

What's In Your Toolbox?

Building
A Strong Foundation
In Jesus Christ



Deacon Glenn & Linda Harmon



This book is designed for those people who at times struggle spiritually. The reader will discover practical and down to earth spiritual power tools that will help them overcome the common roadblocks that prevent them from experiencing the abundant life they want and Jesus Christ promised. It will lead to a greater personal holiness of life, which will benefit not only their life, but marriages, families and society as well.

What's In Your Toolbox? Building A Strong Spiritual Foundation In Jesus Christ

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In Jesus Christ**

**Deacon Glenn
And Linda Harmon**

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ISBN: 978-1-63491-102-3

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Published by BookLocker.com, Inc. Bradenton, Florida, U.S.A.

Printed on acid-free paper.

BookLocker.com, Inc.
2016

First Edition

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Chapter 1

Building A Strong Foundation

Building a strong spiritual foundation on the teachings of Jesus Christ begins by looking at different ways you can strengthen, deepen and anchor your relationship with almighty God.

All that God requires is that you read these pages with an open mind and an open heart. If you will do that, if you will say in your heart and really mean it, “Lord, I am willing to receive whatever blessings, graces and spiritual awareness you have for me,” then God will do wonderful things in your life.

You see, God is going to be planting spiritual seeds in your heart as you read every page of this book, because He knows exactly what you need at this moment in your life. Written words can be very powerful, especially when they reveal God’s love for you and His plans for your life.

I know from my own experiences, and from the experiences of people who have attended our missions and retreats, that some of those seeds that God plants will bear fruit and blossom as you absorb the lessons in these pages. Some of those seeds may lay dormant for weeks, months or maybe even years, but God will bring them to blossom and bear fruit when He knows the time is right for you.

That’s why, as you read these pages, we pray that you will look at each one as part of a journey of faith, a sort of pilgrimage on paper. And, as you go on this pilgrimage, we want you to realize that our Lord Jesus Christ will be with you every step of the way. He will be with you to rejoice in the good times and to support you in the difficult times.

Having presented our missions since 1992 all over the United States and Canada, one thing has become very evident to us. Like the people who come to our missions, we think that

people who want to read our book will generally be in one of three places in their lives.

Some will be in what we call a resurrection moment in their lives. At this moment, everything is just great. God is pouring out His blessings, you can feel the presence of the amazing graces of God and you're just happy to be alive.

When we are in one of those moments, we just want to wrap ourselves in it because it feels so good. If that's where you are, you are likely reading this book because you want to find ways to keep this resurrection moment going in your life.

Others may be reading this because even though life isn't really bad for you right now you still know there is something missing. You may not know what it is, but there's a void, a hole. I'm hoping that in the pages of this book God will help you understand what is missing in your life and then help you to fill up that "empty" hole.

Finally, some of you are reading this because of something that might have happened in your past that you still haven't dealt with, or something that is going on right now. You're broken, you're wounded and you're hurting. You are very much in need of the healing touch of God.

No matter what is bothering you, or even if you feel you are doing fine but just want to continue on that same closeness with your Creator, it will always help to encourage you to remember that Jesus is the divine healer, the supreme physician.

If Jesus Christ can raise Lazarus from the dead and turn water into wine, He can certainly take care of any problems that we have in our lives, but we must be willing to accept what God has in store for us.

To do that, take a moment or two at any time while you're reading this book, or reflecting on the words you've read, and ask the Lord to open your mind so that you may experience and understand Him better in rewarding and insightful new ways.

Also, ask our Lord to soften your heart so that you can feel His presence. Then He can reach those areas of your heart that are desperately in need of His healing touch. Ask our Lord and

Savior Jesus Christ to hear your prayers, petitions and the desires of your heart, knowing that He is listening.

Perhaps it will help if you reflect again on the three questions that take each of us right to the core of our spiritual foundation.

First, do you believe, at this moment in your life, without any doubt, with no hesitation, that Jesus Christ is really who He says He is? Many people believe that He was a rabbi, a teacher, a holy man or a prophet. But, they don't believe He came into our world as the Messiah. This question has been at the root of our understanding of Jesus for more than 2,000 years.

Even in scripture, Jesus looked at the apostles and asked them, "who do people say that I am?" After the apostles tell Jesus all the titles, all of the labels that the people have given Him, He looks again at those same apostles and asks, "Who do you say that I am?"

You see, when it comes right down to the core of our spiritual reality, it doesn't make any difference what anybody else says about Jesus. What is important is who you and I, in the depths of our heart and our spirit, say that Jesus Christ is. Do you believe that He is the Messiah, the Christ, the savior of the world, your savior?

The second question is related to the first.

Do you believe that the promises of Jesus Christ are true?

As we begin to study scripture, reading and discussing the promises of Jesus Christ, we begin to realize how absurd His promises are to the world.

In much of our society in America, and in many other countries, people believe the promises of Christ are ridiculous. Do we accept the mindset of our society or are we going to wrap our hearts and minds around the promises of Christ? If you don't believe that Jesus is the Messiah, then there is no reason to believe that His promises are true. But, if you believe that Jesus is your savior then it becomes paramount in our lives that we believe His promises are true.

Beyond that, we must still address that third question. Are the promises of Jesus Christ for you? I know of many people who

are willing to say “yes” to the first question and even to the second. But, this last one, they just can’t buy. Why not?

One reason is because they may have a poor self-image. They look at themselves and remember how, throughout their lives, they have rejected, turned their back on and refused to have anything to do with Jesus Christ. And, because of that they don’t believe that Jesus would offer His promises to them. They refuse to understand that’s exactly the reason that Jesus went to the cross, was crucified and died - all for that person who is a sinner.

Those three questions are going to continue to be the common thread that runs through this entire book. Answers to those questions will tell you where your spiritual foundation is grounded and rooted.

How do I know that the answers to those three questions are essential for revealing where you’re placing God in your life? How do I know that your answers also reveal your relationship to Jesus Christ and how you are welcoming Him into your life to help you or guide you - or not? Because I have been there myself.

You see, for the first 35 years of my life, if you asked me those three questions I would have told you that I believe in Jesus Christ and I believe in my Catholic faith. I would have no problem professing that with my mouth. But, if you saw how I lived my life, you would see that my actions did not match those words.

If you witnessed how I treated my wife, Linda, how I treated my two daughters, Christina and Kelly, and how I spent most of my days and most of my life it would clearly show that my words and actions did not match up to how I answered those questions.

If you want to know how deeply rooted your foundation is in Jesus, ask yourself what has happened to you when the going gets rough. For example, how have you reacted when a tragedy has taken place? Do you fall apart, do you crumble, do you almost vaporize? Or, in the midst of that tragedy, are you able to have a peace and hope that goes beyond all understanding?

As Christian people we are Easter people. We are to be people of hope when there is no hope. We are supposed to be

people of joy when there is sadness all around us. When everybody around us is filled with fear, we are supposed to be people of faith, living in a society that is riddled with hopelessness, sadness, despair and tremendous anxiety.

I hear so many people say, “Glenn, if I could just be rid of all of my problems, and all of my anxieties, then I would have peace.”

If that’s your criteria for peace, you’ll never get it.

Peace is not an absence of conflicts or problems. We will always have problems on this earth. But peace, true peace, the peace of Christ, is being able to deal with and respond to these problems with an inner peace that cannot be explained because it is not of human origin. It is Divine.

If you look at Jesus and the apostles, their lives were filled with troubles, problems and conflicts.

People were running them out of town. They were beating them. They were trying to kill them. Jesus had a lot of challenging problems. But, in the midst of all of that, He and His followers traveled from town to town and lived day to day doing just what He and His disciples were called to do - spread the Good News. You see, their hope was in Jesus. When your hope is in Jesus there’s no reason to have anything else but peace.

Now, let’s take that thought to the next level. If you are truly going to build our foundation on Jesus, then we must be willing to surrender all of these things - anxieties, fears, doubts and all the problems and challenges in our life - to the will of God.

Now, that sounds easy enough by saying it, but as human beings we love to have control of our lives. Or, we like to think we have control of our lives. Right now, as you’re reading these words, your heart is beating, your lungs are breathing in oxygen. Do you realize that you have no control over that?

The only reason your heart is beating, the only reason your lungs are taking in air is that God wants it to work that way. You have no control over your heart beating. Every morning, when I wake up and realize my heart is beating, I say, “Oh, Lord, thank you for giving me another day.”

We're all alive at this moment because God wants it that way. There are people who woke up this morning thinking they would have another day and yet they never live to see the end of their day. We don't have any control no matter how we try to live by our own will. It is God's will that is ultimately going to be fulfilled.

So, if we truly want to do God's will in our lives, which is to ground and root our spiritual foundation in His teachings, we need to surrender our will, our desires, our hopes and our dreams to Him. That's very hard for us when we live in a world that professes and promotes a philosophy that tells us to go get it, grab it, take it, hold on to it, and once you've got it, never let it go.

We are brainwashed throughout our lives with that mentality. That's the doctrine of the world. But, in the midst of that daily brainwashing by our society, Jesus Christ is telling us to give it up, surrender it, let it go. The loud messages we hear every hour of the day, in one form or another, are the world's messages - grab it, get it, hold on to it. Even with all that commotion filling our minds, sometimes we hear the small, still voice of our Lord Jesus Christ whispering, "Give it to me." What's surprising to us is that when we let it all go we find peace.

Now, please understand that when we surrender whatever areas of our life that we need to surrender, that does not mean that we surrender our responsibilities. For example, if you have a marriage that's not working the way you want it to work, wouldn't you say, "Oh, God, I will surrender my troubled marriage to you. I'm going to ask you to step in Lord. I'm giving you permission. I'm giving you control to step in and heal and bless this marriage."

That doesn't mean that you are not supposed to do everything you can yourself every minute of the day to make it a better marriage. God will do His part, you can be assured of that. However, you must also do your part in whatever area of your life you're surrendering.

You know, as I do, that this whole thing about our wills has been a problem since the beginning of time. When God created Adam and Eve, He looked at them and said, “Everything you can see, for as far as you can see, I’m giving it to you. It’s yours. Enjoy it. Have fun with it, use it, benefit from it.”

And then, as God looked at Adam and Eve, He pointed nearby and told them, “You can have everything except that little tree over there. You cannot have that. I don’t want you to touch that tree.”

That was God’s will for Adam and Eve. We all know what happened. Adam and Eve decided that their will was better, that their will superseded God’s will. Well, we’ve all been paying for that ever since.

This is a good time for you to pick up your Bible, the inspired Word of God, and read some scriptures that relate to this topic. Please read Genesis 3:1-19. I think it’s very important, even critical, that we’re able to locate helpful scripture passages like this in our Bibles so that we can highlight them or add some of our own thoughts.

The first scripture about Adam and Eve shows us what can happen when we refuse to be obedient to whatever God is asking us to surrender.

Now, please turn to the writing of Luke, Chapter 18, verses 18-23.

I’m sure you’ve heard this scripture since you were a little kid. You may, in fact, be very familiar with these words. So, I want to caution you. Don’t let its familiarity steal the freshness of what God is about to say to you. Quite often, at least in my life, I know, when the priest, deacon or lector begins to read a particular scripture, something in my mind says, “Oh, yeah, I’ve heard that before.” So, I begin to think of other things, as if God could tell me nothing new in the hundred and first time I’ve heard this scripture. However, that’s when you miss the blessings God is offering you. He really wants your full attention.

I believe that God is going to tell you something very important in Luke 18, right now, as you read these words. Luke begins speaking about a “rich official.”

Now, let me stop you right there. You see, those two words at the very beginning of this scripture should immediately tell us something important that sets the stage for what is to come. First of all, you know that he was rich, which meant he had money and he had possessions. He lived very comfortably and being a rich official meant he was a high-ranking person. He had a lot of power, authority and control. In other words, this rich official had everything his society of some 2,000 years ago told him he needed to be happy.

I’m sure you realize, looking at our own time in history, that nothing has really changed. The society we live in today is telling all of us the same thing. If you have a sufficient amount of money, possessions, power, authority and recognition you’re going to be happy. You don’t need anything else.

That’s the biggest lie that the world tries to get us to believe. Unfortunately, most people buy into it. I used to be one of those people.

Well, if that is true then why did that rich official, with everything he had, search out and find Jesus?

It’s very simple. It’s because everything he had was not enough. He knew that something was missing. There was a hole inside of him. I call it a “God hole,” and he was trying to fill that “God hole” with everything but God. And, it wasn’t getting filled.

Each one of us has a God hole. We have been created by God with this hole inside of us. He knows that it is only going to be filled by God himself. But we run around spending most of our lives trying to fill it with everything else. Then, we wonder why it never gets filled. It’s because God is the only one who’s going to fill it, and He’s the only one who’s going to keep it filled.

Next, the rich official asked Jesus this question. Now get ready for this life changing question.

“Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Wow!

Isn't that the ultimate question? Isn't that the "million dollar" question? Isn't that just what we all want to know?

Jesus, how can I be assured of spending an eternity with you?

As simple as that question is, it takes a tremendous amount of courage to ask Jesus that question.

Today, as you're reading this, are you prepared to ask Jesus that question? Be careful if you say, "Yes!"

If you think you're ready to say, "Lord, what do I have to do to have eternal life?" you'd better be prepared for the answer.

So often, in fact, people refuse to ask that question because they're afraid God might ask them to do something they don't want to do. God might tell them to surrender something, to let go of something that they don't want to let go of. Therefore, they never ask that question.

But, those same people will still say, "Oh, yes, Lord, you are my Savior." Basically, Jesus is their Savior as long as Jesus doesn't tell them to do anything they don't want to do.

So, it took a tremendous amount of faith for this rich official to seek out Jesus and ask Him this question. Jesus answered him, but first Jesus asked him, "Why do you call me good. No one is good but God alone."

So Jesus was coming back at this guy basically asking, "Are you saying that you believe that I am God?" That's a very interesting question. Jesus was testing this rich official, saying, "Do you really believe that's who I am?"

Jesus goes on to remind him, "You know the commandments. You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness and you shall honor your father and your mother."

"I have observed these commandments since my youth," the rich official replied.

Now, that tells me a lot about this man. Jesus goes through every commandment and the official boasts, "Jesus, I've done all of these things."

Basically, this was a good man. He was a man who took all of these commandments seriously. At this point, I think the rich official thought he was off the hook. Of course, none of us will ever be 100 percent off the hook because we're healing, we're weak and we're sinful. So as good as we're doing, or as good as we think we are responding to the call of God, we will never be complete without accepting God's will.

That's why Jesus told the rich official that even though He was pleased that the man had done well in living out those commandments, "there is one thing left for you to do ... sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven ... then come, follow me," Jesus said.

Unfortunately, when the rich official heard this, he became quite sad, for he was very rich.

This scripture amazes me. This man got up the courage to ask Jesus this ultimate question, Jesus told him what he had to do and he refused to do it. You see, Jesus knew that money and possessions were getting in the way of this man building his spiritual foundation. Even though he knew and kept God's commandments, this rich official had made money and possessions his "god."

In the first commandment, God said, "I am the Lord, your God. You shall have no other gods besides me." This rich official thought he had been fulfilling all of God's commandments, but Jesus told him he was not fulfilling the very first one. Money and power had become his god, with a little "g," in place of God, with a big "G."

I'll telling you, nothing has changed in over 2,000 years. Today, people still have their little gods, with a little "g," that they place between them and the one true God.

If we had the opportunity, faith and courage to ask Jesus the same question that the "rich official" asked 2,000 years ago, Jesus would say the same thing to you and to me.

There is one thing left for you to do. Do you know what that one thing is that Jesus is asking you to let go of? I don't know what it is for you, but every time I have had the faith and courage

to ask God that question, He always tells me, there's one more thing left for me to do - surrender.

This next scripture passage is one of my favorites in the New Testament. I invite you to read the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 10, verses 46-52.

Bartimaeus was not only blind but he was a beggar. This was his occupation, what he did for a living. Every morning, he would find a dusty road where people were passing by, spread out his cloak, sit down and beg for money.

Then, one day, to Bartimaeus' surprise, here comes Jesus Christ passing his way. I am not sure if he completely knew at this point who Jesus really was, but at least he knew He was a person of importance. Bartimaeus was so excited that he started screaming out to Him, hoping to get the attention of Jesus. His screaming annoyed and embarrassed the people around him and they tried to shut him up, but he would not be silent. Have you every noticed that when you try to talk about Jesus, so many people just want you to be quiet?

At that point, Jesus hears the cry of Bartimaeus and calls him over. The miracle that is always talked about in this scripture is that Jesus restores his sight. But for the miracle to occur, Bartimaeus had to do two profound things.

As with many poor beggars, the most important possession that Bartimaeus owned was his cloak. It was his office in the day time and what he wrapped himself in at night to sleep. When Jesus called to him, he had to make a life-changing decision.

He could have said to Jesus, "Wait a minute!" while he folded up his cloak and grabbed his alms from the crowd around him. But, the scripture says, "He threw aside his cloak." That was the most important possession Bartimaeus owned and he simply walked away from it, surrendered it, and let it go so he could meet Jesus.

At this point in your life, what is the one thing that you must surrender, really let go of and walk away from so you can have a life-changing encounter with Christ?

Now, remember that Bartimaeus was unaware that Jesus would be passing by that day. So when he finally found himself standing before Jesus, the Savior of the World, his Savior, he had no idea that Jesus would ask him the most important question he would ever hear.

“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked gently.

Bartimaeus could have said, “I have no idea, can I get back to you tomorrow on this?”

But, obviously, he had given a lot of thought to what he wanted most in this world. So when Jesus asked that question, Bartimaeus immediately told him, “Master, I want to see.” At that moment Jesus honored the desire of Bartimaeus’ heart and restored his sight. Bartimaeus’ life would never be the same again.

At this moment in your life, what is the deepest desire of your heart? What is that prayer that lies deep within you? If Jesus was to ask you the same question He asked Bartimaeus, “What do you want me to do for you?”, what would be your answer?

I believe that Jesus also desires to work a miracle in your life. However, two things must occur before that miracle can take place. The first is to identify and surrender, let go of and walk away from whatever is preventing you from having a closer, personal and intimate encounter with Jesus Christ.

Maybe it’s regret, guilt and shame about your past, a fear of the unknown of the future, low self-esteem or some sin that has gripped you and paralyzed you - perhaps anger, bitterness or unforgiveness. We all have something!!

Secondly, for a miracle to occur, it’s important and necessary that you know the answer to the question that Jesus has been asking people for more than 2,000 years. “What is it that I can do for you?”

You can either be that person - like the rich official - who walks away sadly because you won’t surrender that which you know you must give up, or you can be like Bartimaeus, who was obedient to Jesus Christ and received a miracle!

I Know Surrendering Would Make My Life Better

Deep in my heart, I know if I surrender what God is asking me to let go of that my life will be better, because God is asking me to give up these things, to surrender these things, to give up control, simply because He loves me. If God didn't love me, He wouldn't care. He wants us to have a foundation that is deeply anchored and rooted in His will for our lives, not our will.

I encourage you to be aware as you read this book that God may ask you to surrender. If so, you must truly believe that God is who He says He is, then make the decision to let it go.

Another important topic that a lot of people struggle with is finding God in the ordinary everyday situations of our lives. I believe that God's love is revealed in the ordinary, everyday simple surroundings of our lives. Every person, situation and circumstance of our lives reveals God's love and God's will for us in some way.

True, it's easier to find God at a mission or a retreat because we know He will be there. It's easier to find God at church on Sunday when we're gathered with our faith community, when we're listening to beautiful music or when we're hearing the word of God preached.

Is it easy for you to discover God in the ordinary moments of your life on Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. or Thursday afternoon at 3 p.m., when life seems to be falling apart or life just seems to be ordinary and boring? I'm a firm believer that if we can not, or will not, search out and discover God in the ordinary times of our lives then we're going to miss God's presence most of the time.

There are even people who have come to our parish missions, in their own church, who are asking the same question, "Where is God?"

Often, something is going on in their life that troubles them or challenges them and they're wondering where God could possibly be in that situation.

I would never ask you to search out and look for God in your everyday lives, activities and situations if Linda and I weren't doing that ourselves, and benefiting from it. When we started this ministry, God made it very clear to us, in so many ways, that we were not to preach or teach on anything that we hadn't lived or experienced ourselves. We never have, and we never will.

So, we want to share with you in these pages, some of these times in the ordinary living or our lives when we thought that God had abandoned us and our family. We felt God just couldn't possibly be present in certain situations. Yet God revealed to us that He is truly God and truly present with us in every situation.

I grew up with two very beautiful parents. My Mom was an absolutely wonderful woman, a Catholic Christian lady who was strong in her faith.

When I look back over my life, I tell you there are a lot of things I've done that caused me to wonder if I should be doing missions, retreats and writing books focused on God. I survived because my Mom prayed me through a lot of stuff, both as a youth and as an adult.

Back in 1975, my Mom went to the doctor for a routine checkup and in the midst of that checkup the doctor discovered something that concerned him. He suggested that she have additional tests done. Well, she agreed to the tests and after a few weeks the doctor informed my mother that she had cancer.

Back in 1975 doctors didn't have the medical breakthroughs and treatments that they have now.

So, Mom began to go through her regular treatments, including chemotherapy and whatever else they did in 1975. As my mother was struggling with her cancer, I was deeply immersed in corporate America. I was truly the modern day "rich official" from the Bible.

I sought after money, power, recognition and authority. I was working 70, 80, 90 hours a week going after those things. My relationship with God was giving Him an hour a week and the rest of the week I was doing other things. You see, my

spiritual foundation at that time was built on everything else except Jesus Christ and my Catholic church.

By the time 1980 rolled around, my Mom was experiencing some good moments but it was very obvious that she was getting worse. The cancer was definitely getting the best of her.

My Mom was a very holy woman. She prayed the rosary every day. I don't think I ever saw her miss a day. She always went to church, and had a deep love for the Eucharist.

I'd visit her periodically, but I didn't spend a lot of time thinking of her because I was too busy. However, when I did think of her, or visit her and sit by her, I remember thinking, how could God let this happen to a woman like my mother, this faith-filled, prayerful Christian woman. Why wouldn't God do something about this?

Meanwhile, I had been working for a promotion for a long time in this company I worked for and in December 1980, about a week before Christmas, I got a call from the national sales director.

"Glenn," he said, "you know that promotion you've wanted? Well, we're going to give it to you."

Well, I was elated.

Then, he said, "There's just one catch. You're going to have to move from San Diego, California, to San Antonio, Texas." I didn't even blink before I said, "I'll do it!"

In January 1981, a moving truck came to our house and loaded up everything we owned and headed toward San Antonio.

I remember going over and seeing my mother and breaking the news to her.

She started to cry. You see, I was an only child, her only son, and at this difficult time in her life, and my father's life, I was basically saying that money, power, possessions, recognition and authority were more important to me than she was. I was moving to pursue my corporate career.

Actually, our family was doing alright in San Diego. We had our two daughters, Christina and Kelly, a nice home, nice furniture and a couple of nice cars.

There was only one main reason I was leaving, I wanted that promotion and everything that went with it. And, I was even willing to leave my dying mother to get it. Now, it's not easy for me to tell you that. But, that's what I was doing. It humbles me to think how selfish I could be at times.

I remember when I said goodbye to my mother for the last time. She had this turban covering her head because she'd lost all of her hair during the illness. I gave her a hug and waved goodbye as she and my Dad stood on the porch, waving to me as I drove off to pursue my own plans.

It must have broken her heart to see her only son leave, particularly at a time like that. And it must have made it extremely difficult for my father, because he was left all alone to deal with my mother's illness.

After my family got situated in San Antonio, I'd call home every week or so to see how she was doing. The answer from my Dad was never good. When I talked to Mom on the phone, she'd try to put on a good face, try to be in good spirits. She'd ask how we were doing and I'd tell her. I know she was genuinely pleased, because all she ever wanted was for me to be happy. That's all mothers and fathers want, is for their children to be happy.

Several months later, I got a phone call from my Dad. When I heard his voice I knew that something was different. He said, "Glenn, your mother is worse. If you want to see her you better come home."

I got on an airplane the next day and flew to San Diego. As I was flying, I began to reflect on my life with my Mom and what a blessing she truly was to me.

Her favorite name for me, I recalled, was "Honey." It was always Honey this and Honey that. I was five years old before I realized my name was Glenn.

Before I would leave for school or before I went to bed at night, she would always say, "I love you, Honey."

You know, when you're five years old, or even 10 years old, you don't mind when your Mom calls you "Honey." But when you

get to be a teenager, you may still want to hear the word “Honey,” but you don’t want to hear it from your Mom.

I’ll never forget that time, I was probably 14 or 15 years old, and I was out in the front yard playing football with some of my buddies. It was time for dinner and my Mom opened the front door and called out, “Honey, it’s time for dinner!”

Well, you can imagine the razzing I got from my buddies. I went into the house and said to my Mom, “I don’t want you to ever call me Honey again.”

And you know, she never did. That must have absolutely broken her heart.

After the plane landed, my Dad picked me up at the airport and drove me over to the hospital. We went right to my Mom’s hospital room, but before we walked in my Dad stopped me and said, “Glenn, I have to tell you something. Your Mom will not recognize who you are. Your Mom has not said a word in over two months.”

The cancer had gone to her brain. And my Mom, who was never very big in the first place, had gone down to 65 pounds.

“So don’t be shocked,” my Dad said. “She won’t know who you are, she won’t understand what you’re saying and she will not be able to speak.”

I walked in. I have to tell you I’m a big tough guy and I’ve seen a lot of things but it hit me pretty hard. My Mom was curled up in a little ball on the bed. I really didn’t want to face this situation, and I felt angry. I didn’t express my anger, but I was furious inside with God. I was thinking, “God, how could you do this?”

Now, for the last several years, I had two major prayers when it came to my Mom. First of all, I prayed that God would heal her. Over and over and over again I prayed that God would heal her.

Well, it didn’t appear that God would heal her so I began praying that God would take her. He wouldn’t heal her and He wouldn’t take her, so I said, “Lord, what are you doing? You’re certainly not answering any of MY prayers. So maybe you’re not

really who you say you are. Maybe you're really not that all powerful, all sovereign, almighty God."

Then, I walked over and sat down on my Mom's bed. I put my hand on her shoulder and I began to share with my Mom everything that I should have said to her when she could understand me.

Why do we do that? Why do we wait until so often it's too late? If you need to tell somebody you love them, don't wait another day. Tell them today! If you need to forgive somebody, or if you need to allow somebody to forgive you, don't wait another day because we are only guaranteed the present moment.

After about 20 minutes of sharing all of these feelings, words, and thoughts with my Mom, knowing that she couldn't hear me, that she didn't understand me, I finally got to the point where it was just too much.

I remember bending down and giving her a kiss on her forehead. Then I got up and started walking toward the door. I told my Dad I'd meet him out in the hall.

As I got to the door I heard this gasp behind me, and I knew the sound came from my father. I turned around and looked at my Dad. All of the blood had just drained from his face. He was white as a sheet, and he was staring at my Mom.

I turned toward the bed and saw my Mom, who was riddled with cancer. This wonderful, beautiful lady lifted up her head, looked at me and she said, "I love you, Honey."

You see, in the midst of what appeared to be an absolute tragedy, where I thought that God had abandoned me and my mother and my father, God was right in the middle of that situation. Right there!

And I believe He kept my Mom alive long enough so that I could hear those words, "I love you, Honey."

Today, those words ring as clear and as loud as they did back in 1982. You see, I learned that God is all powerful, God is sovereign, God is almighty.

Is It Time To Re-evaluate Your Priorities?

When you have one of those moments when you believe God cannot possibly be in the situations of your life or you're even questioning whether God even exists and you're doubting His promises, God does know exactly what you need.

If you will allow Him into your mind and into your heart, if you will continue to search for our living God in all situations and in all things around you, He will help you to build and strengthen your spiritual foundation.

Our Closing Prayer

We Thank God For His Graces In Our Lives

Lord, we thank you for your love, mercy, and amazing graces. Lord, we ask that you protect us, that you surround us with your holy and protective angels, that you wrap us, Lord, in your bubble of protection each day and night.

Lord, we know that you are the Savior of the world. We know, Lord, that you are the Messiah and the Christ. Lord, help us understand what that means for our own personal lives.

We ask this through the power of your Holy Spirit, that you help us to believe your promises and that we understand that they truly are for each and every one of us.

And we ask all of these prayers in your precious and holy name.

Amen.

Call To Action

- 1) What were your honest answers to those three questions?
- 2) At this moment in your life, where is your spiritual foundation built?
- 3) What miracle do you want Jesus to do in your life now?
- 4) What must you surrender in your life for that miracle to happen?
- 5) Where do you find God in your everyday life?



This book is designed for those people who at times struggle spiritually. The reader will discover practical and down to earth spiritual power tools that will help them overcome the common roadblocks that prevent them from experiencing the abundant life they want and Jesus Christ promised. It will lead to a greater personal holiness of life, which will benefit not only their life, but marriages, families and society as well.

What's In Your Toolbox? Building A Strong Spiritual Foundation In Jesus Christ

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