

Within one's self lies the whole world, if you know how to look and learn. The door of life appears and the key is waiting there; nobody can give you the key, or make the door open except you. Be true to yourself, open the door.

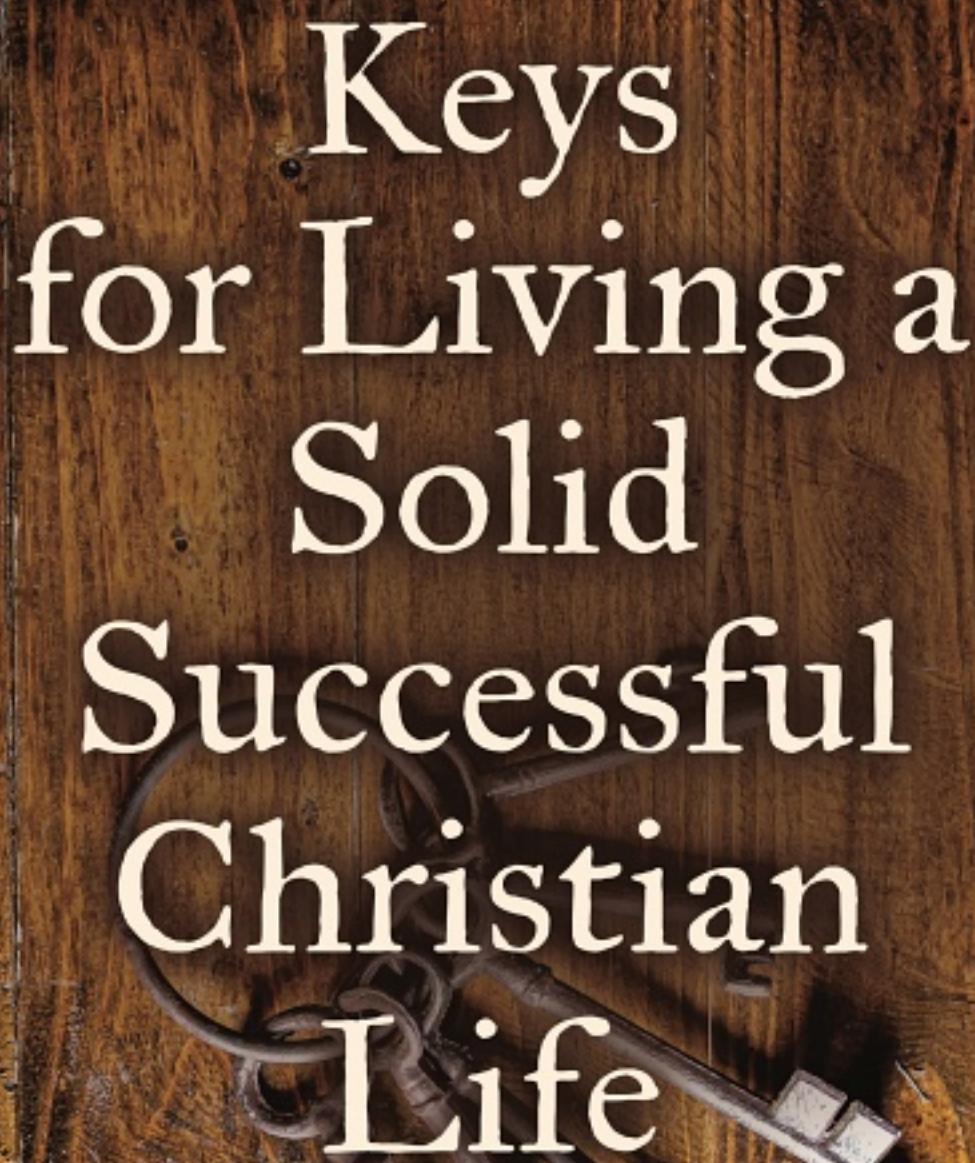
Keys For Living a Solid Successful Christian Life

By Robbie L. Rogers

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The background of the cover is a dark, richly grained wooden surface, possibly a table or a wall, with visible wood grain and some knots. In the lower half of the image, there is a cluster of several old, rusty keys and a metal chain. The keys are of various shapes and sizes, some with simple notches and others with more complex bitting. The chain is made of thick, dark metal links. The overall aesthetic is rustic and aged.

Keys
for Living a
Solid
Successful
Christian
Life

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"You will have complete and free access to God's Kingdom, keys to open any and every door: no more barriers between heaven and earth, earth and heaven. A yes on earth is yes in heaven. A no on earth is no in heaven."

Matthew 16:19 (TMSG)



KEYS FOR LIVING A SOLID SUCCESSFUL CHRISTIAN LIFE

Robbie L. Rogers

Within one's self lies the whole world, if you know how to look and learn. The door of life appears and the key is in your hand; nobody on earth can give you the key, or make the door open except yourself.

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Cover design by Robbie L. Rogers

Interior design by Robbie L. Rogers

Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Trenton, Georgia.

Print ISBN: 978-1-958878-59-0

Ebook ISBN: 979-8-88531-414-5

1. Nonfiction / Self Help
2. Nonfiction / Christian

Note: Most of the Scriptures were taken from:

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Index

1) Before You Start.....	1
2) Get Ready!	5
3) What Do you Really Believe?.....	21
4) Be Willing to Change.....	49
5) Seek God’s Wisdom.....	66
6) Put God <i>First</i>	91
7) Get Your Priorities in Order.....	102
8) God’s Way Will be My Way.	127
9) Establish a Burning Desire of Your Heart.	150
10) Ask God for Your Needs, Not Greeds.	168
11) Have Faith in God and Yourself.	196
12) My Name is Inscribed on God's Hand	218
13) Don’t Limit Yourself or God	236
14) Reaffirm Goals That You Believe Came from God.....	257
15) Make Decisions According to Faith.....	270
16) Don’t <i>Put Off</i> What You Know Should Be <i>Done</i>	287
17) Finances Can Make You a Winner or Loser.....	292
18) Get Excited About Your NEW LIFE.....	305
19) Fill Your Mind with <i>Righteous</i> Thoughts.....	324
20) Live a <i>Godly Life</i> for Others to Follow.....	344
21) <i>Be Persistent</i> , Keeping a Joyful <i>Gratitude Attitude</i>	359
22) Love Keeps You Alive.....	385
23) Get A Move on It!	411



3

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

What Do you Really Believe?



I raise these questions to you: What do you believe? Do you believe in God? If you don't believe in God, what do you believe in? *Do you believe in yourself?* Do you like yourself? If you do not like what you see in the mirror, what do you think others will see? What good are you? What do you stand for? If you do not like yourself no one is to blame but you. Quit placing the blame on God, anyone else, your environment, or external forces the world might offer as an excuse.

What You Currently are is What You Have Done.

Any trouble you find yourself embroiled in mainly was caused by you, it's your choices that usually did it. Here is the problem, if I feel I am nothing, and nothing plus nothing is nothing, maybe I am nothing. Instead, God says I am something. He says I am worth dying for. If that is true, me being nothing cannot be true. If God says it and He is always right, how can I be right. Maybe I am something, if God says so. Maybe I need to change the way I feel about me? If I am worthy to be saved by Him, that is something to be behold and cherished. Maybe I need to accept that God sees me as worthy. Who am I to say what I am?

Take another look in the mirror and grin at the person looking back at you. If your first thought was not good say, "I like you the way you are." Do your best to believe it. Next say, "Through God I can change."

I suggest you put this book down, relax and ponder what you just did. Start becoming the changed person you want to be. Your successes, your failures, your happiness, depends on you. *You can never think your way into heaven.* Let's face it, what this book is about makes no sense from a worldly standpoint. The new-world-attitude tells you to enjoy anything your heart desires, and whatever you want you should have now. Wrong.

"I believe in the sun even when it is not shining; I believe in love even when I cannot feel it; I believe in God even when He is silent."
Holocaust survivor.

Let's get the "***First Basic***" question out of the way: ***Is God Real?*** Do you believe there is a creator or that an accidental happening caused everything? Bang, it's just a theory! Do you believe in God or Chaos, a theory that states that sooner or later all things are created by the "chaos disorder"? Like a thousand monkeys coming up with the Declaration of Independence on a typewriter. Then there are some who

believe in Biocentrism. They believe we are but a perception and nothing exists unless you can see it.

We used to play “peep-eye” with our babies when they were young, they thought it was funny. Such people believe we are nothing but a well-organized whiff of smoke and mirrors, including the universe. As a kid I felt that way when I held my eyes shut tight while watching the old horror movie “The Thing”. Unfortunately, it was still there when I opened my eyes. Hold that thought.

How do you *exist*? You started as two DNA cells. Does that make sense? How could you form from that? Do you believe in the wind? Yes? Oh, but you can’t see it. *However, you can feel the effects of it.* Do you believe in insects? Most of them you can’t see, germs and all. *How about microbotics?* Do you know how many microscopic bugs are on and in your body? A bunch, plus your body is made up of millions of microscopic buggy parts. How many illnesses have you caught in your life that came from bugs in your body that you can’t see? How about your life-giving blood, it all has many factors that if any one of them get out of balance with the rest they can quickly cause your death. Hey, really you can only see your blood when you are hurt and it bleeds. Doctors currently look at six blood levels within the ranges of white corpuscles to determine your health. *What about microelectronics?* A few years ago, electronic engineers only dreamed about what we now take for granted.

What about water which makes up 65% of your body (H₂O)? What about the oxygen that gives you breath? *What about the sea and the clouds that gather rain which falls on the earth and sustains life?* And what about the fact that almost the same percent of water that covers the earth is in our body? We have little knowledge of what lies in the deepest part of the oceans.

If you scoop a cup of water from a seemingly clean flowing spring and examine it with a microscope you will find critters that you would

have normally drunk and be glad. It is one thing to have a hard time believing there is a God but saying you don't because you can't see or feel Him does not compute. (More on this in chapter 6)

To accept the fact that someone, some super person, or God, created all there is, is a weird thought to ponder. I admit it. As a thinking person it certainly rattles our brain. Allow that rattled brain to absorb some truth pertaining to the answer of "Does God really exist?" It is impossible to live on earth without believing in things.

Concerning religions, 2.4 billion people profess to be Christian or 31% of the people who believe there is a specific God. People who believe in Islam number 1.9 billion or 25%; they believe in the same God as Christians and Jews, only different. Agnostics are 1.1 billion or 16%, and it goes on and on. So, what does an agnostic person believe? They too believe in a God they just aren't able to settle on which one, much like the early people were; they believed in many gods. So what about atheists? They are the ones who come up with the weird theories that says nothing plus nothing equals something. They only believe in theories.

The truth is everything you do or say requires belief. Keep an open mind and take a moment to pray. If you do not know how to pray simply talk silently or out loud to God even if you do not believe in Him. For now, accept that if there is a God He will hear and can speak to your inner-self. (more on this in chapter 7 & 10) Hopefully after praying and contemplating you will come to the conclusion that, "God really does exist!" If not keep an open mind.

You have to believe in many things anyway. How can you drink milk and pump gas if you do not believe? Believing in something is having a sort of faith. Would you change your attitude about life if suddenly you took a great big swig from the milk carton and it was gasoline? It could happen. Well let's hope not but to live is generally to believe or trust in things. We must accept that some things are what

others say. Of the many billions of people who lived on earth in all the past 60-80 percent believed in a God, a creator. What made them believe that? Christians believe God gave all creation a measure of faith in Him (Read Matthew 17:14-20.). How else could it happen? Why do people believe in God? Or, do you believe as others believe that religion, a belief in God, is simply an opioid for the masses? The atheist believes there is no God, that too is a belief.

No creator? Have you thought about that? Again, what do you believe or believe in? I understand how people can have problems believing that God is interested in them. How could a God who created everything know you exist? Yet, He is not hiding from you; *ask God to reveal Himself to you and He will*. Darwin believed in God. Did you know that? The guy whom atheists believe is their founding father believed in God. Knowing that, please pray, speaking quietly to the creator, or as many say, “creator God” or “higher power”, and ask that “small quiet voice” to speak to your heart, to help your unbelief. While you pray ask yourself, “who am I praying to, talking to, or listening to”? Let any faith that seems to build lead you to a newer and deeper belief. Be open to it. Truly seek to know the truth, asking God to reveal Himself to you. Try to take away the doubt as to whether or not you should believe. Above all else please keep on reading and studying, stopping to ponder and note in your journal what you feel. Hopefully you will find a faith that will lead you to accept the gift God wants to give you, the gift of “understanding of who He is and what He says”.

Read the book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible. It is an interesting book, written 3,000 years ago, over 900 years before Christ, by King Solomon, reportedly the richest, wisest, man that ever lived. I always thought this book would make a great one-man monolog play, with King Solomon pacing back and forth on the stage, occasionally sitting down muttering to himself and shouting the things we often wrestle with. If we are willing to admit it, in our own way, we too wrestle with

God like Jacob did. Also read Psalms and Proverbs and think what you can accept. What thoughts are rattling inside of you? What are you wrestling with? We all do it. Wrestling with our soul. Wrestling with our spirit. Wrestling with God. God touched Jacob's hip and he limped the rest of his life as a reminder of wrestling with Him. Especially note at the end of the book of Ecclesiastes Solomon says if you are bent on doing what you know is wrong to go ahead and do it since it is an overpowering influence in your head, but *know in the end that you will have to pay the consequences.* (Ecclesiastes 11:9)

This brings us to the "**Second Basic**": "**What about the Bible, is it really true?**" An atheist award-winning investigative journalist for the Chicago Tribune and a lawyer to boot, decided to write an exposé about the truth of Christ and the Bible. He believed them to be nothing but fiction. Over a period of time, as he wrestled with the questions he had, he changed from being an atheist to believing in God, then in Christ, and then in the Bible. This guy was not a slouch, he was a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist.

The Bible is the number one best seller in the world selling over 5 billion copies. While the Bible was literally written by man it was done so under divine guidance and direction from God; it is not fiction; it is *God breathed and directed.*

You should never isolate a particular verse while studying the Bible and come to a conclusion saying, "Now I understand". Take into account the entirety of the whole Bible. It is a complete library of God's direction and life-stories, a history of God loving His people. *Sometimes God allows what seems to us as bad things.* The Israelites lived *400 years* under captivity. Although they were mistreated, they did not want to follow Moses to the promise land. Why is that? God literally had to drive them out of Egypt by using strange tactics; even at that, He had to lead them around in the desert for 40 years because they would not trust Him. Has God driven you where you did not want

to go? Were you comfortable in your misery too? It may have seemed like a good thing at the time. You thought God was not on your side. You liked it where you were, but God pruned you until you found out what you were missing.

Like a spoiled brat, *we too often want God to do what we ought to be doing for ourselves*. Did you know hundreds of millions of people throughout the world would gladly change places with you? You are fortunate. I can't tell you why bad things happen. I can tell you; God will be with you through your trials and blessing alike. He will never desert you. With the Israelites many things happened because the people sinned against God who had saved them. Are we that way too? We are saved but do we act like it? We continue to sin when we promised to repent. We willingly disobey. We are guilty of doing what they did, those Old Testament Israelites. Read the Bible. Inside its pages lay a magnificent "how to do it" manual for all humanity. If you accept and comprehend what it says it will bring you closer to your needs for understanding life. Your todays and tomorrows will be greatly enhanced by applying God's words to your life. *His instructions were set thousands of years ago yet they apply today*, giving you information about how to live an abundant and successful life.

Whether you accept it or not the Bible is God's love letter to all of us. To properly study the Bible, you should look at it as it is. It's a library! Don't read the Bible as if it were a single book! You'll get lost. Each book in your Bible-Library is separate and fully capable of standing alone. Read them separately, referencing back and forth. The Bible is the most important book on the face of the earth, written by 40 different authors chosen by God. It is the single most popular, powerful, and precious collection of books ever written. There is no question as to its authenticity. The entire library consists of commonly accepted books telling us about mankind wrestling with God while He

loved and guided them to a better life. The Dead Sea Scrolls, found in 1947, contained essentially the same Biblical writings dating back 2,000 years; after over 50 years of continual study the conclusion remains the same, the scrolls are authentic.

The Christian Bible we read today amazingly contains *66 manuscripts*, in two languages, some composed anywhere from 900 to 1,000 years after events occurred. Almost *25,000 copies of original Biblical manuscripts existence today*. The writings contained in the New Testament were written from 50AD to 95AD in more than three different languages. The Old Testament is arranged in sections similar to a normal library: Law, History, Poetry, Major Prophets and Minor Prophets. The New Testament is also sectioned: Gospels, History, Letters from Paul, General Letters and Prophecy. Your Biblical Library, published in one single volume, contains books written by different authors but each were guided by God. Each book as well as the whole Bible is “God breathed”, not merely conceived by humans but by God, written by humans as taught or spoken by God. In other words, they wrote what God inspired them to write. They don’t call it the Holy Bible for nothing.

Moses probably wrote the first five books of the Bible. He spent 40 days and 40 nights with God on several mountain top experiences. He had to sit with his back to God. He came down glowing so much the people could not look at him. He brought the Ten Commandments down carved in stone by God. I suspect God gave him a lot of additional wisdom and knowledge, so much that he was able to write the books that are pertaining to things that happened before his time. Scriptures tell us that when the new creation happens, we will know the answer to questions before we ask them. It is not hard to accept that God told Moses many things that were beyond Moses’ abilities to comprehend.

This brings us to the “**Third Basic**”: **Life Ain't Fair!** Life never was. *Here is a biggie*, God made it that way. It's a struggle! However, I want to assure you though God is real, He is not your “sugar daddy”. *As a matter of fact, God never will be your “sugar-daddy”*. Just because He is not willing or did not give you what your heart's desire is doesn't mean He is not real. Some dispute this and say He is not real because they were disappointed in how He answered or did not answer their prayer or that He allows bad things to happen. Remember this fact: *God loves you as you are*, except He wants you to change for the better. Adjust your attitude to better accomplish what you need to change to become a more successful Christian. Nevertheless, we sometimes question God's existence when He doesn't measure up to *our preconceived* notion of who we think God ought to be, when He does not give us what we want when we want it. This especially applies to prayers calling for or expecting miracles, healings, or changing an outcome of anything. It is extremely tough to have pleaded with God for a loved one's healing knowing He could heal them but didn't. That's not what we wanted. We wanted what we wanted when we wanted it. We wanted that healing. Likewise, it is tempting to blame the world, but don't do it for the world doesn't know you exist.

Think about this: *If God did not give His Son everything, He desired why do you think He should you?* Jesus talked to and listened to God continually so He could do God's purposes. All the miracles Jesus did were done because God ordained them. If you think God will give you what you want when you want then you are confused as to who God is and what His desire is for you.

I read about an Orca who gave birth to a stillborn calf. She grieved pushing her dead calf to the surface for 12 days hoping it would come to life. Lest you feel everything will go your way and God will answer all your prayers the way you desire because you are special, I am here

to tell you that is not the case. Yes you are special but no one is going to treat you that way or if they do it will not last long. There was a time when we held our daughter Theresa's still-born baby while weeping and praying that life would come forth miraculously and her baby would open his eyes. *He did not*. God and only God knows what is best. It is our place to continue to believe in God and trust that He feels our pain more than we do. This is true. I also know, our grand-baby Isaac was known by God before he was formed in our daughter's womb. How do I know? The Bible tells me so. He was as much alive to God as any of us were while we wept and prayed. How long do we have to live? Only God knows?

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."

1 Corinthians 1:18 (TMSG)

It's okay to have a problem believing, it's the not trying, the not being open to the truth, that's the problem. It is like doing nothing and expecting something. There are countless promises from God in the Bible and as you read His Word you will see no matter what happens *He will always fulfill His promises*, but not necessarily the way you want.

"Fourth Basic": The older you get the more troubles you attract. God will always be with you in all your trials, pain, suffering, and joys, knowing what is best for you and your family, but He will not stop the rules of the universe from happening, at least not often. King Solomon poured out his heart about what he knew was true: Everything is useless to strive for except what you do for God.

Nietzsche, in about 1889 was probably the first one who coined the phrase, "God is dead". He wanted what he wanted when he wanted

it, like us, right? Hopefully you have not truly felt the way Nietzsche felt. People think it gives them an out because they did not get what they wanted from God so He must be dead. A couple I know felt that way. They became bankrupt as the result of a car wreck. Previously they were “good Christians”. They thought God let them down and didn’t exist anymore because of what happened to them. The problem was they did not know the person of God. *You should get to know God*, letting your faith be complete. However, we sometimes might think God has forgotten where He left us in our little plot in His garden, like when we lost or discarded our hoe or a shovel.

NASA recently released a color photo taken from the Hubble telescope showing three galaxies 450 million light years away from earth. Do you grasp the fact that we too live in a galaxy and those we are looking at might have a satellite telescope taking pictures of our milky way galaxy 450 million light years away from them? Wave to them.

Can you imagine that sometime in the past, in the so-called void in space, two molecules flying together happened to collide and eventually out fell this highly complex form of creation? Ridiculous right?

Have you ever looked, watched and listened to God's creation? I do every morning. We live in a peaceful rural setting surrounded by nature. I see life ebbing and flowing, reverberating to this day from God’s words long ago. His breath of life is everywhere if you look with the God given senses you have. The myriads of birds singing plant seeds gathered from the forest when they eat them and they in a small way renew or continue creation.

There is no “mother nature”. That is a fairy tale. All of God’s handy work happens every day. I get up in the morning and walk outside to see what God has in store for me while getting the newspaper, it is a 300ft stroll. One such morning I saw a small spider

messing with the web it completed. It was about six feet in the air between several trees that were 20 feet apart. It was magnificently constructed, more that most human engineers could build. It glittered from the sunlight shining on it. There were white threads easily seen ever so often in the web. I researched it; the spider does that to make it visible to humans and birds so the web will last longer. The web was about nine square feet in diameter. How could such a small insect about the size of a big ant know how to build and protect its web? Well, it turned out a heavy wind tore the web down that night. Guess what? There it was the next morning building another web as beautiful as the other one. Another time I saw a tiny insect come out of the tangled ground-cover mess that I loosely call my garden. The insect flew up drunkenly like it just came out of a deep sleep or something. Probably following its DNA program; it worked its way out of the ground from where it had a former life, who knows for how long? It flew, I suppose, following some sort of scent, maybe? Soon it joined others, say 200 or more, doing what only they knew to do. Around and around, they went, a little cloud of bugs, mating, maybe? Who knows, only God and the bugs knew what they were about? Their life span is undetermined by us, me anyway. There are billions of such societies under the ground and in the sea that we have no clue about. They did not evolve out of a primeval ooze. They have a purpose like you and me. God's purpose.

Does God plant thoughts in our head? I believe so. Sometime around 400 BC Greek philosopher Democritus postulated the existence and power of the atom before anything was proven that it existed. Imagine the complexity of an atom, it looks sort of like a galaxy with a center and little balls in orbit around it. What if there are creatures on the little balls, like we live on our little ball? How do we know? It is a strange thought. Does a cell in our body think, or is it

only following its DNA program to know when to turn itself into what God planned it to be, say a heart? How can that be?

Think about things that pop in your head that could lead you to important places. Do those little critters in our body, full of cells, know there is a God that sees and knows they exist and loves them? All the while the whole galaxy of us was at one time wondering, thinking we were all there was to creation and the world was flatter than flat? To be sure, expert thinkers are often wrong. We can't see an atom but scientists accept they exist and tell us so. They have faith in the atom's existence. Do we have faith in the God who made them?

There are millions of examples as to the evidence of God's hand in creation. According to Fibonacci the number of petals on a flower bloom and its leaves on the stem number in groups of 3, 5, 8, 13 and 21. They are showing us God's signature, and so does the Monarch butterfly that travels thousands of miles yearly from North America to Mexico to congregate in masses. During this migration three generations die yet each brand-new generation knows how and where to go for the winter months and how and when to return. Do they talk to each other and tell tales of history or is it in their DNA? There was a time not so long ago when we punched holes in paper tape to program computers. Is that what our DNA is all about? Does our DNA give marching orders to cells in our body? Did God design and do all that?

You don't have to believe in God to live on earth but He loves you just the same. It is a question you have to resolve for yourself to receive His full blessings; no one can do it for you. Don't let others brainwash you into thinking one way or another, not even me. Judge the evidence for yourself. As a matter of fact, did you know you can't see? Your brain interprets data detected from the receptors in your eye and images are produced by your brain from the data. Those images are hundreds of times more accurate than the best digital camera known to exist, and everything is more or less in focus. What you "see" comes

just from the perception in your brain, from billions of data points that your eye detects. Furthermore, your brain protects this greatest input that your body has by blinking in a split-second to protect that valuable resource, your eyes, from being damaged by stray particles. You can't do it but your brain can. How could this be? What makes you blink? I don't know. Try not to blink. It's hard keeping your eyes open. They soon water-coat your eyes with added protection.

Think, don't let anyone do it for you. Don't stand ignorant. God wants you to use the brains He gave you for guidance, like the butterflies who simply do what they know to do. You are able to "create" many things. He gave you such abilities and no one else has what you have. You have an unlimited amount of time if you elect to live with God. That brings us to another thing that many people believe, time, it has no beginning and no end, it simply exists; we chose to measure it in minutes, hours, days, months, years, then light years. Think about it. It is your choice as to where and who you spend your eternity with. Each of us has a specific DNA in our body and so do trees and animals, including butterflies with only minute differences. This is no accident. This is God's design and you are part of it. It is God's fingerprint, like we sometimes find on handcrafted pottery.

Some believe God simply hit the start button on creation and walked away. Yet, we know He is always active with us daily, hourly, minute by minute, eternally. Life is beautiful if you allow it to be, and you are blessed beyond measure. In God's creation, only humans are truly different from each other, animals are partially different, plant-types are essentially identical in all aspects within a species, at least that we know of unless we genetically alter them. If there were no God, and everything happened by accident, don't you think it would be impossible for all humans to be different even just a little bit, unless you believe in Chaos? Some people believe what atheist believe. They

had to come up with something so they dreamed it took billions and billions of years to make life happen and then suddenly out popped mankind. Here is the truth, if that were true, nothing would have happened but a celestial garbage dump with an ooze seeping out. Random means just that. There is no organization in random. It is a total impossibility that billions of us would be formed out of such quagmire and reach the state of development that we are in, much less the entire creation. Think about it.

At some point in time an egg and a sperm came together inside your mama, hopefully by choice. They united to make a unique DNA string never known to exist before in history. You are that new DNA string that had its marching orders as it began forming you. Your brain, your lungs, your heart your eyes, even your toes begin forming. Each cell in your now forming body knew what to do simply because of your unique DNA. Nine months later as a brand-new human you knew it was time to be born as did your mother's body and out you came, a new baby. You.

Did you know God is never through with you? Every cell in your body is recreated in seven-year cycles until you get old, then it takes fourteen years, but eventually the construction creates an elderly product. How does that happen? Remember the man who put the giant puzzle together by himself? How does your DNA know how to put your puzzle together. How does it do that? Twins are similar in looks and can sometimes have similarities in their actions but they are also different. Do those who do not believe in God think this is all a mere quirk of mother nature, ooze from the garbage dump? That notion is absurd. We modern humans think we know it all. We are pretty smart alright, the Artificial Intelligence (AI) we are working on is the new buzzword. We use 1's and 0's making up computer programs to control our modern world to a degree. Think about this, our body communicates like the universe does; it uses electronic impulses that

carry data that we cannot as of yet understand, at speed we can only dream of. For instance, like the eye does not even see; it communicates high speed data to the brain in two steps. As a matter of fact, have you noticed when you see someone coming toward you at first you don't fully recognize them, then the image seems to completely form and your brain recognizes the person. In the same fashion the brain detects an object hurling toward your eye and faster than you can even react the brains tells your eye to blink before the bug hits it. Your first inkling about it is to realize a bug just hit your closed eye lid. AI cannot even come close to God's design of your brain and all brains in His Kingdom.

According to scientists there are many examples of the "twin-communication" situation the universe and your eye uses. There seems to be a direct communication that exists, which when measured is faster than the speed of light, such as your eye blink impulse and the impulse between twin cells in your body. Twin atoms or likewise twin galaxies duplicate that same feat. Your body at times does the same thing. Your right side is almost identical to your left side with only minute differences. How? God is a perfect master craftsman, a true perfectionist. *He created the most perfect living masterpiece, you.* Each one of us is as different as is each new baby; you as well as all of us are special to God. Accept are that special person you are, warts and all. Some of us are not the same as others. They have special needs; learning and doing is not so easy for them and we question God's existence because of it. That's okay. Every human who lived has always questioned the same things. God understands. He made you to think and ponder. That may be the answer to the age-old question as to, "Why am I here?"

Darwin had an idea but his viewpoint was clouded by an eagerness to discover new thinking. Lest we forget, it is God who helps scientists and artists discover new and different ways to think and do. He plants

seed-thoughts in us like Johnny Appleseed did in this country, unfortunately Satan influences us too, if we let him. God knew Darwin's thinking was flawed when He allowed him to write his tainted thoughts. Have you ever thought you had something figured out only to find out how wrong you were, years later? God lets us do these things so we may learn. Freethinking thoughts, they are. Dr. Spock thought he had teaching children how to grow up figured out and millions bought his book. Years later he apologized for his mistakes and publicly said he wished he had never written the book. Austrian psychotherapist Sigmund Freud said almost the same thing before he died.

Did you know the word "Huh" is included in 47 languages around the globe? It rightly expresses our amazement when something we thought was true turns out to be not right. However, we are of a new generation that thinks we have it all figured out. Wrong. Still, we have more knowledge in our home libraries than did most townships 100 years ago not to mention our ability to use computers. In my house alone we have essentially eight or ten computers, when you count desktops, laptops, I-pads, automobiles, smart phones, smart watches, and all the electronic devices and appliance controls.

As we come up with new ways to challenge the thoughts of our fellow humans, never should we squash their right to determine what they believe is true. As a Christian do you have the right to mock the thoughts or wrongdoings of those who are not part of the flock? No. God loves us all equally. All of us including unbelievers are free to make mistakes in judgement, usually without incurring God's wrath. *God always has patience with us, shouldn't we do the same with others.* However, everyone must suffer for their own wrongdoings and consequences. Bad deeds always have consequences but so do good deeds. We made them so we own them. Essentially it is your choice, good or bad. God created or allowed everything. There is nothing new

under the sun. It is laying around like an Easter egg waiting for us to find a good use for it. Whether we change or rearrange what we find and cause some things to change as does the wind, rain and all natural elements, God the origin of all things, remains involved. There is no real evidence that proves the evolution of life theory that so many people jump on is real. Just because people can lay bones out in their interpretation of their puzzle in the order they think they ought to go in does not mean they came to the right conclusion.

Do you think humans evolved from apes, or, a whale came on dry land and became a dinosaur who became an elephant? Weird. What is true is that you can speak a lie long enough that people will believe it is true, but that doesn't mean it is. That mainly is the sum total of the evolutionist's theories, tell it long enough, often enough and eventually people will believe it and accept it as a law. Hitler was a champion of the same idea. The same holds true to the revisionists. Remember evolution is a theory, not a lie, just a theory, a wild guess.

It is true there is a type of evolution (gradual change). Everything deteriorates, it's God's Law. Your body, all aspects of life, the universe too, everything eventually weakens. Nothing lasts forever except God. All that you can see or touch deteriorates. Thousands of engineers had to learn this fact. Even concrete and steel will eventually return to dust like we humans do. Everything created by man requires maintenance. For instance, a steel or aluminum girder when fastened by nuts and bolts will try to get out from under those bindings by gradually, microscopically, moving away from the constraints, or microscopically they will meld together and become immovably bound in a brittle or weakened joint especially if dissimilar metals are used. There is a huge bridge in Tampa that shortly after it was constructed became almost unusable and in danger of collapse. They discovered the company that built it used salt-water in its concrete

during construction. The salt caused steel reinforcement bars to rapidly deteriorate and expand making cracks form all over the bridge.

In a movie a character asked for the truth, they replied, "You can't handle the truth!" I think that applies to most of us too, especially concerning God and creation; we can't always handle the truth. God tells us that in the Bible. Even with our imagination no matter how hard we try we can't fathom the complexity of the truth of creation or of God. The truth is God's realm is unfathomable. His abiding place is beyond our comprehension and yet sometime in the future we will be there with Him eternally, without time. Remember He will not be mocked; His promises will always happen, but in His timing not ours. His hand is involved in all aspects of creation no matter where or when it happens, here on earth or millions or billions of miles into space. Plus, remember He created everything that exists or ever existed and can and will rearrange it in any way He wishes if He so desires. In other words, the apocalypse described in the Bible will happen.

I was reading my newspaper one morning and a little dot smaller than the period in the sentence I was looking at began to crawl. It was busy going somewhere, or was it lost? I looked at it carefully. It was the teeniest little ant, maybe? I never knew I could see something that small. We have no idea how vast God's creation is. Look at the tiny insects that we know about. Know that God designed these little creatures too. Watch an ant crawl. Marvel at its ability to carry huge loads; you can hardly see its legs. Its intestines, brain and heart are even smaller. I once watched two ants working together carrying a bent blade of grass with honey on it. Okay so I had something to do with it. The blade was flexible and they were determined to get it to their queen. I watched mesmerized for a while. You could tell they were communicating, the distance was equivalent to about 600 feet to us, with the wind blowing gusts, causing difficulties they keep going anyway. I wanted to help but decided not to.

When you lie on a beautiful beach relaxing do you realize, like Gulliver did in his travels, myriads of tiny creatures are walking on you even if you cannot see them. For that matter after you scrub yourself in the shower thousands of unseen creatures still cling to you, helping to maintain your skin and that's just on the outside. Don't think too much about it or you will go crazy. The same thing goes on inside your body. They are there by God's design, like the rhinoceros opens his mouth to let the birds clean parasites from its teeth.

How many times have you heard, "Don't sit there like a lump, get up and do something, even if it is wrong." Actually, to some degree that is good advice. I'll say it a different way, do your best to become that lump of clay that God the master-potter wants to use to make a masterpiece. Yield to His touch, His direction. He will make you into a masterpiece.

As a thinking person most of us have a problem with consistently believing certain aspects about God. I admit it, I once did too. It is not easy to "let go and let God", as we say. Some of us are hardheaded and need special teachings to allow the little measure of faith that God gave all of us to blossom. For instance, how on earth can God keep up with all of us and accept each of our prayers while listening and guiding us. Okay keep an open mind here. Allow your heart to follow God's leading. Ask Him to reveal Himself. Speak truthfully, ask Him to have patience with you as you struggle. Above all don't lie to God. After thousands and thousands of years of dealing with humanity He already knows and understands your thoughts.

In Genesis it says once there was nothing. Not even an atom or for that matter an Adam and Eve. God spoke and creation happened (communication). Speaking of atoms, what holds them together? Scientifically they do not know what holds them together, many call such matter gluons, a funny name. Biblically we say it is God's Will.

All molecules are the same today as they were yesterday, just like God. The molecules are held in suspension in different configurations by a force mainly known only by God. Hey, what makes the Earth stay where it is? We actually don't really know what gravity and centrifugal force is. We have ideas. We postulate. We believe. Yet, instead of believing in God we believe in quarks, leptons, protons, bosons and Higgs and many other elementary particles running around in speeds of thousands of miles an hour bashing and crashing their way through all of God's creation, some turn from being positive to being negative elements. As they speed around, they go through our bodies. We feel nothing. We spend billions of dollars trying to capture such particles and billions more trying to ram them into each other with who knows what results, trying to find a new super power. Are they real? Only God knows. His plan will prevail. He promises that. His plans, His promises will happen.

God, Jesus, did not come down to creation and speak to Adam and Eve and us too because we screwed it up, it was always part of the plan. God knew what would happen and when it would happen and as a type of proof it was spoken about in the Bible thousands of years before Jesus came back. The entire blood sacrifice was done in various ways leading to Jesus' sacrificial death. Using a lamb was a precursor, like Abrahams' Isaac was too. Jesus asked God that He might be allowed to not suffer death, or leave those whom He loved behind. It was in God's plan, His Promise, not a needed adjustment because things did not work out. God's plan for you is the same. He had plans for you before you were born. You can mix them up through disobedience, nevertheless He will always love you. Through it all God keeps up with you and me. Why can't we realize if two tiny ants can communicate, He can keep up with where we are with all those particles running around in and through us and the entire universe.

If we have enough sense to create codes to identify each and every electronic device we create so we can know who is doing what, can't He do the same, but even better? In my house my devices have about thirty specific IP addresses that I know of. NAS has all of those addresses recorded and knows if I decide to step out of line through the ECHOLON program and where to find me with facial recognition and GPS if they desire. Why can't we see that God who created all things can easily do the same and much more.

I read about a study many years ago where they were examining the cellular structure of different organisms. They discovered plants communicate with each other. The biggest thing to me about the study was they realized the cells in our body do the same. They took a single cell from a person and found that if you frighten the person, the cell, up to a mile away, will react to any initiated fear. They also realized if you talk to plants they will respond, good or bad. In 1950 other scientists told the world about another amazing thing. Green moss grows in balls on glaciers. They called them "glacier mice" for the lack of another name. For some unknown reason the moss rolls around in unison like a herd of mice choreographing a dance. No, they were not blown by the wind or rolling downhill. They were apparently communicating with each other. How? Consider the tiny forces or elements in the air or any electronic cloud storage and those throughout the universe, or molecules in the wooden table that you knock on for good luck, and all things.

We create Wi-Fi networks that help us communicate but they are limited in distance and can be easily interrupted by slight EMT signals. God's designs for transmission to Him have no limit. Our DNA, which we are just now realizing, easily sends signals throughout the body to our brain and who knows where else if we could detect such signals. Each cell communicates through God's design.

Okay, knowing that every cell in your body sends signals to your brain is weird. How simple is it for God to know what a world full of Christians or otherwise will or won't do? The reported world population currently is around 7.8 billion people with about 1/3 being professed Christians, 2.4 billion. In my attempts to impress you to pray, I mention to pray unceasingly, talking to God 24 hours a day. That's a lot of prayers. How can He absorb such crushing numbers and still look forward to listening to the newest Christian in the flock saying, "If there's a God up there, please listen to my plea?"

There was a sixteen foot 3,500-pound great white shark tagged by oceanographers to transmit electronic signals to a satellite 150 miles above the earth, there data was collected and sent back to earth to scientists looking at screens telling them where the shark was. The data allowed them to follow the shark's movement on a 40,000-mile journey. It did so for five years then the batteries gave out. Huh? Then I read where six great whites pinged their existence in the Gulf of Mexico. They are not supposed to be there, who knew? God knows where you are no matter where you are and no batteries are involved.

"God, investigate my life; get all the facts firsthand.

I'm an open book to you; even from a distance, you know what I'm thinking. You know when I leave and when I get back; I'm never out of your sight. You know everything I'm going to say before I start the first sentence. I look behind me and you're there, then up ahead and you're there, too, your reassuring presence, coming and going. This is too much, too wonderful, I can't take it all in! Is there any place I can go to avoid your Spirit? How can I be out of your sight? If I climb to the sky, you're there! If I go underground, you're there! If I flew on morning's wings to the far western

horizon, You'd find me in a minute, you're already there waiting!"

Psalm 139:1-10 (TMSG)

Do you realize there is no such thing as a vacuum? Even when we can or cannot see them there are trillions of invisible forces flying in and through all of God's creation, like the water in a stream of clear water is, surely you can understand that maybe He might be using those forces to keep up with every entity? We get used to time being like it is, forget the daylight savings business, I think in the present time it is literally useless. What about today and tomorrow, and how long will time last? Or how long will God's "carrot on the end of the stick" effect last, the promises of Heaven? If we can accept it, God who created all things by speaking His Will, His Word, into being, can speak and the new creation will emerge and the old will pass away. Did you know the most horrible time on earth according to the Bible is tribulation? First the rapture occurs and Christians are sweep away with Jesus as He calls for them to "come up here." Then seven terrible years begin, ending with the battle of Armageddon, which brings Jesus back again to save the remnant and begin His thousand-year reign. You can believe it or not, it will happen because God says it will. After that ends, a new heaven and earth are created and time will finally cease to exist for us as we will be living with Him. The book of Revelation tells us this will happen in the blink of an eye.

Currently many speak of God's Judgement being the time segment we now are in. Some TV evangelists say that certain disasters such as earthquakes, forest fires, storms, wars, insects, plagues, Covid-19 and many others are brought about as Judgement from God. So called acts of God as determined by man and insurance companies are not normally that at all. Accidents like car wrecks happen because people get tired, and falling off ladders just happen. I once fell while trying to hang an art object. I did something stupid and an accident happened. I

still have the scars to prove it. People under a lack of sleep cause thousands of deaths each year. People commit suicide for no apparent reason and with no one to blame but themselves. You can't blame God for the fallacies of man's wrongdoings and wrong thinking, it won't compute. You can however try to blame God because He did not answer a prayer the way you wanted; but blaming God will get you nowhere, only depressed and angry.

Those thoughts and countless others if allowed will destroy any chance you have at a successful Christian life. God wants to save as many of us as possible. Remember two things: He loves us *all*, no more and no less. We would like to say He loves us more yet we know from reading His words that He loves the sinner as well as the saint; secondly, we are talking God's time, although there is no such thing to God as time. To God, Jesus has only been back with Him for a little over two of "His Days" since His day equals about a thousand years of ours. This premise comes from the Bible. We also know there is no such thing as a "day" for God. Through the years we have used all sorts measurements of time, we think we need them; people in Africa and elsewhere do not. When we were there we were amazed that people living there did not arrive on time. They had no watches. How could they live that way? We cannot grasp eternity or that God was always and will always be there. The main thing to grasp is that God takes an interest in you and your life now and wants to include you as part of His family forever and that He has a plan for us all.

"Don't overlook the obvious here, friends. With God, one day is as good as a thousand years, a thousand years as a day. God isn't late with His promise as some measure lateness. He is restraining Himself on account of you, holding back the End because He doesn't want anyone lost. He's giving everyone space and time to change. But when the Day of God's Judgment does

come, it will be unannounced, like a thief sneaks. The sky will collapse with a thunderous bang, everything disintegrating in a huge conflagration, earth and all its works exposed to the scrutiny of Judgment. Since everything here today might well be gone tomorrow, do you see how essential it is to live a good life? Daily expect the Day of God to come about, be eager for its arrival. The galaxies will burn up and the elements melt down that day, but we'll hardly notice. We'll be looking the other way, ready for the promised new heavens and the promised new earth, all landscaped with righteousness."

2 Peter 3:8-13 (TMSG)

Here are four absolutes about God (Love): 1) He loves you. 2) His promises will always prevail. 3) He will move heaven and earth to save you from Hell. 4.) You must choose to accept Jesus as your savior to be saved from Hell. Read the book of Revelation. Did you know the only book in the Bible to issue both a blessing and a curse is Revelation? Yes, it promises a curse if you add or take away or remove any part of the writings in Revelation and it includes a promised blessing if you read it. Again, remember, one day of God's Day is as a thousand years of our time. Blink you are here. Blink you are gone. *Think about it.*

If there is no time in God's existence, everything is in God's realm (Balance), you could go wherever and whenever you wanted with no time constraints according to God's Will. Many ask since our life is so short why are we here and what is the Day of the Lord? We do not know the answer of why we are here. God has a purpose or He would not have allowed our rebelliousness and wrongdoings to continue. There is confusion about what the term "Day of the Lord" means.

When Jesus comes back and the millennium is over, such time, the Day of the Lord is considered by Peter to be one-day in God's time.

It makes sense when you think about it because Jesus will come back to establish His 1,000-year Kingdom. So, with God, it seems the Day of the Lord could be an entire millennium. It seems that at the ending of that day, the Day of the Lord, all evil will be destroyed. In Revelation we are told people up until then will be free to make choices for either good or evil and some will still choose evil. However, during the millennium all evil of the "external world," Satan, is held back then released on that last day, last minute. People will then be free to choose who they will follow, God or Satan. Those who choose God will be "saved", spending eternity in the light with God. Those who choose Satan will eternally be without God. *At that time God's new creation will happen.*

Hey, it's confusing but know that even Jesus says He doesn't know when the exact time is that it will happen. Don't get confused about that. Since there is no such thing as time in God's realm there is no measurement, hence there is no date and no time established when it happens. Does that mean God has no control or knowledge of when it will happen? Absolutely not. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are all knowing and omnipresent and omnipotent, meaning they are able to be anywhere at any time past or present (balance). Read Revelation and receive a blessing.

"So, my dear friends, since this is what you have to look forward to, do your very best to be found living at your best, in purity and peace. Interpret our Master's patient restraint for what it is: salvation. Our good brother Paul, who was given much wisdom in these matters, refers to this in all his letters, and has written you essentially the same thing. Some things Paul writes are difficult to understand. Irresponsible people who

don't know what they are talking about twist them every which way. They do it to the rest of the Scriptures, too, destroying themselves as they do it. But you, friends, are well-warned. Be on guard lest you lose your footing and get swept off your feet by these lawless and loose-talking teachers. Grow in grace and understanding of our Master and Savior, Jesus Christ. Glory to the Master, now and forever! Yes!"

2 Peter 3:14-18 (TMSG)

Paul was speaking to everybody on the face of the earth, then and now; but, specifically to all Christians. Your attitude ought to be the same as Christ Jesus. WOW! Your attitude! How can you be that person? *What if everyone took on the nature of God?* Truly it is impossible in our present capacity but someday we will hear the Words, "*Come up here*" (Rev 4:1). In a twinkling of an eye we will be changed, not to what we will fully become but we will be more like the nature of God, more like Christ than what we can possibly become now. My guess is since all creation grows and learns we will do the same learning that God does. God promises we will know the answers to questions before we ask. Even the best of the best of the Biblical characters fell short on earth. Still, we can never say we mastered having the nature of God.

How can all of this be true; I know you are saying it or thinking it? It is our flesh, our sinful nature speaking that wants to have its own way; it wants us to not believe, it is Satan's tool. It wants no laws, no authority, no one to stop you from doing what you consider having fun is. (Read Isaiah 40:28-31; Isaiah 65:24; Mark 13: 31-33; Matthew 24:36; Acts 1:7). Find God's truth.



4

"It is absolutely useless for people to know many things if they do not live according to what they know. The point of knowing is that a person may become good through it. When a person becomes good, he has much more than someone who knows countless things and yet is not good. For what the latter seeks by much knowledge, the former already has."

Emanuel Swedenborg, *Arcana Coelestia*, 1100 AD.

Be Willing to Change.



Must you jump through hoops or do certain religious things that the church says to do to please God before He will accept you (Amos 5:21-24)? No, absolutely not, He created you; He loves like you are regardless of your attitude. The only real requirement from God is accepting Christ as your Lord and Savior. Then by repenting, changing your life for the better, trying to do His Will as best as you can. *Does He have things for you to do?* Yes.

Ask yourself these questions: Who are you? What are your moral standards? Why does God need you? Are you meant to wander aimlessly without a purpose? *What is God's purpose for you?* Why are you supposed to be a Christian? Are you listening to hear God's call for you? Do you adjust your standards according to society's dictates or God's guidance? *Are you willing to tell others about Christ?* Are you bashful or do you stand out in a crowd by speaking to strangers or friends alike? Are you an extrovert or an introvert?

I contend the only difference between an extrovert or an introvert is one learns to speak out because of confidence and the other stays in the shadows because they believe some would call them a loser. They display what is often called a "losers limp", meaning they lost because they did not try. God does not make losers. Learn confidence from God. You are His special adopted child. Repent and change.

What Would You Do Differently if Jesus Came Back Today?

If you call yourself a Christian and all it means is that you go to church occasionally but your life remains the same, you are missing the whole point. What would you consider the best advice to give to others? Who should it apply to? You? What person would you run to and do your best to save them from hell? How many would you pray for and lead? Think about these things.

Some say you can lose your salvation by not doing good works, or by doing a certain bad thing. That would mean, there are thousands of times where you could be drawn aside and lost. They are saying mistakes could take you to hell. The term "working out your salvation" means it takes work to succeed; with that in mind, your salvation still comes from God, as a "gift", not as a reward for your sacrifices or your deeds. Only Jesus' sacrifice was worthy. *Again, you can never think yourself into Heaven or earn salvation.* To gain God's Salvation you must truly accept His Salvation-Gift which means repenting for your sins, asking for His

forgiveness and accepting Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Lord of your life. Having accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior you cannot lose your salvation from God. However, if you disconnect from Jesus *or His Church* in an intentional sinful life-style, literally denying God's existence, never returning to Him, you are saying God's gift is worthless. That might mean you maybe never repented in the first place; *were you just playing games?* Nevertheless, you can keep this from happening by earnestly asking God for forgiveness. Does that mean you can keep on sinning and still be saved? Well, yes, but you are on thin ice there. Nevertheless, sinning will not cause God to take away your salvation. Jesus paid the price for your sins. He died on the cross as a sacrifice for all the sins of all mankind.

God willingly chose to send His Son Jesus Christ to die, making forgiveness for us possible, doing away with the results concerning sin and death. Therefore, we are granted acceptance into heaven through Jesus Christ. However, you will suffer the consequences of your intentional or unintentional sins and lose countless blessings. Learn God's Word. Remember, Galatians 6:7 tells us that God will not be mocked. You cannot twist His Word. *Important to remember when reading or hearing the "Word of God" being taught:* Even if what you hear to you is true, *test it Biblically*. Remember, Satan knows Scriptures better than you and he is the great deceiver (1 John 4:1).

"What I'm getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you've done from the beginning. When I was living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I'm separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is God's energy, an energy deep within you, God Himself willing and working at what will give Him the most pleasure. Do

everything readily and cheerfully, no bickering, no second-guessing allowed. Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night so I'll have good cause to be proud of you on the day that Christ returns. You'll be living proof that I didn't go to all this work for nothing."

Philippians 2:12-16 (TMSG)

Do Everything Without Complaining (grumbling).

Not being satisfied is an evil twin brother to envy. When was the last time you complained? I know you have. We all do. However, God hates grumbling griping, *not the person*. Such a person causes division within the Christian community. Simply put, it is like a child throwing a temper tantrum because they do not get to do what they want to do. Spoiled brats often grow up to become bullies in life. You see it all the time, spoiled adults never having grown up.

Think about this: Rule 1) Take it as it comes; Rule 2) Nothing is perfect; Rule 3) Deal with it.

If your life is not perfect, it is not supposed to be; but *you are the only one who can change it*. Non-believers are not stupid they see some Christians as not making much difference in the world. As a Christian, *make a difference*, look for where God is working and join in doing likewise, full of joy, never griping. It is your choice.

Too many people leave the church or abandon what God wants them doing because they feel things did not go the way they wanted; they think they ought to be the leader to choose the way the group should go. Taking your ball and going home because you got mad is never a good choice, it only means you are still a spoiled brat.

Looking Backward in Your Life Will Only Trip You Up.

At one time I plowed behind a mule, can you believe it? If you look back when you are plowing or in life you immediately lose track of where you are going. When you turn back you find you deviated mightily from your goal. Don't look back, look forward to what God is doing. Likewise, it's impossible to get away from God though sometimes the things we do make us hope He did not see us; but, He was watching; maybe we hope we can ignore Him for a little while 'til we finished our transgression. How many times in a day do you find yourself saying, "Sorry Lord."?

There is a famous painting of a grandfather holding the hands of his grandchildren helping them cross a torrential creek, it is a good picture of how the Holy Spirit is. Nevertheless, you can keep Him from being a major part of your life by rejecting Him, His love and blessings, walking away from or denying His righteousness guidance. From the scriptures we know God knew us before we were born and He has great things planned for us. Think about a butterfly sleeping in his cocoon, what does it know concerning its future; *what do we know?*

The Israelites sometimes did their best to try to warp God's intentions to fit their own picture of what He was about. We sometimes do the same, don't we? Would God be all powerful if we could compel Him to treat us better than others because that is what we want? Eventually we would treat Him like a vending machine, angry when we did not get what we wanted. *God promises to prune the part of us that is working so we will produce an even better fruit.* Are you happy when He prunes you? We are talking God's Will here not ours; no griping, follow His Will regardless, you will get better results

No one can do all things well without sacrificing certain aspects from the other disciplines. You end up working on a priority basis and putting out "fires". Unfortunately, the number of fires going at any one time is proportional to the level of your procrastination.

You can't do everything well. Sometimes you must put things aside for later. As best you can, choose one thing and go after it. Maybe use your other interests strictly as a hobby? No matter how long you live you will never master living the Christian life. Pick up things He directs you to do. That my friend is the gist of this book and the Book of Ecclesiastes. The only way you can gain true understanding and receive the most blessings God set aside for you is in doing His will. *Open the door to Him and your future.*

Lose Weight.

Nobody wants to practice, especially doing the same things over and over; yet practice is a wonderful tool that teaches us what we have so far failed to grasp. Likewise, most of us want to lose weight; but we don't or won't exercise. We still want what we want but are not willing to pay the price. When we look in the mirror and see a "muffin waist" forced into pants that used to fit we say, "I need to lose weight". You have two choices; one will take you further into bad health and the other will make you healthier. Being healthy and fit requires discipline and hard work. It is the same with your Salvation, you either choose "eternal life" or "eternal death". The better choice is a happier and healthier life. *You need to become disciplined before your exercises will have a proper result.*

Sure, we want to play the piano without practicing. I still know how to play "chop sticks" on the piano, that is the extent of my talent because of my lack of discipline. God disciplines us by sending us around "the mountain" over and over until we will grasp the problem. I'll give you a not so secret, secret, most of the great and "gifted" artists force-dedicated themselves to practice in order to be successful. They throw many things in the garbage or paint over them because they know it was not their best work. *Why do we say we want what we are not willing to sacrifice to get?*

We still want what we want when we want it but without the hard work. *It doesn't work that way, it never will.* What you are saying is you want God to give you the easy way out, to spoil you. You simply want to continue being a spoiled child, getting your way, crying and griping to Him when you don't.

Without Working Hard, You Will Not be Successful.

Sometimes the ingredient we need for success is hard work and study. You can never get good at anything without continual learning. God uses the same principle with us. Even the most accomplished artist will admit they are still learning. If not they limit their own growth.

For the most part we are a “gimme society” without work-ethics; that attitude is opposite to God's. Have you prayed, “Oh God only show me the way to go and what to do and I will do it”. Did you ever wonder how often God might have shown you things if you would have taken the first step? If you were a boat, a sleek beautiful boat, designed and crafted by the best hands, by the master builder of boats Himself, how well would you ply the seas if you remained tied to the dock saying, "Oh Lord if I only knew Your Will for me in my life I would truly sail the seas?" If you can't muster enough disciplined courage to take the first step by pushing away from the dock and heading out of the port in faith, how will you manage to serve the master builder of life? You must take a chance and walk disciplined in faith. If you are not sure what to do, say: “*God I believe this is what you want me to do, so in faith I go; please correct me or my direction if I am wrong that I may be pleasing to You in all that I say and do*”.

Just a short word about going to Church and worshiping God; He doesn't need it, *you need it*; it builds you up when you come before God as part of His family. It restores your soul. It brings His power and blessings into your life for a reason.

Have you ever started a large boiler? It feels like what God might have felt when He started up all of creation. It feels like all the power in the universe is at your beck and call, like you are standing next to a powerful jet engine as it revs up to full force, or a freight train that is roaring by. The ground and your entire body shake from standing next to that power.

Many times, God's people do not act powerful. Instead of being full of God's power we often live rebellious lives doing our desires instead of following God's direction, never knowing how powerful God wants us to be. With that attitude can we expect a different outcome other than what the Israelites got when they sinned against God? (2 Kings 17:5-19). We often seem like we deny we are part of His family. Creation shouts it out though and even the rocks will sing God's praises if we don't (Luke 19:40).

Repentance is the Doorway for Gaining Forgiveness From God.

Ask for forgiveness and stop doing what you know is wrong, then live the life He guides you to. Even your family dog knows how to repent, look at its face, its demeanor when you scold it for doing what it knows it was not supposed to do. By genuine repentance you show God your true desire. Hopefully it is to know, worship and love Him. Repentance means you must turn back from the wrong direction you were going, your old sinful nature (ways); from now on you are going to do your best to go according to God. Unfortunately, we often make matters worse through our willfulness. In doing so we might find He is not happy with what we are doing, essentially saying, "Go to your room immediately, I am too angry to deal with you right now". Think about your past actions. They often drew you into wrongdoings.

Check out my novel, "Guilty of No Wrongdoing." It is a fictional story of a man trying change the world to be a better place. Those who continue to willfully sin never will never understand. If you make a

mistake God's forgiveness gets you back on the track, but you have to ask for it each time you are led astray and suffer the consequences of your actions. Not the loss of Salvation though, remember, God does not take back His Gift. Doing God's Will may not be where you want to go; but, obedience to God will take you to the truth and more fun than you ever thought possible. How else can you get better at what you are supposed to do?

"The moment sin is introduced in your life things change for the worse, never for the better. It alters lives. It corrupts and severs relationships. It spirals things into darkness. Sin always delivers consequences; sooner or later it demands payment without regards to rank, race, or riches. One thing is certain: *Sin always collects its debt through consequences*. Our choices will either be to draw us closer to God and the blessings that come through obedience, or it will distance us from Him and expose us to the consequences of Sin." *Omar Garcia*

Above all we do not want be like Jonah who ran away denying what he knew to be God's Will. God had to use some mighty peculiar circumstances to drive him back to where he should have been all along, a willing servant (read the book, Jonah, in the Bible).

What does Jonah have to do with me, you might say? Yet, in a different time, (Isaiah 6) Isaiah spoke the Word of God to a people who were in reality "deaf and blind to the truth," they were not deaf or blind but they refused to listen. He warned them that their sin would bring God's judgment. He warned them that without repentance God's judgement would be terrible. God told Isaiah they would not listen and would follow their own desires because their hardness of heart had taken them beyond their ability to turn from their wicked ways.

We know God is slow to anger and He loves those who cause the most trouble the same as He does those who are trying to follow His Will. This can happen to us if we run away from God, like Jonah. After Jonah finally did what God called him to do, he became angry at God.

Do you feel that way sometimes? He wanted God to do what he wanted and let his anger get the best of him, consequently he disappeared from the Bible. This can happen to us too. Don't be like Jonah and run away. God says to us as He said to Jonah, "Do you have the right to be mad?" (Jonah 4:4). Don't be hardheaded like Jonah. If you sit under a shade tree griping like he did, doing nothing, you might get nothing. God eventually got his attention.

Be that tool with a Holy Spirit handle. Acknowledge you are a sinner and walk out your salvation. That's why you are reading this book isn't it, trying to learn how to change for the better and find Godly success. That is a form of repentance, changing for the better and renouncing your sinful ways.

Christianity is a Way of Life.

Being a Christian is not a club. Some people treat "going to church" no different than going to the Masons, Elks or VFW meetings. God is not your "Grand Poopah". Your duty is to become diligent against all odds and be the good watchman, a guard on the wall, spreading His Truths, letting God do what God will do.

Being part of a worldly organization can draw you unwittingly into false worship, you should stay away from most of them unless you feel God has directed you to attend. Work in His service, never forgetting His promises.

"Remind the people to respect the government and be law-abiding, always ready to lend a helping hand, no insults, no fights. God's people should be bighearted and courteous. It wasn't so long ago that we ourselves were ignorant and stubborn, dupes of sin, ordered every which way by our glands, going around with a chip on our shoulder, hated and hating back. But when God, our kind and loving Savior God, stepped in, He saved us

from all that. It was all His doing; we had nothing to do with it. He gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit. Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously. God's gift has restored our relationship with him and given us back our lives. And there's more life to come, an eternity of life. You can count on this. I want you to put your foot down. Take a firm stand on these matters so that those who have put their trust in God will concentrate on the essentials that are good for everyone."

Titus 3:1-10 (TMSG)

Many of today's Christians and leaders are angry at God. In their anger they fail to see their need to repent. They blame the decline of their wealth, their ministry, the church, or any number of things on God or others. Instead of speaking truths they preach inclusiveness and a watered-down gospel trying to regain what they lost, neglecting to spell out things as they are, then they cry out asking God to bless their mess. He sometimes turns and walks away as we did with our children, sending them to their room; then we ask God why has He abandoned us in our time of need? As leaders, and all Christians are, we must not walk in the way of the world. *If you are in need, ask the Lord in prayer what keeps His blessings from flowing to us.* God's blessings can be hindered by decisions to not obey when you were told or shown the way. We all have reason to repent, admit it, repent.

"Then I said to myself, "Oh, He even sees me in the dark. At night I'm immersed in the light." It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to You; night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to You. Oh yes, You shaped me first inside, then out; You formed me in my mother's womb. I thank You, High God, You're

brehtaking. Body and soul, I am marvelously made. I worship in adoration, what a creation. You know me inside and out, You know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something. Like an open book, You watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before You. The days of my life are all prepared before I'd even lived one day. Your thoughts, how rare, how beautiful. God, I'll never comprehend them. I couldn't even begin to count them, any more than I could count the sand of the sea. Oh, let me rise in the morning and live always with You. And please, God, do away with wickedness for good. And the murderers, out of here, all the men and women who belittle you, God, infatuated with cheap god-imitations. I hate those who hate You, God, see how I loathe all this godless arrogance; I hate it with pure, unadulterated hatred. Your enemies are my enemies. Investigate my life, O God, find out everything about me; cross-examine and test me, get a clear picture of what I'm about; see for Yourself whether I've done anything wrong, then guide me on the road to eternal life."

Psalm 139:11-24 (TMSG)

That is true repentance; one that can bring a total healing not only to each of us and our families but to our churches and our land. Repentance must often come from us before it comes to our families, our cities, or our nation. In that vein *a good and righteous man may change the moral complexion of a whole nation if he prays*, including righteous action at the end of his prayers; or in fact a corrupt leader may lead a whole nation into bondage. It is not complimentary to the

masses that we are so easily misled. We who desire a better life often follow wrong leaders while looking for that better way; we step off the cliff into destruction. *Leadership is often simply a reflection of the people being led.* In-other-words, unless the people are righteous, they will not choose righteous leaders, such leaders will not be available. Romans 13:1&2 says, no authority exists except from God, and we should not rebel against His established authority. God's plan always works in spite of what it seems. This is not an easy pill to swallow. If the authorities are requiring you to go against God's established Will, then you must obey God's Will and not the authority you are confronted with. Good leaders tend to make our life and the environment better, so pray for them regardless of their actions; they might change. In the Old Testament we see the difference between good and bad leadership. Godliness in leadership equates to a better quality of life for all. Do you find it difficult to pray for your governmental leaders? Sometimes it is not easy. Yet, it is important whether you respect them as a person, respect their position.

Spread the Good News as you go about your duties, listen to good teachers and join groups that teach God's Will. Check the Scriptures. There have always been people who would mislead you, making money off you, taking advantage of you, teaching wrong messages. Pastors who make millions of dollars by spreading their message is not necessarily a doer of the Word, they are often doers for themselves, bent on being a rich celebrity rather than a true preacher of the Gospel.

Your one true job is to do your best to lead others to God in spite of the risk, bringing them into God's Kingdom, *not just your church.* Some use verses called Romans Road (Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9; 10:13; 5:1 and 8:38-39 in that order) or you could and should do so by living your life as an example, a true Christian. Hopefully they might ask you to tell them why you have such hope for the future and what

Jesus means in your life. Remind them that everyone except Jesus sinned but God loves us all equally.

You might use the following “three step” method to evangelize:

1) **CONFESS/REPENT** (Ask them to confess to God then repent to Him of such sins.).

2) **ASK FORGIVENESS/FORGIVE** (Ask them to ask God for His forgiveness and for them to be ready to forgive others including themselves.).

3) **ACCEPT CHRIST/LIVE THE LIFE.** (Ask them to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior and live the life, turning from the sinful nature they once were part of).

During any worship service remember *it is not about you*. What do you think when you see raised hands during a church service? What do you think others think when they see you sitting stoically or do what you do during the services? Is worship for God or for you? It should be for God and for you. Unfortunately, some people dress to impress others and sit in special places during services.

Church has a threefold connotation or definition:

1) God’s people.

2) A vessel or building to hold God’s people while gathering together in His name, to minister, worship and gain knowledge of Him.

3) An organization of churches for the sole purpose of governing themselves and others.

You Need the Church and the Church Needs You.

A Christian without a church is like your body without the blood it needs to function; or a sheep wandering the hills without feeling the comfort of a flock; or a child without a family that can easily lose its way. *Choose God’s family.* Many have problems with the Church; in life we all have bad experiences. Life is not perfect neither is the church. Church is a family, and since a church is a family, being on

the outside of it is not natural. Remember the importance of yeast in bread before you angrily storm out of a church meeting or simply withdraw your presence without telling people why. You may have been the ingredient to change the complexity of the meeting, but you let anger make you leave. We are part of a picture that God wants shown to the world. Don't be that missing piece that your family or church needs to be complete. You may have divorced your wife or husband; you may refuse to acknowledge your family for one reason or another but according to God it is almost impossible to divorce your family for they are a part of your body, your DNA, regardless. Stick it out, deal with the problems. In other words, love in spite of what is returned to you. *It is God's way.*

You belong to God's household, live your life with other Christians (Ephesians 2:19). Love as He loves you is what God wishes for you, give and receive love in return. It is a command from God. It is up to you though. God will not make you love. However, not loving is the antithesis of His desire for you. Love is the most used word in the Old and New Testament. Whether you know it or not love is what all humans seek: *to love and be loved*. Today's independent culture and wrong teachings inadvertently create many spiritual orphans, "bunny believers" as some call them, people who hop from one church to another church because they did not like something, or blame others for hurting them, using excuses, walking alone without any true identity, accountability, or commitment. Many people believe it is possible to be a "good Christian" without being a member of a church, or attending services; God strongly disagrees. The church is so significant that Jesus died on the cross for it (Ephesians 5:25). However, He did not die for a church that condemns you because you do not obey their rules, their disciplines. If you want to know what the true church ought to be like, look at Jesus' life and ministry. Christ did not die for buildings or rituals that have little or no real godly truth.

God sent His Son as both an example and a sacrifice for our sins that we may have a proper relationship within His Family.

I remember when "Jesus Christ Superstar" was on Broadway, we stalwart Christians were horrified, as were many others through the years when change we did not understand occurred in "our church" or religion. Christ did not come to create a religion with silly rules and reasons to keep people from God. If there is no difference between a believer and a nonbeliever what is the reason for attending a church? I believe the sweetest sound to God's ears is when any and all of His children sing our praises to Him in whatever way we offer them to him. If you feel like running away from any celebration-worship service you are missing the point. Unfortunately, I at times have felt that way. All words of praise are acceptable to God. Thousands of young people were saved through the production of Jesus Christ Superstar. When will we get it through our head that He loves us all the same, sinner and saint alike. I learned a long time ago if I don't like a Christian song or hymn, I need to listen more carefully to the words and let my heart respond and not sing the tune but listen to what God may be saying to me through it. It works for me and I am blessed instead of running away from the singing of praises to God for my selfish reasons.

If you are not attending church, I am sure you have countless excuses; but remember Satan loves every one of those excuses. *Go to church, that's where God's family is*, warts and all. I have never met but one perfect Christian and that is Christ. Do not use the excuse that the church is full of hypocrites. Let God deal with the wrong doers thereby allowing Him to save them. What better place for us all to be than to be part of a church family, that way we may learn how to become better people.

Do not say you do not see the Holy Spirit moving in a congregation and assume He is not there. It is God's responsibility as to whether the

Holy Spirit is visible or invisible; do not blaspheme the Holy Spirit. Just like the wind blows and you do not see it, sometimes we can be deceived into believing He is not where God promised He would be. To believe that way is wrong.

Have you noticed how different God is from us, when we blow it, He does not say, “Boy you blew it. What on earth possessed you to do such a boneheaded thing?” On the other hand, we or Satan are quick to condemn others or ourself. God simply loves and tells us, *“Okay now that you’ve gotten that out of your system let’s get on with it.”*

Peter uttered the greatest prayer we can say when he was sinking in the water he had just walked on, “Save me Lord”. We should often say the same.



5

"If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get His help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who "worry their prayers" are like wind-whipped waves. Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way, adrift at sea, keeping all your options open."

James 1:5-8 (TMSG)

Seek God's Wisdom.



Pray for Wisdom and Understanding. Remember Jesus' teaching concerning seeds being scattered? The seeds that grew best fell on fertile ground. Keep your mind fertile, allowing wisdom to grow. Read, read, read everything you can get your hands on concerning the things you like or want to know. I am amazed at how many people today do not read, they do not care about the news unless it falls in

front of them, though who can blame them with such hatred and bloodshed being spewed out. How can you stay current concerning your life-learning education without reading and studying? King Solomon asked God for wisdom, surely you want the same. God gave you intelligence so you can continually learn. Never shut down your God given abilities to think, learn, dream and have fun. God would never want that. However, like the gift of Salvation you must ask for Understanding; they both are starting points for His Will.

Study Christ.

What better way to take charge of your life than to study the one who changed the entire world into a much better place. You will never get from point “A” to point “B” until you first know where point “A” is and more than likely it lies at the feet of God.

Be Extremely Careful About Shortcuts.

God’s guidance requires periods of waiting. Waiting is difficult. Plowing ahead or taking a shortcut can be disastrous though. How many times have you used a shortcut on your computer only to find a complete file you worked on is gone.

You can never become anything without studying. Pour over the writings you trust. Jesus’ earthly ministry only lasted three and a half years. He died and arose back to God when He was thirty-three and a half years old. What a magnificent career.

Jesus said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the Kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, through seeing, they may not see; through hearing, they may not understand.”

Luke 8:10 (NIV)

I have read hundreds of books searching for answers. Two books struck me particularly sad, but there are many more that qualify. I try to avoid sad books. I do read and enjoy some of the Steinbeck books; they too are sad. The two sad-books were accounts of lives devoid of Christianity. One was written about life in India and the struggles with the “caste system”. The other was concerning ghetto life in a major American city, without Christianity. I was struck with how each person in those stories struggled to survive. Neither were approached with the reality of Christ or real love. They died never knowing love. Truly sad books.

We in this country have little knowledge of how people in the rest of the world live. It is true Ghetto or caste-life is not indicative of any situation in an “expanding economy”, it is more like a third-world-living in the close proximity of wealth. You have seen photographs of people living this way. Whose fault is it? There were no Mother Theresa’s to help. The great city of Los Angeles is a terrible *example* of pitiful living conditions concerning homeless people. We may say, “Thank you Lord I am not like that person over there,” but God probably does not hear our words when we do. We have a responsibility to speak the truth to all who will listen, making a difference.

We have a new vehicle. It has a manual. It seems the current models are as complicated to understand as an airliner. We have driven this vehicle for 10,500 miles and still have to look up certain features. The same thing applies to being a Christian. Read the manual for your life, the Bible. It is more important than any book ever printed. Do you only read it when you get in trouble and need wisdom? That’s okay. I am often guilty of reading the directions after something quit working. If you do not depend on God daily, I submit you are not reading and studying the Scriptures as to how they apply to your life correctly. Pray daily, if not you are essentially saying to God: “Leave me alone, I can

handle this job all by myself. I don't need You messing in my life; I intend to have all the fun I can while I still can. When I need You, I'll look You up. I won't forget You though. Stick around and wait outside, I don't want anybody to see me with You right now. It's not that I'm ashamed, it's they'll think I'm weird. But I'll let You know when I need You. Let me handle it for now. I'll be all right, don't worry." Wrong.

Never Twist a Scripture to Suit Your Purposes.

Don't get caught in the question as to whether the Bible is inerrant or infallible. You can lose being able to see the truth when you get bound up in that. It used to be that monks who made Biblical art objects, illustrations, or stain glass windows, placed imperfect items in them because only Jesus was perfect. As a writer, some things are easy, they may go through only three, or four, or more edits. I was once a free-lance staff editor for a large magazine publishing company that produced a slick by-weekly publication. I was the first editor to read and edit the work of 20-30 writers destined only for a featured section. My main effort was for content and form, with a certain authority. There were nine additional editors in New York for each section and for rest of the five other published sections in each issue. That's over forty professional editors. Invariably the minute the magazine issue was printed and offered to the public mistakes glared at us and we said how could this happen?

When I write non-Christian material it is a simple process. Not so for Christian material, I recognize the seriousness of what I put down. I suspect a Christian writer who is serious, allowing themselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit, hardly recognizes their work when "finished"; and too, I have never read any of my Christian work that when I read the finished version that I didn't say to myself: How could I have written this when I do not do what it says. It amazes me. I

recognize most of the words and thoughts came from outside of me. Am I saying my writings are “Holy”, heavens no. Should my work be considered scripture, again absolutely not?

Many say they don't want a rule book like the Bible. Okay, let's go with that. When I was a youngster, I loved sports. I was pretty good at the sand-lot type, “no real rules sport”. Then I wanted to play organized sports. Oh, oh, then came the rules. I did not know the rules. Consequently, I was a failure. I never got the right cadence of steps verses the basketball hitting the court thing. I could make a ringer most of the time but I was penalized for what I could not figure out, “traveling” they yelled at me. Then there was baseball. I was pretty good at that too but I blew it with no knowledge of the rules. One time during a baseball game I threw my glove high in the air and knocked down a sure home run by the opposing team. I was excited at my accomplishment but thrown off the team for not knowing I could not do that. You might say that was stupid. I did not know the rules. I went out for football. Again, I was pretty good, yet deep down I knew it would happen, my lack of knowledge of the rules would catch up with me so I quit before it could happen. Subsequently I too hated rules. I was rebellious, something God hates.

Without rules you have chaos. Think about it. What is it you want, freedom to be the opposite of good? Most rules, except oppressive ones, bring or assure us of a better life. How can you gain freedom unless you learn the rules? *Think about it.* All learning is based on rules; and almost all western civilization with respect to the courts and our moral standards are based on the Bible and Jesus' teachings.

"Man shall not live by bread alone, He must have peanut butter". Is that the right quote? Okay, what is the right quote? How do you know what is right? Read the Bible.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the Devil. After fasting forty days and

forty nights, He was hungry. The tempter came to Him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:1-4 (NIV)

Did you notice Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert where Satan tempted Him? Jesus quoted Scripture to Satan. You should do the same when confronted with evil. Satan quoted Scripture did you get that? One more reason to read the Bible, that you may not be deceived.

When you were going to school and took a class that you did not understand did you study hard, fearful of not passing? *Since you became Christian have you done the same?* With God the life you lead is your exam. You need a personal relationship with Jesus and you can't know God without prayer and studying the Scriptures and fellowshiping with other Christians, learning. Being a Christian requires action. Too many leave the great commission that Jesus said we should be about to others.

"The Bible is alive, it speaks. It has feet. It runs after me. It loves me from cradle to grave." Martin Luther. How do we know this is true? You should mark and inwardly digest Psalm 139 in your Bible, use it to guide you when learning how to pray. It is full of promises from God. It is important. It's in the Bible that God knew me before I was born and He knew you too. I believe it. Jeremiah 1:5, Isaiah 44:24 and Job 10:10 says the same thing. You were fearfully and wonderfully made. Don't let Satan put you down even though you or others might deem your birth less than desirable. Remember Jesus was just over 33 when He was crucified and the AD (Anno Domini, meaning the year of our Lord) calendar started approximately when He was born. Some people argue that it took too many years for the books in the New

Testament to be written. It was actually only a little over 16 years (50AD) when the first one was recorded (James). Did the disciples take notes? We have no idea but if you believed God was standing before you, teaching you, would you? Also, they believed Jesus was coming back any day, so why write it down?

The Bible contains a much more concise and true accounting of what was happening than the accepted manuscripts concerning the ancient “history of man”. If you consider time and numbers that survived as a measuring stick there is no comparison to the Bible’s authentication. The New Testament (New Covenant, New Contract) is a specific writing concerning Christ and His ministry. Don’t get confused concerning the differences between the Old and New Testament. As a Christian you are acceptable to God though Jesus Christ. You do not have to follow the Old Testament Jewish rules. Does that mean you don’t have to adhere to the Ten Commandments, absolutely not?! You are under Jesus’ New Testament Contract. That does not mean you should disavow what you read in the Old Testament or not read and study it. God is speaking to us all through the history of the Jewish people.

There are some adherents who try to thread the needle and become a Messianic Jew more or less. However, as a Christian you are not bound by the laws concerning much that Moses passed down. Be careful how you approach this. Jesus came to fulfill the laws not do away with them. The writings in the New Testament, selectively-included, were chosen during the time period of great persecution for Christians. The criteria for choosing what would be considered Scripture was called “laws of canonicity”. This consisted of five aspects: 1) Was it written by an accepted prophet of God? 2) Was the writer confirmed by acts of God? 3) Does the message confirm the truth about God? 4) Does it come established with power from God?

5) Was it acceptable by God's people? *So, in fact everything in it is factually true.*

There were dozens of other books which some people wanted included in the New Testament but the 250 AD Canon (rules) criteria excluded them for various reasons. The final canonization of the Bible occurred around 397 AD. If you desire you may research them to come to your own conclusion.

Thomas Jefferson created a book many call the "Jefferson Bible". Jefferson titled it "The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth Extracted Textually from the Gospels in Greek, Latin, French and English". It contains the life and morals of Jesus which was intended only for his family. I have a hard bound "photo-copy" of the book produced by the Smithsonian Institute. Jefferson excluded anything that was not spoken by or Jesus did. Some say Jefferson rewrote the Bible. He did not. Each copy of his "Bible" was hand-cut and hand-pasted, painstakingly in Greek, Latin, French, and English from actual Bibles, for his children, as you and I might do trying to get across the message about Christ for your children. Jefferson's three hand-made books took many, many, hours of painstaking effort. It was not meant for publication, only personal use by himself and his family. Everything you do can be misinterpreted, twisted and perverted by Satan, especially by the "worldly wisdom-makers". Remember when you speak concerning your beliefs about God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you may be attacked. Jesus said we would be.

Why does God allow evil to corrupt or overpower Christianity, especially in the Church? Good question. The answer lies in how much He loves us and is willing for us to blunder through our life when we are wrong. Another reason, we grow stronger through adversity.

The entire Bible contains the history of thousands of generations of people falling in and out of love with God. What you will never find is any part which says God ever did anything but continually love His

people, all of them, including you. Though it is confusing at times God ran after them, wanting only the best for them and He continues to do so today. He runs after each of us, or you would not be reading this.

There is an incredible parchment, a painting of sorts, that used written words from the Bible as the medium. If you stand back, you see a portrait of Jesus; but on a closer examination you see the entire manuscript-drawing was made up of letters forming Scripture from the Book of John. Some letters were light, some dark, all were hand-scribed by the artist, Sandra Jelinek, to depict the face of Jesus. You can read every line on close inspection, much like how God intends us to receive wisdom when we read, study, and inwardly digest His Holy Word. In fact, all of God's creation points to Jesus. The Bible reveals the person of Jesus Christ. The Old Testament is the background. The Gospels display the figure. The Epistles are the clothes. While continuing reading your "Biblical Painting" a miracle happens, the truth springs forth and you begin to see and know Jesus. Don't give up if you get confused, ask God to reveal what He wants you to learn. Even the disciples were sometimes confused and needed the Holy Spirit's help. Peter found some of Paul's letters hard to understand. Yes, we don't always understand. Ask for the Gift of understanding.

The Biblical Library passages were written by kings, scholars, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, historians, and doctors. When we do research we must exercise a level of faith, depending on others to do their job before us. Unfortunately, many of us depend on a sort of "osmosis learning" in living our life. Letting the world teach us is not wise. When you begin your Bible study allow the Holy Spirit to disclose Scriptures to you. You will learn how to become a complete and successful Christian person. *Instead of being fed to the lions, you will be triumphant.* However, being a Christian is not a guarantee for good health, wellbeing, and complete safety from life's hard knocks. It is a life-long process that begins when you turn your life around.

"The Word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the Word of Faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in Him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile, the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." ...Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ."

Romans 10:9-13,17 (NIV)

As you read your Bible, make marks in it so you can come back to certain things where you had an "epiphany". Remember the Bible you are holding is just a book, it is not Holy. The words and the concepts are Holy. Please don't get confused about this. God's Words are Holy, not the published version you bought. Study your Bible like your life depends on it, for it does. Not your eternal life with God for that is His gift; but, your new life does, the here and now, the Kingdom of God on earth, at your church, at your house, wherever you are, whatever your condition.

You are given the right to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, through Understanding; act like it. If you want to follow the natural progression in the Bible as it relates to time and life then get a study guide explaining when each book in the Bible was written. When you finish reading the Bible don't say, "I finally finished; now I won't have to do that again". Through reading the Bible God brings you to an ever-abiding faith enabling you to be more like Him every time you

read and study it. It brings you joy and peace in the midst of your storms. It gives you guidance. It offers health, healing and comfort to those who are sick.

Bible sales in North America amount to more than half a billion dollars each year; the average American household has three Bibles, and 27% have five or more. How many of those Bibles are read and studied? Your guess is as good as mine but looking at our current moral standards, not enough I'd say. Yet, not long ago, to have one Bible in Russia was a crime punishable by death. It still is in some countries, China for example. One of the stated purposes of Communism is to eliminate the people's belief and need for God. Can you grasp how important each printed Bible is to those people in places where their government wants to destroy Christianity?

Thousands of Christian Sudanese in prison work camps were slaughtered. Many missionary teams were sent to Uganda which in some places borders Sudan. Thousands of refugees who fled from tyranny are ministered to there, creating one of the most powerful renewal areas in the world. Remember this when you sit drinking your beer in your easy chair. However, the plague against Christian persecution effects over 300 million people worldwide who suffer directly or are discriminated against and suffer legal impediments.

Countless numbers of Christians, some say more than 100,000 are killed each year because of their faith, the equivalent of one 747 airliner going down each day of the year, with few survivors. The population of China is over one billion. Millions of Christians live there. Today it remains largely illegal to have a Bible there. Communism teaches that the government takes over the need for God and any form. Yet, more Christians now worship in China than in all of Western Europe.

Hundreds of thousands have died bringing the Gospel message to others. In Nigeria over 500 thousand people once attended an outdoor

Jesus Crusade, during sweltering heat and unbearable conditions. Tens of thousands gave their lives to Christ that day. That's just one of many such gatherings in Africa. During our Africa Mission trip one of the teams encountered over 1,000 repentant refugees from Sudan who had been on their knees on the hard red clay for over 30 minutes praying, it took over three hours to get around to all of them; but they remained on their knees in the hot sun praying. Everywhere the teams went people patiently waited for hours upon hours for the fresh word from God brought all the way from America. Why were they willing to do this? Read the Bible.

Imagine a person you admire the most, living or dead. Now imagine they or their descendants are giving you not only a biography but a history of all their people. On top of that, they reveal what they and their people personally believe and know to be true. They reveal their successes and their failures. Wouldn't you want to read such a book, to find out what their secrets were, their ways of doing what impresses you? Read the Bible.

Reading the Bible is highly rewarding, yet, I admit it is often frustrating, especially if you try to read it the way you are taught to read a book, from cover to cover. By reading it as a book it won't seem to have much continuity, particularly the Old Testament. It is fine until you get to Job or Isaiah and the prophets, even Genesis skips around, quite confusing, at least if you try to grasp how it all fits together, like a time table. Even the universally accepted words of God sometimes speak of things that have happened, are happening, and will happen all at the same time. You see God is not a God concerning a time element and therefore is not constrained by time.

It is wise to start with a realistic goal when you begin to study your Bible. Don't be too ambitious. Set aside say seven minutes every day, then build to what fits you. I suggest you start with the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Then take on the book of Romans,

chapters 12-15 especially and 1 Corinthians, chapters 13 & 14, they will expand your knowledge of what being a Christian is all about, what God expects. If you're reading a version that's hard for you to read, get an acceptable version that suits you, one recommended by your church or a mature Christian. Rest assured you will not understand all of Revelation, it is not supposed to be understood until the time for it to be established happens. Many say they figured it out but they do not speak the truth.

Become disciplined, asking God to speak to you. Do not be ridged; God is not ridged. Also, as you read, write notes asking yourself and God what the passages mean? Compare translations to clarify what you don't understand. Ask and check out: Who wrote it; who first read it; when was it written; where was it written; why was it written?. There are many good study guides, pick one. If your Bible has a commentary, what does it say? Some Bibles are called study-Bibles; they give you the ability to study wherever you are but they are always thicker and heavier to carry.

Ponder how what you read applies to you, your family, your work, your neighbor, and the society around you. Then put what you learn into practice in your life, family and community; it is important. What are some of the words, topics, names, and locations where it happened? Check it out, make an outline and memorize meaningful parts. Study like you did in school, write papers. It will do you good to look back on it. Read the Scriptures with an open mind letting God reveal Himself to you through the Holy Spirit and His Word, your revelation from God; see how it fits with other passages. Notice the purpose of a particular scripture, pondering it in quiet prayer, study the background, the who, where, why of it. Learn its theme, the parts that are special to you. Ask how God's Will is expressed through what you learned. Ask Him how to carry this new knowledge throughout the rest of your life?

What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom? To start with knowledge is simply a collection of stuff that you know; it is information and skill applied through experience and education, making up the sum total of what you know concerning your stuff. Wisdom is easily confused with learning; learning typically develops from a specific action such as touching a hot oven or by being taught by someone. Proverbs tell us the beginning of wisdom comes from a fear of God. That kind of fear leads us to respect, revere, and to be in awe of the majesty and power of God. Reading the Bible gives you the opportunity to gain both knowledge and wisdom; unfortunately, both can give you good and bad opportunities. Many people twist the truth to seek profit from what they learned and then deceive others. This applies to scientists, leaders and charismatic people that we tend to rely on. Beware of those people who lead you astray. They may signify both wisdom and knowledge gone awry. Seek God for His Wisdom, applying what you learn from Him through the understanding He gives you, turning what you do from that point on into knowledge that you can use day to day.

I suggest you read chapter three of the book of Proverbs. Countless Scriptures reassure us that God is willing and able to help us find Wisdom. James 1:5 indicates all you have to do is ask God and He will give you Wisdom, but I believe that is a continuing Gift. God gives us what we can deal with and many times holds back what we can't. God made Solomon the wisest, richest man because he asked for wisdom instead of riches. Not a bad choice. Please read 1 Corinthians 2:7-13 and John, Chapter 3:1-21 and Chapter 17, and pray fervently for God's Wisdom and Understanding.

Don't Sweat the Small Stuff.

Do you want to know what life is all about: *You are here on earth to grow in knowledge, learning while doing God's Will.* Seek God's

perspective. Through receiving a revelation, you can better know what lies before you. Expect Understanding to bring you many aspects of an abundant life. *If you are a new Christian find a Church.* Forget that many of your friends reject going to church, instead they say they are having fun, staying up late, drinking and playing games and sleeping in on Sunday. It is tempting, being lazy; in everything there is a choice of having your own way by “goofing-off”. Think about it. That attitude can’t last forever, it is self-gratifying and selfish. Unless you have a rich relative that will indulge you in all your rebelliousness you will live a life full of wants and few successes.

It can seem like working a minimum wage job with little or no responsibilities will get you some fun, especially while living in group houses in a socialistic life.

God chose you.

Stop tearing yourself down and use the gifts He gave you. Walk in His Strength, Wisdom, Understanding and Knowledge and receive His Blessings. He never expects you to be perfect. However, He wants you to do your best. All of the characters written about in the Bible except Jesus were walking around on “clay feet” like you and me. Eventually when we are changed in the end we will become like Jesus; until then we are continually at war within ourselves. If you wait until you get “good” before you accept Christ or regularly attend church you will never get there. We know good but we too often choose evil. You, the uniqueness of you, the good and bad of you is in God’s plan. Making that “right choice” for your life will bring nothing but good into your life. You have nothing but bad habits to lose.

You Were Born for Such a Time as This!

Don't get caught in the pin-ball machine way of life, being tossed this way or that by someone else's circumstances. As an accepted Christian you are expected to grow in the Lord and produce fruit. A grapevine or a fruit tree cannot produce fruit if it remains alone; it must have help from its brothers and sisters. Together cross-pollination happens, an exchanging of gifts. Again, read Psalm 139, verse 14, it says you are fearfully and wonderfully made by God to have a *complete life*, full of an abundance of power and love! God sincerely cares about you. It's a promise. Look into the sky on a clear night; God spoke and created that ever expanding environment we live in and it goes on forever. Did He love you any more or less when you were designed and created? *How carefully did He speak the Words?*

Freedom Always Comes with a Price.

"Christian" ought to be classified as a verb with all of its derivatives. We are called to be doers, not pew setters or couch potatoes. Isaiah and Samuel said "*Here am I! Send me.*" We should too.

Just like when Jesus was in the world bad leadership in the church can cause all manner of sinful weakness today too. I believe the church today is reaping the same rewards as did God's ancient people during an unrighteous leader's guidance, causing decades of bad leadership. Where were the watchmen on our walls who saw it coming 50 years ago and beyond? Who stole their voices? This is where you and I come in. Remember you are destined to be a servant-warrior of God and as such you are not the master of your fate. Say, "*Here am I! Send me.*"

You gave up something. God created man with an obsession for freedom, something no man can have. Have you ever watched a caged "king of the beast" pacing back and forth in a paranoia state, bored,

not realizing he is a king? It is a sad thing. Is that you? We will always be in bondage to certain things or people or governments. We can free ourselves from the toothbrush but find our mouths full of cavities; or by opting for total freedom, sailing the seven seas, we find ourselves in bondage to our health, or to safety, the compass, the wind, the elements, the fish, the ship, the provisions we brought, trying to make them last. We can never be free unless we choose to become a servant of God. As His servant everything you need is supplied. He wants us to grow in faith, always trusting in His ways.

You Don't Have to be Your Worst Enemy.

Do you hear voices inside you? Good and wrong thoughts? Where do they come from? Examine them. Do your thoughts lead you astray? Can you discern when God speaks to you, His voice? You cannot go back and undo actions and sins you brought into your life (think about this!); neither can you stop the consequences you created. Your only hope is in asking God and those whom you sinned against for forgiveness. Don't just say, "I'm sorry." Say, "I sinned against you and I repent, I am sorry." Repentance doesn't mean anything unless you do some sort of action concerning it. *Neither does saying I repent over and over; it does no good without actual repenting.* Repentance is tied directly to forgiveness, and forgiveness is tied to trust, like breathing and water are essential to life itself.

The Gallup Poll says 90% of Americans profess to praying. Yet, what kind of prayers do they say? Mostly we do all the talking hoping God listens. Does He? Yes, He is your Father, all fathers love to listen to their children especially when they are babbling babies, which many of us are. However, as mature Christians, *unrighteous and tedious prayers are often nothing but hindrances to true communication with God.* Sometimes our conversations with God disclose only one thing, we still

want what we want when we want it. It points out our spiritual lacking, our self-righteousness and our self-indulgences.

What would have happened if the disciples did all the talking, instead of listening to Jesus? What about when you attended school or professional seminars or training sessions? *If we have any concern for learning we must listen more than talk or else we learn little.*

There are some important aspects that help you find wisdom:

First, get over your youthful attitude no matter what your age.

Second, stop thinking you know all there is to know.

Third, stop thinking nothing is going to happen to you.

Forth, get it through your head, as Galileo said, “The universe does not revolve around the earth”, (you). You never were and never will be the center of God’s attention. Sure, He loves you and wants the best for you, but the best is determined by Him not you. Did you get that, *you don’t know what the best is for you.*

Fifth, forget that “I want what I want when I want it”, it only works for babies and spoiled brats. You are not God’s spoiled brat!

“I know what I’m doing. I have it all planned out, plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. When you call on Me, when you come and pray to Me, I’ll listen. When you come looking for Me, you’ll find Me. Yes, when you get serious about finding Me and want it more than anything else, I’ll make sure you won’t be disappointed. I’ll turn things around for you. I’ll bring you back from all the countries into which I drove you, bring you home to the place from which I sent you off into exile. You can count on it.”

Jeremiah 29:11-15 (TMSG)

Remember, when you read the Bible whether the Old or New Testament you should *pray first*: Lord what would You have me

understand while reading this; then place yourself in the situation you are reading about, as if it were you? Ask God what should you learn. What is He teaching you? *The truth is God does not try to do anything. He does it.* If there is a failure it is not from God. Sometimes it is hard to understand what God is saying because we are listening through worldly filters. God wants you to live the life He calls you to, and if you are doing anything contrary to what He is leading you to He will guide you away from it, unless you rebel. Look around you. If he cares for the small things of life how much more will He care about you?

God is Always Ready to Listen!

Have you ever looked and listened to God's creation? The sounds of it? We live on the Gulf Coast. This morning a squall line blew through. There were winds of 70 mph. We were frightened. Even the cats saw the fear in our eyes and crouched down running to hide in their special "safe places". We knew we were safe but it was scary. Normally the wind blows softly. A leaf falling to the soil turns into mulch where seeds grow, which essentially serves to feed the whole creation. The myriads of birds sing. Life is beautiful and we are blessed beyond measure. Read Chapter Three again pertaining to what you believe. *Do you realize how important you are to God?* He says that in countless places in Scripture, even holding up the end times for you, if need be. He says *all creation will rejoice when you are saved.* Can you imagine that? Try to. Seek the Lord's Strength to become an empowered Christian who is not easily discouraged.

Discouragement comes from Satan, so does condemnation. Do not accept condemnation. Fight the good fight and rely on God for help. Deal with your weaknesses. Be strong, not weak in spirit, so that you may be used as He needs you in the duties of battle against the prince of darkness. Ask God to teach you how to become a willing servant, a

solider of truth, a centurion who knows how to be disciplined in battle, a warrior of God's own choosing.

God is Always Watching Over You.

*Allow the Holy Spirit to become your best friend; ask for His help in everything, you have nothing to lose. Yield your entire life to God. Establish the Holy Spirit as your constant companion (Love), *the Breath of God*. The Holy Spirit will help you as Jesus said He would. When you decide what God would have you involved in do it diligently.*

At one time we depended on hand-pumps to draw the water out of ground. Things such as “check valves” were not invented yet. You had to prime the pump by dumping water in it to create a suction to pull water up. Some people would give up when only one more push of the pump handle would produce good cold water. Do not give up if God wants you to persist. *It is important for God to be able to depend on you.* Many people fail at the point of success.

Be Who You Say You Are and Be No Less.

Be willing to walk away when God tells you to. Enough is enough. Determination is hallmark in a successful career but it also is a fault if rebellion is involved. Do you have the correct attitude? Or, do you think it will come to you because you want it, or because you are God's kid? It is not so; it takes years of preparation and hard work.

Four D's: Desire, Discipline, Determination and Diligence.

Desire alone will accomplish little. You could say *desire is dumb and destructive* without the all of the Four D's: *Desire, Discipline, Determination and Diligence.*

Desire is nothing but an impulse and can lead you down the wrong pathway. Without sheer *discipline* and *determination* nothing would be accomplished.

Diligence is being steadfast, sticking to it, being duty bound out of the love of God.

Remember the 4-Ds. Together we can change the world, *if but first, we change ourselves.*

"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith, goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

2 Peter 1:3-11 (NIV)

God Wants You to Succeed!

God had success in mind when He called you! If a negative thought prevails or pops into your mind, cancel it with a positive one! Remember the pitcher as he looks at the catcher shaking his head because he knows what type of pitch to throw. Another thing, the catcher must be aware of what the pitcher intends to do else he will lose the ball and all manner of problems will prevail. When you are “discouraged” change the first three letters into “en”courage instead of discouraged. *There is no reason for a Christian to be discouraged.* With God you are guaranteed a triumphant life even when it appears delay and failure is imminent.

Remember: “All things work for the good of those who are called to His purposes.” Counter discouraging thoughts with encouraging ones, shake them off! Unfortunately, we can falter in a moment and it takes hours, even days to regain what we had before we stumbled. Learn from it. Encourage yourself and discourage Satan!

Nevertheless, when you have successes do not wear them as a feather on your cap. *Read Matthew 17:1-6.* The problem with trophies and well-done situations is if you are not careful you can stop there in admiration of what you have done, doing so makes an idol out of what you accomplished and it is counterproductive. I have seen it too often; a well-done painting or manuscript can stand out as a monument to your success if you are not careful. It stalls out creative people making them go no further, creating a barrier. One of the great writers of our time, Hemingway was said to have succumbed to such a plight. Fearful of not doing as good as his last work of writing he essentially stopped and eventually committed suicide. Many creative people suffer the same malady. I knew an accomplished artist that painted over work if it did not sell quickly, even if he had won awards for it. I was horrified! He knew the dangers of accepting work as being the best you could do thereby ending up doing nothing in fear of failing to come up to a perceived standard.

You must look forward, learning or honing your craft as long as you live or else you might soon become a failure, letting others become the winner and passing you by. God gives you room to come to your own realization of truth. Never accept negative talk from anyone as being true because it comes from their flesh or Satan, both are an enemy to God.

***Have Faith in God's Ability to Speak to You,
Not Your Ability to Hear Him.***

Trust God, He will help you "like you", eventually turning your negative thoughts into loving yourself. It will change your attitude toward others too, bringing you into a long and healthy life.

"These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit, but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock. But if you just use My words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a wrong thinking carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards."

Matthew 7:24-27(TMSG)

People living on the Gulf Coast of NW Florida know what wind and rains can do. Who is the rock this Scripture speaks of? Jesus Christ. Do you see a correlation? Build your life upon the Rock, the Rock of Jesus Christ. And, remember the Bible was not given to increase your knowledge, but to increase your Faith by knowing God, changing your life.

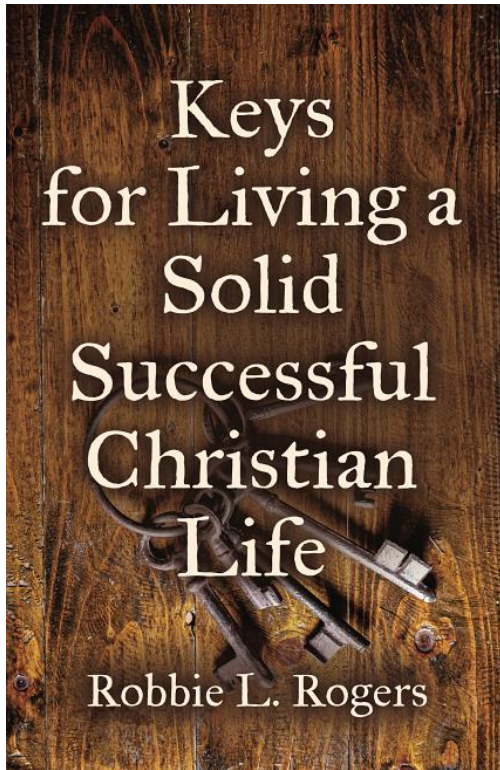
There was a woman in Mobile called Gravel Gurty, she was a bag lady before her time. She lived in a rundown mansion full of garbage, newspapers, cups, trash, and a lot of cats, all the while having a fortune in the bank. She could have lived as a wealthy woman. We should live like a King's kid, but do we live like Gravel Gurty? We have the power to pray against the forces of evil but we falter. Instead of living triumphantly we are perplexed, reacting like fallen Christians. We might want to change. Does that mean everything will now turn out right since we have God's ear? Hardly.

Only if you have a pet can you understand the following: We have a cat, called "Socks" that we dearly love. It has a problem. Sometimes when it yawns too big its jaw gets caught wide-open. She immediately runs in fear, hiding. It usually takes a while for us to realize she is in one of her many "hidey holes". We pray, then go on a hunt for her. My wife usually finds her because she is short and can get down and look in the short places I can't. Through instructions from an emergency veterinarian, I usually can get her jaw back in place, but it takes a toll on all four of us. I say four because her sister is upset too. I end up in mild shock. Socks is 14 years old now and her jaw has caught more than 50 times. We pray for her often and the situation the problem causes; every time it happens, we probably shorten our life just a little bit. No matter how mature of a Christian we become we still have to fight with "we want what we want when we want it". We know God is helping us during the situation but it still affects us.

During the Old Testament time, estimates have it, only ten million people occupied the earth. By the end of the first century or during the New Testament time there were 30 million estimated inhabitants or 30 times more than when Christ commanded the Saints to spread the Gospel to the farthest parts. Now, 1/3 of the population profess they are Christians and they reportedly will have access to many, many Bibles in their lifetime.

The New Testament or the last 3 Biblical eras are (in my estimation): Gospels, Church, and Missions. The basic movement for God's people in the Old Testament was from: Eden to Canaan; to Egypt; to Canaan; to Babylonia, then to Jerusalem. Which is sort of like moving from Beaumont to San Angelo to El Paso to San Angelo to Houston to San Antonio all in Texas and taking 2,000 years to do it. Israel and Canaan are in the same geographic location. God's people lost their spiritual strength by doing what was right in their eyes, instead of God's. If we know who God is through studying His Word, we can easily find faith, belief, and an understanding of the depth of His love for us and creation. In doing so it is easier for us to take Jesus as our personal Savior, allowing the Holy Spirit in our lives, being more complete. Such things give us confidence in living the life we and all of God's people are supposed to live instead of a failed life similar to the likes of Gravel Gurty.

Where does rebellion come from? First, mainly it comes from Satan's deceptive attempts to make us want to be God. Secondly, from a desire to want to know what God knows and to know it on our terms. The hardest thing we have to deal with is uncertainty, that of not knowing, such as watching a beloved cat suffer, hence we want to know how to deal with our problems our way, not waiting on God. Third, rebellion comes straight from our flesh, the sinful nature we inherited through the years. The Jews were led for forty years in the desert because of their rebellion against God. God brought them to the crossroad and they still rebelled. Have you ever felt like God brought you to a crossroad? Did you enter into the kingdom or were you led around the desert again?



Within one's self lies the whole world, if you know how to look and learn. The door of life appears and the key is waiting there; nobody can give you the key, or make the door open except you. Be true to yourself, open the door.

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