

BACK COVER

FRONT COVER



THE
GOSPEL
OF
JOHN

WITH INSPIRATIONAL COMMENTARY

IF YOU DIED
TONIGHT
ARE YOU
100% SURE
THAT YOU'D
GO TO HEAVEN?

THE PROMISES CONTAINED IN THIS BOOK
CAN GUARANTEE THAT YOU WILL.

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This booklet is prepared by the folks at God 411,
a non-denominational Christian organization.

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INTRODUCTION

First things first, we decided to use the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible for its easy reading. We would recommend using the NIV until you feel comfortable with scripture and then try switching to the King James Version (KJV). The KJV and NIV are the two most read versions of the Bible in the world.

Near the end of Mozart's life, he was asked how he writes music so perfectly on his first try. He said that God puts the music in his head and he just writes it down. The Gospel of John is very similar to this. As with the entire Bible, the Gospel of John is completely Holy Spirit-inspired.

Many new believers wonder where to start. If you are a new believer in Jesus Christ, this is a great first step on your journey. Read this booklet several times as a starting point then move on to the entire Bible. The Gospel of John, the New and Old Testaments, the entire Bible, all point to Jesus Christ. Even if you have been a believer for some time, this booklet will help you to grow in your walk with Jesus Christ.

If you have not accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, wouldn't you want to know if what you now believe is wrong? The first step in finding God is to seek Him. One will rarely find something they are not looking for. God tells the people of Israel in Jeremiah 29:13-14 "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you."

Jesus confirmed God's words to the prophet Jeremiah when, in Matthew 7:7-8, He said, "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

Your journey with God will start with faith. The Gospel of John moves us beyond faith. It proves conclusively that Jesus is the Son of God and that all who believe in Him will have eternal life. As you read on, ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you are reading.

INTRODUCTION CONTINUED

What you will find out shortly is that God loves us so much that He made a way for us to not only be able to know with complete certainty of His existence, but also to be able to commune with Him as well as to be positive that we will be spending our eternity in Heaven with Him.

After you finish reading this pocket-sized guide into eternity, you will have the answer to the most important question you will ever ask yourself, "What must I do to spend my eternity in the Paradise Jesus has prepared for me?"

As you read through the Gospel of John, you will come to the culmination of everything the entire Bible leads us to. Chapter 20 verse 31 tells us the purpose of John's Gospel, "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

The Gospel of John is unique among the four Gospels. Matthew, Mark and Luke are known as the Synoptic Gospels and are very similar (up to 80%). Over 90% of the Gospel of John is exclusive to his Gospel. Every chapter reveals the deity of Jesus. Since Jesus is God's Son, we can perfectly trust what He says and we can gain insight into what God's purpose is in our lives.

The Gospel of John was written about the year 85-90 AD, so it was written about 60 years after the crucifixion. John gives us a personal, powerful look at Jesus Christ. He makes it very clear that Jesus is not just a man, but the Son of God. He provides evidence that Jesus Christ is the light of the world and offers the free gift of eternal life to everyone, everywhere.

Remember, John was an eye-witness to everything he writes about. Enjoy reading about Jesus from someone who saw everything first-hand. From Jesus' best friend (the disciple who Jesus loved) and relative. From someone who knew that through Jesus we see the mind of God. John reveals to us the truth of Jesus Christ. Enjoy the journey.

1 THE WORD BECAME FLESH

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was with God in the beginning.

3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'")

16 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.

17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

JOHN THE BAPTIST DENIES BEING THE MESSIAH

19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was.

20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

24 Now the Pharisees who had been sent

THE LIGHT

5 Light and darkness are recurring themes in the Gospel of John. He uses darkness to refer to the realm of spiritual evil. It is the hostile satanic world system that is in opposition to God and His children (the light). People will either love the light or the darkness and whichever they choose, it will control their actions.

As believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, we are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). The smallest candle can scatter the darkness and all of the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the smallest of flames. Generation after generation, Jesus' light still shines despite the efforts of men living in the darkness to extinguish it.

GRACE AND TRUTH

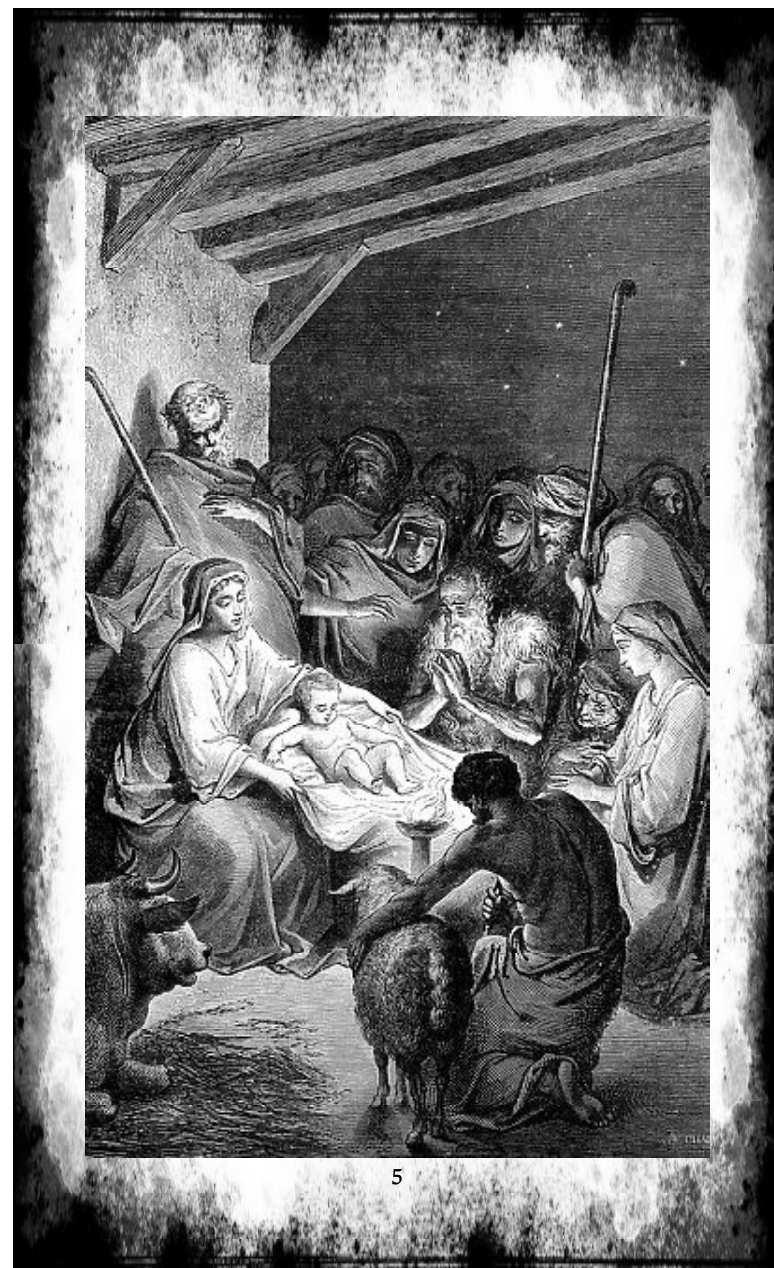
17 Grace is a wonderful gift from God. It is absolutely free. It is also absolutely undeserved. We can never earn it or achieve it ourselves. The fact that God came among us to live and die the most painful of deaths for all humanity, all the while knowing there will be many who hate, mock, lie, and worse, is not something humanity deserved. It was a pure act of love on the part of God. Grace transforms us.

Truth is also a wonderful gift from God. Jesus did not come to talk to men about God. He came to show men what God is like. He communicates truth. He told his disciples if they followed Him they would know the truth. Jesus left us with a Spirit to guide us in the truth. Truth transforms us. Many love grace, but hate the truth. God gives us grace. He also enables us to see the truth through His Holy Spirit.

SHOWING THE WAY

23 All believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ are like John the Baptist. God has chosen us. It is our duty to reflect the light of Jesus to an unbelieving world. To point everyone to Jesus Christ.

Each of us has a task that God has put us here to do. God has prepared us all for something, usually based on the experiences in our lives. When God calls us, we need to be ready to answer the call.



THE WORD BECAME FLESH

John 1:14 describes the most magnificent event in all of history. It is the moment God came out of eternity to become human and break the curse of sin.

To do this, Jesus Christ would come into this world the same way we all did, through birth. He would grow up as a child, then into a teenager, then an adult, and on into His ministry.

Along His journey, He would teach us everything we would need in order to live life. He would show us how to love. He would demonstrate kindness. He would display compassion. He taught us how to pray, how to be humble, and how to treat our enemies. He informed us about forgiveness and serving others.

The most important reason Jesus became flesh was to shed His blood to forgive our sin once and forever. You see, God's Law requires the shedding of blood for sin. Jesus could not do this unless He became flesh.

When the "Word" became flesh, He did not stop being God. He was not half God and half human. Jesus Christ, the Word, was fully God and fully human.

This was the moment that the Old Testament prophecies about the messiah were fulfilled in One person. The moment that began the life that would change all of human history.

Jesus Christ lived the only perfect life. The only life ever lived without sin. Thereby becoming the means by which all people can have their sins forgiven, past, present, and future. See page 111 to learn how to have your sins forgiven.

As a result of Jesus, the Word becoming flesh, we all can experience God's glory, God's mercy, God's love, God's truth, and finally, God's grace. Have you accepted the forgiveness Jesus Christ offers? It is an absolutely free gift from God.

1 25 questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"
26 "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know.
27 He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."
28 This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

JOHN TESTIFIES ABOUT JESUS

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
30 This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'
31 I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."
32 Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.
33 And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'
34 I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

JOHN'S DISCIPLES FOLLOW JESUS

35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples.
36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"
37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.
38 Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"
39 "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.
40 Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.
41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).
42 And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

JESUS CALLS PHILIP AND NATHANAEL

43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."
44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.

THE SPIRIT

32 After we accept the forgiveness Jesus offers, the Holy Spirit does three things for us. 1.) He brings us the truth of God and illuminates our lives. We become part of the light and not the darkness. We will know God and His will. We will know what life is all about and where our duty lies. 2.) He brings us the power to recognize the truth when we see it. Your life is strengthened. The Spirit gives you not only the knowledge to know what is right, but the power to do it. 3.) He brings us the ability and courage to preach the truth to others. If you are preaching the truth about Jesus Christ to others, there should be no doubt that you are Spirit filled.

OUR PURPOSE

37 Once John's disciples and then Jesus' disciples realized who He was, they knew their purpose. If you let God know your willingness to serve Him, follow Him, and obey Him, He will guide you to your purpose.

Like John the Baptist and Andrew, we need to be humble and loyal. Like them, we should not keep Jesus to ourselves. We need to remind ourselves daily that we were not saved so we would go to Heaven alone.

THE INTRODUCTION

40 We meet Andrew three times in the Gospel of John and each time he is bringing someone to Jesus.

Many in the Church think they need some kind of special skill to evangelize to someone and that this gift is reserved for an exclusive few.

Here we are shown that really all we need to do is make the introduction. We must trust the Holy Spirit to work in the person's heart.

The duty is ours to introduce others to Jesus Christ. The results are God's.

1 45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."
46 "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. Come and see," said Philip.
47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."
48 "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."
49 Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."
50 Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that."
51 He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.'"

2 Jesus CHANGES WATER INTO WINE

1 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,
2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.
3 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."
4 "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."
5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."
6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.
7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.
8 Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so,
9 and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside
10 and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."
11 What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.
12 After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

Jesus CLEARS THE TEMPLE COURTS

13 When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

THE REAL YOU

48 Jesus knows us before we ever meet Him and accept Him as our Lord and Savior. With Jesus, you cannot pretend to be someone or something that you are not. He knows who you really are, the real you. And he is waiting for you with open arms, waiting to forgive every sin you have ever committed.

THE LADDER

51 Jesus is the ladder between Heaven and Earth. He is the One, the only One, through whom a person can have fellowship with and access to God.

THE PROBLEM SOLVER

3 We all have issues in our lives. Whether it is running out of wine at our wedding, being tempted with sin, stress, addiction, grief, depression, or anything else, Jesus can solve our problems. Rather than trying to solve our problems by ourselves, we must cry out to Jesus and be willing to do whatever He tells us to.

EVERY MINUTE

5 Just as Mary tells the servants to, "do whatever He tells you," we must do the same. Rather than question what God tells us to do, our reaction must be to listen to Him. Even though, like the servants, many times we do not know what God's plan is for us, we must be ready to obey Him every minute. Ask yourself, are you ready to do what He says no matter the cost?

KINDNESS AND UNDERSTANDING

9 Just as Mary came to Jesus with a problem and Jesus handled it, we should let Jesus handle all of our problems. Jesus saved a young couple from a huge embarrassment with a simple act of kindness and understanding. As we continually look to Jesus, this is a wonderful example of how we can show others we are followers of Jesus . . . kindness and understanding.



THE FIRST MIRACLE

As with most everything about God there is a significance and a purpose to what He does and how He does it. Take for example the location of Israel itself. Remember, the Promised Land (aka Israel) is much larger than the country of Israel today. God put it where it is so that people traveling around the world, from Asia to Europe, from Europe to Africa, from Africa to Asia would have to pass through Israel and hear about Him.

There are many deeper meanings, purposes, and significance to Jesus' first miracle. This entire booklet could be filled and still not cover all the symbolism of the first miracle. The third day, the wine, the grape vine, the water, the six water pots, the wedding, and more. As with most of John's Gospel they all have deeper meaning and point beyond.

Here we see how John so carefully chooses his words to the point of mentioning that the pots were "filled to the brim" with water so there could be no mistake as to the contents.

There is quite a significant comparison to Jesus' first miracle here and Moses. The first miracle that God did through Moses was turning of water into blood, which led to him leading his people out of bondage in Egypt. The turning of water into wine symbolizes taking God's people out of the bondage of sin in this world. The signs that God gave to Egypt in the Old Testament were plagues, death, and destruction. The signs and miracles that Jesus did in the New Testament were blessings, joy, healings, and life.

Like Mary, we need to submit to Jesus' way of doing things and things will be better than you could ever expect. One of the main takeaways we need to learn from Jesus' first miracle is that whenever Jesus comes into one's life there comes a new quality to it. It is no longer dull, flat, uninteresting, and boring. With Jesus, life becomes vivid, thrilling, exciting, and joyful. Wherever Jesus is, it is like water has been turned into wine.

2 14 In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.
15 So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.
16 To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!"
17 His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."
18 The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?"
19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."
20 They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?"
21 But the temple he had spoken of was his body.
22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.
23 Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name.
24 But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people.
25 He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

3 Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

1 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council.
2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."
3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."
4 "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"
5 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.
6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.
7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'
8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."
9 "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.
10 "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?"

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO

15 Remember when someone asks, "What would Jesus do?" taking a whip and turning over tables is not out of the bounds of possibility. We do need to keep in mind it is one thing to get angry about injustice and sin, but we are not supposed to get angry over trivial personal offenses.

Jesus cleared the temple in this way because the House of God at the time was being desecrated in many ways. It is also possible that He did this to show that the act of animal sacrifice will become irrelevant.

GROWTH

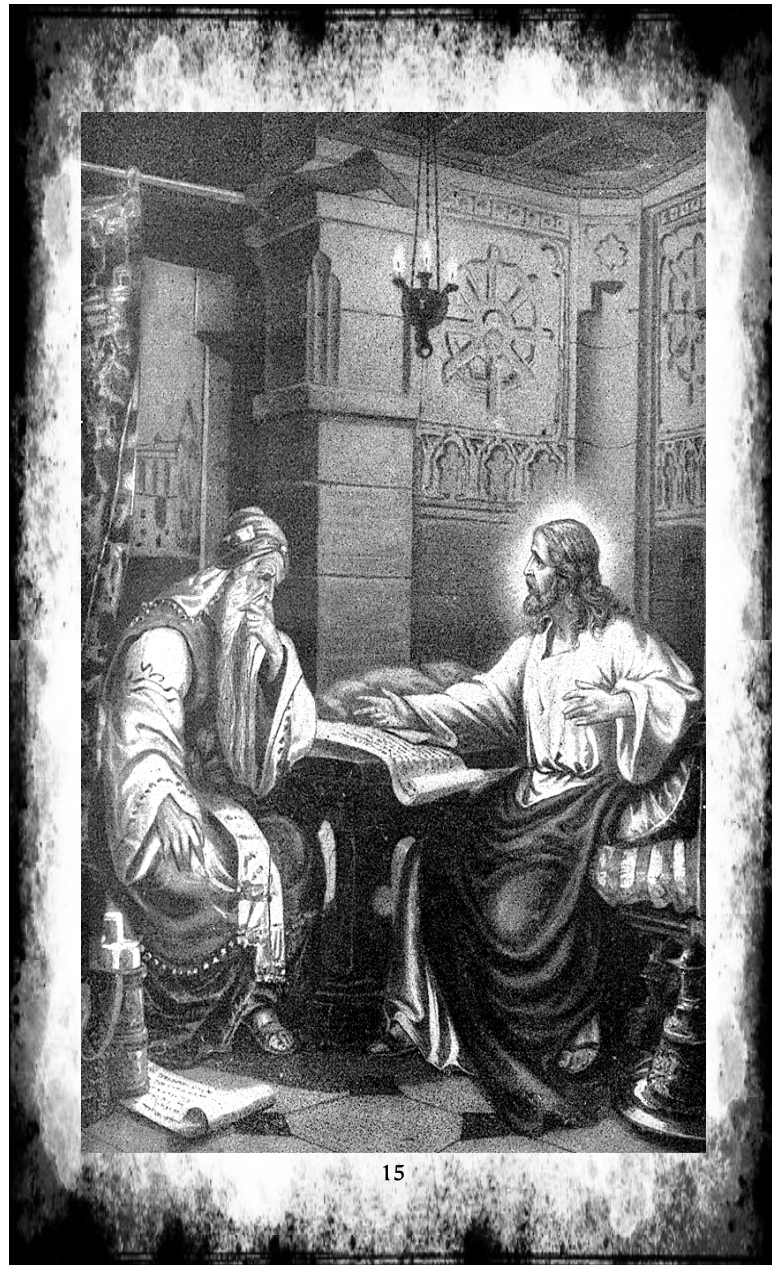
2 The story of Nicodemus tells us many things. First, he could have sent one of his assistants to visit Jesus, but he went himself. Just like Nicodemus, we cannot have others examine Jesus for us, and as we will see later, if we truly believe who He is, like Nicodemus will do, we will want to speak up for Jesus.

Second, the story of Nicodemus shows us that God specializes in finding and changing people that we consider out of reach. Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin, both of which wanted to do away with Jesus.

Third, we learn that God does not expect perfection instantly, but He does expect steady growth. The first mention of Nicodemus is when he is coming to Jesus under cover of night. The next time he is mentioned he is speaking up for Jesus when the Jewish Council is trying to get rid of Jesus. Finally, he joins Joseph of Arimathea in asking for Jesus' body after He is crucified. Are you growing?

BORN AGAIN

3 Like the Trinity, the "born again" concept can be a difficult one for some, but is critical for understanding the Gospel. The Greek phrase can also mean "born from above." As children inherit the attributes of their parents, so will those who are born again inherit God's qualities.



UNDER COVER OF NIGHT

Once again, we see a deeper significance and purpose to what is written in The Gospel of John. Throughout his Gospel, we see John contrast the light and the darkness. Here John records that Nicodemus came to Jesus "at night." Night here literally means darkness. This is a reference to the current darkness is Nicodemus' heart.

Something should be noted here. While this booklet is written in the NIV, in the KJV, when thee (or thou) is used it is referring to a specific individual or group of individuals. When Ye is used, it is indicating everyone.

In John 3:7 in the KJV, Jesus says, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." Notice how Jesus changes from thee as He is talking to Nicodemus, to ye as He is referring to who must be born again. Everyone.

Again, the concept of rebirth discussed by Jesus is essential for understanding the Gospel. This new birth is directly from God. It causes a great change of heart in the sinner through the power of the Holy Spirit. We cannot do this ourselves. It is not by our own works.

The Bible makes it very clear that in order to be saved, we must be born again. To be "born again" means one will become spiritually alive, redeemed, and remade through God's grace via Jesus' death on the cross.

All who want to be born again first and foremost must believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross and was resurrected. We need to agree that we have sinned and need to be saved. We need to confess our sins, turn from sin, and accept the free gift of salvation that God offers us through Jesus Christ.

The ultimate consequence for those who reject Jesus Christ will be their eternal condemnation. There is no middle ground. Jesus told us in Matthew 12:30, "Whoever is not with me is against me." Are you with Jesus?

3 11 Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.
12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?
13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.
14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,
15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”
16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.
18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.
19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.
20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.
21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight

JOHN TESTIFIES AGAIN ABOUT JESUS

22 After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized.
23 Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized.
24 (This was before John was put in prison.)
25 An argument developed between some of John’s disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing.
26 They came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him.”
27 To this John replied, “A person can receive only what is given them from heaven.
28 You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.’
29 The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom’s voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete.
30 He must become greater; I must become less.”
31 The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST TEXT

16 The entire message of the Gospel comes into focus with John 3:16. This is the standard for all relationships in the world. If you truly love someone you will be willing to give freely of everything to the point of self-sacrifice.

When we share the Gospel with others, our love must be like Jesus'. We must be willing to give up our own comfort and security so that others can know what we have.

This verse tells us that God initiated all salvation. It tells us He loved the whole world, not just Israelis, or Christians, or tall people, or sports fans, but the whole world. Everyone. It is a free gift from God. The word 'believe' in this verse is not meant as casual agreement or a matter of passive opinion, but decisive and obedient action as well as complete trust and reliance upon and commitment to Jesus Christ.

WHY THERE IS EVIL

19-20 When someone asks you why there is evil in the world, here is the answer. Many people don't want their lives exposed to Jesus' light. They are afraid of what it will reveal.

DEVOTION

25 Unfortunately, there will always be those who nit-pick and look for points of disagreement. They will sow the seeds of doubt and discord. When this happens, we should follow John the Baptist's lead and rather than argue over trivial matters, show our devotion to Jesus Christ and what He has done for us.

TRULY HUMBLE

30 In Matthew 11:11 Jesus declares "Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist." Here we have someone who the Son of God calls the greatest human to ever live and he is humble enough to know that he must make way for Jesus and point people to Jesus rather than to himself.

3 32 He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony.
33 Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is truthful.
34 For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.
35 The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands.
36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

4 JESUS TALKS WITH A SAMARITAN WOMAN

1 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John—
2 although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples.
3 So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.
4 Now he had to go through Samaria.
5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph.
6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.
7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"
8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)
9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)
10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."
11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?"
12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"
13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, have to keep coming here to draw water."
14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."
16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."
17 "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband.

GOD'S WRATH

36 Throughout the Bible Israel is given a choice over and over again to follow God. They regularly make the wrong decision and end up paying for their choice. We have that same choice. Believing, obeying, and following God is not a matter of an indifferent viewpoint, but a truly devoted life.

God loves us and is very patient with us, but eventually His patience runs out and His wrath will culminate on the sinner in the eventual judging and punishment of sin. Whoever rejects Jesus will see God's wrath. It is often asked how can a loving God pour out His wrath on those He loves. A man brings this wrath upon himself.

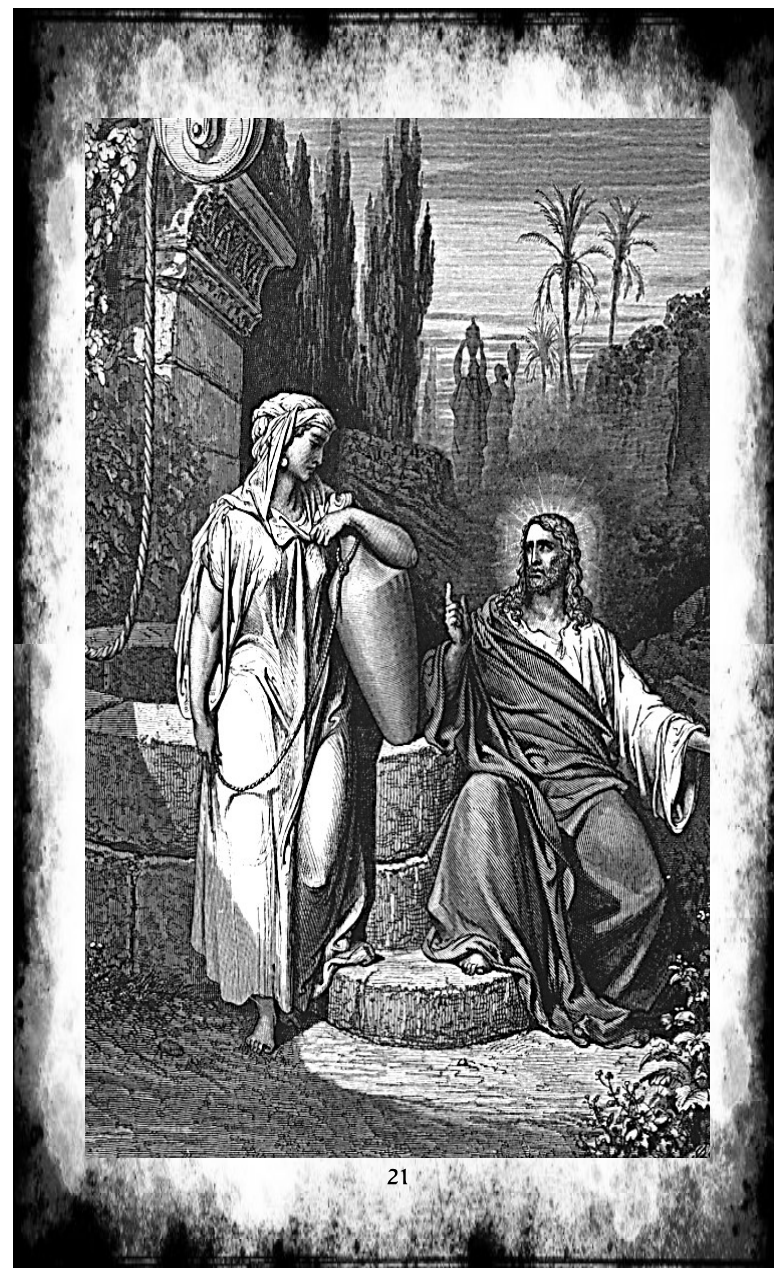
GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

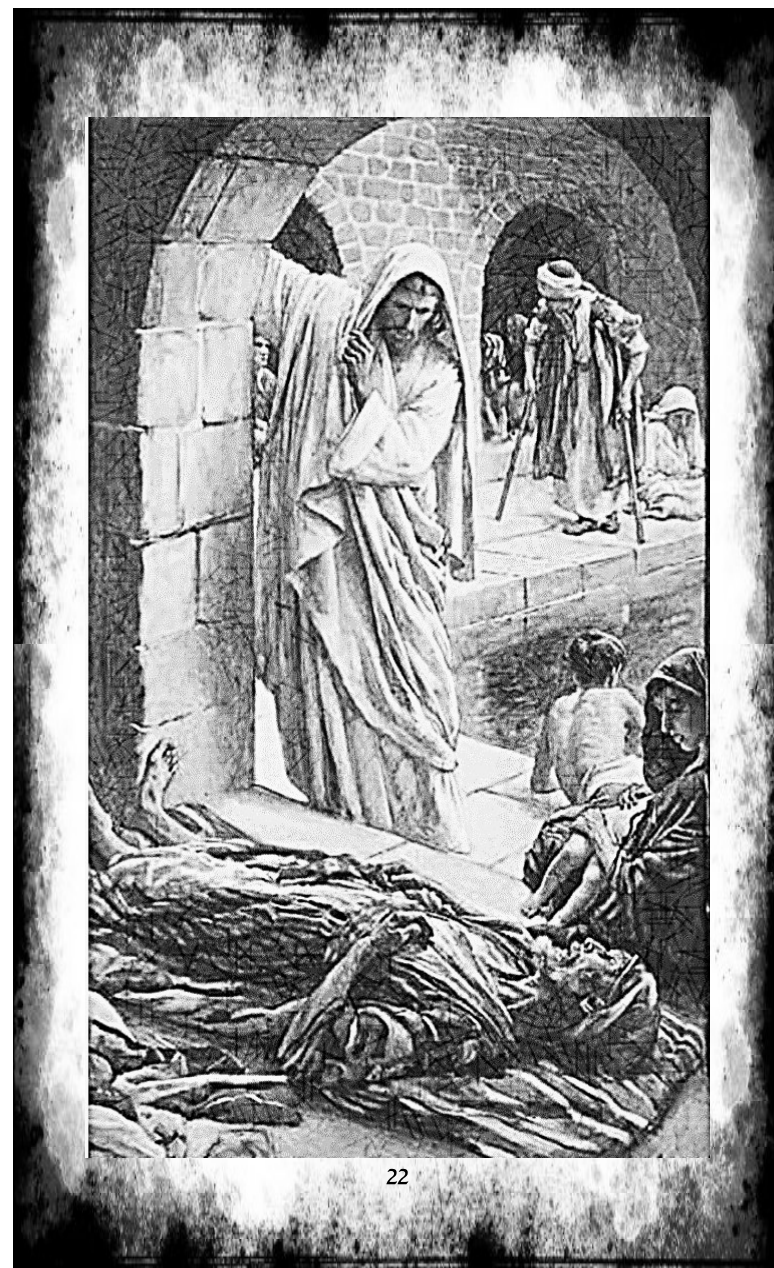
7 The story of the Samaritan woman at the well shows us that the Gospel is for every person no matter their race, nationality, social position, or past sins. This story shows us the beginnings of God so loved the world, not just the Jewish people. Jesus crossed all social barriers at the time to talk to this woman and share the Good News with her. As followers of Jesus, we must be prepared to do the same at any place and at any time.

This is truly what you would call a Divine Appointment. God puts everybody in our path for a reason. Your Divine Appointment is whoever is standing in front of you at the time.

LIVING WATER

7-10 Jesus is the only one who can quench our thirst for God. He sets the example for us here as He guides the conversation to eternal life. As happens many times when we share Jesus with others, the Samaritan woman did not immediately understand what Jesus was referring to. Sharing Jesus with others does not always have instant results. It is said it can take anywhere from 7-14 times for someone to hear about Jesus before they are willing to accept the Living Water He offers. When we share Jesus with someone, we don't know if it will be the first, the sixth, or the fourteenth time someone hears the Good News. Our duty is to share.





4 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."
19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet.
20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."
21 "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.
22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.
23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.
24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."
25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."
26 Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

THE DISCIPLES REJOIN JESUS

27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"
28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,
29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?"
30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him.
31 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."
32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about."
33 Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?"
34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.
35 Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.
36 Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.
37 Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true.
38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

MANY SAMARITANS BELIEVE

39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did."
40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days.

THE MIRROR

18 Jesus does what so many believers do not like. He points the mirror at us. Christianity reveals two very important things. First it reveals who God is through Jesus Christ and second, it reveals ourselves.

Nobody truly sees themselves as they really are until they see themselves through Jesus Christ. None of us likes to see who we actually are. Revelation of our sin makes us very uncomfortable to say the least.

As believers in Jesus Christ, we do not have to worry about revelation of our sins. Past, present and future . . . they are all forgiven. Of course, as believers, we do our best not to sin and when we realize we have sinned, rather than staying in sin, we run as fast and far as we are able. We are now walking in the light that John talks so much about.

THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE

1-26 The story of the woman at the well tells us much of the Christian Experience. 1.) We are compelled to face ourselves and see ourselves as we truly are. 2.) Jesus sees our hearts. He sees the evil and depraved hearts we have. But He also sees our potential and the sleeping hero in all of us. 3.) The woman's first instinct was to tell others what she had discovered. We have to tell others about Jesus. 4.) Many people hide their sin. Once they find Jesus Christ, one of the first things they do is say, "Look at who I was and look who I am now." One of the best witnessing tools is your own story. No one can tell you, "No, you are wrong."

NO EXCUSES

35 Many Christians have excuses for not sharing Jesus with others. "I am not ready." "I don't know enough." "I am afraid." "I do lifestyle evangelism." But Jesus clearly says here that the harvest is ready now, not four months from now, but right now. Let us not have Jesus find us sitting around making excuses when many are headed to an eternity in a very bad place.

4 41 And because of his words many more became believers.
42 They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

JESUS HEALS AN OFFICIAL'S SON

43 After the two days he left for Galilee.
44 (Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.)
45 When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, for they also had been there.
46 Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum.
47 When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.
48 "Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe."
49 The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies."
50 "Go," Jesus replied, "your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed.
51 While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living.
52 When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him."
53 Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he and his whole household believed.
54 This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee.

5 THE HEALING AT THE POOL

1 Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals.
2 Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades.
3 Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed and they waited for the moving of the waters.
4 From time to time an angel of the Lord would come down and stir up the waters. The first one into the pool after each such disturbance would be cured of whatever disease they had.
5 One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

THE THREE STAGES

39-42 Almost every Christian goes through the same three stages that the Samaritians went through. First, there is an introduction. According to Romans 10:14-15, the word of God must be delivered from man to man. (It is our amazing privilege, and also our terrifying responsibility to bring others to Jesus.) Second, after receiving Jesus, there comes a growing knowledge and greater intimacy as one learns God's Word. Yes, one must be introduced to Jesus, but after the initial introduction, it is up to us to choose Him and to live our lives for Him. To grow, to learn. Nobody can do that for us. Our opportunity to live the most Christ-like life possible is now. Finally, there is surrender. That is when it really all starts to come together, and real growth happens.

FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE

53 Like the Samaritans, the Galilaeans believed Jesus because they experienced Him first-hand. Once we experience Jesus first-hand, we are able to tell the world what we have found. We have one of the best tools at our disposal for sharing with the lost, our very own experience with Jesus Christ and what He has done for us.

FEELING TRAPPED

4-8 If, in our hearts, we are content to stay in misery, in the darkness, there will be no change in us. Like this man at the pool, we must realize our own helplessness. When our will to do something and God's power come together, that is when things start to happen. We need to remember though, we must make the effort, as well as trust God. These go hand in hand.

No matter how long we have had our problems. No matter how hopeless things seem. No matter how trapped we feel, nothing is too big for God. Many times God will have us overcome our problems so we can go on to help and minister to others who have the same issues He helped us overcome. See 2 Corinthians 1:4.

5 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"
7 "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."
8 Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."
9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath,
10 and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat."
11 But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"
12 So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?"
13 The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.
14 Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you."
15 The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.

THE AUTHORITY OF THE SON

16 So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him.
17 In his defense Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working."
18 For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.
19 Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.
20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.
21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.
22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,
23 that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.
24 "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.
25 Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.

BROKEN RULES

10 The Jewish leaders had just witnessed a miracle and at the same time a broken rule. The broken rule was more important to them than the miracle.

Many walking in darkness believe if they catch a believer breaking a rule, or sinning, suddenly their need for a Savior disappears. They focus more on the broken rule than the miracle of Jesus Christ and the lives He changes.

CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

14 Jesus doesn't tell the man he healed at the pool to just go on his way. Jesus tells him to stop sinning. Another word for when someone stops sinning, or turns away from sin, is repent.

There are many who use the forgiveness, grace, and love of God as an excuse to sin. They think they have found someone who can release them from the consequences of sin.

Think about what our sins cost. Look at the Cross. We must hate sin (yes, it is okay to hate sin) and if we do sin, rather than wallow in it, we will be sickened by it. We will want to run from it. To turn from it. To repent. Every sin breaks the heart of God. God's gift of forgiveness is the costliest gift you can ever receive.

ALL JUDGMENT

22 These words should scare billions of people who have outright rejected Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. If you accept Jesus, follow Jesus, abide in Jesus, love Jesus, you have life everlasting in Paradise.

If you see Jesus Christ as the enemy or reject Him as your Lord and Savior, you have condemned yourself. God has not done it. Many say "A loving God would not send me to hell." They are right. They are sending themselves to hell by their rejection of Jesus Christ. He and He alone is the touchstone by which all humankind will be tested.

Jesus is coming. We all will meet Him some day. Now is the time to live for Jesus. Do everything you can to hear those words we all long to hear, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

5 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.
27 And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.
28 "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice
29 and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.
30 By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

TESTIMONIES ABOUT JESUS

31 "If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true.
32 There is another who testifies in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me is true.
33 "You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth.
34 Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved.
35 John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light.
36 "I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me.
37 And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form,
38 nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent.
39 You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me,
40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life.
41 "I do not accept glory from human beings,
42 but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts.
43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him.
44 How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?
45 "But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set.
46 If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me.
47 But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?"

6 JESUS FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND

1 Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias),
2 and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick.
3 Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples.

THE RESURRECTION

28 Whatever happens to a person in the after-life is inherently tied to what they have done in this life. The sobering truth is that the foremost importance of this life is that it will determine our eternity. Revelation 20:12-15 tells us: "12 And I saw the dead great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. 14 Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire." Please accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior today so you won't be thrown into the lake of fire.

THEIR CHOICE

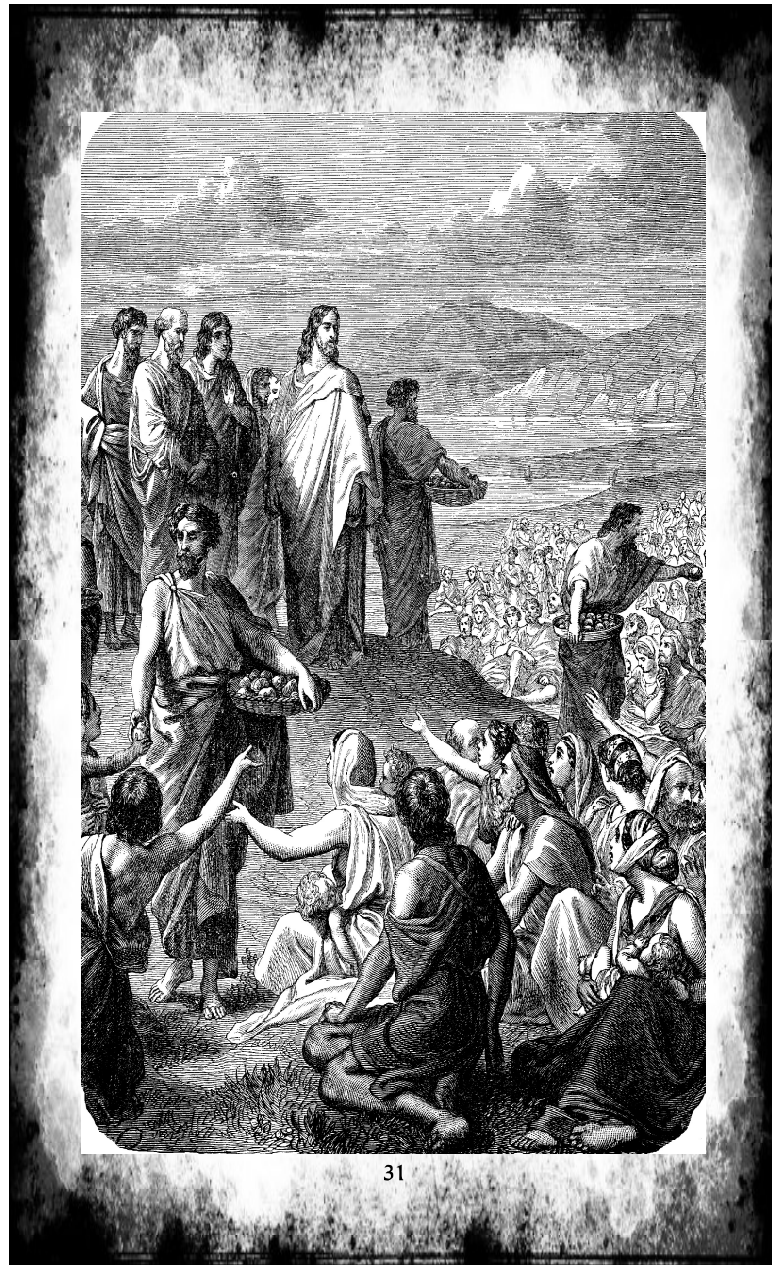
29 If a person rejects Jesus, let it be their own choice, not because we didn't do our best, all we could, to bring them to the saving Grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Charles Spurgeon, known as the Prince of Preachers, said: "If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for."

EXCUSES EXCUSES

40 People have many reasons for refusing to come to Jesus. My friends will think I'm crazy. I'm having too much fun. I don't believe in God. The Bible isn't true and is full of errors. I'm a good person. There are many paths to God. And on and on.

Do you know someone like this? If so, God has put them in your life for a reason. And that reason is to share Jesus Christ with them. Respectfully bring them face to face with their need for salvation.



JESUS FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND

As with all of Jesus' miracles, there is deep significance to the feeding of the five thousand. Beginning with who He fed. In this miracle Jesus feeds five thousand Jewish people. Then Matthew 15:32-39 tells us how Jesus feeds four thousand Gentiles. Romans 1:16 points out that "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile." Everyone gets fed. Everyone is welcome.

Jesus was constantly teaching His disciples whether they knew it or not. With the feeding of the five thousand there were many lessons. Jesus was showing His disciples that they were in themselves unable to meet people's needs, but they would find all they need and more with Jesus. We can limit what God does in us, through us, and for us by assuming what is and what is not possible. It is said that God cannot use us in ministry until we realize our own inability to accomplish the task.

As when the disciples brought the boy with the loaves and fish to Jesus, we never know what can become of it when we bring someone to Jesus. It may well be that if we hold anything back from Jesus, we may deprive the world of a miracle. Give Jesus all you have and He will do a miracle.

Jesus was teaching His disciples to recognize their own insufficiency and the need to depend on Him. He showed them that God gives us not only what we need, but He will give us an overabundance.

When we offer what we have to God, not necessarily just our financial resources, but our time, our talents, and any other resources, God can multiply its effectiveness beyond our wildest expectations. All you have to do is make yourself available to God, He will show you the rest.

6 4 The Jewish Passover Festival was near.
5 When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"
6 He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.
7 Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"
8 Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up,
9 "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"
10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there).
11 Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.
12 When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."
13 So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.
14 After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."
15 Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER

16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake,
17 where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them.
18 A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough.
19 When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened.
20 But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid."
21 Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.
22 The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone.
23 Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks.
24 Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

JESUS THE BREAD OF LIFE

25 When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

THE MOB

15 Jesus knew that the motives of the mob that wanted to make Him king by force were not pure. They were more interested in their physical needs than anything. We can be similar to the mob in many ways. When we want comfort in sorrow, strength in difficult situations, peace in turmoil, help in the face of despair. Jesus is there for us in all of these situations to help us through.

When He comes to us asking for a sacrifice, time, money, resources, with some challenge He has for us, with some cross He has for us to bear, let us not be like the members of the mob and just love Jesus for what we can get from Him. Let us be ready to serve Him when He calls on us.

JESUS IS WATCHING US

17 Many times we can find ourselves alone and in a bad situation. But Jesus is watching us. He does not always make things easy for us. He lets us fight our struggles, but He is always there watching.

We grow by fighting our own battles. But if our strength starts to fail us, Jesus will come in and lead us to victory. We need to trust that He will. Growing faith becomes a mind-set that expects Jesus to act. When we truly believe this, we will overcome any fears that we may have.

PETER WALKING ON WATER

21 The Gospel of John was written after Matthew, Mark, and Luke (the synoptic Gospels). John tends not to repeat what is in the other Gospels and when he does it is usually to tie in with some other account. He seems to assume the reader is familiar with the other Gospels. Perhaps this is why he omits the story of Peter walking on the water out to Jesus. In Matthew 14:28-31 as Peter starts walking on the water to Jesus, he begins to doubt, ever so briefly, and he starts sinking, but Jesus is there to pull Peter back up. If we take our eye off Jesus, and start sinking, remember, He is always there for us.

6 26 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.
 27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."
 28 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"
 29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."
 30 So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?"
 31 Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'
 32 Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.
 33 For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."
 34 "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread."
 35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.
 36 But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.
 37 All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.
 38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.
 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.
 40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."
 41 At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."
 42 They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"
 43 "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered.
 44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.
 45 It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me.
 46 No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.
 47 Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.
 48 I am the bread of life.

ENDING HUNGER

31-33 We all need bread to eat to sustain our physical lives and satisfy our hunger. We also have a spiritual hunger that only Jesus can fulfill. As with food that we need to eat daily, Jesus must be invited into our lives daily to sustain our spiritual lives.

When we know Jesus, our spiritual hunger is ended. Our restless souls are at rest and our hungry hearts are satisfied.

COME AND BELIEVE

35 This verse very simply sums up man's part in the salvation process. To come to Jesus is to turn away from our old lives, the life of sin and rebelling. To believe in Jesus is to trust with all of our heart that He is our Lord and Savior and that He is the only way to salvation.

Repentance and faith are the same as come and believe. To repent is to turn away from our old lives and faith is to believe that Jesus alone is our Lord and Savior.

OUR RESPONSE

37 There is a profound balance between God's sovereignty and a person's acceptance when it comes to the issue of salvation.

The first part of this verse tells us that God chooses who He will give to Jesus. The second part reminds us that we are ultimately responsible for our response. And neither in any way removes our responsibility to the Great Commission.

ON-GOING

47 Jesus makes it very clear that the believer has eternal, everlasting life. That life starts immediately.

The word believe here means to continue to believe. It is an on-going act rather than a one-time gesture. We will keep on believing and trusting Jesus our entire lives.

6 49 Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died.
50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die.
51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."
52 Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"
53 Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.
54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.
55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.
56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them.
57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.
58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever."
59 He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

MANY DISCIPLES DESERT JESUS

60 On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"
61 Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you?"
62 Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before!
63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.
64 Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him.
65 He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them."
66 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.
67 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.
68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
69 We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."
70 Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!"
71 (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)

STUMBLING AND GRUMBLING

52 Many non-believers say that Christianity is a crutch for the weak. If you truly live out your faith as Jesus wants us to, it is definitely not for the weak or faint of heart.

There will be times we stumble. There will be times we grumble. But the closer you follow Jesus, the stronger He will make you.

GIVING

63 All human things are trivial if they exist for nothing beyond themselves. The value of something depends on its purpose. Jesus says: "The Spirit gives life. The flesh counts for nothing."

When we do something just for our own purposes it is wasting the precious time that God has given us. If you garden, give a portion of your harvest to the needy and hungry. If you raise chickens, give a portion of your eggs. If you skateboard, start a skateboard ministry.

If you take your hobby, the things you enjoy and do for fun, and turn them into a ministry, you are giving for an eternal purpose, rather than just in the flesh.

DIFFICULTY

66 As we grow in our faith we will occasionally find some of Jesus' teaching difficult to follow. There will be times of discouragement. There will also be attacks from the enemy. Whatever you do, don't give up. We are in a spiritual battle and when you are on the right track, right over the target, those are the times you will take the most fire. Those are the times we need to depend on Jesus the most and have the courage to continue.

Once we are born again, we have the Holy Spirit within us to help us through the difficult times. We must go to God in prayer. We must seek guidance from His word. When the going gets tough, turn to Him, not away from Him.

7 JESUS GOES TO THE FESTIVAL OF TABERNACLES

1 After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him.

2 But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near,

3 Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do.

4 No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world."

5 For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

6 Therefore Jesus told them, "My time is not yet here; for you any time will do.

7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil.

8 You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come."

9 After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee.

10 However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret.

11 Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, "Where is he?"

12 Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, "He is a good man." Others replied, "No, he deceives the people."

13 But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders.

JESUS TEACHES AT THE FESTIVAL

14 Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach.

15 The Jews there were amazed and asked, "How did this man get such learning without having been taught?"

16 Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me.

17 Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.

18 Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.

19 Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?"

20 "You are demon-possessed," the crowd answered. "Who is trying to kill you?"

21 Jesus said to them, "I did one miracle, and you are all amazed.

22 Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath.

EVERYTHING IS IN GOD'S TIMING

6 God has a plan for each of us. As long as we are willing to do His will, He will make it clear what those plans are. You may want to take on the world for God, but to be successful at what He has planned for us, it must be in His timing. If we go off on our own, in our own timing, chances are whatever it is we are doing will be in vain.

If you are a born-again believer in Jesus Christ, you are to fulfill the plan God has for you. Remember, the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Be one of the few. But also remember to follow God's lead.

ONE WORD

7 The name "Jesus" will elicit more of a reaction from people than any other word in the world. The world's hatred toward Jesus and His followers is limitless. As a follower of Jesus we will not be immune from this hatred.

Following Jesus is not for the faint of heart. The more you do for Jesus, the more you grow with Jesus, the bigger you go for God, the more fire you may take from the enemy. The Bible tells us to count it all as joy. And it will help us grow. There is a place in northern Chile where it never ever rains and nothing grows there. We need to have rain and storms to grow. As Matthew 7:24-27 tells us if we have our house built on the rock of Jesus, and His teaching, when those rains come we will stand strong.

NEVER FEAR

13 Never ever be afraid to tell the world in a loud booming voice that you believe in Jesus Christ and why.

THE WILL OF GOD

17-18 Those who do the will of God will understand His Word. The more you do for God, the more He will reveal to you. We can read and learn and study, which is great and wonderful and important, but eventually comes a time when we must "do" for God. If we wait until we know everything to start doing God's will, we never will.

7 23 Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man's whole body on the Sabbath?
24 Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly."

DIVISION OVER WHO JESUS IS

25 At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, "Isn't this the man they are trying to kill?"
26 Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah?
27 But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from."
28 Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, "Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own authority, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him,
29 but I know him because I am from him and he sent me."
30 At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.
31 Still, many in the crowd believed in him. They said, "When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man?"
32 The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him.
33 Jesus said, "I am with you for only a short time, and then I am going to the one who sent me."
34 You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come."
35 The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks?"
36 What did he mean when he said, 'You will look for me, but you will not find me,' and 'Where I am, you cannot come'?"
37 On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.
38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."
39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.
40 On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet."
41 Others said, "He is the Messiah." Still others asked, "How can the Messiah come from Galilee?"

JUDGE CORRECTLY

24 The concept most taken out of context in the entire Bible is the idea of judging. Matthew 7:1 says "Do not judge, or you too will be judged." This single verse is one of the most misunderstood and misapplied verses in the entire Bible. Many use it as a shield to continue in their sin. What those who use Matthew 7:1 incorrectly don't realize is that God will judge every sin, and that alone is a terrifying thought.

This verse (John 7:24), along with many others, tells us that Jesus teaches us to, in love, tell fellow believers about their sins. This is one of the many ways we are to remain a light to the world by keeping each other in line.

One thing to keep in mind though, is that it is always better to err on the side of grace when looking to judge someone. It is always best to proceed with caution in this area. Even Romans 14:1 tells us: "Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters." This tells us in non-salvation matters that might make a new believer stumble, we should basically let it go.

ALL OF US

31 Every single one of us will have to make up our own minds about Jesus Christ. What we do with that choice will determine where we spend our eternity. It is the most important decision all of us will ever make in our entire lives and as we will see shortly it is not one we can avoid.

THE SADDEST VERSE

34 God is waiting for us with open arms. Many of those who do not follow Jesus (yet) think there is no way God can love them or accept them. That they have done too many depraved things that God can never forgive. God is waiting very patiently for us. Do not wait until it is too late. We never know when our time will be up and it is too late and we will not be able to follow Jesus to where He is. When we take our last breath, our eternity is sealed.

7 42 Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David's descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?"
43 Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.
44 Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.

UNBELIEF OF THE JEWISH LEADERS

45 Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, "Why didn't you bring him in?"
46 "No one ever spoke the way this man does," the guards replied.
47 "You mean he has deceived you also?" the Pharisees retorted.
48 "Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him?"
49 No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them."
50 Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked,
51 "Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?"
52 They replied, "Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee."

8 1 but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.
2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them.
3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group
4 and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.
5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"
6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.
7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."
8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.
9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.
10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"
11 "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

DISPUTE OVER JESUS' TESTIMONY

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

PLANTING SEEDS

43 There always has been much division about Jesus. Arguing with someone about Jesus will get us nowhere fast. We are not supposed to “argue” someone into Heaven. We need to plant a seed. We need to tell them what they need to know about Jesus. Tell them your story, how God introduced you to Jesus and saved your eternal soul and what your life was like before Jesus.

God's word tells us that any way we share Him with others, He will use for His purpose. Nothing we share about Jesus with others will be in vain, nothing.

OWNERSHIP

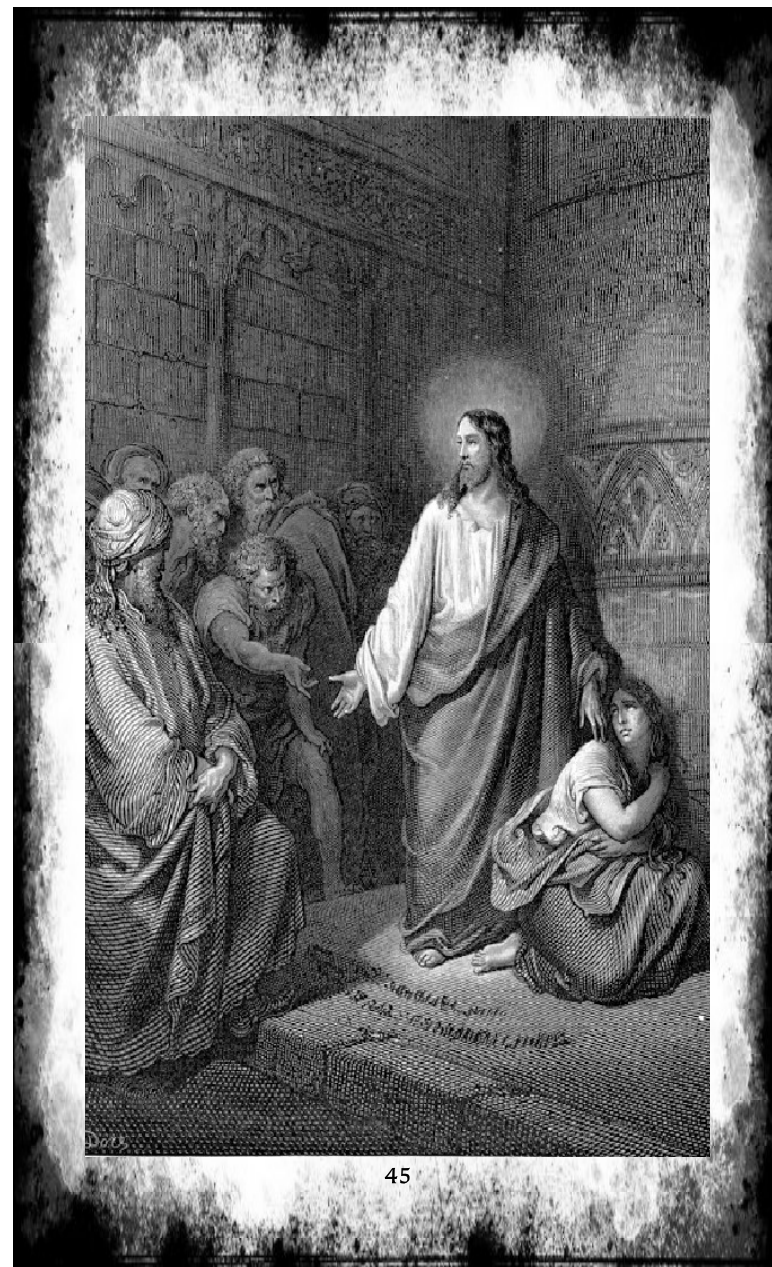
6 In the Old Testament God gave His chosen people The Ten Commandments. God's law written by the hand of God on stone tablets. Every time someone broke God's law there had to be an offering of blood in the form of an animal sacrifice.

John does not say specifically what Jesus was writing on the ground. This was to highlight the importance of what Jesus did and not what He wrote. It is said that Jesus was writing the sins of the accusers (the parts of the Ten Commandments they had broken). Here Jesus takes ownership of the law, literally the hand of God, again, was writing the Law, this time in sand and not on stone.

Ultimately Jesus becomes the blood sacrifice for our sins and rather than having to sacrifice an animal everytime we sin, Jesus took all of our sins upon Himself on the cross in the greatest act of love in human history.

THE PERFECT COMBINATION

11 As Christians the two most important things to remember are Grace and Truth. We need both. While Jesus took our sins upon Himself and we are forever forgiven of our past sins through God's Grace, that does not give us license to go on sinning. Continuing in sin cheapens God's Grace to us. We must go and sin no more.



BUT WAIT, THERE IS MORE

Grace. It is a consistent theme throughout the Bible which culminates in Jesus Christ. It is translated from the Greek word *charis* which means kindness, favor, or blessing. When Jesus tells the woman caught in adultery in verse 8:11 "Then neither do I condemn you," He is showing us what the grace of God is like. She did not earn it and neither can we. It is a free gift from God.

Ephesians 2:8 tells us, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and it is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." Imagine that. The creator of the Universe has a free gift for you.

In verse 8:11 we also see God's mercy. Mercy and grace are not the same thing. Grace gives us a blessing we don't deserve. Mercy withholds a punishment that we deserve.

But wait, there is more. Repentance. In this same verse, 8:11, as the image on the facing page indicates, Jesus did not stop at "Then neither do I condemn you," He also added, "Go now and leave your life of sin."

What is repentance and is it necessary for salvation? Biblical repentance is the changing of our minds about sin that results in the changing of our behavior. No longer is sin something to play around with. It is something we will flee from. And yes, repentance is necessary for salvation. It is not a "work" that earns us our spot in Heaven. However, once we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior we will change our thinking about sin.

Is true Biblical repentance a one time thing or an ongoing process? Once we truly repent for the first time, we are saved and forgiven completely for all of our sins. We are saved completely by His grace and mercy. However, since we are trapped in our earthly bodies that were born into sin, we will still sin. When that happens, we need to confess our sin, repent, and be restored and forgiven daily. It is as easy and free as that. See 1 John 1:9.

8 13 The Pharisees challenged him, "Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid."
14 Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going.
15 You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one.
16 But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me.
17 In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true.
18 I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me."
19 Then they asked him, "Where is your father?" "You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also."
20 He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come.

DISPUTE OVER WHO JESUS IS

21 Once more Jesus said to them, "I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come."
22 This made the Jews ask, "Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, 'Where I go, you cannot come'?"
23 But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.
24 I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins."
25 "Who are you?" they asked. "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning," Jesus replied.
26 "I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world."
27 They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father.
28 So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.
29 The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him."
30 Even as he spoke, many believed in him.

DISPUTE OVER WHOSE CHILDREN JESUS' OPPONENTS ARE

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.
32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
33 They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"
34 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

LIMITED TIME OFFER

21 150,000 people die every day. That is about two people per second somewhere in the world die. Of those 150,000, 100,000 people will die in their sins without Jesus. So many people are just involved with this world and all it offers nowadays. Every person has the opportunity to accept Jesus, unfortunately, that opportunity can be lost if we wait too long and we die in our sins, since we never know when we will die. Do not let this incredible opportunity pass you by.

JUST SPEAK

30 We need to follow Jesus' lead and just speak and tell others about Him. You do not need to be a pastor or biblical scholar to tell others about Jesus. It can be difficult at first, but the more you do it, the easier it will become.

Isaiah 55:11 tells us that God can use anything that we put out there in His name for His purposes. That means anything. Just speak and it will not return void. You will have done God's will.

If for any reason you are unable to speak, have some good Bible tracts handy. There are many good choices that can share the Gospel in ways that we cannot.

DISCIPLESHIP

31 Discipleship begins when a person accepts what Jesus says is true. It continues with regular listening to and reading of the Word of God. Growth continues with regular learning, all our lives, until we take our last breath. The mind closed to learning means the end of discipleship. More growth happens with not just the reading of God's word, but studying it, praying over it, and living its teachings. As discipleship continues, more and more of its meaning will become clear.

Obeying Jesus is necessary for growth and being a disciple of Jesus. This means sharing Jesus with all creation, a regular prayer life, fellowshiping with other Christians, study and action on what has been learned, and remembering that James 2:17 tells us that faith without works is dead.

8 35 Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever.
 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
 37 I know that you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word.
 38 I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father."
 39 "Abraham is our father," they answered. "If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do what Abraham did.
 40 As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things.
 41 You are doing the works of your own father." "We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself."
 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me.
 43 Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.
 44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
 45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!
 46 Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?
 47 Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

JESUS' CLAIMS ABOUT HIMSELF

48 The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?"
 49 "I am not possessed by a demon," said Jesus, "but I honor my Father and you dishonor me.
 50 I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge.
 51 Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death."
 52 At this they exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death.
 53 Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"
 54 Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me.
 55 Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word.
 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

GOD'S PROTECTION

37 Time and time again, God protected Jesus from harm before His time had come. In the same way God will protect His children. This does not mean we will not face tribulation. It means that during tribulation God will protect us.

There is a story of a missionary serving in a country devastated by continuing war. They were asked about their personal safety, and responded: "It is God's will for me to be here, and the safest place for any Christian is to be in the will of God."

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

41 While a person can claim to be a "true son of Abraham" (a faithful follower of Jesus Christ), one's actions can show them to be true sons of satan. If a person lives under satan's guidance and control of the worldly system, their church membership and words will mean nothing in the end. It has been said that going to church makes one a Christian as much as standing in a garage makes one a car.

Your true Father is the one you follow and obey. Do you follow the world or Jesus?

JESUS OR THE DEVIL

44 Many people might not realize it, but they clearly follow the devil. If you do not belong to Jesus Christ, you belong to the devil. There is no in-between. There is no sitting on the fence. Remember, satan owns the fence. Not to make a decision is to make a decision for the enemy. Without Jesus Christ you will be a slave to sin. See Matthew 12:30.

THE REACTION

47 If God was truly their Father, the Jewish leaders would have loved and welcomed Jesus. A key principle of the Gospel of John is brought forth here. One's reaction to Jesus Christ. We all will be judged according to whether we have loved and welcomed Jesus.

8 57 "You are not yet fifty years old," they said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"
58 "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"
59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

9 Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth.
2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"
3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.
4 As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.
5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
6 After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes.
7 "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.
8 His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?"
9 Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man."
10 "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked.
11 He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."
12 "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said.

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind.
14 Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath.
15 Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."
16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided.
17 Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet."
18 They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents.
19 "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

TIMELESS

58 Many people question who created God? Jesus tells us that He is timeless. That there never was a time when He came into being and there never will be a time when He is not in being. As the book of Hebrews states, He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Jesus identifies Himself as *Yahweh*, Israel's covenant God. He is declaring His divinity as when He wrote on the sand taking ownership of the Law.

Though there are many difficult concepts in the Bible that may not have an answer that will satisfy some unbelievers, that does not negate our need for a Savior to remove our sins.

TRIALS, PAIN, AND LOSS

3 There are no guarantees that the Christian life will be free from hardship. Again, as Jesus tells us in Matthew 7:24-27, we will have storms. He also tells us that as long as we base our life upon Him and His teaching, when those storms come we will remain standing strong.

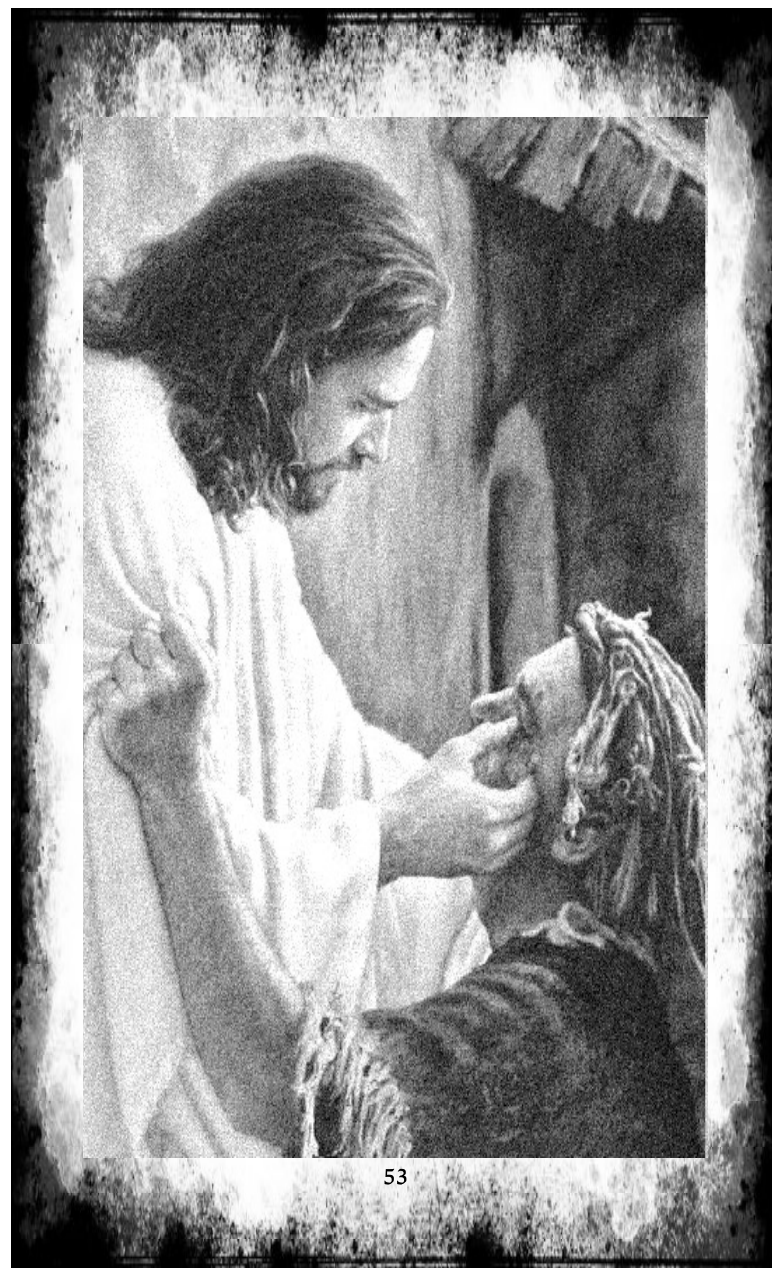
Trials, pain, and loss offer us an opportunity to show the grace of God as Jesus did with the blind man. We can show a world of unbelievers how a Christian deals with suffering by relying on God. We can show the world what God is like.

LIMITED TIME

4 Again, we all have a task that God has given us. We have a limited time to complete the tasks He has given us. If God has put something on our hearts we should never put it off until another time as that time may never come for us. If we are still here on earth, God still has a purpose for us. Don't ever think that God can't or won't use you.

OBEDIENCE

7 To get God's full blessing, we must be obedient. Obedience is a prerequisite to much of God's blessings. Give your entire life to God and He will bless you beyond anything you could ever imagine.



Jesus Heals

This encounter with the man born blind and the conflict that resulted epitomize the conflict between those that believe and those that do not believe.

The healing of the man born blind is the sixth of seven miracles in the Gospel of John. As with all of His miracles, this one demonstrates who He is and points far beyond.

The healing of the blind man shows us that Jesus brings light to the blind. It reveals that Jesus will offer us spiritual sight that will empower us to realize who He truly is. Like the man born blind, we too are all born spiritually blind and require the gift of sight that only Jesus Christ can impart.

So, why use mud? It deliberately challenged the legal system of the Jewish leaders by healing, as well as kneading the clay, on the Sabbath. It gave Him reason to have the man wash to complete his healing.

Another reason for the use of clay would be that Jesus changed his method of healing people so no one could ever assume the healing power was in His method. The healing power was in God, not in the way it was done.

Why did the man born blind have to wash? For someone to receive God's full blessing, we not only need to accept the healing Jesus offers, we need to be obedient.

This story tells us so much about the Gospel. It tells us that we are all born spiritually blind. It tells us that Jesus heals us. It tells us we must obey what He tells us to do to get His full blessing. It tells us we become a mystery to those who we formerly knew. It tells us we will be loyal to Jesus even when we are persecuted. It tells us to do the work He has given us today and not tomorrow. Finally, It tells us that God will use our trials to strengthen us, to help us persevere, and ultimately to reveal His glory.

9 20 "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind.
21 But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself."
22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.
23 That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."
24 A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."
25 He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"
26 Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"
27 He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"
28 Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses!
29 We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."
30 The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.
31 We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will.
32 Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind.
33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."
34 To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
36 "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."
37 Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."
38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.
39 Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."
40 Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"
41 Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

YOUR LIFE

25 When we meet someone who does not believe in Jesus and they ask for proof, one of the greatest things we can tell them is how Jesus has changed our lives. We are living miracles of Jesus.

All of us are sinners, every single one of us. Please do not ever think that you have sinned so horribly that Jesus can never forgive you. Abraham was a liar, Jacob was a thief and a liar, David (a man after God's own heart) was an adulterer and murderer. Whatever you have been through in your life, God will use for His purposes. In many instances it is to show the world the miracle of a changed life.

Your life, your story, is one of the very best tools you can use when speaking to an unbeliever about Jesus. No one can tell you that you are wrong about what happened in your life.

TESTING

34 Once a person comes to faith in Jesus, Satan will not be happy. He will do what he can to get you back. There will be testing and storms. It could be in the form of health, financial, or relationship difficulties, or whatever weakness one may have. The enemy knows all of our weaknesses and he is very good at using them against us.

Do not fall for the enemy's tricks and testing. Read the book of Job to strengthen your resolve.

THE CHALLENGE

35 "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" It is a question we all are challenged with and how we answer it will determine where we spend our eternity.

MORE GROWTH

38 Like the blind man going from not knowing who Jesus is to worshipping Him in a short time, God does not expect us to be perfect, but He expects us to grow. How are you growing?

10 THE GOOD SHEPHERD AND HIS SHEEP

1 "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.

2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

7 Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them.

9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

12 The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.

13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—

15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

19 The Jews who heard these words were again divided.

20 Many of them said, "He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?"

21 But others said, "These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

FURTHER CONFLICT OVER JESUS' CLAIMS

22 Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade.

FOLLOWING CLOSER

4 The closer our relationship is with Jesus and the more we follow His teaching, the easier it will be to hear His voice when He is trying to tell us something or get our attention. It may be something He wants us to do in ministry for His Kingdom. It may be He is warning us about false teaching around us. It may be He is telling us to help someone or share Jesus with someone.

Whatever it is, rest assured the closer you follow Jesus the more you will recognize His voice. It is important to be able to know Jesus' voice, because when we know His voice, we will know what is not His voice and when it is the enemy's voice.

HE KNOWS US

14 Jesus knows all of His followers. Not only does He know where we once were and where we are now, but what we will become. He knows what He has planned for us.

Following Jesus closer and closer will enable us to know what He has planned for us and to hear those words from Matthew 25:21 we all long to hear when He calls us home: "Well done my good and faithful servant."

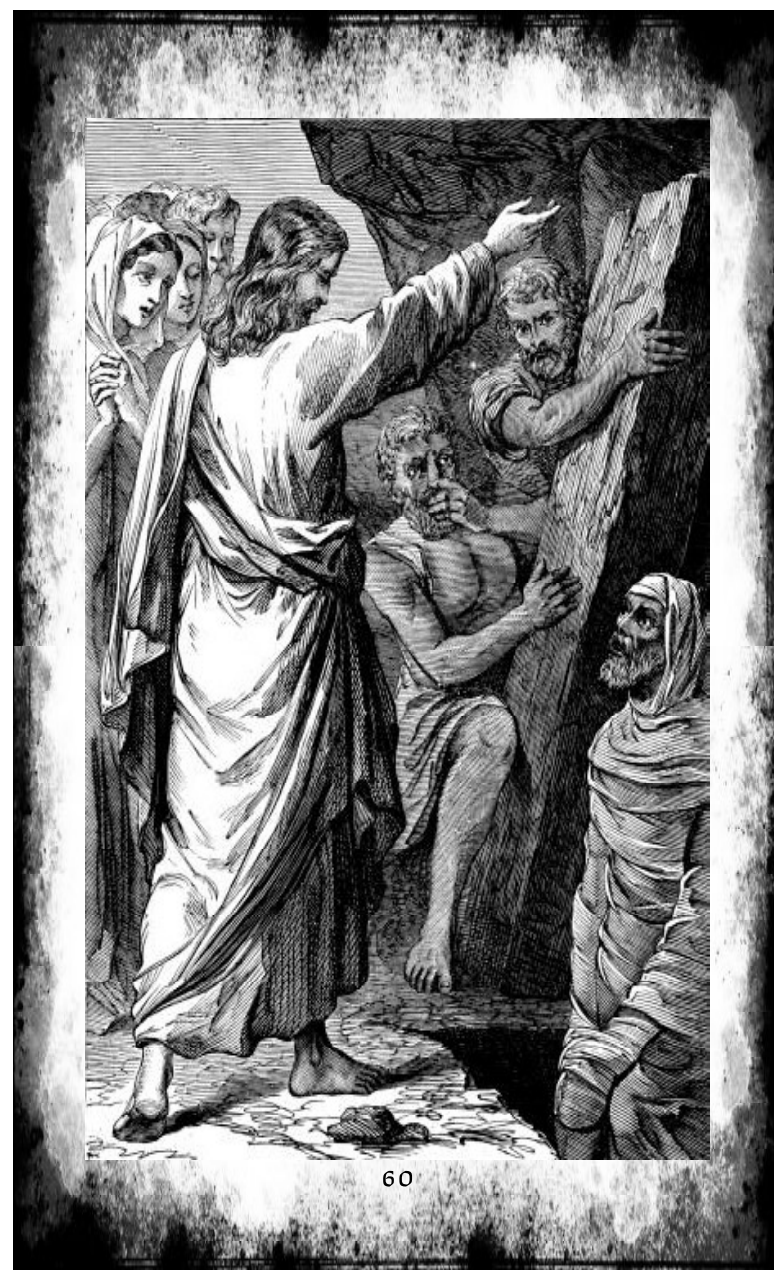
EVERYONE EVERYWHERE

16 Jesus did not die just for the Jews or Americans. He freely gave His life for everyone everywhere. This is why worldwide missions should matter to us, because they matter to Jesus. Please see the back of this booklet for more information on the greatest evangelical tool in the history of the world and how you can help.

FRONT ROW SEATS

20-21 The Jews of Jesus' time had front row seats for His miracles and many still did not believe. Would a demon-possessed man heal the sick and feed the hungry? A madman does not have the power to change millions upon millions of lives. What Jesus did is obviously from God and not the enemy. Archaeological and historical evidence proves Jesus existed. His miracles prove He was from God.





10 24 The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."
 25 Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me,
 26 but you do not believe because you are not my sheep.
 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.
 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.
 30 I and the Father are one."
 31 Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him,
 32 but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"
 33 "We are not stoning you for any good work," they replied, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."
 34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are "gods"'?
 35 If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be set aside—
 36 what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'?"
 37 Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father.
 38 But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."
 39 Again they tried to seize him, but he escaped their grasp.
 40 Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. There he stayed,
 41 and many people came to him. They said, "Though John never performed a sign, all that John said about this man was true."
 42 And in that place many believed in Jesus.

11 THE DEATH OF LAZARUS

1 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.
 2 (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.)
 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."
 4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."
 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

THE NIGHT SKY

32 Most non-believers will ask for proof of God's existence. One answer is, "it is all around you, take a look." As John refers to many times, those who have Jesus as their Lord and Savior are living in the light and have Him to guide them, to show them what is right in front of them. Unfortunately, those who do not have Jesus are living in the darkness, complete darkness, absolutely blinded to what is directly in front of them.

Trying to describe God to an atheist is like trying to describe the night sky to a blind man. Only one has seen it, the other has to have some faith that the other is telling them the truth about what only they can see.

WITHOUT EXCUSE

38 We see many times throughout the Gospel of John how some people believed in Jesus and others did not, just like today. And just like back then and all the way through today and until he returns, every person will have to make that decision for themselves.

One of the big differences between then and now is they had those front row seats to His miracles and some still did not believe and were without excuse. Today many people still do not believe. Romans 1:19-20 tells us we do have "front row" seats to His miracles - His invisible qualities, His power and divine nature are clearly seen "so that people are without excuse."

EXTRAORDINARY Help

3-4 Just as these sisters believed Jesus because they saw His miracles and called on Him, we too, have seen His miracles in His Bible, in His creation, and in changed lives.

There are times when we all need extraordinary help just like these sisters did. Do not hesitate to ask Jesus for help.

He will help - in His timing. We often want Jesus to help in our way and in our timing. We must trust Him to do it His way. That is the way that will result in extraordinary glory to Him. Remember, His timing is always perfect.

11 6 So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days,
7 and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."
8 "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"
9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light.
10 It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."
11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."
12 His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better."
13 Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.
14 So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead,
15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."
16 Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

JESUS COMFORTS THE SISTERS OF LAZARUS

17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.
18 Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem,
19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.
20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.
21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died.
22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."
23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."
24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."
25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;
26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"
27 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."
28 After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you."
29 When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him.
30 Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.
31 When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.
32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Sleep

11 The imagery of death as sleep leading to an awakening at the resurrection is a comforting thought for believers.

EVERY CRISIS AN OPPOTUNITY

21 God has designed it that every one of us should be living proof of His power and glory.

Every passionate atheist will have what they think is a rebuttal to every possible Scripture that proves God's existence. However, these same skeptics are powerless to disprove the demonstrative changes to one's own life that Christ Himself has done. Every crisis in our lives should be viewed as an opportunity to show God's power and glory, just as Jesus viewed the death of Lazarus.

NOT TOO BUSY

27 In Luke 10:38-42, Martha is too busy to sit and talk with Jesus. However, here she tells Jesus just how deep her faith truly is. It is the response Jesus wants from all of us.

Life, and even ministry work, can get very busy. Let us not be too busy in our daily lives to let Jesus know just how much we love and trust Him and what He did for us. Take the time daily to let Jesus know how thankful you are for all you have and all He has done for you.

OUR RESPONSE

28-29 Imagine hearing the words the "Teacher (Jesus Christ Himself) is here and is asking for you." Jesus is asking for you. He is asking for you daily. All He wants is everything you have. When you give him that, like the boy with the loaves and fish, He will give you life overflowing with more than you could ever imagine, and even leftovers.

When Jesus calls for us, our response needs to be exactly as Mary's, "she got up quickly and went to him." If that is your response, you will never be disappointed, in this life and the next.

11 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.
34 "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied.

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.

39 "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

THE PLOT TO KILL JESUS

45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

47 Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many signs.

48 If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation."

49 Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all!

50 You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish."

51 He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation,

52 and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one.

53 So from that day on they plotted to take his life.

54 Therefore Jesus no longer moved about publicly among the people of Judea. Instead he withdrew to a region near the wilderness, to a village called Ephraim, where he stayed with his disciples.

Jesus Wept

35 There are many views about why Jesus wept. One is that He was upset at the faithless grief that surrounded Him. Please do not let Jesus weep over your faithlessness and unbelief.

FOR OR AGAINST

40 Many times throughout the Gospel of John, and the Bible in general, we are challenged to make a decision. We can agree with Jesus' claims or dismiss them. Those happen to be the only two options, either belief or unbelief. There is no third option toward Jesus Christ.

Those who think they are sitting on the fence or don't want to take a position about Jesus have already taken one. Jesus tells us in Luke 11:23, "He who is not with me is against Me."

GOD USES EVERYONE

50 God can speak to anyone anywhere through the most unlikely people. Many times He will send a message through someone without them even knowing.

God has used people to get messages to you, many times without either person knowing. God has used you to get messages to others, many times without you even knowing. The closer you get to God the more you will be able to tell when it happens.

A TIME AND A PLACE

54 If you are sharing Jesus on a regular basis, there may come a time where you will have to, as Matthew 10:14 says, "shake the dust" from your feet and withdraw to a safe place. Many verses tell us to count our trials and sufferings for Jesus as joy.

As evangelists, which we all are, we are not to "argue" someone into Heaven. Plant the seed and as John 4:37-38 tells us, at the right time and place, it will be reaped by whom God has appointed.

11 55 When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, many went up from the country to Jerusalem for their ceremonial cleansing before the Passover.

56 They kept looking for Jesus, and as they stood in the temple courts they asked one another, "What do you think? Isn't he coming to the festival at all?"

57 But the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that anyone who found out where Jesus was should report it so that they might arrest him.

12 JESUS ANOINTED AT BETHANY

1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him.

3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected,

5 "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages."

6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

7 "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial."

8 You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

9 Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.

10 So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well,

11 for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

JESUS COMES TO JERUSALEM AS KING

12 The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem.

13 They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!"

14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

15 "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

16 At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

GOD KNOWS

6 Just as Jesus knows that Judas was dipping into the disciple's funds for his own use, God knows when we are dipping into sin.

THE POOR

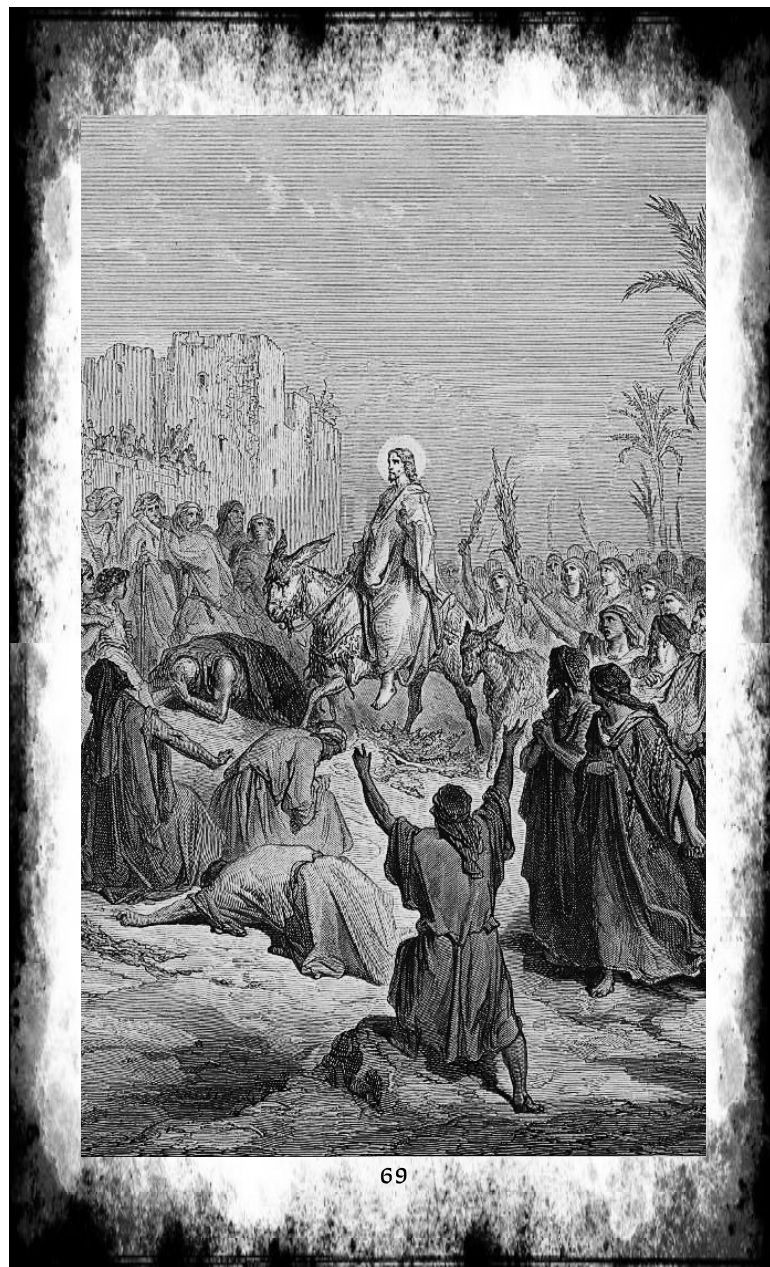
8 Jesus in no way is suggesting that we should not help the poor and instead spend extravagantly on Him. Mary's actions of attending Jesus' feet were that of a lowly slave, which reflects the great humility and devotion to Jesus we all should have. It was also a one-time act anointing Jesus in a public declaration of faith in Him as the Messiah.

Yes, the poor will always be with us, and the Bible has many verses that talk about taking care of and feeding the poor and hungry. One thing we should always do when we are feeding the poor is tell them about Jesus Christ. It is said that feeding the poor without telling them about Jesus is sending them to hell on a full stomach!

MAKING THINGS CLEAR

16 You have been led to the point you are reading this booklet. If you are a believer, it is now being made very clear to you that you must be sharing Jesus with others. If you are a non-believer, it is now being made very clear to you that in order to spend your eternity in an eternal Paradise where there is no sorrow, no pain, and no suffering forever, a place more beautiful than your mind can ever imagine, you need to ask Jesus Christ into your life as your Lord and Savior to forgive all of your sins. The only other option is not believing, followed by an eternity in a very bad place. Not to make a choice is to make a choice.

Think about your entire life. God has led you to this point where you need to make a decision either to be a believer or a non-believer. To share or not to share. To accept Jesus or to do nothing. The more you grow in your faith, the more clearly you will see how God has worked in your life to get you here.





12 17 Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word.
18 Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him.
19 So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

JESUS PREDICTS HIS DEATH

20 Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival.
21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus."
22 Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.
23 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.
24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.
25 Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.
26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.
27 "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.
28 Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."
29 The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.
30 Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine.
31 Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.
32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."
33 He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.
34 The crowd spoke up, "We have heard from the Law that the Messiah will remain forever, so how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?"
35 Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going.
36 Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

BELIEF AND UNBELIEF AMONG THE JEWS

37 Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him.

HATE

25 Jesus tells us we are to “hate” our lives. If we love Jesus, we will be able to recognize our spiritual priorities. By comparison, the things of this world will be hated. Many believers love the things of this world too much to hate it as this comparison encourages. We must reject our own self-centered lives and serve God lovingly and freely. Transferring control of our lives to Jesus will not only bring eternal life, but it is the only true way to genuine joy.

SERVING

26 God has a plan for you. He has a place for you to serve. That service will involve sharing Jesus with someone. The more you serve Jesus, the closer relationship you will have and the more you will want to serve. You will desire His word in your heart, and you will want to pray persistently. Serving is a key ingredient to growth.

LIGHT THE PATH OF OTHERS

35-36 If you have Jesus, you have someone to light your path through this life. Share that light with as many people living in the darkness as possible, so they can, in turn, light the paths of still others.

DISCOURAGEMENT

37 Many of those who had seen Jesus’ miracles still did not believe in Him. As you share Jesus with others today, you will get the same reaction from many.

Do not let it discourage you. Our duty is to share Jesus with others. They are responsible for their decisions. As long as you share Jesus, you will be planting a seed. A seed that someone else may come along and harvest due to your hard efforts.

If discouragement hits, and it can and will, hold on to the positive responses that give you encouragement. Your light will pierce the darkness of the human heart.

12 38 This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet: "Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

39 For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

40 "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them."

41 Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.

42 Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue;

43 for they loved human praise more than praise from God.

44 Then Jesus cried out, "Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me.

45 The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me.

46 I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

47 "If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.

48 There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day.

49 For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken.

50 I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."

13 Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

1 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;

4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

FULFILLED PROPHECY

38-40 John chooses his words very carefully. When He uses the words "This was to fulfill," it is to clearly show the divine purpose involved. Even those who do not believe are used to help fulfill God's purposes. In this case, the unbelief of the Jews helps to prove, through fulfilled prophecy, that Jesus is the Messiah. God uses fulfilled prophecy to help build our faith.

When God hardens someone's heart, He is not keeping them from believing. He is just confirming their own choice. We see in Romans 1:21-32 how God acknowledges the choices of those with darkened hearts. God does not send anyone to hell. They send themselves by rejecting Jesus.

SPIRITUAL LIGHT

46 Belief in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, removes us from the realm of spiritual darkness to spiritual light. Those who believe have left the enemy's dark domain and influence and are now in the light of God's Kingdom.

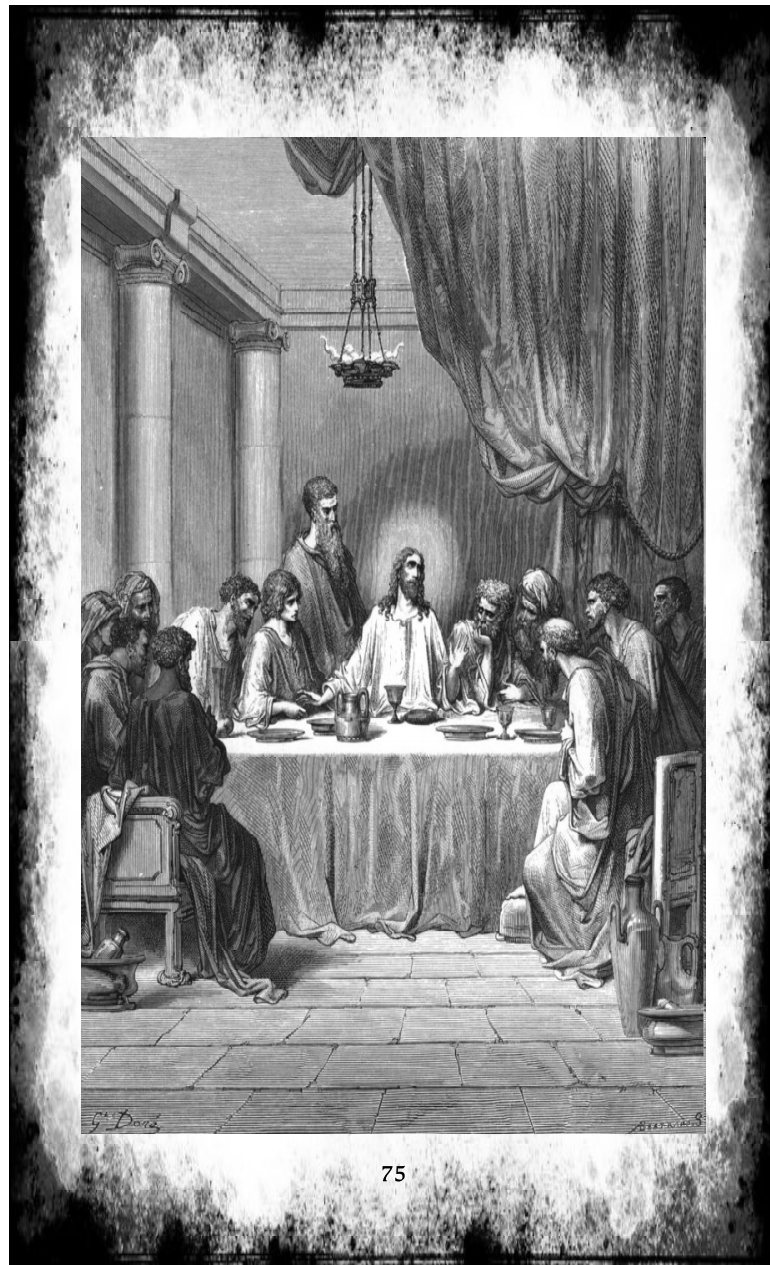
Darkness is a choice. Everyone has the ability to choose the light.

Unfortunately, many who profess to believe still act as though they remain in the darkness. Jesus died on the cross and rose again, defeating sin and death, so we could be transformed. If our life has not changed, we may not really have begun to follow the light.

CHOICES

48 It is the choices that we all make that determine our judgment. On that final day, those who accepted Jesus and lived their life according to His will, will be rewarded for their service as part of His Kingdom.

Those who made the choice to live their own way and reject His saving provision will face eternal punishment. We all have a choice to make that will last for all eternity. Jesus tells us in Matthew 12:30, "Whoever is not with me is against me."



THE UPPER ROOM DISCOURSE

The first twelve chapters of the Gospel of John take place over three years and detail Jesus' public ministry. The next five chapters discuss one night. Jesus washing His disciples' feet. The Last Supper. Jesus teaching His disciples as they are about to change the world. Jesus' prayers. And finally, His betrayal.

Few events in the New Testament reveal the character of Jesus and show His love so perfectly as Him washing His disciples' feet at the beginning of the Last Supper. We learn so much from a simple act of humility that was normally relegated to the lowliest slave. Our Lord of Lords and King of Kings shows us that to be a leader is to be a servant.

At the moment when Jesus could have been filled with pride knowing He was about to fulfill His mission, He humbled Himself to the position of a slave.

Love does that. Sometimes people may feel they are too important or distinguished to do humble things. Jesus shows us here that true love humbles us.

Jesus' greater goal, after He was gone, was for The Good News to reach the ends of the world. He was teaching His disciples, and us, as we spread His message of salvation, the importance of humble, loving service.

In addition to this greater goal, the Last Supper brought the Passover feast, when the Jews remembered how God spared them from the plague of death in Egypt, to its fulfillment.

Jesus took two symbols from the Passover feast, bread and wine, and used them as a way to remember His sacrifice which saves us from spiritual death.

The Last Supper illustrates the New Covenant where animal sacrifices are no longer necessary. It is remembered today when we take communion as we reflect, repent, and rejoice in what Jesus did for us.

13 9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"
10 Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you."
11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.
12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them.
13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.
14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.
15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.
16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.
17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

JESUS PREDICTS HIS BETRAYAL

18 "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned against me.'
19 "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am.
20 Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."
21 After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me."
22 His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant.
23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him.
24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means."
25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"
26 Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.
27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly."
28 But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him.
29 Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor.
30 As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

DUSTY ROADS

9 Washing is a common biblical symbol for spiritual cleansing. There is a definite reference to Christian baptism. When one first becomes a Christian, one of their first acts should be baptism, a full immersion and a symbolic spiritual cleansing and forgiveness of all sins in one's past.

As we grow and continue our journey with Jesus, the road gets dusty and there will be times when we sin. When this happens there is no need for a complete immersion again. We just need our feet washed, a daily confession to Jesus Christ of our sins and repentance.

SERVANTS

15 "You deserve a break today," "Have it your way," "Because I'm worth it," and other ad slogans tell us that it is all about ourselves. When we are tempted to think only of ourselves, let us remember the Son of God setting the example of how to be a servant. Rather than seeking honor for yourself, be a servant.

GOD'S AMBASSADORS

20 Once you give your life to Jesus Christ and when you take the Good News to the starving world, the thirsty world, the dying world, you are acting as nothing less than a representative of God Himself. An ambassador does not go as a private individual. They go as a representative of the country they are from. To welcome and honor them is to welcome and honor the country they are representing.

The greatest honor and the greatest responsibility of being a follower, a representative, an ambassador of Jesus is that we represent Him to the world we live in. We speak for Him, we act for Him. The honor of Jesus Christ is literally in our hands.

As Christians, we need to show the watching world what a wonderful Lord and Savior we serve by acting in a manner that would be deserving of God Himself.

13 JESUS PREDICTS PETER'S DENIAL

31 When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him.

32 If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

33 "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

36 Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."

37 Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you."

38 Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

14 JESUS COMFORTS HIS DISCIPLES

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.

2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

4 You know the way to the place where I am going."

JESUS THE WAY TO THE FATHER

5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

OUR THREE POUND BRAINS

32 The Trinity is a very difficult concept for many. Don't let the details that can be hard to understand about God distract you or discourage you. If our tiny three pound brains could understand everything about God, He really wouldn't be worth worshipping, would He?

TRUE LOVE

34 Going through your life day by day, you will realize this is the most difficult of commandments to follow. Selfless love can not only bring non-believers to Jesus, but also unite believers. One of the best ways to love someone is to let them know what you know about Jesus.

STRIFE

35 The enemy loves to cause division, distrust, and strife, especially among believers. Love is an attitude that reveals itself in action. Action that can drive out strife. Love others when it's not convenient. Give until it hurts. Devote yourself to others rather than self. The world is watching and waiting for us to slip-up. Show them your love for Jesus Christ by showing them your love for one another.

TRUST IN GOD

1 God always has a plan. If we worry, we are not trusting God and His plan. Trust in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is the antidote to discouragement, hopelessness, fear, despair, and worry.

THE WAY

2-4 These three verses tell plainly what the Gospel of John is all about - that you can know 100% for sure that when you die, God will let you into His Heaven to spend your eternity in a place prepared especially for you and that Jesus is the only way to be granted admission.

THE TRUTH

6 Anyone who seeks the truth in the end will find it. A life with Jesus will show you the truth, and the closer you grow to Jesus the more of Himself and the Father He will reveal to you.

14 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

JESUS PROMISES THE HOLY SPIRIT

15 "If you love me, keep my commands.
16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—
17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.
18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.
19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.
20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.
21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."
22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?"
23 Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.
24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.
25 "All this I have spoken while still with you.
26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.
27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
28 "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.
29 I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.
30 I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me,
31 but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. "Come now; let us leave."

15 THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.
2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

THE LIFE

16 When we face burdens in this life that can be beyond our ability to cope with, the Holy Spirit, the Helper, is always with us to provide the necessary assistance to get us through.

MORE THAN JUST WORDS

21 Love is more than just words that we say. It is a commitment, a sacrificial commitment. It is our actions. It is obedience. If we truly love Jesus Christ, we will show that love by our sacrificial commitment to Him, our actions for Him, and our obedience to Him.

LOVE AND OBEDIENCE

23 The gift of grace is an act of love from God. There is no way we can earn it. However, once we have received God's grace, our proper acknowledgment of this blessing should be to obey Jesus' teaching. Those who respond to God's grace with loving obedience will share a wonderful fellowship with the Father and the Son.

BY GOD, NOT MEN

26 Scoffers try to tell us that the Bible is just a story written by goat herders. This verse makes it very clear that the Bible was written by God and not just men.

When we write something, do we decide what is put down on the paper or does the pen?

NO HOLD

30 Satan has no hold over Jesus. Neither does he have hold over any of those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Those who love Jesus have nothing to fear from the enemy.

FRUIT

2 To maximize the fruit we are to bear as Christians, through loving discipline (pruning), God removes things from our lives that do not contribute to our spiritual fruitfulness.

15 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.
4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.
5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.
6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.
7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.
9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.
10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.
11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.
12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.
13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.
14 You are my friends if you do what I command.
15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.
16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.
17 This is my command: Love each other.

THE WORLD HATES THE DISCIPLES

18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.
19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.
20 Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.
21 They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.
22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin.
23 Whoever hates me hates my Father as well.
24 If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father.

A FAMILIAR VERSE

13 This verse is very familiar to those who have served or are serving in the military, as police officers, fire fighters, etc . . . To all of those, we say thank you for laying down your lives for us.

ONE IN FOUR

16 Do not get discouraged if you are a soul winner and you notice that some fall away. The Bible, in the Parable of the Sower, basically tells us that one in four seeds that actually sprout will fall on good ground. If discouragement hits, hold strong to the one in four that fell on good ground and nurture them and help them grow to bear good fruit themselves.

POWER

16 Prayer is one of the most powerful weapons Christians have. A few things to remember about prayer. A farmer does not pray instead of harvesting his field. He prays before harvesting his field.

When prayer is done in vain repetitions as a mere formality, it will most likely not be answered. We cannot pray for things we know Jesus would disapprove. Prayer should not be selfish and must be within God's will. The more one abides in Christ and the closer your relationship is to Him, the more readily your prayer will be answered (Isaiah 59:2).

We can and must take everything to God in prayer. Before any ministry or outreach to save the lost, pray for success, pray for guidance, pray for those you will come across. Pray, pray, and pray some more.

WHY NOT

18-20 If you are a true Christian and not a worldly one, you will be persecuted in some way, shape, manner, or form. It will happen. If it doesn't happen, you may want to ask yourself, why not?

15 25 But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.'

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

26 "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.

27 And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

16 1 "All this I have told you so that you will not fall away.

2 They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God.

3 They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me.

4 I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you,

5 but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'

6 Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things.

7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:

9 about sin, because people do not believe in me;

10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer;

11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.

13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.

15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

THE DISCIPLES' GRIEF WILL TURN TO JOY

16 Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."

17 At this, some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?"

THE WAY OF GLORY

2 Jesus does not offer the way of ease, but the way of glory. Jesus wants those who are prepared to go on a journey of a lifetime. He would rather have those that are willing to go where there are no roads at all than those who want to take the smooth road.

Please do not be taken by surprise when trials and difficulties come along. When you go where there are no roads, it can get bumpy, but that is why Jesus sent us the Advocate, the Helper, the Holy Spirit.

CERTAINTY

7 Why would so many put their trust for all eternity in a crucified Jewish criminal? It is the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us all the certainty that in the Cross is our salvation and that with Jesus we are forgiven and saved from judgment.

IN ALL THE TRUTH

13-15 The declaration, "He will guide you in all the truth," is the most comprehensive comment on the Holy Spirit's ministry in the entire New Testament.

In context, it does not mean that once one receives the Holy Spirit they will suddenly have all scientific or philosophical truth and knowledge. It is not about the things that we can learn on our own through study.

These three verses show us the remarkable harmony in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. How they work together to guide us in all the truth. The Holy Spirit's ministry is basically a continuation of Jesus' ministry.

The same Holy Spirit that guided those who wrote the Bible is now guiding us. The Holy Spirit speaks to us what He hears from Jesus and Jesus reveals what He hears from the Father. For this reason, what the Holy Spirit reveals to us can be trusted as the truth from the Father Himself.

16 18 They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."
 19 Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'?"
 20 Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.
 21 A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world.
 22 So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.
 23 In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.
 24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.
 25 "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father.
 26 In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf.
 27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.
 28 I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."
 29 Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech.
 30 Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God."
 31 "Do you now believe?" Jesus replied.
 32 "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.
 33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

17 JESUS PRAYS TO BE GLORIFIED

1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.
 2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.
 3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

Keep Your Eye ON THE PRIZE

20-21 As Christians we are not guaranteed a life free of grief or hardships. As we go through life and are distracted by life, work, phone calls, movies, social media, TV, etc . . . , we may want to evaluate how we are spending our time.

Will what is receiving all our attention still be important at the end of our lives? One day we all will stand before God. A wise person will invest in something that will last. A relationship with Jesus, a ministry that God puts on your heart that saves souls, help those in need, feed the hungry.

Run the race of life in such a way that you have your eye on the true prize and all that matters - that which will last. You will rejoice one day.

COMPLETE JOY

24 When we pray and “ask” God for something, we must remember a few things. The word ask here (in the original Greek) suggests that the request should be persistent and continual. We are told that when we pray in Jesus’ name and within God’s will, our joy will be complete.

If joy is lacking, it is perhaps due to lack of prayer. Just as human dads want the happiness of their children, so does our heavenly Father have these desires for us.

However, we must remember that Isaiah 59:2 tells us, “your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.” Along with the criteria listed above, we must be abiding in Him, obeying Him, and not leading a life of sin.

ULTIMATE VICTORY

33 As long as Christians live on this earth we will face continuing tension, pressure, hatred, and hostility. When a Christian takes a stand for Christ or speaks out on a moral issue there will be intense pressure from the unbelieving world, but we will enjoy the peace that comes from Jesus’ ultimate victory on the cross.

17 4 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.

5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES

6 "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.

7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.
8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.

10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.

11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

13 "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.

14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.

15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.

17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

JESUS PRAYS FOR ALL BELIEVERS

20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,

21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—

23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

GLORIFYING GOD

4 By going to the Cross, Jesus shows that there is nothing that the love of God is not prepared to do. That there is no limit to the love of God. Jesus forever made men certain of God's love for them by finishing the work God gave Him to do.

Jesus completed the task God gave Him, and sets the example for all of humankind, that the only way to glorify God is to obey Him. God is glorified through the accomplishments of His obedient servants. Are you working on something that will bring glory to God?

ACCUSE OR COMPROMISE

14 If Jesus' followers don't join the world in its sin, they become living accusations against the world's immorality. If you are a true disciple of Jesus Christ, the unbelieving world will villify you.

Unfortunately, many Christians today fall far short of this standard and compromise with the world's lack of morals and values. This often leads to believers being indistinguishable from unbelievers.

DAILY APPLICATION

17 The daily study of God's word is essential for those who strive for personal holiness. God's word purifies our hearts and minds, points out our sins, motivates us to confess, and grows our relationship with Jesus Christ.

PROBLEM SOLVING 101

18 Christians are not meant to withdraw from life. Through Jesus, we are equipped to solve the problems that will come our way. We are Jesus' representatives in this world. We are not to abandon it, but to win it.

Accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is just the beginning. After that comes the real exciting part as we take on the tasks He has set before us.

17 25 "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.
26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

18 JESUS ARRESTED

1 When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.
2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.
3 So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.
4 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"
5 "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.)
6 When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.
7 Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they said.
8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go."
9 This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."
10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)
11 Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"
12 Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him
13 and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year.
14 Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.

PETER'S FIRST DENIAL

15 Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard,
16 but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in.
17 "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not."

THE GREATEST GLORY

24-26 Being a Christian is not supposed to be easy. When it gets difficult, we should regard it as our glory given to us by God.

We will find glory, peace, and comfort not by doing what we want, but by doing God's will. When we try to do it our own way, as we are prone to do, it usually ends in disaster, wasted time and wasted resources. The greatest glory and joy will be found in the greatest of obedience.

COMPLETE CONTROL

4 Jesus was in complete control of the situation in the garden. He and He alone allowed Himself to be arrested. We need to remember, just as He was in total control here, if we follow Jesus, obey Jesus and give our lives over to Him, He will be in complete control and never let us falter.

GOD'S PLAN, NOT OURS

10 It can be tempting to take matters into our own hands, to force an issue. Many times this can lead to sin. Rather, we must trust God and His plans for us.

COURAGE NOT FAILURE

17 It can be easy to notice someone's failures rather than compliment them on their courage. While Peter did fail in his denials of Jesus, he alone drew his sword against fearful odds in the garden. He stayed near Jesus to the end, while all the others fled (except for John). He failed in a situation no one else dared to face and he later redeemed himself. He went on to greatness despite his failings.

If you fail while serving God, remember you can redeem yourself, Jesus can redeem us. Stay near to Jesus until the end. If you fail, get up the courage to continue on and, like Peter, go big for God and never, ever flee Jesus.

18 18 It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

THE HIGH PRIEST QUESTIONS JESUS

19 Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

20 "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret.

21 Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said."

22 When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded.

23 "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?"

24 Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

PETER'S SECOND AND THIRD DENIALS

25 Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, "You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?" He denied it, saying, "I am not."

26 One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?"

27 Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

JESUS BEFORE PILATE

28 Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover.

29 So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

30 "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you."

31 Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." "But we have no right to execute anyone," they objected.

32 This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

33 Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

34 "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

35 "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

WE ARE ALL GUILTY

25 It can be easy to be upset about the Jewish Council's injustice and about the disciples deserting Jesus. The vast majority of us will not act like the Jewish Council. However, many of us are guilty of acting like the disciples when they fled Jesus and denied Him.

We are all guilty in some way of keeping our identities as followers of Jesus secret at times. We should not be so concerned about other's sins when we have a log in our own eye at times.

TRULY REPENTANT

27 Denying Jesus is a serious sin. We all are sinners. James 2:10 tells us if we break just one part of the law, we are guilty of breaking all of it.

No sin is too great for Jesus to forgive. If we are truly repentant, Jesus will forgive even our worst sins. We must be willing to turn from sin, run from it, and ask Jesus to forgive us of it.

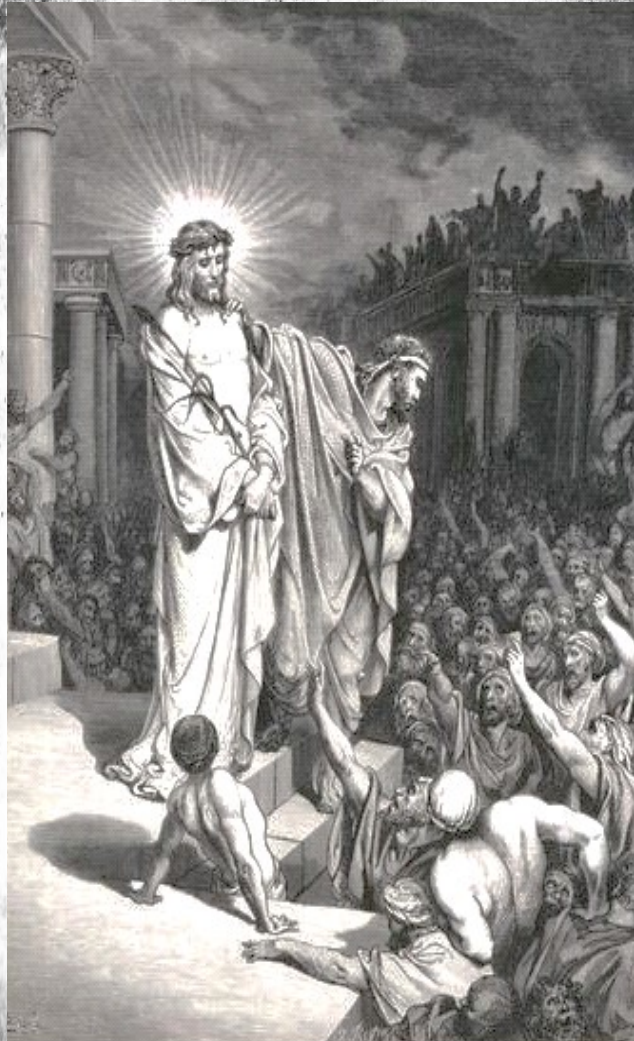
Having grief over sin, not just its consequences, reflects a heart that is near to God. The closer you grow to God, the less you will sin and the less you will want to sin.

HYPOCRISY

22-24 People can get very upset when their hypocrisy is exposed and instead of admitting the truth, many will lash out and try to silence the truth by slapping it in the face.

The ones who interrogated Jesus knew what the truth was and rather than choose its side, they revealed how wicked the Jewish nation had become.

Since His trial, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, the world has been trying to do away with Jesus and His followers to no avail. When the world tries to slap us in the face for following Jesus, let it not silence us but rather encourage us.



JESUS BEFORE PILATE

Pilate knew the truth. He knew Jesus was innocent. While Pilate knew the truth, he chose to reject it. Many times the truth is right in front of us and we refuse to see it. Then there are the times when we know the truth and still ignore it.

Jesus was about to die the most painful of deaths so we may know the truth. He had to die so we would know the truth. Unfortunately many do not want to hear the truth.

Pilate tried to let everyone else make his decision about Jesus. Unfortunately that does not work. We all must make our own decision about Jesus. No one can do it for us. Everyone reading this booklet and everyone that is alive right now on the face of the earth will have to make their own decision about Jesus Christ.

There will be no escape from this decision. Pilate tried to avoid making a decision by appealing to emotion and pity. There will be no such appeal when we stand before God. Nothing can take the place of your own personal decision about Jesus Christ.

Pilate tried to put the responsibility about Jesus on someone else. When we stand before God, there will be no putting the responsibility on someone else.

Pilate tried to compromise by having Jesus flogged instead of sentencing Him to death. When we stand before God, there will be no compromising about Jesus.

Pilate had the power to release Jesus, unfortunately, in the face of hostility from the Jews, he ended up lacking the courage to do so. When we stand before God, our lack of courage will be no excuse for rejecting Jesus.

Nothing can take the place of your own personal decision about Jesus Christ. When we stand before God, there will be no excuses.

18 36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."
37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."
38 "What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him."
39 But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?"
40 They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

19 JESUS SENTENCED TO BE CRUCIFIED

1 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.
2 The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe
3 and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face.
4 Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him."
5 When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"
6 As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him."
7 The Jewish leaders insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."
8 When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid,
9 and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer.
10 "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"
11 Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."
12 From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."
13 When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha).
14 It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews.

EVERYONE, THAT INCLUDES YOU

39 Many try to evade the most important decision they will ever make - What to do with Jesus Christ. We all must decide for ourselves about Jesus, we cannot put this task onto someone else.

There is no escape from making this decision. Not to make a decision is to make a decision. We are either for Jesus or against Him. It is the most important choice you will make in your entire life.

PATIENT ENDURANCE

3 We may not face the brutal physical attacks that Jesus received, but as believers in Him, we will face opposition. If we are doing it right, there will be anger, humiliation, verbal abuse, and more.

This is where Jesus sets the example for us in the face of the world's abuse and hatred: He showed us patience and endurance that should be an encouragement to all His believers. And while we may feel like we are on trial, they are actually on trial before God.

REPETITION

6 There are many times throughout scripture when concepts are repeated. That is when we need to pay attention. In this booklet we repeat things because it is said that the three rules of teaching and learning are repetition, repetition, and repetition.

PROOF

9 Jesus fulfills hundreds of Old Testament prophecies to the point where it is mathematically impossible in one person. Fulfilled prophecy is absolute proof of the deity of Jesus Christ. Here he fulfills Isaiah 53:7.

19 15 But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.
16 Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus.

17 Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).

18 There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

19 Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.

20 Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek.

21 The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

22 Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

23 When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

24 "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, "They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment." So this is what the soldiers did.

25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son,"

27 and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

THE DEATH OF JESUS

28 Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

31 Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down.

CONTRADICTIONS?

19 Scoffers somehow think if they find a seeming contradiction in the Bible they no longer have a need to have their sins forgiven by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

What many fail to realize is that while the four Gospels may have different recordings of what was written above the cross and other accounts within each, they are written to different people, by different people, for different purposes.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

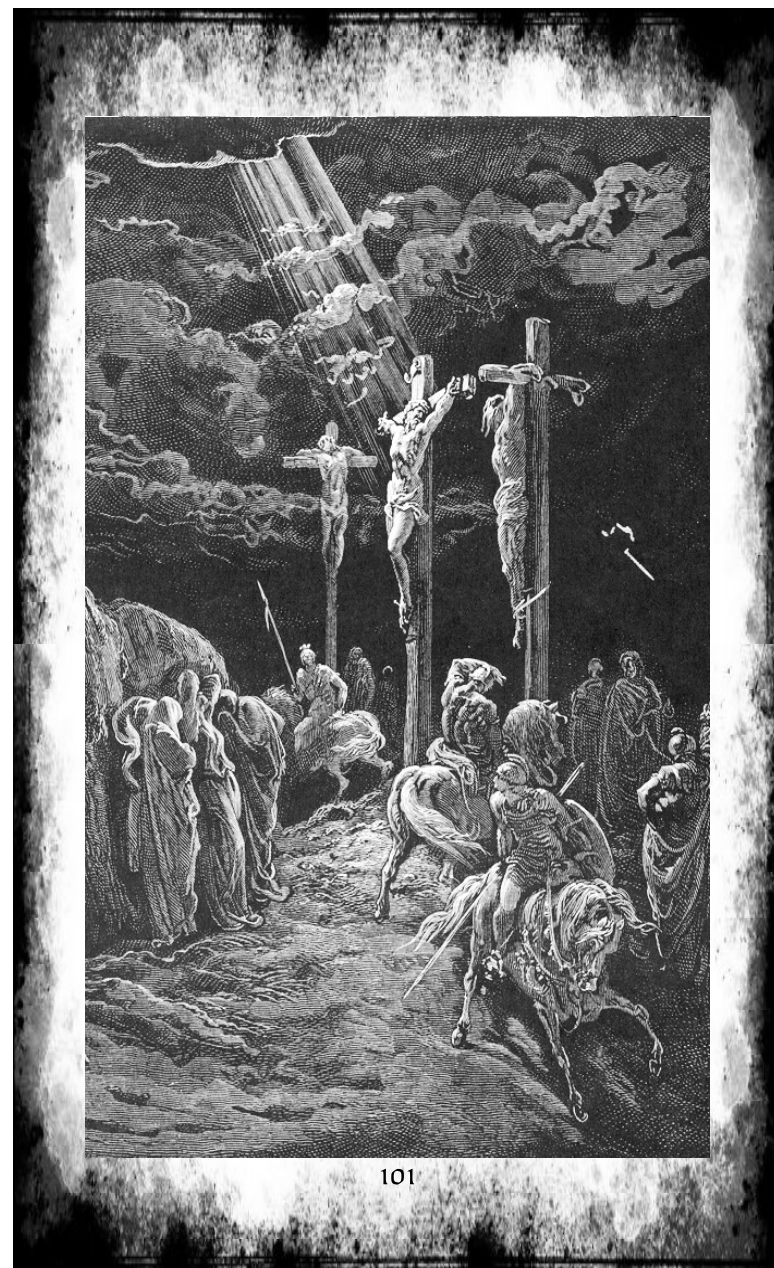
25-27 We all need to be friends and family like those at the foot of the cross when Jesus needed them most. We need to make sure we are there for our friends and family while they are still here. One of the most important things we can do for them is to make sure their eternity is set and they will be joining us in Heaven, forever. Do not be afraid to share Jesus with those you love while you still have a chance.

Follow the example that Jesus sets for us. Even as He is going through extreme pain and torture, He is concerned about the physical needs of His family.

VICTORY

30 Sin separates us from God. Sin requires punishment. The punishment for sin is death. Until Jesus, forgiveness of sins came through an animal sacrifice. Not just any animal, but an animal without blemish. At Jesus' crucifixion, the ultimate and final sacrifice was made. The only perfect person to ever live paid in full the price for all of our sins.

Jesus' death was not a defeat, but a victory not only for Him, but for all mankind. With His death (and resurrection), Jesus secured redemption for all the lost in the greatest, most glorious, moment in all history.



THE CRUCIFIXION

In the darkest moment in history, God was in absolute control. Jesus had just survived the worst scourging in human history (Isaiah 52:14) that many died from. Now He was dying the most painful death imaginable on the cross.

Dozens of prophecies were being fulfilled. The pagan Roman soldiers were fulfilling Old Testament prophecies (Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12, Psalm 34:20, Psalm 22:18, Psalm 69:21). Pilate had fulfilled prophecy by allowing Jesus to be crucified (Isaiah 53:3-6, Psalm 22:16). The onlookers fulfilled still more prophecy (Psalm 22:17, Psalm 38:11, Psalm 109:25, Psalm 22:8).

Fulfilled prophecy is one of the greatest faith building tools God gives us. Hundreds of years before Jesus was even born, David, Isaiah, and others were writing about what was to come in the most minute details.

These and the hundreds of other fulfilled prophecies about Jesus Christ leave no room for doubt that He was and is who He claimed to be. He is the Son of God. The odds of Jesus fulfilling just eight of the prophecies about Him are 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000.

There is no doubt Jesus was a real man with a real human body as the blood and water came out of His body after the Roman soldier had pieced Him. Absolute proof Jesus was God and man.

There can be no uncertainty that Jesus was dead as the Roman soldiers were professionals. They knew how to kill someone. If they did not do their job, their lives would have been on the line.

The darkest moment in history gave way to the greatest moment in all of history. Jesus Christ had paid the ultimate penalty for sin, offering a free redemption to all sinners. The sin that separates people from God had been paid in full by the single greatest act of love in the history of mankind.

19 32 The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other.
33 But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.
34 Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.
35 The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe.
36 These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken,"
37 and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

THE BURIAL OF JESUS

38 Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away.
39 He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.
40 Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.
41 At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid.
42 Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

20 THE EMPTY TOMB

1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.
2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"
3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.
4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.
5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.
6 Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there,
7 as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.

EXPERIENCED SOLDIERS

33-34 Those who executed Jesus, the Roman soldiers, were experienced. Again, they knew if someone was dead or alive after being crucified. Scoffers are always looking for some reason to keep on sinning. If they are willing to admit that Jesus lived and was crucified, they will still not admit that He actually died. They say that He just passed out and came back to life. They will try to find anything to keep living in their sin.

Deciding not to break his legs shows he was already dead. If that is not enough, by piercing His side and having the separation of blood and water indicates that His heart had stopped. These experienced soldiers knew He was dead.

The graphic details John provides of Jesus' crucifixion are there to show that John actually witnessed what happened. When reading the Gospel of John (as well as the other Gospels) we should always remember, we are reading eyewitness testimony to what actually occurred.

AN IMPARTIAL WITNESS

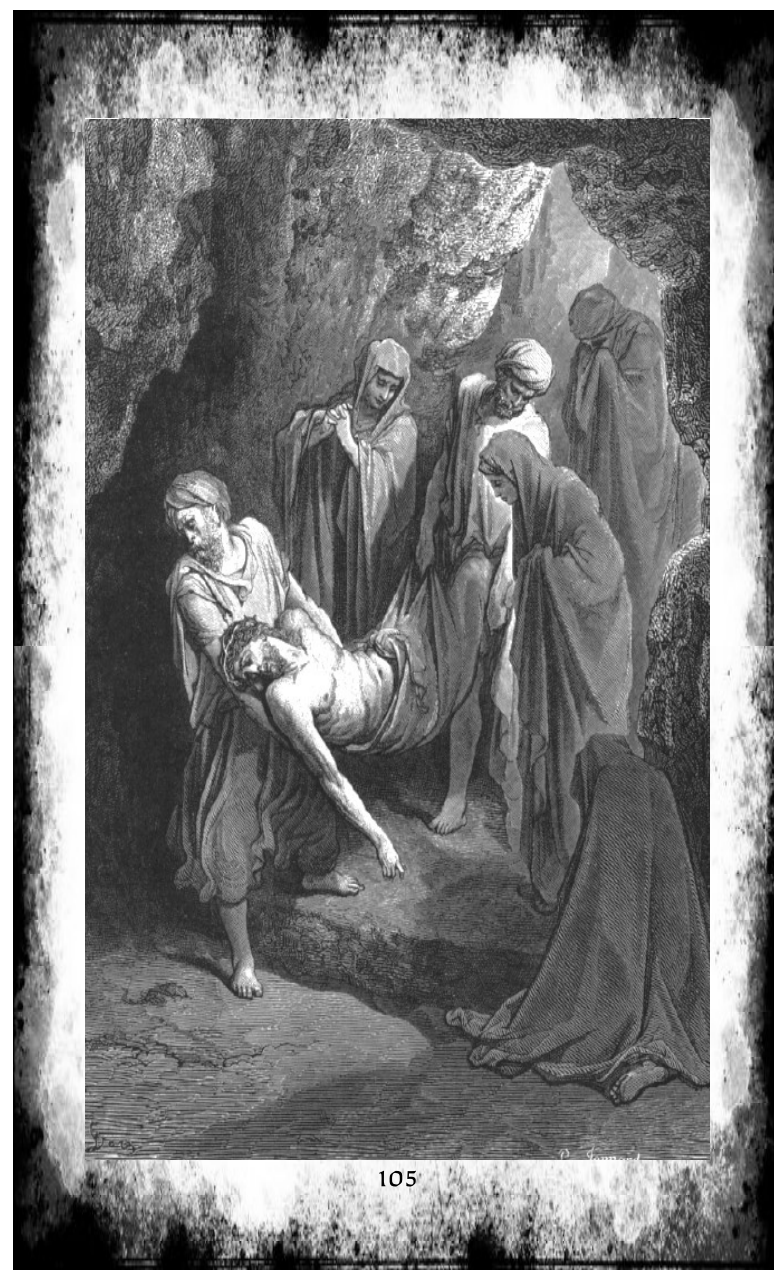
35 Those living in the darkness John so often refers to will try to tell you there is no proof that Jesus ever lived. Well, apart from the, at least, 17 secular historians that at the time wrote about Jesus, there is the testimony of impartial witnesses, the Roman soldiers.

MORE FULFILLED PROPHECY

36-37 Here we have two more verses that fulfill prophecy from Exodus 12:46 and Numbers 9:12, providing further proof of Jesus' deity. Fulfilled prophecy helps build one's faith.

WORTH REPEATING

39 God knows we are not perfect, but He does expect us to grow. Nicodemus shows us just how far his conversation with Jesus has led him. From coming to Jesus under cover of night, to openly taking Jesus' body after His death. This shows the power of the cross to turn a coward into a hero and what real growth looks like.



THE BURIAL

Here we have yet more fulfilled prophecy. Isaiah 53:8-9 is fulfilled in Jesus' burial producing yet more faith and proof for those who question.

Jesus had foretold His own resurrection, so great care was taken to prevent any confiscation of His body.

Before Jesus could be resurrected, it was essential to show that He was really dead. John uses the mention of Jesus' burial to present yet one more detail to make it unquestionably clear that Jesus had truly died on the cross.

All evidence from both Biblical and secular sources points to the undeniable fact that Jesus definitely died on the cross.

Why is the matter of Jesus actually dying on the cross such an important fact? First, it will prepare the way for the resurrection. Second, it shows that He truly did take the sin of the entire world upon Himself.

During the burial we also see the culmination of Nicodemus' faith as he and Joseph of Arimathea (a prominent member of the council) finally stand up for Jesus and take His body for burial.

This was a bold moment for both of these gentlemen as they had been secret followers of Jesus and now came the time to put their faith into action.

It may not seem like much, taking Jesus body after He was already dead, and then burying it, but considering their positions, it was quite courageous.

It is time for all of us to be bold and to stand up for Jesus. It is time for us to put our faith into action and to show an unbelieving world what Jesus' death on the cross, His burial, His resurrection, and finally His ascension has done for us and what it means for them and all of mankind. It is time for us followers of Jesus to come out of hiding and be fearless.

20 8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.
9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)
10 Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb
12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.
13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."
14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.
15 He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."
16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").
17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"
18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"
20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.
21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."
22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.
23 If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.
25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."
26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

HE SAW AND BELIEVED

8 Here we have an eyewitness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. His entire Gospel is written so we may believe. John saw the grave clothes still where Jesus' body had been. He saw the head wrapping still in its place. He knew at that point, as scoffers might say, that Jesus' body was not stolen. It could not have been stolen. He knew it. This verse is the culmination of the growth of John's faith.

Even before he saw the resurrected Jesus, he believed. John, an eyewitness, wrote this so you too may see the meaning of it all and . . . believe, without ever having to actually see Jesus.

TEARS

11 We weep for someone who has gone to be with God. However, it is for ourselves that we cry. That is just natural. But we must not allow our tears to blind us to the glory of Heaven. Tears there must be, but through the tears we should see the glory.

CALLING YOUR NAME

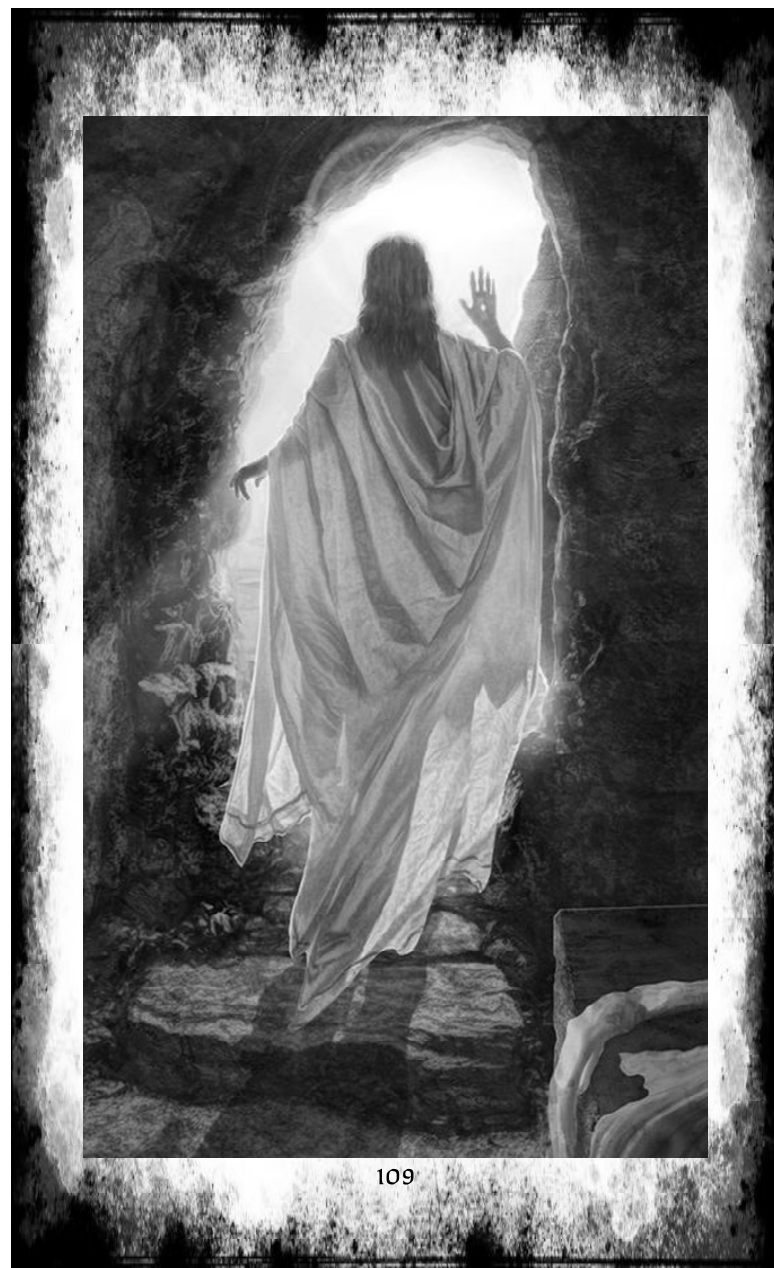
16 Imagine how you will react when Jesus calls your name. Will you hear Him say your name followed by . . . "well done my good and faithful servant"?

OUR JOB

21 If you are a disciple of Jesus Christ, it is your job to spread the Gospel of salvation around the world. Be it in your home town, your country, or throughout the world. There are no longer excuses for not doing global missions as they can be done on-line via Facebook or Youtube and through the Jesus Film Project where every 83 cents donated saves a soul somewhere in the world for all eternity.

GUIDANCE

22 Just as God breathed life into Adam, through Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit "breathed" into us. Through the Holy Spirit we have the power of God to do His will, not ours.



THE EMPTY TOMB

The drawing to the left depicts the greatest moment in the history of the world. It recounts the precise moment that the enemy was defeated. The moment Paul talks about in 1 Corinthians 15:17 when he says: "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." This is the moment that the entire Bible prepares the way for. The moment that is accepted by most Christians as the core tenant of our belief. This is the moment that promises all who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior will have victory over death.

In the verse John 20:1, he subtly notes that "while it was still dark" Mary went to the tomb and noticed the stone was removed from the entrance. We need to remember that John chooses his words very carefully, and they usually have deeper meaning, which guides us to the profound parallel of the darkness in the hearts of the disciples and of the world without Jesus. The darkness that was about to be broken by the light of the resurrection.

There is more to the story than just an empty tomb. We must remember Jesus appeared to hundreds of people after the empty tomb. His resurrection from the dead and eyewitness accounts are absolute proof that Jesus is who He claimed to be - the Son of God, and our only hope of salvation and forgiveness of all of our sins.

John, the disciple who Jesus loved and whose eyewitness testimony is recorded in this booklet, was the first one to believe in the Resurrection. The very first one to believe and understand what had happened. Please realize that where you spend your eternity depends on whether or not you believe this first-hand, eyewitness testimony. Testimony from someone who says that "He saw and believed."

The tomb is empty, which means that Jesus Christ is alive. Once we realize the tomb is empty we will be filled with joy and will meet Jesus Christ personally and will want to share Him with everyone we meet.

20 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."
28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"
29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

THE PURPOSE OF JOHN'S GOSPEL

30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.
31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

21 JESUS AND THE MIRACULOUS CATCH OF FISH

1 Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way:
2 Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together.
3 "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.
4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.
5 He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"
"No," they answered.
6 He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.
7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water.
8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.
9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.
10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught."
11 So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn.
12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.
13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.
14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

DOUBTERS

28-29 Many doubters, even today, say they will believe only if God reveals Himself to them or they are given some sort of evidence that satisfies them. Unfortunately, many of those have their eyes shut so tightly even if they had the opportunity to touch Jesus or see Him in person, they still would doubt.

We have all the proof of Jesus, His existence and His deity, right here in the Gospel of John, as well as the rest of the entire Bible, in answered prayer, in changed lives, in creation and more. So many have believed without seeing Jesus in person . . . they are blessed.

THE PURPOSE AND PROOF

30-31 There are no other passages that better sum up the purpose of The Gospel of John, The Gospels, The New Testament, the entire Bible, and God's entire plan.

John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, an eyewitness, a relative, a friend, provides absolute proof, through evidence, that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing we may have life in His name.

The Gospel of John not only provides verifiable proof to scoffers and non-believers, it elicits faith, it also shows the progressive nature of faith, how to grow it, how to strengthen it, how to live it, how to share it.

The more a person reads and studies, not only the entire Bible, but the Gospel of John in particular, the more you grow to love it, the more you grow to Love Jesus Christ and the closer you will be to our Lord and Savior.

ALL NATIONS

11 As with most of John, there is deeper meaning to each verse, each phrase, and each word. There were supposedly 153 different kinds of fish in the Sea of Galilee, showing that someday all nations will be gathered to Jesus Christ and there is room for all in the net.



THE ASCENSION

Jesus' ascension to glory is not specifically mentioned in the Gospel of John, as it already has been discussed in the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke).

John does mention the importance of the events that led up to the ascension. For forty days after being resurrected Jesus taught His disciples and appeared to more than 500 witnesses.

Scripture tells us very clearly that Jesus' ascension was a physical return to Heaven that was witnessed by many.

Jesus' return to Heaven represented the end of His earthly ministry. He had successfully accomplished all that He had come to do.

His return to the Father was necessary for the work of the Holy Spirit to continue Jesus' ministry.

Just as Jesus was able to accomplish His earthly mission, with the help of the Holy Spirit we are able to accomplish the mission we have assigned to us.

This does not mean that Jesus is up in Heaven hibernating until it is time for Him to return. He is our advocate with the Father. He did not ascend to leave us, but to guide us and help us through this world.

Jesus is with the Father and sees everything happening today. He is leading His people, watching over us, and protecting us.

There has been victory over the enemy through Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection and ascension. The time is coming when Jesus returns and will judge all of humanity.

It will be a time when every knee will bow to Jesus as He and He alone is deciding where we will spend our eternity based on whether or not we were willing to receive the forgiveness He has offered us as a free gift.

21 Jesus REINSTATES PETER

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

18 Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go."

19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

20 Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?")

21 When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"

22 Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me."

23 Because of this, the rumor spread among the believers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?"

24 This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

25 Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

**You have just read a portion of
God's word - The Bible.
The Bible was written so we may
understand humankind's own wickedness
and our need for a Savior.
The sun is setting, and time is running out in this age.
Time is limited.
Please do not delay in making
the most important decision of your entire life.
Once you take your final breath, your eternity is sealed.**

NO COMPARISON

21 Jesus' answer to Peter clearly shows that, as believers, we must not concern ourselves with what others do or do not do for Jesus. God has different plans for different people. Our main focus is to be on the task He has assigned us as well as on our relationship with Him.

Our glory is for serving Him in the capacity He has allotted to us. Our love for Christ will guide us in the sacrificial commitments He has assigned us.

THE FINAL ARGUMENT

24 For about 2000 years now, the final and best argument for Jesus Christ and Christianity is the Christian experience. No one can argue with you and tell you, no, you are wrong. The person with an argument is at the mercy of the person with experience.

ONLY A FRAGMENT

25 Whatever wonderful truth of Jesus we are able to grasp, or understand, it is but a fragment of who He truly is. There are wonders that will never fully be experienced until we meet Him face to face.

THE VERDICT

25 You are living in a courtroom. All the evidence has been presented by an eyewitness. You are the jury. You must make a decision. We all must make a decision. Please choose wisely. Forever is a very long time to be wrong. Once you take your last breath, your eternity is sealed.

THE LAST CHAPTER

The last chapter of the Gospel of John, after it is seemingly ended, is added for a very real, very specific purpose. It was added to confirm once and for all, to everyone, the reality of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

NOW WHAT

You have just read one of the most awesome and inspiring pieces of literature ever written, the Gospel of John. Now what do you do? Well, that depends. If you already have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, congratulations. Hopefully this booklet will help you grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ. We will discuss growth in a bit. If you have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, hopefully this booklet has helped you realize that you will need Him and the sooner the better.

More information will follow for you too, but for now, here are the basics. The Bible says there is only one way to Heaven. Jesus Himself, in this booklet you just read tells us in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to the Father, but by me." Nobody else can save you. Trust Jesus Today!

- **Admit you are a sinner - Romans 3:10 and 3:23**
- **Be willing to turn from sin (repent) - Acts 17:30**
- **Believe that Jesus died for you and rose from the dead - Romans 10:9-10**
- **Through prayer, invite Jesus into your heart to become your personal Savior - Romans 10:13**

What to Pray (pray something like this):

"Dear Lord Father in Heaven, I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ shed His precious blood and died for my sins. I am willing to turn from sin. I now invite Jesus to come into my heart as my personal Lord and Savior."

What to Do Next:

- Read and Study the Bible Daily
- Pray Daily
- Be Baptized
- Fellowship with other believers at a Bible-believing church
- Serve Jesus (Join or start a ministry)
- Tell others about Jesus
- Grow and teach others (make disciples)
- If you do sin, turn from it, run from it, to Jesus. He will forgive you

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

Are you good enough to get into Heaven? This is the most important question you will ever ask yourself. The way to find out is if you have obeyed God's Law, The 10 Commandments. Let's look in the mirror and find out.

1.) *You shall have no other gods before me.*

Have you always put God first in your life, above everything?

2.) *You shall not make yourself any graven image.*

Ever made a god to suit yourself with your hands or mind?

3.) *You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain.*

Have you ever used God's name in place of a bad word?

4.) *Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy.*

Have you always rested at least one specific day per week?

5.) *Honor your father and mother.*

Have you always respected your parents in word and deed?

6.) *You shall not murder.*

God tells us if we get angry without cause or hate someone, we are guilty. We can violate God's law by attitude or intent.

7.) *You shall not commit adultery.*

Jesus tells us, whoever looks at a woman, to lust after her, has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Have you ever looked with lust?

8.) *You shall not steal.*

Have you ever taken something that did not belong to you no matter what the value was?

9.) *You shall not bear false witness.*

Have you ever told a lie? Even just one.

10.) *You shall not covet.*

Have you ever wanted something that belonged to someone else?

James 2:10 tells us "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it." Romans 3:23 explains, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Since God is a righteous Judge, all sin requires punishment. The normal punishment for sin is separation from God in a place called hell. However, the sinless Son of God, Jesus, took our sins upon Himself on the cross. All we have to do is ask God to forgive us of our sins through the blood of Jesus. It is absolutely FREE to all.

THE ROMANS ROAD

If you are still having questions about whether accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is necessary for your salvation and for forgiveness of your sins, please consider the following verses from the Book of Romans.

I consider myself to be a good person

Romans 3:10

"As it is written: 'There is no one righteous, not even one.'"

Romans 3:23

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

Romans 5:12

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned."

What is the big deal about sin?

Romans 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

After all I've done, how can God forgive me?

Romans 5:8

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

How can I be saved?

Romans 10:9

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

How do I know God heard me?

Romans 10:13

"for, Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

If you died tonight, you can be 100% sure that you would go to Heaven.

HOW TO PRAY

"When asked, 'What is more important: praying or reading the Bible?' I ask, 'What is more important: breathing in or breathing out?'" - Charles Spurgeon

How Jesus Taught Us to Pray

- We are to exalt the Father
 - Thy Kingdom come - refers to His second coming to set up His millennial reign
 - Be thankful for all God does for you and blesses you with
 - Ask for your daily necessities
 - Ask for forgiveness - confessing our sins is vital
 - Forgive others
 - Pray for protection from the devil and not to be overcome by temptation
 - Pray against evil
 - We are to give glory, praise and honor to the Lord
 - Make your requests known
 - Begin by addressing "Our Father in Heaven," and end your prayer in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
- This is just a general guideline. Open your heart to the Lord.

Things that Hinder Prayer

- Unbelief (James 1:6-8)
- Unforgiveness (Mark 11:25-26)
- Practice of Sin (Isaiah 59: 1-2)
- Selfish Motives (James 4:3)

Praying is essential in order to continue our walk with God. Pick a specific time and place each day as well as regular prayer throughout the day. Pick your favorite posture: standing, kneeling, bowing, prostrated, folded hands.

Pray the Prayer of Jabez in 1 Chronicles 4:10

"Oh, that You would bless me and enlarge my territory!
Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm
so that I will be free from pain."

Expect big things after praying this consistently.
Failure to pray entails losses far beyond the person
who neglects it.

PRAYER CONTINUED

Starting Your Day - No matter how short, make sure to start your day with a prayer. It will get you off to a good start focusing on the Lord.

Prayer of Thanksgiving - As you go through your day, pay attention to the little blessings God sends your way and say a short prayer of thanksgiving.

Prayer Against Evil - Make a list of injustice and evil in the world and pray against it regularly. Crime, abortion, racism, perversion, gambling, corruption, and more. Pray for those involved to find salvation through Jesus Christ.

Ask Others to Pray for Them - This is a great way to turn the hearts of others to God. "How can I pray for you today?" goes a long way.

Prayers of Deliverance - Ask God to help you with any sin you are struggling with. He will help you through it.

Redemptive Prayer - Pray for others struggling with sin and for their salvation.

Fellowship Prayer - Praying with others. Matthew 18:19 says if two or more agree in prayer, it will be done.

God gives us some conditions, through His word, on having our requests granted more readily.

- Ask sincerely
- Ask according to Scripture
- Continue asking
- Ask knowing that we will receive an answer
- Ask in Jesus' name
- Glorify God in our requests
- Ask according to God's will
- Abide in Jesus and strengthen your faith
- Repent of your sins
- Check your heart for any unforgiveness
- Seek God with all your heart and tell Him you love Him

Prayer is one of the most important aspects of our relationship with God. It is how we communicate with Him. Think how it would make you feel if your spouse, friend or child didn't talk to you. It would make you sad. Praying is a choice. Make the choice to be a person of prayer. Change lives.

CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE

On the following pages we will discuss scientific evidence that proves the Bible and its author, God, are true and historical. We will also examine early church history. First and foremost, it must be noted that the main story of the Bible is much too complex to be a hoax. As men wrote the Bible, they were fully aware that they were being directed by the Holy Spirit.

The Bible is unique in its unity, in its purpose, and in its central theme. From Genesis 1:1 through Revelation 22:21 there is a clear unity of thought (the exaltation of Jesus Christ), a clear purpose (the demonstration of God's love for people), and a clear central theme (the revelation of God's plan of redemption).

The Bible is unique in its continuity. It was written over the course of about fifteen hundred years. It was written by more than forty authors from every walk of life including kings, military leaders, prophets, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, tax collectors, poets, musicians, statesmen, scholars, and shepherds. It was written in many different places, in the wilderness, in a dungeon, in a palace, in prison, while traveling, while in exile just to name a few. It was written during different moods, in the heights of joy, in the depths of sorrow and despair, in times of certainty and in times of confusion and doubt. It was written on three continents, Asia, Africa, and Europe. It was written in three languages, Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. It was written in a wide variety of literary styles, poetry, historical narrative, song, romance, personal correspondence, memoirs, satire, biography, autobiography, law, prophecy, parable, and allegory.

The Bible address hundreds of controversial topics, yet from beginning to end there is an amazing amount of harmony. The Bible proves itself over and over with 100% accuracy of hundreds of fulfilled prophecies down to the most minute details and records of those fulfilled prophecies.

The Bible is unique in its circulation. Many books hit the best-seller list selling a few hundred thousand copies. The Bible's circulation is 5 billion.

CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE CONTINUED

The Gospel of John was written about the years 85-90 AD. Many early church leaders' writings are still available today that were contemporaries of the Apostle John. These provide external evidence for the reliability of the New Testament.

Polycarp (70-150 AD) knew John and exchanged letters to the church in Philippi in 107 AD. He was a disciple of John who was martyred for his relentless devotion to Christ and the Scriptures. His death truly proved his trust in the accuracy of the Scripture.

Polycarp in turn taught **Irenaeus** of Lyon (ca. 130-200 AD) who showed a chain of custody by the early Bishops to keep scripture intact. He quoted 21 of the 27 New Testament books and wrote "So firm is the ground upon which these Gospels rest, that the very heretics themselves bear witness to them."

Ignatius, the Bishop of Syrian Antioch, in 107 AD followed apostolic institutions and had copies of Scripture. Letters of his still survive to this day. He was also martyred for his faith in Christ. He was a disciple of Polycarp.

Papias of Hierapolis (70-150 AD) knew Polycarp and the Apostle John and interviewed disciples of Jesus Christ. He is quoted, "Matthew recorded the oracles in the Hebrew."

Clement of Rome (95 AD) uses Scripture as a reliable and authentic source. He wrote a letter called *Corinthians* that affirms the gospel message came from the historical Jesus who had been sent by God and that His message was verified by His confirmed resurrection from the dead.

Quadratus (125 AD) was one of the world's first apologists. He defended the faith to the Roman emperor Hadrian. Quadratus affirms the actual existence of Jesus through the historical authenticity of Jesus' miracles. Some of those healed by Jesus were believed to still be alive during Quadratus' time.

CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE CONTINUED

As these gentlemen and others were all copying and exchanging documents, in 113 AD, secular Gov. Pliny wrote a letter to Caesar Trajan discussing what to do with "all of the Christians" and describes their early worship practices. Emperor Trajan replied giving the guidelines for punishing Christians.

Justin Martyr (100-167 AD) was one of the greatest early Christian apologists who builds his case for Christianity upon New Testament writings and his independent verification of the events they record. Famously stated that "Christianity is the only sure and worthy philosophy."

Athenogoras (133-190 AD) was an early Christian apologist whose authenticated writings to emperors Marcus Aurelius and Commodus defend Christians.

Very early references and quotes from the New Testament: **Theophilus of Antioch** (ca.120-180 AD) was the first to use the term "Trinity" in Christian teaching.

Clement of Alexandria (150-212 AD) has 2,400 quotes from all but three books of the New Testament.

Tertullian (160-220 AD) quotes from the New Testament 7,000 times just over 100 years after it was written.

Hippolytus (170-235 AD) has more than 1,300 references.

Origen (185-254 AD) compiled more than 6,000 works that have over 18,000 quotes from the New Testament.

Cyprian (200-258 AD) cites the Old Testament 740 times and the New Testament 1,030 times.

Eusebius of Caesarea (260-340 AD) was the first historian of the Christian Church.

Athanasius of Alexandria (367 AD) gave the world the first list of New Testament books that are exactly the same as our current New Testament.

As we can see, the time lines listed here take us directly from The Gospel of John in the Bible into written history. Written history that is still available for us to learn from today.

CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE CONTINUED

Here is what some early Church leaders said about Jesus.
Ignatius (105 AD): "God Himself being manifested in human form"

Justin Martyr (160 AD): "The Father of the universe has a Son. And He . . . is even God."

Clement of Alexandria (200 AD): "It is fitting that you could think of Jesus Christ as God."

Tertullian (200 AD): "Christ is our God."

Origen (225 AD): "And as no one ought to be offended, seeing God is the Father, the Savior is also God."

Novatian (235 AD): "He is not only man, but also God."

Cyprian (250 AD): "Let us assuredly, as far as we can, please Christ our Lord and God."

Methodius (290 AD): "He truly was and is, being in the beginning with God and being God."

Lactantius (304 AD): "We believe Him to be God."

Arnobius (305 AD): "Christ performed all those miracles."

At least 17 secular historians, including Tacitus (known as one of the most accurate historians of the first century), Suetonius, Thallus, Lucian (Second century Greek writer who sarcastically criticized Christians), Juvenal, Seneca, Hierocles, Mara Bar-Serapion and Josephus (a Jewish historian and Pharisee - Jesus' opposition), wrote about early Christians.

Sir William Ramsay is regarded as one of the greatest archaeologists to ever have lived. Concerning Luke's (the author of the Gospel of Luke) ability as a historian, Sir Ramsay stated, "Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy . . . this author should be placed along with the very greatest of historians." If one discards the Bible as being unreliable, then they must discard all other literature of antiquity.

It is intellectually impossible not to believe in God. God exists whether men choose to believe in Him or not. The problem for many is that belief in God will force them to face the fact that they are accountable to Him. Many take refuge in atheism as a convenient escape from this reality.

CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE CONTINUED

Historical evidence proves the Bible is fact. Over 24,000 ancient copies of portions of the New Testament prove it to be so. The Bible accurately describes history down to the smallest detail. Studies show the historical accuracy of the Bible is far superior to other written accounts.

Archaeological evidence proves the Bible is fact. Over 25,000 archaeological finds verify information contained in the Bible. The Dead Sea Scrolls match the Hebrew text behind today's Old Testament despite the passage of over 2,000 years. Renowned archaeologist Nelson Glueck has affirmed, "It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference."

Scientific evidence proves the Bible to be fact. Over and over a book written over 3,500 years ago was right on science when "science" itself was wrong. A few examples:

Roundness of Earth - Isaiah 40:22 and Psalm 103:12

Rotation of the Earth - Job 38:12,14

Gravitation - Job 26:7 and Job 38:6

Principle of Isostasy - Isaiah 40:12 and Psalm 103:12

Hydrological Cycle - Ecclesiastes 1:7 and Isaiah 55:10

Evaporation - Psalm 135:7 and Jeremiah 10:13

Vast Number of Stars - Jeremiah 33:22

Size of Universe - Isaiah 55:9, Job 22:12, and Jeremiah 31:37

Law of Increasing Entropy - Psalm 102:25-27

Importance of Blood in Life Processes - Leviticus 17:11

Atmospheric Circulation - Ecclesiastes 1:6

Light Moves - Job 38:19-20

Mass-Energy Equivalence - Hebrews 1:3 and Colossians 1:17

Source of Earth's Energy - Genesis 1:14, 17 and Psalm 19:6

Radio Waves - Job 38:35

Ocean Contains Springs - Job 38:16, and many more.

Irreducible Complexity proves the human eye is too intricate to form over time. It must have been formed all at once or it would not function in a useful manner. Even Darwin admitted that it would be "absurd in the highest degree" to think that the eye, in its stunning complexity, could have evolved.

CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE CONTINUED

The Law of Probability disproves macroevolution. The number of trial assemblies of amino acids needed to give rise to the enzymes required for life and their discovery by random shuffling is less than 1 in 1×10 to the 40,000th power. The entire Universe has only 10 to the 80th power electrons. Anything over this number is an event that will certainly never happen according to scientists and mathematicians.

The Law of Cause and Effect says you cannot regress infinitely, eventually there must be a first cause. Something doesn't come out of nothing. Something had to set the entire Universe in motion. An effect without a known cause is not scientific.

The Law of Biogenesis states that life can only come from pre-existing life of its own kind. Many scientists have proven this to be true.

Moral Law says mindless, random, chance processes cannot explain the existence of a moral code.

Macroevolution (change of one kind to another) has never been observed which means it is not scientific. Evolution of this type is one of the biggest lies ever inflicted on mankind. Natural selection cannot create anything new.

Many scientists freely admit that the evidence does not support their viewpoint, but the alternative to them is unthinkable.

If someone chooses to ignore all of the evidence that proves God and the Bible, they really must have much more faith than it actually takes to believe in God.

When it comes down to it, if all evidence is laid aside, there still is the uniqueness of the Christian experience that those who do not believe cannot explain. The changed life, the peace and joy, the satisfaction of our deepest spiritual needs through the power of the Holy Spirit and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Billions of people from around the world, from all walks of life, have been transformed in a remarkably similar way.

EVIDENCE OF GROWTH

Once you become a born-again believer in our Lord Jesus Christ, you will want to grow. The following are signs of that growth.

- You will want to spend more time alone with God
- You will have an increasing awareness of any sinfulness
- Your response to sin is quick and involves genuine repentance
- Your spiritual battles will become more intense
- You will experience an ever increasing awareness of His presence
- You will begin to have trials and temptations and you will see them as signs of spiritual growth
- You will feel God's love
- You will view service to God as a high honor and not a burden
- You will desire to give more and more of your time and finances
- You will become more eager to share Jesus Christ
- You will want to spend more time fellowshiping with other believers
- You desire to obey Him more and sin becomes less attractive
- You have a growing concern for the lost around the world
- You are willing to suffer for Him
- You are willing to give everything over to Him
- You will be making better choices in everything
- You ask Him for guidance in everything
- You start influencing others, both believers and non-believers
- You will have improved relationships
- Your heart will ache for the lost
- You will become selfless
- You will crave His word. You will read, memorize and study it
- You find yourself praying more and more throughout the day
- Your priorities start to change

Jesus' first words in His public ministry were "... repent ye, and believe the Gospel." To repent is a change of heart and mind in what you want to do. When you repent, there is visible change in your life. You will still struggle, but now you have Jesus to help you through, and there will be evidence of growth.

SHARING JESUS WITH OTHERS

One of the most awesome tasks Jesus gave to us is to share the Good News with others. Mark 16:15 says, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." What it doesn't say is, "if that is your gifting." Unfortunately, there are those that will tell you this way or that way is the only way to share Jesus. What they don't tell you is that Isaiah 55:11 says that God will use anything we put out there for His purposes, and it will not return void. There is no wrong way to share Jesus.

Proverbs 11:30 tells us "He who wins souls is wise." Are you wise? Ezekiel 3:18-19 says "When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wicked ways, he shall die in his iniquity, but you have delivered your soul."

Every second two people die, that's about 150,000 per day. Over 100,000 of them die without Jesus. Every single one of them matters to God, so they should matter to us. God puts everybody in our paths for a reason. Your "Divine Appointment" is whoever is standing right in front of you. Every soul ends up in Heaven or hell. What are you going to do to make sure everyone you meet will be in Heaven with you? Will Jesus be able to say "well done my good and faithful servant" and introduce you to those who are there because of your actions?

John 4:37-38 tells us that some will sow and not necessarily reap and some will reap that haven't sown. Just because you are not reaping does not mean you are doing it wrong. The only way to do it wrong, is not to do it. Mark Cahill tells us the three responses to sharing Jesus with someone are: Accept (which is good), Plant a Seed (which is good), or Reject (then 1 Peter 1:14 tells us if we are insulted because we bear the name of Jesus, we will be blessed, which is good). You cannot lose by sharing Jesus.

Jesus' Great Commission is not a request. It is our duty to share Jesus with the lost. The results are God's.

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- How Do We Know the Bible is True - Ken Ham
- How to Pray - Elmer L. Towns
- Life Application Bible Commentary - John
- Life Application Study Bible - Tyndale House
- MacArthur New Testament Commentary - John
- Many Infallible Proofs - Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.
- Moody - Gospel John Commentary
- One Heartbeat Away - Mark Cahill
- One Thing You Can't Do in Heaven - Mark Cahill
- Spirit-Filled Life New Testament Commentary Series - John

FURTHER READING & RESOURCES

- Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture Series
- Answers in Genesis (Science and the Bible)
- Chick Tracts (Tracts, Books, Resources)
- End Time Ministries
- Evangelism Explosion
- Evidence Bible
- Evidence for Christianity (Josh McDowell)
- Frontier Alliance International (Joel Richardson)
- How to Pray (Elmer Towns)
- The Jesus Film (Global Missions)
- Joshua Project and Operation World (Unreached People)
- Life Application Bible Commentary Series
- Living Waters (Tracts, Books, Videos, Many Resources)
- Mark Cahill (Books, Tracts, and Booklets)
- Moments with the Book (Tracts and more)
- One Million Tracts (Tracts and more)
- Saturate USA (Missions Within United States)
- Share Jesus Without Fear (William Fay)
- The Treasure Principle (Randy Alcorn - Author of *Heaven*)

Whatever resource you use to help you grow in your journey with Jesus Christ, please make sure it agrees with scripture

IN CLOSING

After reading this booklet,
the journey of your life now continues.
You now have a chance to change your life and your eternity.
Make sure to die with no unfinished business.
Have no regrets on Judgment Day. Don't waste your life.
You still have time left. Use it wisely.
Share this booklet with as many as you can.
Every person we meet will one day either be in Heaven or in hell.
One of those two destinations. That's it.
What are you doing to make sure you are taking as many
people as possible to Heaven with you?
Every person matters to God, so they should matter to us.
We have a reliable Guide.
Don't give up, let up, or shut up until you have
given it all up for Jesus Christ.
Keep going until He returns, give every drop you have.
Share until everyone you meet knows.
Make sure when He comes for His own that
He knows what you have been doing.
**There is a very lost world out there and
now is the time to reach it.**

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