

Welcome To Your New Life!

Praise God! Having just received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, the best days of your life are yet to come!

Welcome to your new life!

Today in life we are faced with many choices, and the choices we make can impact our lives in both good and bad ways. Some choices have positive consequences and others negative. Though we cannot avoid making choices in life, we can learn to avoid making bad ones and strive to make the right ones.

Following Jesus and living a life that is pleasing to God is the same way. You will be faced with many challenges and temptations, and it may seem sometimes that at every corner there are ways to fall and go back to your "old ways." But right now you can make a decision that says, "No matter what, I am going to stay with Jesus!!"

And from this point on, though you make mistakes, you will continue to always follow the greatest decision of all, to love Jesus. My story may be different from yours, but I hope you can find some encouragement from it.

I was born in a Christian home, but by the time I was in the 5th Grade I began to turn away from God. During the ages of 11 to 18 I was in trouble with the law constantly, a high school drop out, on drugs, smoke and drank, immoral, and filled with anger. But when I was 18 my mom led me to the Lord at her kitchen table. She told me that Jesus loved me and had a plan for me. Since that day I have made mistakes, but one thing I never did was leave God.



Today I am a college graduate and a successful pastor with over nine years of ministry experience. God has blessed me with a wonderful wife and a great church. I believe God can do the same for you! Nothing is impossible with God! All you have to do is just stay with Jesus! If you fall down, He will pick you back up! Just stay close to Jesus and He will do the rest, one day at time!

I pray you will enjoy this booklet and continue to make good decisions that will positively change and effect your life in a powerful way!

Philippians 1:6: "And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again."

In Him,

Joe and Nancy Wyrostek
Pastors of Metro Praise

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LESSON 1

Great Decision!

Welcome!

Congratulations on your wonderful decision to accept Jesus into your life! The Bible says that the angels in heaven are rejoicing right now! (Luke 15:10) You will be forever glad that you decided to follow Jesus and give Him your life.



This booklet is meant to help you get established and headed in the right direction now that Jesus is in your life. The next few paragraphs are written plainly so that you can

understand the basic truths about what you have done and how to continue living for Jesus.

The parentheses () are used to give you Bible verses that reference what is being discussed. Follow along with your Bible and allow it to strengthen your trust in God.

What Just Happened In My Life?

The Bible says that when you heard the Word of God, faith came into your heart. (Romans 10:17) Faith and belief have similar meanings. When you heard the Word of God regarding your life and the message of Jesus on the Cross, you felt a strong desire to give your life to Him. That desire you felt in your heart came from the Holy Spirit, the third

person of the God nature. (John 16:8) The Holy Spirit used the Word of God to show you your need for Jesus. He also urged you to give your life to Jesus.

When you made the decision of your own free will to put your faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit then “birthed” in you a new spirit. You have now experienced what the Bible calls being “born-again.” Being “born-again” means you have been given a new life. (John 3:3-5 and 2 Corinthians 5:17)

The Bible teaches that when you were born, you were born a “sinner.” (Romans 3:23) A sinner is someone that is “dead” in his or her spirit and separated from God because of sin. Sin is all the things we do in our lives that are against the commands of God, as written in the Bible. (James 4:17)

To be born a sinner sounds unfair, but the Bible teaches that when God first created mankind, He created them perfect. However, Adam and Eve sinned and, by doing so, they brought the curse of sin upon every person that was to be born after them.

The story doesn't stop there. The Bible goes on to teach that Jesus came to die on the Cross for the sins of the world. Therefore, whosoever will believe or put their trust in Jesus will be saved from the curses of sin. (John 3:16)

So, when you decided to follow Jesus, the curse of sin that was handed down from Adam and Eve were replaced with the blessings of salvation and new birth. Today, you are saved from the sins you've committed and you've been given a new life that is complete in Jesus. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says it like this, *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

What Do I Do Now?

The best thing you can do now is to begin to develop this new relationship you have with God. Before you asked Jesus into your life, God was probably only Someone you thought about when you needed something or when you were at a religious function.

Now, the Bible says that God has become your Father, Jesus has become your Lord and Savior, and the Holy Spirit has become your Guide and Helper. (John 14:15-27) You have a lot to look forward to as you begin to know each person of the Godhead. That's why it's very important to develop in your life three basic things: Prayer, Study of the Bible, and Christian Friendship.

Prayer

The Bible teaches us that God desires to hear our prayers. (Psalm 66:19-20) The word "prayer" has two meanings. First, it means "to make a request" or "ask for something." Second, the word "prayer" means "to communicate." Today—and for the rest of your life—you have the privilege of talking to God and sharing with Him your requests. How? The Bible



teaches that you can talk to the Father as you would to another person in the name of Jesus. (John 14:12-14)

Example: *“Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus and ask for your blessings upon*

my family. I ask that you will bring salvation to all of them just as you have done for me. I thank you for your love and hope in my life. In Jesus name, Amen."

It's just that simple! The Bible also teaches us how not to pray. It tells us not to pray the same prayers over and over again. Many feel because the "Lord's Prayer" is in the Bible, we should repeat it exactly as it is, over and over again. But when Jesus taught the prayer to His disciples, He was giving it to them as an example of how to pray. He did not intend for it to be prayed in endless repetitions. Praying to God should be spontaneous and from the heart. [Matthew 6:7]

Another thing the Bible says not to do is to only say prayers that you were taught, or to try to be "religious." The Bible says you are to pray to God in your own words, from your heart. [Matthew 6:7] I'm sure you have a lot to talk about! Be sure to make time each day to pray and to talk to God from your heart.

To increase the benefits of your prayers, the Bible also teaches us to listen to God as He speaks to us. How beneficial do you think it would be to only talk to your friends and family but never listen to what they had to say? Most people would probably think you were self-centered. When talking to God, remember that He also desires to talk to you.



You might be thinking, "God wants to talk to me?" Yes! The Bible teaches us that this is something He has always done with those that love and serve Him. Your next question might be, "How is He going to talk to me? Is He going to speak out loud for everyone to hear Him?" No. Though God could and has spoken to people out loud in times past, today He

primarily chooses to speak to people's hearts.

Remember those urges you felt before you asked Jesus into your life? That was God speaking to your heart through the Holy Spirit, and He will continue to speak to you. Just be sure that you're listening. When you make time for prayer, also make time to be quiet and listen to your heart so that you can hear God speaking to you. He may remind you of something you did wrong during the day and want you to make it right. He may share with you His great love for you. Whatever He says will be precious to you and you will begin to recognize His voice better as you spend more time with Him in prayer.

Study The Bible

The Bible is the greatest Book ever given to mankind. The word "Bible" actually means "book." The Holy Bible means "the sacred book." The Bible was written over a period of 1,500 years by 40 different authors from many walks of life. The message throughout the entire Bible is perfect and complete. [2 Timothy 3:16]

The simple message of the Bible is this: God created mankind for a relationship, but man sinned when he was tempted by the devil. God, being rich in love and mercy, set up a plan of salvation that started with animal sacrifice and commandments, and was completed with His Son on the Cross. This was accomplished to enable anyone who chooses to accept Jesus into his or her



life to be saved and brought back into a meaningful relationship with God. The life of those who choose Jesus will consist of loving God with all their heart and loving their

neighbor as themselves. That's easy to understand, isn't it? That's the Bible in a nutshell.

As you begin to read your Bible, start with the Gospel of John and begin to familiarize yourself with the life of Jesus. ("Gospel" is a Greek word that means "good news.") Read the Bible in a version you can understand and keep a dictionary handy for any words you're not familiar with. Also, look for the names of the books in the front of your Bible in the table of contents so that you can easily find verses.

To ensure a proper learning and understanding of the Bible, write down any questions you might have as you read and ask those questions of someone in your church. You'll soon find yourself learning awesome truths from the greatest Book ever written. [Psalm 119:10-16]

Christian Friendship

Why is it important to have Christian friendship? Because Christian companionship will encourage you in times of difficulty, strengthen you in times of weakness, and inspire you to greatness in your life's purpose. You've heard the old saying, "birds of like feathers flock together"? That saying is also true when it comes to making friends. [1 Corinthians 15:33]

You don't go to a hen house to find an eagle and you can't find a chicken on a mountaintop. The world we live in has a lot of "hen houses." To stay strong and encouraged in your new life, you must find where the eagles are and learn to soar with them. The Christians you become friends with will be able



to help you in your relationship with God, as they share with you their experiences and the things they have found to be true in their own walk with God. (Hebrews 10:25)

Christian friendships will be some of the best friendships you'll ever acquire. A true Christian friend will love you as a family member and will be patient with you as you learn to be the person God created you to be. They'll be able to help you in those areas of your life that you may have thought no one would ever care about, much less want to help. Remember, like you, other Christians are not perfect: like you, they make mistakes from time to time, and they want to continue day after day to be more like Jesus.

Be sure to join a church small group that you can attend during the week. Small groups are informal meetings, usually held in someone's home, where other Christians study the Bible and pray together. They are the perfect place to "be yourself" and get to meet people as you learn more about God.

Also, make attending church every Sunday a consistent part of your life. On Sundays you'll be able to participate in the worship service with other Christians that love God like you. You'll be able to hear a clear message from a speaker that will be relevant to your life. Small groups and church services are also a great place to invite your friends and family. There they will be given the opportunity to have a relationship with Jesus, too!

Get Ready, Get Set...GO!

Go for it! Now it's time to put into practice all that you've read. Continue to review the different sections and read the Scripture references until you feel comfortable with the things you learn. Also, stay in touch with the person who gave you this pamphlet. You can be sure that they love you and are

praying for you. Stay close to Jesus and remember, “Jesus loves you and so do we!”

2 Corinthians 5:17: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.”

Questions:

1. What happened in your life?
2. How does someone become a “Christian”?
3. What are three important things to do as a Christian?
4. How should you pray? How should you not pray?
5. Why is reading the Bible important?
6. What type of friends should you make?

7. Where is a good place to meet friends?

8. Who do you know that you could invite to church with you?

LESSON 2

Power of the Cross

His Pain...Your Gain

Have you ever wondered what made Jesus' death on the Cross special? Some have tried to argue and say that Jesus was just a man and His death was unimportant. However, the Bible teaches that Jesus' death was very important for man and beneficial in many ways. [Colossians 2:13-14]



The Bible teaches us that Jesus is the 2nd person in the Godhead and that He left heaven to become a man to take the punishment that we deserve. [John 1:1, 1:14, & 3:16] In Jesus' day, the Cross was the Roman government's way of executing criminals. Jesus was sentenced to die on the Cross because jealous Jewish leaders wanted to

make Him stop teaching the truth about God.

Some may think Jesus' having to die as a criminal on a Cross was a tragedy, but it was a part of God's plan all along. Jesus knew from the beginning that, because of man's sin, He would have to come and become our sacrifice. Jesus willingly left heaven to become a Man so that He could suffer death on the Cross and, by doing so, could give us many great blessings. [John 12:32-33]

Three Things Jesus Did For Us When He Died On The Cross

1. Jesus took all the sins of the world (Isaiah 53:5)

When Jesus was on the Cross, God the Father placed on Him all the sins of the world: past, present, and future. There on the Cross, Jesus took upon Himself all the evil things that have ever been done in the world; everything from Adam and Eve's sinful rebellion to the last sin man will ever commit. He took them all upon Himself.

Because God the Father is perfect, no one can come to Him unless they first offer a sacrifice for their sins. Before Jesus' death on the Cross, the sacrifice required was from an animal. The sacrifices had to be made often with many different animals. But when Jesus came, HE became the "ONE-TIME" sacrifice for all times.

From that point on, if a sinner wants to be forgiven of their sin and accepted by God the Father, all they have to do is accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross 2,000 years ago is all that's needed to forgive their sins and allow them to have a new life. (Hebrews 9:14)

2. Jesus took all the sicknesses of the world (1 Peter 2:24)

The Bible teaches that, as a result of Adam's first sin in the Garden of Eden, mankind was placed under a curse in his body, and this curse was illness and disease. When God first created Adam and Eve, they were perfect and there were no sickness, but after they sinned these became a stain on our lives.

When Jesus was being torturing and beaten by the Roman government, God the Father was pleased. Why? Because God the Father allowed the punishment and whippings of

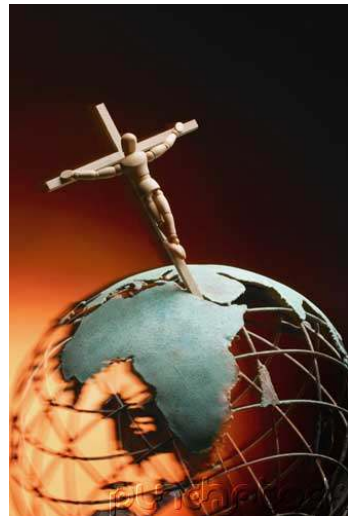
Jesus to buy for mankind the healing they needed from their sicknesses and diseases.

Mankind may not be able to fully understand how this happened, but the Bible clearly teaches that by Jesus' stripes we are healed from all of our sicknesses. Today, anyone who's sick can come to Jesus and ask for healing and, if they believe and do not doubt in their heart, they will be healed. (James 5:14-16)

3. Jesus took all the sorrows of the world (Isaiah 53:4)

Not only did Jesus take all of mankind's sins and sicknesses, He also took all of our sorrows. God the Father allowed all the sorrows and emotional grief of life to be placed on Jesus' shoulders. Jesus Himself at the time of His crucifixion was given all the hurt of the world. Jesus could feel every emotional pain that's ever been felt and will ever be felt in life...He took it all!

Jesus was the only person that could endure such emotional pain upon His soul. In doing so, Jesus will forever be able to relate and understand everyone's sorrows in life. When someone comes to Jesus to find comfort in times of emotional hurt, He can truly say, "I know how you feel."



No one else on earth can ever say that. Only Jesus can say He knows about every pain and every sorrow in every individual's heart. And He not only knows the pain, but He also has the power to heal and comfort those hurts when we take them to the Cross. (Isaiah 61:1-3 & Matthew 9:36)

Come To The Cross

The Apostle Paul said that despite everything, he knew about God and all the great things he had seen in life, his one and only passion in life was to know Jesus and the power of His death on the Cross. Paul's main message to all the churches was the power of the Cross. (1 Corinthians 2:2)

Today our goal must be the same. We must make Jesus and His work on the Cross our central theme in life. More than anything else in life, we should desire to know the Cross and what Jesus did for us. The passion of our lives should be to daily come to the Cross in our hearts and allow Jesus to give us the above three things He purchased with His blood.

We should make Jesus' work on the Cross our main message to the entire world. Today the world is living in their sins, but Jesus can forgive every one of them because of His atoning work on the Cross. Today



the world is sick and dying, but Jesus can heal them all because of His work on the Cross. And today the world is full of sorrows, but Jesus can comfort them because of His awesome work on the Cross! Everyone needs to come to the **CROSS!**

Questions:

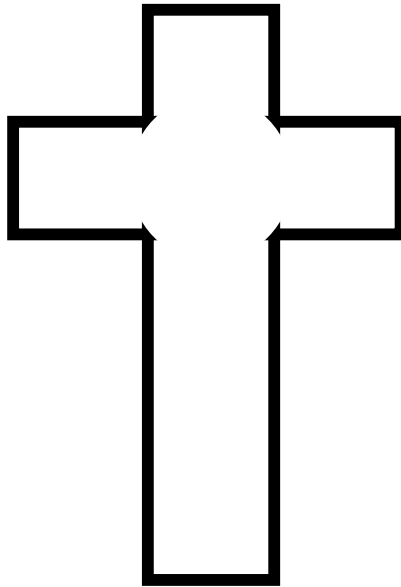
1. What was the Cross used for in the Roman government?

2. Why was Jesus crucified? Give the twofold reason (Heaven's side and earth's side).

3. Was Jesus' death on the Cross an accident or was it planned? Explain.

4. List the three things Jesus' death on the Cross accomplished. Describe each one.

5. Fill in the Cross with things you want to give Jesus and ask Him to take them from you.



LESSON 3

Overcoming the World

Overcome

The word “overcome” means to be victorious, to be a champion in life! This booklet has been put into your hands to challenge you to overcome all the things you face in life. Have you noticed how people in our modern society are being defeated?



Whether by drugs, alcohol, pornography, sexual sin, greed, anger, selfishness, or any number of other sins, people today are being defeated in their daily lives. The defeat they suffer in one area of their life eventually touches everything in their life.

The person defeated by pornography not only suffers in his sexual life, but also with his family and job.

The businessman who looks great on the outside, but inside the love of money is dominating his actions, is not only suffering in his work habits, but in his character and family life. The list of sceneries goes on and on: *people need to be taught how to overcome the things in their life that have defeated them.*

This Is For You!

The sad truth is that many today do not know that the reason they are in defeat is because of the sins they are

committing. And they don't know that they can change or be free from these shackles. Satan has blinded the minds and hearts of many people. (2 Corinthians 4:4)

One of Satan's favorite lies is to tell people, *"You can never change, and you will always suffer defeat in this area of your life."* Because of this lie, people continue to live in sin and defeat, but I've written this lesson to help bring hope to all those who feel overwhelmed and empty on the inside.



In 1 John 3:8 the Bible says, *"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."*

The only one who really wants people defeated and living in sin is the devil. He is the promoter of sin and defeat on this earth. But Jesus came and died on the Cross to forgive our sins. He came to destroy the works of the devil.

The work of the devil is to cause people to sin and live in defeat. He works overtime on all of us. But today, to those who put their faith in Jesus and the work of the Cross, they'll have the devil's work in their life destroyed.

That means the power of sin will be destroyed! And the feeling of defeat that's in our lives as a result of sin will also be destroyed!

Before you read the next section, please take time to think on the statement just made. Jesus has ALREADY destroyed the power of sin in your life! The devil has ALREADY been defeated. You do not have to do it.

Jesus ALREADY did it! You need to stop trying and put your faith in God because He has ALREADY made a way of total victory for you! **HALLELUJAH!**

How Freedom Works

In order to be born-again, everyone must first believe in Jesus. Then, a person must desire for the rest of their life to be transformed from the individual they were to become the person Jesus wants them to become. Jesus commands for us to be like Him. [John 14:12]



So, no matter who you are or where you've come from, there are areas in your life that need to change. Total freedom from every sin and evil is not only an endeavor for the "spiritually elite," but for anyone who has been born-again and are on their way to heaven.

Come On Jesus!

John 8:31-32: *"Then said Jesus to the Jews which believed on Him, 'If you continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'"*

Jesus was talking about freedom from everything that keeps you from being like Him, freedom from everything that is sin, freedom from everything evil!

The question is not, *"Does Jesus want you free today?"* The real question is, *"Do you want to be totally free today?"*

When I talk to some people about Jesus on the streets, many say concerning the sin in their life, *"When the good Lord wants me to be free, He'll come and make me free."* WRONG! Jesus wants us free NOW! He is waiting on you and me to believe in Him and HE WILL MAKE US FREE!

Jesus Teaches Five Things Concerning Freedom In John 8:31-32

John 8:31-32: *"Then said Jesus to the Jews which believed on Him, 'if you continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'"*

1. You must first believe in Jesus: *"He spoke to the Jews which believed on Him"*
2. You must continue in the teachings of Jesus: *"If you continue in my word"*
3. You must be a true disciple of Jesus: *"then are ye my disciples indeed"*
4. Know, believe, speak, and act on the truth: *"ye shall know the truth"*
5. Let Jesus set you free: *"the truth shall make you free"*

This lesson is intended to encourage every person who believes in Jesus to continue in His teachings and become a true disciple. And as a true disciple of Jesus, He will make you free from all your sins and the things that hold you back in life! Remember: Jesus makes a person free, not their good deeds or efforts.

Notice the first step to freedom is to *believe* in Jesus. You and I cannot *"make"* ourselves Christians. The Bible says in

Ephesians 2:8-9 that we are not saved by works, but by grace through our faith in Jesus. So we must first come to Jesus and allow Him to make us a new person. Then, after that, we must be "*sanctified*," which means to be daily transformed into the perfect image of Jesus.

Many people get nervous when they're told that after salvation they are to be sanctified. They think they will have to work extra hard now at being a "*good Christian*." But the same way you are saved is the same way you are sanctified: **by faith!** You cannot make yourself perfect; you must allow Jesus, through the Person of the Holy Spirit, to make you perfect. This process will continue throughout your lifetime.



We are also to embrace the goal of perfection on this earth and daily strive for it by faith in Jesus. And our faith in God by the power of the Holy Spirit will give us the ability to please God. As we walk on His path that leads us to perfection, we may sin, but our faith in Jesus will allow us to come to Him and repent and be forgiven. We cannot truly understand the work of grace and forgiveness in the Christian's life until we understand and accept the high calling of total sanctification and perfection.

Grace is the underserved privilege to receive forgiveness for our sins. Jesus never intended grace to be like a dirty rag for someone to wash his or her heart on in order to go out and sin again. No, the grace of God is like a safety net beneath a tight rope. When the performer sees the challenge of how high above the ground the tight rope is, he is comforted to know that there is a net to catch him if he falls.

We do not intend or wish to fall, but if we do, we know the net will catch us. The grace of God is there to catch us on our journey of total sanctification and perfection. It's there to encourage us to put our faith in God, and to cultivate a faith that will produce in us the ability to live without the power, presence, and penalty of sin in our daily lives.

Have faith in God for your salvation. Then daily put your faith in Him for your total sanctification and perfection. As you journey on this road called life, if you should sin and fall off the rope, be quick to repent and let God put you back on track. But whatever you do, don't settle for anything less than to be more like Jesus!

Be like the Apostle Paul who strove every day of his life to reach the mark of perfection, and though he hadn't reached it yet he never stopped moving forward, knowing one day that he'd reach the goal: *to be 100% like Jesus!* (Philippians 3:12-14)

Top 8 Sins To Overcome

1. Sexual Perversion — Galatians 5:19 and 1 John 2:16
 - Lust of the eyes (pornography, nudity, perverse movies, indecent TV)
 - Lust of the flesh (sex outside of heterosexual marriage and sexual uncleanness)
2. Evil Entertainment — Psalm 119:37 and Philippians 4:8
 - Excessive sin and evil in television, music, and movies
 - Music, TV and movies that promotes ungodly behavior
 - Ungodly Internet surfing
3. Love of Money and Wealth — 1 Timothy 6:10 and Matthew 6:24:
 - Pride & Selfishness
 - Putting money before God and family time

4. False Religion & Witchcraft – Galatians 5:20-21 and 1 John 4:1:
 - Following false ideas about God
 - Astrology and palm readings
 - Involvement in the occult

5. Anger and Unforgiveness – Matthew 11:26 and James 1:19:
 - Holding grudges and unable to forgive
 - Easily angered and out of control
 - Lack of compassion and cruel

6. Negative Habits – Matthew 5:48 and Colossians 3:1-11:
 - Cursing, smoking, and drinking
 - Breaking the 10 Commandments

7. Fearful Behavior – 2 Timothy 1:7 and Matthew 10:28:
 - Fear of what people think
 - Fear of trusting God
 - Trying to please people over God

8. Rebellion – 1 Samuel 15:23 and Hebrews 13:17
 - Bad attitude towards leadership and authority
 - Complain a lot, always must have your way
 - Get defensive when corrected

This list is by no means a complete list of sins, but it is meant to highlight some of the most common areas we struggle in. Remember, God is with you! And you are not saved and going to heaven because you do good things. Also, you do not need to have a fear of going to hell when you sin: Just ask God for His forgiveness and keep trusting Him. One day you will overcome that area in your life!

Being an overcomer means to allow God's power in you to make you an overcomer. Some of these areas will be easier than others, but all of them can be conquered! Stay close to Jesus when you face temptations and always know He loves you, *no matter what!*

Questions:

1. What does it mean to overcome?
2. Give a Scripture that will teach and help you to overcome sin.
3. List some areas of your life that you want to overcome.
4. Write a prayer to God using two Scriptures found in the lesson to ask for power to overcome your temptations.

LESSON 4

Living by Faith

Walk On Water

Have you ever wondered what made the people of God able to do all the great things they did? Moses split the Red Sea in two...Daniel spent an entire night in a den of hungry lions and wasn't even scratched...Peter walked on water to meet Jesus on the stormy sea.



Do you ever think about what made them so different from you and me? What made Peter so special? Why didn't the other eleven apostles walk on the water with him?

What was so special about Moses? Why didn't Pharaoh and his great army part the Red Sea?

The answer to all these questions is actually very simple: ***Faith***. Yes, faith in God changed their world! Simple faith in God and His Word made them different from every other person in their similar circumstances. [Hebrews 11:1-2]

The Big Bang!

When God created the world, He put laws into place to govern every part of its existence. He made the stars to govern the seasons. God made the sun to rule the day and the moon to rule the night. He also made DNA to govern the cell structure of life. And He made faith to govern the world, both in the natural and in the spiritual.

Most scientists and scholars have not yet discovered this great force. Some scientists will spend a lifetime researching

and studying clouds, plants, and insects, but never really study the greater mystery: *How did the clouds, plants, insects—and everything we know—come to exist?*



The truth is that God made everything. But how did God do it? Faith. Unlike the theory of evolution, which teaches that everything came from nothing in a “Big Bang,” the Bible teaches that God, through His Word, created

everything. God said it and “bang” it happened. God had faith in His own Word. He knew that whatever He would speak and declare would become reality.

Faith Can Change Your World

Today, God is looking for people He can use to operate in His power of faith. God wants you to trust Him and speak His Word with faith and change the world. There are situations you are facing that God can change. All you have to do is have faith in God’s Word!

It’s your turn to change the world through faith in God. Right now you can start living a life based on God’s Word. The Bible states that Jesus said we could even move mountains! Jesus taught that we could do even greater things than He did.

Jesus knew God’s Word, because He is the Word. Jesus always knew what was the perfect will of the Father.

Therefore, whenever Jesus spoke or prayed concerning the will of the Father, it was done. (John 1:1)

Jesus set the example for you and me. Therefore, Jesus not only wanted to have us watch Him do great things; He wanted to teach us how to do the same type of great things He was doing. (John 14:12)

He taught His disciples how to operate in God's power. He taught them that by faith they could do the same things He was doing. Take a moment to read Matthew 21:18-22 and ask God to give you insight into this very special passage.

Matthew 21:18-22

¹⁸Early in the morning, as he was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. ¹⁹Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered.

²⁰When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" they asked.

²¹Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done.

²²If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

Can you see the simple truth Jesus is conveying to His disciples? He is simply teaching them that by faith they can move mountains and change the world.

What mountains are you facing today? Family troubles? Financial problems? Ministry issues? Your faith in God and His Word today can move any of the mountains you face! God is looking for people who are "sick and tired" of being "sick and tired." (2 Chronicles 16:9)



He's looking for someone who wants to be a world changer...someone who will believe His Word and do what it says. Are you going to let your mountains move you into defeat? Or are you going to cast your mountain into the sea and live in victory!? Are you ready to live in faith and not fear? Do you want to do what Jesus did? If your heart is saying "Yes," then you are ready to live by the power of faith.

What Is Faith?

The Bible teaches that faith is an assurance of what we hope for. And faith is the evidence or the proof of things not seen. [Hebrews 11:1] Faith is more than just having hope or wishful thinking. Many people have hopes of winning the lottery, but that is not faith. Many people think they have faith because they wish they were never sick and that all their problems would disappear, but that is not faith.

Faith is an assurance only God can give through His Word and the Holy Spirit. Biblical faith means to know that God exists and that He rewards those who seek after Him according to His Word. [Hebrews 11:2]

How To Get Faith

Faith is given to us when we hear the Word of God. Faith comes by God's Word, whether spoken or written. A person's heart must be open to receive what is said in the Bible as the very Word of God for faith to be planted and to grow. [Romans 10:17]

God spoke directly to Moses and commanded him to place his staff in the Red Sea. When Moses heard and received the Words of God as truth, he then was given the faith to operate in the power of God. By faith Moses was able to do the impossible: part the Red Sea in two.

Peter could walk on the water after Jesus said, "Come." Peter walked on the Word of God, *C-O-M-E*. He was able to do the impossible because he believed the Word of God.

Today, listen to what God is saying to you through His Word. There are hundreds of promises in the Bible and they are all for you. When you hear the Word, either by reading it yourself or hearing it preached, receive it with your heart and trust it with your life.

The Bible contains many promises for the major areas of life that become our "mountains." Read and accept the truths listed below and begin to change your world through living by faith.

1. *Healing from all sicknesses and diseases*
 - Matthew 8:16-17
 - 1 Peter 2:24

2. *Healing from a broken heart and emotional distress*
 - Psalm 16:11
 - Luke 4:18

3. *Freedom from worries and fears*
 - Matthew 6:33-34
 - 2 Timothy 1:7

4. *Living in financial prosperity*
 - Deuteronomy 8:18
 - Philippians 4:19

5. *Winning souls for Christ*
 - 1 Timothy 2:4
 - 2 Peter 3:9

6. *Having a blessed family and heritage*
 - Joshua 24:15
 - Proverbs 19:14

7. *Overcoming sin and temptation*
 - John 8:34-36
 - Romans 8:2
 - 1 John 3:8

8. *Living a Christ like life*
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - Colossians 3:1-3
 - Galatians 5:22-24

9. *Victory over various trials*
 - Romans 8:31-39
 - 2 Corinthians 4:17

10. *Living free from the past*
 - Romans 8:1
 - Philippians 3:13

11. *Revival and spiritual awakening*
 - 2 Chronicles 7:14
 - John 12:32

12. *Knowing and living a life of God given purpose*
 - Psalm 139
 - James 1:5

13. *Having a blessed ministry*
 - Matthew 28:18-20
 - 2 Corinthians 5:20

How To Act In Faith

After faith has been planted like a seed in the heart through hearing and receiving God's Word, it then must be acted upon for God to respond in power. The Bible teaches that for faith to become used by God, it must have a voice. Someone must speak the Word of God in faith.

The human voice is the single greatest weapon we've been given to use by God. Proverbs 18:21 says, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof." We need to learn to speak the Word of God in faith.

In the Gospels, Jesus always spoke with faith-filled words. He spoke the Words of God with faith. And His words always accomplished what He said.

There are two chief places our words come from: faith or fear. Fear comes from the devil and our own humanity; faith comes from God and His Word. Fear leads to death; faith leads to life.

Today, what words do you speak? And where do they come from? Are you speaking words from your fears or are you speaking words from your faith in God?



You may be facing the mountain of sickness. If you speak from your fears you will always be saying things like, "I'm so sick," "I never feel good," or "I'm too sick to ever get better, I'll always be this way." These types of thoughts and attitudes lead to death. Speaking from fear can actually cause things to get worse and even grow to be fatal.

Or, you can speak from faith in God's Word and say things like, "Thank God! Today I am healed by the stripes of Jesus! I'm not going to let this sickness steal my victory, because I'm more than a conqueror in Christ! I receive today the joy of the Lord and it will be my strength! I am HEALED!!" Talking with like this with God's Word will change your world, and you'll see God's power moving on your behalf!

How To Fight The Good Fight of Faith

Now that you have decided to live by faith and change your world, you are going to face trials and tests. You will face situations that may not change in one moment, but you have to keep the faith. The Bible calls keeping your faith in the face of trials and tests, "Fighting the good fight!" [1 Timothy 6:12]



Each day you must determine to "hold on to faith." You must keep speaking to your mountain until it moves. So many people have given up right before their miracle. Hold on and you will experience God's victory!

The Bible says the devil is like a roaring lion. A roaring lion wants to scare you and put fear in your heart. The devil will try to come and make you feel like God has left you and doesn't hear your prayers. He'll try to get you to go back to living in fear. The purpose for the lion roaring is to strike fear in its prey, so that they will "freeze" and not run away.

The devil wants you to "freeze up" with fear, making you an easy target for him to attack. He knows that if you keep living by faith and speaking the Word of God, he is defeated. So he

tries to get you to stop believing in God's Word by telling you his lies filled with fear.

This is what his roar sounds like: "You're not good enough. God can't change you. Your problems are too big. No one cares about you. God may help others, but not you. You've made too many mistakes. Don't believe those preachers, they're just telling you lies to get your money. God doesn't exist. You will always struggle!! You can not change anything!!"



The devil is a liar! When you begin to hear those voices and statements, you can be sure of where they're coming from—the pit of hell! You do not have to receive them. You can stand up and fight against the devil and all his lies. You can stand victorious no matter what weapon comes against you! [Isaiah 54:17]

You must use your words and prayers as weapons against Satan. You must use the Word of God as a sword and defeat all of his lies. When you use the Word of God against the devil, he is no longer a roaring lion, but a toothless, defeated enemy! [Ephesians 6:10-18]

Remember: *your battle is not against people, but the devil.* Though he may use them to try to discourage you, do not believe or listen to their voices. Stand your ground for you will see your miracle!

Now Is The Time!

Use what you've learned in this lesson and begin to apply it to your everyday life. Begin to read the Word of God and let faith grow in your heart. Speak to the mountains you have

in your way and do not stop until those mountains move and are cast into the sea.

The time for God's miracle working power is now! People need to see true disciples in the church consumed with faith filled words that have the power to change the communities they live in! Our families need to see the power of God bring happiness and joy unto them! And each day our very own lives need the power of God through faith to see success and prosperity in every aspect of life! Today, take your place with the men and women of faith and change the world!

Questions:

1. What separated Peter from the other disciples on the boat?
2. What is faith?
3. How can you get faith?
4. What are you to do when you have faith?

5. How do you fight to keep faith?

6. List some mountains in your life that need to be moved.
Try to look beyond just “sins”, go BIG FOR GOD!!!

7. Write a prayer of faith to move your mountains using the Word of God.

Note: Some have erred and taught incorrect things about faith, so this is a disclaimer to what the author believes.

1. *Faith is not more important than God*

- Faith, like love, is a created instrument
- God uses faith to display His power

2. *Operating in faith like Jesus does not make man equal with Jesus*

- Just because we can do what Jesus did, does not make us equal to Jesus
- Jesus is the unique Son of God, the second person of the Trinity

3. *Faith has to be grounded in God's written Word, not man's wants*

- Just because we want something does not mean God is going to give it to us
- Faith has to be birthed in the Bible, not our wish list

4. *Just because we do not see our miracle does not mean we are sinners or less in God's eyes*

- Our faith in relation to our miracle will be a mystery until we get to heaven
- No one should ever feel less spiritual because they failed at moving a mountain or have not yet seen it move, faith is also in perseverance

LESSON 5

Baptism and Communion

Take A Dip!

The Bible teaches that whoever believes in Jesus should be baptized in water. [Matthew 28:19] The word “baptize” means “to submerge in water.” When you gave your life to Jesus, you were submersed by the Holy Spirit into the life of God. Your life was put death and you were given a new life. [1 Corinthians 10:13] All this is because of what Jesus did on the Cross. Water baptism is the outward sign of what God did in your heart. [Romans 6:4]

Being baptized in water is an outward expression of what happened inwardly in your heart and life. The three main parts of baptism can be seen in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, which also correspond to receiving salvation.

Jesus	Baptism	Salvation
1. Death on the cross	1. Coming into the water dry	1. Understanding your sinfulness
2. Burial in tomb	2. Being dipped into the water	2. Repenting of your sins
3. Raising from the dead	3. Coming up from the water wet	3. Receiving a new life

To come to water dry means you are dead and empty in your soul. Then, to be brought into the water and tell your story of how you came to Jesus represents your death to your old life through repentance. When you are dipped in the water, it stands for the burial and removal of your past sinful life. And when you come up out of the water, you are totally wet, signifying your new life in God that totally saturates every part of you.

Yes, You Can Be “Re-Baptized”

Many people were either baptized as a child or were baptized and at some point turned away from God for a time. In both situations it is appropriate and strongly recommended to be baptized again. First, if you were baptized as a child, you did not understand your sinfulness and your need of a Savior, so chances are you weren't even aware of your need for Jesus. Therefore everyone who was baptized as an infant should be baptized again, since they are now old enough to understand their need for a Savior and Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. [Acts 3:19]



Second, if you turned away from God for a time after accepting Jesus into your heart (called “backsliding”), your past good works do not carry over into your new re-commitment. You must make your commitment to Christ again and you should also publicly display your faith by being baptized again. [Ezekiel 33:13]

Backsliding is when someone walks away from the Lord after once being saved. The Bible teaches assurance of salvation for those who continue to put their faith in God, but it also teaches that a person can “fall away” or “ship wreck” their faith. [Luke 8:13 & 1 Timothy 1:19]

When this happens they must do all spiritual things again. Such as REPENT, be BORN-AGAIN, receive the HOLY SPIRIT, and thus they must be BAPTIZED again.

Revelations 2:4-5,

“4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. 5 Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and **do the things you did at first**. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lamp stand from its place.”

Therefore the people in both examples above can be sure that God will not be disappointed or upset to see them baptized again. All of heaven rejoices when a sinner comes to Jesus, whether it's for the 1st time or the 101st time.

Communion

The first communion took place at the Last Supper when Jesus gave His disciples bread and wine and told them it represented His flesh and blood. He then told the disciples to do this often in remembrance of Him. A person can come to church to take communion, or they can take communion individually. (Mark 14:22-24)



The bread and the wine used in Jesus day were common for the meal served at Passover. Passover was a Jewish holiday celebrated in memory of Moses and the Israelites leaving Egypt. The portions of the meal that Jesus

chose were the unleavened bread and the wine.

The unleavened bread was bread made without yeast, which represented a life without sin. The wine was a common drink to have with meals, which symbolized the blood of a perfect sacrifice. (*Note: The wine used would be very different from a*

beer or strong mixed drink like we have today. The Bible forbade people to drink such alcohol. The wine used at dinners was very low in alcoholic content and was primarily used to replace drinking water.] (Proverbs 23:29-32)

Today, any type of bread can be used, but most churches use wafers or crackers. For wine, most use alcoholic-free grape juice. The elements used are not the most important factor in communion, the heart of remembrance is. When a person takes communion either in church or elsewhere, the following principles should always be observed:

First, the Christian should check his or her heart to see if there are any sins that need to be confessed. Second, one must sincerely choose to take the elements with a heart of gratitude and thanksgiving. For someone to do it only out of religious habit would be disrespectful to God. And third, the person taking communion should always have in their heart a sense of God's presence. Taking communion should be a time of drawing closer to God.

You Can Do It!

Please take some time right now and set a reminder for yourself to talk to your leader or pastor about being baptized. Begin to prepare your testimony. A testimony is a simple story about how you came to be a Christian. Testimonies should include the following in a 2-3 minute length of time (1) Who you were before you meet Jesus (2) How you met Jesus (3) What your life has been like since you meet Jesus.



At most baptisms, the pastor desires the new Christians to share their stories with others. In so doing, the new believer who shares their testimony encourages the congregation to continue to pray for others to get saved, and also makes the new believer strong and bold to declare what God has done for them!

After that, keep your heart open for the next time your church or small group takes communion. Join others in a time of remembering your Lord and Savior. Also, feel free to remember Jesus and His death on the Cross by yourself or with your family. Just follow the instructions found in 1 Corinthians 11:23-30, and enjoy a time of “communion” with God during communion.

The things of the church were never meant to be observed in a strict religious fashion. Jesus actually corrected the Jews for doing things for God with this wrong attitude. Learn to develop a strong relationship with God that is based on your love and respect for who He is. He will never turn you away when you desire to be closer to Him!

Questions:

1. What does the word baptize mean?
2. How does baptism relate to Jesus and the cross?
3. Make a day and time to be baptized.
4. What is communion?

5. How should you take communion?

6. Can believers take communion anywhere? Explain.

7. Describe your first communion since becoming a new Christian.

Filled With the Holy Spirit

Pentecost

The Bible records that before Jesus left to go back to heaven, He gave instructions for the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Promise of the Father. Up until this point, the disciples still were not sure if Jesus was going to stay on the earth and rule as a king on the throne of David. [Acts 1]

Jesus was indeed going to rule as a king on the throne of David, but first He wanted to establish the church to bring the message of salvation to the whole world. He had taught the disciples that it was good for Him to go to heaven, because then He could send the Holy Spirit, the third person in the God nature. Jesus describes the Holy Spirit in many ways: the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, and the Promise of the Father. [John 15:15-17; 16:7]



Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would bring the disciples the power they needed to work miracles, the wisdom they needed to preach the Gospel, the comfort they needed to go through trials, and the guidance they would need to know the will of God for every situation.

When Jesus ascended to heaven, the disciples waited for the Promise of the Father to come. On the Jewish Festival Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came into the upper room where the disciples were praying and waiting. When the Holy Spirit arrived, He placed fire upon their heads and they began to

speaking in other tongues and praising God. The disciples, both in their lives and ministry, would never be the same again!

In Acts 2:1-4, the Bible describes that event with these words:

"On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after Jesus' resurrection, the believers were meeting together in one place. ²Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them, and it filled the house where they were meeting.

³Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. "And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability."

After this great outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the disciples went out into the streets and began to testify about the power of God and the Gospel (good news) of Jesus. Peter, who just a week earlier was afraid and embarrassed to admit to being a disciple, began to stand up and preach to the crowds. After he had finished preaching, the people listening were so convicted and in awe of God's power that over 3,000 people became followers of Jesus!

Baptism Of Fire

The event that took place on the Day of Pentecost was precisely what John the Baptist had foretold. John knew that he was sent by God to baptize with water, but that Jesus would come after him and baptize with fire. (Matthew 3:11)



Jesus came into the world to die on the Cross for man's sins and restore mankind back to a right relationship with God the Father. Jesus intended not only to rescue man from His sins,

but to also empower him to live a life full of purpose and supernatural ability.

What happened on Pentecost is for every believer and disciple of Christ. Some scholars try to persuade Christians to believe that the time of miracles is over. They try to propagate the idea that the power and supernatural ability was only for the early church and the chosen few disciples.

This idea could not be further from the truth. Jesus clearly taught that the experience the disciples would have after He left would be the same for all Christians after them, even up unto the end of the world. [Mark 16:15-20]

Jesus intended every believer to be filled with power from on high. Jesus wanted and still desires every Christian to be given the baptism of the Holy Spirit as described in the lives of the disciples and as written in the Book of Acts. [John 14:12]

What Is The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit?

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the born-again spirit of man being submersed and covered in the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in unknown languages. Man is a three-part being: body, soul, and spirit. [1 Thessalonians 5:23] When man comes to Jesus, he is renewed in his spirit and made a new creation. The Holy Spirit is present with the person's spirit, but not yet fully saturated with God's power.

Once the believer has been saved, they are then to ask God to release the Holy Spirit within to bring the rivers of God's presence and power in the individual's life. This is called being "baptized with Holy Spirit." Once the person is totally open to the power of the Holy Spirit, God gives a sign to that person to let them know that they have been filled with the Spirit of God. This is when the person will speak in unknown languages. [John 7:38]

Speaking In Unknown Languages

Speaking in unknown languages can also be referred to as “speaking in tongues.” Speaking in tongues is speaking with your own mouth and ability, but speaking words that come from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit speaks to your spirit and gives it the sounds and words of an unknown language. Only God can understand this language.

The purpose for speaking in other tongues is two-fold. First, speaking in other tongues opens the door to the nine gifts of the Spirit. These gifts enable the believer to be used in the supernatural power of God. Second, praying in the Spirit will build your faith. When you pray in other tongues, the Holy Spirit is able to build your faith and make your faith stronger in the Lord. (Acts 1:8 and Jude 1:20)

Now It's Your Turn!

The Bible is clear that Jesus wants every believer to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and to have the evidence of speaking in other tongues. Here are some Scriptural references of the Lord pouring His Spirit upon all who ask:



- Philip: Acts 8:14-17
- Cornelius' house: Acts 10:44-48
- Paul and John's disciples: Acts 19:1-6

Paul also writes in 1 Corinthians 14:15 that he desires all to speak in tongues. Today, all you have to do is desire to be filled

and consumed by God's Spirit and you will be filled to overflowing!

Here are some helpful steps to follow when seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the ability to speak in other tongues.

1. Confess and believe Jesus to be your Lord and Savior.
2. Remove any known sins, unbelief, and hindrance from your life.
3. Believe and confess that Jesus wants you to be filled with His Holy Spirit.
4. Ask God, in the name of Jesus, to be baptized with the Holy Spirit.
5. Begin to speak the new languages and sounds you hear in your spirit.

What To Do Now?

Once a person has believed, asked, and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues, they are to be open and ready for God to use them to preach the Gospel with signs and wonders following, to pray and intercede for the lost, engage in spiritual warfare against the forces of darkness, and build their faith to move mountains. Scriptural references for these abilities are:



- *Preach the Gospel with signs and wonders following:* Matthew 10:7-8
- *Intercede for the lost:* Romans 8:26
- *Spiritual Warfare:* Ephesians 6
- *Build Faith:* Jude 1:20

Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to be upon every believer to accomplish the purposes stated above. Today, let the Holy Spirit fill and submerge you in God's power. Don't just read about what the early church did, go and follow in their footsteps. The Holy Spirit has an unlimited amount of power and resources to give to you. With Him on our side, there's nothing that you can't do. Ask today to be filled the Holy Spirit and begin to daily speak in tongues, and then get ready to see your life be set on fire and totally consumed by the Holy Spirit!

Questions:

1. What was the day of Pentecost?
2. What is the Promise of the Father?
3. What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

4. What is speaking in “other tongues”?

5. What are the reasons Jesus wants every believer baptized in the Holy Spirit?

7. Take some time right now to ask and receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues! Then make an effort to pray at least five minutes a day using this new gift from God!

Note: Some are confused when they read 1 Corinthians 12-14. They tend to believe that speaking in other tongues is only for a certain few and can only be spoken when there is an interpreter giving an interpretation.

This idea about speaking in tongues is incorrect because the reader is confusing the “baptism of the Holy Spirit” with the evidence of speaking in other of tongues, and the gifts of “speaking in tongues” and “interpretation of tongues,” which are two separate spiritual gifts.

Jesus wants everyone to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and speak with other tongues. The baptism of the Holy Spirit, being poured out upon all believers, can be clearly seen throughout the book of Acts. However, the “gift of tongues,” meant for every believer, is only to be used when there is an interpreter that is present so those listening can understand the tongues.

In contrast, the tongues spoken due to the “baptism of the Holy Spirit” are not to be interpreted, but only to be spoken to God in prayer. This kind of tongues is not to be spoken to people or used to bless them, but spoken to God to be understood only by Him.

The twelve gifts of the Spirit are for everyone, and they are meant to bless others. Therefore, if someone is being used to speak in tongues to another individual, there should be an interpreter present in order for the other individual listening to know what God is saying to him or her.

When the gift of tongues is used in a public setting, they should only be spoken if there is someone present to interpret what is being said to the others. Otherwise, there would be confusion and no one would know what God is saying through the tongues.

Sharing Your Faith

The Greatest

Almost everyone wants to do something great in this life. Many want to leave a mark people will remember them by after they die. For example, great skyscrapers are built in people's names, like "Trump Tower." Actors can also achieve a form of greatness by having their names written on stars that are placed in the sidewalk. Even athletes can achieve greatness by having their jersey and number retired or having their names written in the Hall of Fame for their particular sport.

Have you ever thought how you would want to be remembered after you die? What would you want to leave as your legacy? What would be your mark left on this earth?



Some would say they want to have a lot of money and to be remembered as a wealthy person. Some want their books to be left behind so that everyone can know how brilliant they were. Others want to be known for the love they showed their family and how they were always good to those they loved.

Some people's goals and dreams may seem very noble and honorable, but they fall short of greatness when compared with eternity. The Bible describes the soul of just one man as being more valuable than the whole world. [Mark 8:36] The

Bible declares that the greatest purpose a man or woman can achieve upon this earth is to be a soul winner. (John 3:16)

All of mankind's achievements will one day be forgotten, but the soul of a man will live forever. When you and I share our faith in God with others, we are impacting their souls for all of eternity. When in heaven you see those you have helped meet Jesus and you know that God used you to bring them to Him, you will have a reward that will last forever. Truly, sharing your faith with your family, friends, co-workers, community, and the world is the single greatest thing you can do for God in His Kingdom upon this earth. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Who, Me? Yes, YOU!

You may think that you're not called to be a "preacher" of some kind or leader in the church. You may think that you can be just fine going to church and living your life as you see best. You may even think it's important that the message of Jesus to be shared with the world, but that God will use someone else besides you to do it. Please read again the "Great Commission" in the Bible found in Matthew 28:18-20:



¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Can you see how Jesus intended His church to work? First, Jesus spent His time teaching and training His original twelve disciples, then He sent them out to make new disciples and

for them to teach the next group of disciples to do the same thing they did. This is called the “Law of Multiplication.”

Lets use the number twelve to demonstrate this Law. If each of the twelve disciples made twelve new disciples, that would equal 144 total disciples. And if 144 disciples made twelve new disciples, there would be 1,728 disciples. Finally, those 1,728 individuals



each make twelve new disciples, that would now make 20,736 disciples! Then 248,832, 2,985,984, and so on. Just think: *it only has to start with twelve!* And all each person would have to do is reach twelve others. Do you have enough faith today to believe that you can reach and teach just twelve people for Jesus!?

Therefore, God makes it very clear in the Bible who He wants to use to win the lost and spread His message of salvation: ***YOU!*** Jesus taught everyone who was listening to His messages that they were to go out into the world and be His witnesses. Jesus said that we, as Christians, were to be the “light of the world” and the “salt of the earth.” (Matthew 5:13-16)

God Wants You To Share His Message!

What if the entire world was infected with the HIV virus, and you were one of the few that had the cure. Would you keep the cure only for yourself or would you share it with others? What if you were in an apartment building that was on fire and you were one of the first to notice it. Would you only run and save yourself or would you warn the other tenants to run to safety?

Jesus said there was a place called hell for those who died as sinners. Jesus said hell would be a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth. He said in hell the fire never goes out and a worm eats the flesh for all of eternity. What are you going to do to help people not go there!?! (Matthew 9:44 and 13:42)

Jesus came to die on the Cross and bring salvation to mankind so that they might be saved from this destruction. God says He desires all to be saved and for none to perish. He wants all of mankind to be born again and have a part in His everlasting kingdom.

Jesus commanded His first disciples to go into the entire world and share the life changing messaging of His salvation. He then told them to teach their new disciples to go and do the same. Jesus said He would not come back and judge the world until everyone had heard the message at least once. You have a part to play! If you don't warn them, God says their blood will be on your hands! (Ezekiel 3:18 and Acts 20:26-27)

What's Really Important?

Many people don't understand how special each person is to God. The Bible says that God is our Shepherd, and as our Shepherd if He had 100 sheep and one was missing, He'd leave the other 99 and go find the one. God so loved the world that He sent His only Son—Jesus—to come and die on the Cross so that all who believe in Him would have eternal life and not perish! (Matthew 18:12 and John 3:16)



Today, the media wants you to think success is measured in how much money you possess, or how much fame and popularity you have, or the amount of power and influence you exert. That's why many people enter into politics, entertainment, humanitarian efforts, etc. But the truth is that whatever man does here on this earth for selfish gain will stay on this earth and eventually be forgotten and destroyed. (James 1:11)

After Jesus returns, no one will care who built the biggest building, or who had the most money, or who loved their family the most, or who gave the most to charities, or who hit a golf ball the farthest. Only what was done for Jesus will be remembered in heaven.

Those who desire to win souls will have heavenly rewards that will last forever. Though there are many good things to do here on earth, the best is to love God and teach others to do the same. The greatest gift a father or mother can give their children is the message of God's love and salvation. (Proverbs 22:6)

What would it benefit a child if his father always loved him, provided for his every need, but never taught him how to receive eternal life. What would it benefit "Lil' Johnny" if his dad gave him the whole world, but never gave Him Jesus!?

Of course God wants you to have a job, a family, hobbies, and success in all you do, but never forget your number one priority in life: ***"To know Jesus and to make Him known!"***

Heaven's Bank Account

What will be Jesus' words to you concerning your life here on earth? Will He reward you for your faithfulness to spread His love and message of salvation, or

will He let you into His heaven alone and show you all the people you could have brought with you?

What will Bill Gates say and do on that day? Will he say, "Jesus, its so nice to meet you. Sorry, I didn't believe in you and share your love with others, but here is 75 billion dollars. Please let me in". What will Michael Jackson say on that day? "Hello, Jesus, I always knew you were real, but I was to shy to talk and sing about you, so here are my number one hits and gold albums. Please let me into heaven."



Do you honestly think any of those things will matter on that day? Please don't misunderstand me. We don't go to heaven because we preached the Word of God. Many people have preached the Word of God and have not gone to heaven because their life was full of all kinds of evil. Nor am I saying we can earn our salvation by spreading God's love. We could spread God's love and still never be "good enough" for heaven. Heaven and salvation are free gifts given to us by God because of Jesus' death on the Cross.

What I'm saying is that a true disciple will make disciples. Jesus Himself said that if you were truly connected to Him, then you would bear fruit. Though we cannot earn our salvation, it's fair to say that we will be judged as to how "genuine" our salvation is based on our love for others. Please read John 15:1-8:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the

branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.³ You have already been pruned for greater fruitfulness by the message I have given you.

⁴Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful apart from me.

⁵"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.⁶ Anyone who parts from me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.

⁷But if you stay joined to me and my words remain in you, you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted!⁸My true disciples produce much fruit. This brings great glory to my Father."

What To Do

Here are a dozen helpful steps to follow when sharing your faith with others:

1. Pray for those you know need Jesus.
2. Pray that you will have boldness and the right words to speak when you talk about Jesus.
3. Always talk about who God is based on the Bible, not the opinions of yourself or others.
4. Never feel like you have to "make people believe."
5. Don't focus on people's sin, but rather on God's grace.
6. Share your story and how you became a Christian.
7. Use words and examples that are easy to understand concerning God's love and His judgment.

8. Don't feel like you have to know everything and answer everyone's questions.
9. Take time to listen to others and what they have to say.
10. Ask to pray with those you talk to.
11. Never give up; some people get saved after many discussions about God.
12. Always leave the door open to meet again and talk about Jesus.

How To Preach

Here are seven essential steps to begin your ministry in reaching others for Jesus Christ:



1. **God loves the world and has a purpose for every person:** *Talk about God's love for the world and His great plan to be with them again in heaven. [John 3:16]*
2. **Because of man's sins and unbelief, man is separated from God and His great plan:** *Help the person realize that they have committed sin. [Romans 3:23]*
3. **Jesus came to die on the Cross to connect man back to God:** *Talk about what Jesus did by dieing on the cross. [John 3:16]*
4. **When a person believes in Jesus, He is brought back to God:** *Teach the person that only by faith in Jesus alone*

can they be made right with God, not by their good works.
(John 3:16)

5. **God wants to have a personal relationship with you every day:** *Let them know that they can start a new life with Jesus by faith today.* (Revelations 3:20)
6. **Ask them if they want to pray with you to have a relationship with God:** *Teach the person to pray to God and ask for forgiveness of their sins, for the Holy Spirit to come into their life, and to confess they believe in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.* (Romans 10:9)
7. **Assure them that they will one day be with Jesus forever:** *Teach them to be 100% sure of their salvation and place in heaven.* (2 Corinthians 5:8)

Try to follow these steps as best as you can and most importantly be led by God's Spirit to express the message of Christ's salvation the way that is best for each person. Remember, God will use any and every person who asks to be used to share the message of the Gospel.



God will surprise you by how much He can do through you if you just become obedient and give Him the chance. The world is hurting, and Jesus is the healer: ***Go give them Jesus!*** The world is lost and Jesus is the Way: ***Go show them Jesus!*** The world is dying and Jesus is the life: ***Go bring them Jesus! Start today!***

Questions:

1. How do some people want to be remembered?
2. What is the greatest thing you can do in this life?
3. Who does God want to use to spread His message?
4. Describe from the passage about the “vine” how it applies to winning people to Christ.
5. Name some things you can do to share Jesus with others.
6. Make a list of those you know with whom you can share the Gospel.
7. Set up dates, times, and the methods you will use to share Jesus with those who are unbelievers.

What We Believe

1. **The Scriptures are inspired by God** and declare His design and plan for mankind. [2 Timothy 3:15-17]
2. **There is only one True God**, revealed in three persons...Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (commonly known as the Trinity). [1 John 1:3-4]
3. **The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ**. As God's son, Jesus was both human and divine. [Matthew 1:23; 1 Peter 2:22]
4. **Though originally good, Man willingly fell into sin**, ushering evil and death, both physical and spiritual, into the world. [Romans 5:12-19]
5. **Every person can have restored fellowship with God through salvation** (accepting Christ's offer of forgiveness for sin). [Romans 10:13-15]
6. **The practice of two ordinances**: [1] Water baptism by immersion after repenting of one's sins and receiving Christ's gift of salvation, and [2] Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) as a symbolic remembrance of Christ's suffering and death for our salvation. [Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:26]
7. **The Baptism in the Holy Spirit** is a special experience following salvation that empowers believers for witnessing and effective service, just as it did in New Testament times. [Acts 1:4,8]
8. **The initial physical evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is 'Speaking in Tongues,'** as experienced on the Day of Pentecost and referenced throughout Acts and the Epistles. [Acts 2:4]
9. **Sanctification initially occurs at salvation** and is not only a declaration that a believer is holy, but also a progressive lifelong process of separating from evil as believers continually draw closer to God and become more Christ-like. [Romans 12:1-2]
10. **The Church has a mission to seek and to save all who are lost in sin.** We believe 'the Church' is the Body of Christ and consists of the people who, throughout time, have accepted God's offer of redemption (regardless of religious denomination) through the sacrificial death of His Son Jesus Christ. [Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:22]

11. **A divinely called and Scripturally ordained leadership** ministry serves the Church. The Bible teaches that each of us, under leadership, must commit ourselves to reach others for Christ, to worship Him with other believers, and to build up or edify the body of believers, the Church. (Mark 16:15-20; John 4:23-24; Ephesians 4:11-16)
12. **Divine healing of the sick** is a privilege for Christians today and is provided for in Christ's atonement (His sacrificial death on the cross for our sins). (James 5:14-16)
13. **In "The Blessed Hope"**: When Jesus raptures His church prior to His return to earth (the second coming). At this future moment in time, all believers who have died will rise from their graves and will meet the Lord in the air, and Christians who are alive will be caught up with them, to be with the Lord forever. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52)
14. **In The millennial reign of Christ** when Jesus returns with His saints at His second coming and begins His benevolent rule over earth for 1,000 years. At that time, many in the nation of Israel will recognize and accept Him as the Messiah, the Savior who died for them and all mankind. (Revelation 19:11-14)
15. **A final judgment** will take place for those who have rejected Christ. They will be judged for their sin and consigned to eternal punishment in a literal lake of fire. (Revelation 20:11-15, 21:8)
16. **We look forward to the perfect New Heavens and a New Earth** that Christ is preparing for all people, of all time, who have accepted Him. We will live and dwell with Him there forever following His millennial reign on earth. 'And so shall we forever be with the Lord!' (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21-22)

*For more information, please visit
www.metropraise.org/beliefs*

Resources

Here are some great online links to get you started in your new walk with Jesus.

Online Bibles

- www.biblegateway.com
- www.onlinebible.net

Apologetics (Defense of the Faith & Questions About God)

- www.johnankerberg.org
- www.carm.org
- www.gotquestions.org

Evolution vs. Creation

- www.answersingenesis.org
- www.creationevidence.org

End Times Events

- www.jvim.org - Jack Van Impe
- www.hallindseyoracle.org - Hal Lindsey

Great Preaching

- www.heartlandfamily.com - Steve Hill
- www.god.tv - Online Christian TV
- www.worldchallenge.org - David Wilkerson

