don't know if you look forward to that, but I look forward to that. I got a few minutes.

I'm just going to run through the things that I see here in 32. We're not going to be able to read it all. But the first thing I want you to see is I'll just look at a couple things in the verses real quick.

In chapter 32 there, verse 1 through 4, he says, he says in verse 3, because I will publish the name of the Lord, and he says, ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

[34 : 41] And the first thing that Moses talks to these people about is recognizing who God is. He talks about, he says, ascribe, is that what he is? Ascribe, ascribe, ascribe, ascribe, ascribe that greatness to God.

Do you do that? Do you do that in your daily life? I mean, do you, do you, do you, do you walk or do you go down throughout the day and you go, you go, man, that's, God did that, that's good. Man, that was great, God. If you don't, start doing some of that. ascribe to him his greatness. Publish, what did he say?

He says, publish the name of the Lord. Something else, in verse five, it says, they have corrupted themselves, their spot is not the spot of his children, they are a perverse and crooked generation. do you thus requite the Lord, O foolish people and unwise, that's not good, right? That's not good. We need to recognize who we are.

[35 : 55] All right? Realize who God is, recognize who you are. Verse seven and eight. Verse seven and eight, he says, remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations, ask thy father and he will show thee thy elders and they will tell thee.

The third thing was is remember the days of old. I don't know if you think much about what you like to read or what you like to learn about, but hopefully you want to know some history. And the point I'm going to make is history is his story. You would do well to learn his story. All right, so you learn about all the stuff in the Bible all the way up to whatever the date is that you learn about. And then what about everything after that? You want to learn his story all the way up to today.

Remember the days of old. Learn that history. Do you read about the missionaries? Do you know what's gone on in the past in this thing that I'm telling you is not a vain thing for you because it is your life?

[37 : 11] Do you know? Well, you need to know. If you don't remember the days of old, you're going to miss out on so much.

You need to pay attention to his story. Learn his story. Something else, 9 and 10. It says, And Moses wrote this law and delivered it unto the people, unto the priest, the sons of Levi, which bear the ark of, oh, that's the wrong place.

I could already tell it was in the wrong place. 9 and 10. For the Lord's portion is his people, Jacob is a lot of his inheritance. He found him in the desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness, he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.

Reiterate to yourself, you are his. Right? Keep telling yourself, you're his. That's going to help you. When you want to go sideways, your heart starts getting in the far country, you think it's a vain thing, just remember, you're his.

You're bought with a price. Just remember what he did for you. What was that?

[38 : 27] That was 9 through 4, okay, 15. Verse 15, it said, oh, that was what we already read. But you're sure and wax fat, okay? We already read that. They forsook God.

They lightly esteemed the rock of their salvation. They go on in chapters, in verse 16 through 20. We're not going to look at them, but he goes on and he mentioned, I believe it's seven things they did.

Seven things they did that they shouldn't have done. They provoked them to anger. They sacrificed them to devils. They were unmindful. They forgot that went through 20.

21 was they have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God. You want to find those things in your life that will move God to jealousy that's not God.

22 through 26 verse 22 it says for a fire is kindled in mine anger and shall burn unto the lowest hell and shall consume the earth with her increase and set on fire the foundation of the mountains God is not happy and judgment is coming if you're not careful and when he brings the hammer down on you it's not going to be anybody's fault but our own right you want to try to avoid that you want to try to avoid the judgment of God when it gets going there 28 29 for they are a nation void of counsel neither is there any understanding in them oh that they were wise that they understood this that they would consider their latter end you need to consider you know he mentioned wise and understanding the bible says wisdom is a principle thing therefore get wisdom and with all thy getting get understanding right you need to do that that's part of the formula 35 he says to me belong a vengeance and recompense their foot shall slide in due time for the day of their calamity is at hand and the things shall come upon them shall make haste for the

[40 : 37] Lord shall judge his people you don't want to get in on that he goes down he goes on and this continues on he says so now that I even I am he and there is no God with me I kill I make alive I wound I heal it's all about him it's all about him you know this is at the end this is at the end of this exhortation where he's telling you who he is again right the first thing we need to do is recognize him the last thing you do is recognize him more when you think you when you think you ascribe to him his greatness and you realize who he was you need to do it some more just stay with it do it for it is not a vain thing for you because it is your life let's pray father thank you for the passion

I know lord I have been in this passage all week but I pray that somehow you convey the message of it's not a vain thing for us because it's our life just help us to remember that I think that will really help us appreciate thy book and just all your greatness God and wonderful salvation and just all that we get to see and have and being on the right side just not being in the far country not having to come to ourselves and realize that we're far away help us to consider our hearts and set our hearts to the right thing bless thy people in Jesus name amen hey Gary can we sing a song I think it'd be good just sing a song you know just take a minute to just you know you're gonna get to leave right now and probably it'll be gone so just take a second and think about it's not a vain thing for you because it's your life you can you imagine— you have you have four and you can you