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ISBN: 1-59684-080-3
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Printed in the United States of America

CONTENTS

What Is Heaven Like?	7
Things That Are Not in Heaven	7
I Have Fought a Good Fight	8
Who Am I?	9
What Is Faith?	10
Do You Still Believe?	10
Come On Up	11
Remember in the Dark What He Told You in the Light	11
There Is a Prophecy Hanging Over My Head	11
God Doesn't Want Me to Figure It Out	12
The Testimony of Lazarus	12
Silencing the Lambs	13
The Fear of the Lord	14
When God Hides Himself	15
He Put All Things Under His Feet	16
I'm Saved and I Know That I Am	17
No Matter Who You Are, All You Have to Do Is Call	17
The Anointing Makes the Difference	18
There's Nothing Wrong With the Anointing	18
No Weapon Formed Against You Shall Prosper	19
Don't Forget Who You Are	20
I'm Still in His Hands	21
The Power of Vision	22
This Is Your Destiny	22
Launch Out Into the Deep	23
You've Got to Know What You Have and What You Don't Have	24
The Prayer Covering	24
It Was Prayer	25
Unless We Pray	25
Somebody Prayed	25
The Power of His Might	26
We Are in a War	26
The Bible Will Stand Forever	27
You Have a Gift	28
New Leader, but the Same God	28
Go Back to the Book	29
The Nature of God	32
The Law of Probability	35
Sow in Tears and Reap in Joy	35
Joy Comes in the Morning	36
It's Your Time	36
Jesus Paid It All	37
There Is No Difference	38
The Difference Between Religion and Relationship	38
Without Christ	39

He Is	39
Christian Martyrs	40
First and Greatest Commandment	40
I Am the First and the Last and Everything in Between	41
The First Time He Came and the Next Time He Comes	42
It Only Takes a Word From the Lord	43
Breaking Down the Walls of Denominationalism	43
Psalm 136	45
The Last Cup of the Last Supper	46
The Next Cup	47
The Sermon on the Mount	48
Walking in the Spirit	48
The Pharisees Were Nothing Like Jesus	49
Loose the Bonds of Wickedness	49
Break Every Yoke	50
Cast Your Cares on Him	51
The Angels Got There First	51
Who Do Men Say I Am?	52
Some Say Jesus Was Just Another Prophet	52
But Who Do You Say That I Am?	53
You Are the Christ	54
The Gates of Hell Will Not Prevail	54
The Worldview and the Word View	55
Get It Out	55
The Things You Will Remember When You Come Into the Blessing	56
The Real Competition	57
Hungry People Want Bread	57
When God Is First in Your Life	58
He's an On-Time God	58
It All Starts With One Thing: Hearing the Voice of God	59
How Do I Know the Difference Between Satan's Voice and God's Voice?	59
Come to the Mountain	60
Regardless of Your Past, You Are Saved	60
The Veil Is Torn in Two	61
One Word Says it All	61
Christianity Is the Good Life	62
Why Should I Go Back?	63
God Is Making You Into Something	64
Worship Wars	64
Grace and Mercy	65
Five Is the Number of Grace	66
No Substitutions for the Word	66

What Is Heaven Like?

Psalm 16:11—There is fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore.
Psalm 17:15—We will be made in the likeness of God.
Ezekiel 28:14—There is a holy mountain
Daniel 7:10; 9:2—There are books in heaven
Matthew 6:20—We will receive treasures that we laid up while on earth.
Matthew 8:11—We will sit down and talk with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
Matthew 13:43—We will shine like the sun.
Matthew 18:10—We will meet our guardian angels.
Matthew 22:30—We will be fashioned like the angels.
Luke 10:20—Our names have been written down there.
Luke 23:43—Heaven is a paradise.
John 10:28—No one can pluck you out of God's hand when you are there.
John 14:2—There are mansions in heaven.
Ephesians 1:18—Our minds will be enlightened.
Revelation 4—There's a sea of glass and rainbows
Revelation 2:7—The tree of life is there.
Revelation 4—There are thrones, seats, lamps.
Revelation 4:4; 5:8—Twenty-four elders sit upon thrones with harps in their hands.
Revelation 4—There are fountains and rivers of crystal-clear water.
Revelation 4; 5; 7; 14; 15; 19—There will be lots of singing and worship and lots of musical instruments.
Revelation 5:9—There is singing.
Revelation 7:9—There are people from every tongue and tribe.
Revelation 7:13—We will wear white robes.
Revelation 8—There are doors, coals of fire and altars.
Revelation 5; 9—There are trumpets and golden bowls.
Revelation 22—There is a pure river with trees lining both sides.
Revelation 22—There will be no night there, for the glory of the Father and the Son will be the light.

Food is mentioned in heaven.
Manna is mentioned as angels' food in Psalm 78:25.
One tree that gives 12 kinds of fruit is mentioned in Revelation 22:2.
Jesus said in Luke 22:30 that we will eat and drink at His table.
Twelve times the Bible refers to horses being in heaven.



Things That Are Not in Heaven

There are no *lights*: the Lamb is the light.
There is no *night*.
There is no *hospital*.
There are no *funeral homes* and *graveyards*.
There are no *insane asylums*.
There are no *jails*.
There are no *dry out* or *rehab* facilities.
There are no *court houses*.
There are no *nursing homes*.
There are no *drug stores*.

There are no *schools*, for our minds will be renewed.
There are no *welfare offices*.
There are no *police stations*.
There are no *rental properties*.
There are no *gas stations*.
There are no *waiting rooms*.
There are no *petitions* or *picket lines*.
There are no *psychiatric wards*.
There are no *operating rooms*.
There are no *fire stations*.
There are no *ambulances* or *sirens*.
There are no *telephones* there.
There are no *collection agencies*.
There are no *banks* there.
There is no *IRS*. Hallelujah!
There are no *counseling centers*.
There is no *skid row*.
There is no *poverty*.
There are no *lame* or *blind*.
There are no *beggars*.
There are no *hungry children*.
There is no *war*.
There is no *separation*.
There are no *tears of sadness*.
There are no *diseases*.
There is no *fear*.
There is no *anger*.
There is no *hate*.
There is no *jealousy*.
There is no *failure*.
There is no *shame*.
There is no *abuse*.
There are no *abandoned children*.
There are no *crack houses*.
There is no *aging*.
There is no *death*.
There is no *guilt*.



I Have Fought a Good Fight

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7).

I have fought a good fight.
I fought when I was tired.
I fought when I was hurt.
I fought when I wanted to quit.
I fought when it meant more sacrifice than fun.
I fought when there was very little money.

I fought when there were no jobs.
I fought for the family, for America, for peace, for safety . . . I fought.
When it was my time to fight, I put on my boots, I took up my rifle and I fought.

I have finished the race.

Finish the race if you have to crawl across the finish line.
Finish the race if you have to drag yourself the rest of the way.
Finish the race if you have to do it all by yourself.
Finish the race if you have to lay hands on your own head.
Finish the race whether anyone sees you or not.
Finish the race even if you have to be your own cheerleader and your own coach.
Finish the race if you have to go limping.
Finish the race if you have to do it crying.
Finish the race even if they have to carry you across the finish line.
The crown of life is not for those who run, but for those who finish.

I have kept the faith.

You can make it without your old buddies, but keep your faith.
You can get a new job, but keep your faith.
You can get a new car, but keep your faith.
You can get a new doctor, but keep your faith.
You can get a new dream, but keep your faith.
You can get a new boyfriend or girlfriend, but keep your faith.
You can find a new preacher, but keep your faith.
You can change to a new church, but keep your faith.
You can make it if you lose your material things, but keep your faith.
You can still go through life without a limb, but keep your faith.
You can still make it with a sickness or disease, but keep your faith.
Throw out the lust of the flesh—it will please for a few minutes—but keep your faith.
There are some things in life you can make it without, but above all, keep your faith.



Who Am I?

I am more than what men say about me.
I am more than what I think about myself.
I am more than a label.
I am more than name-calling.
I am more than a criticism.
I am more than what the skeptics and judges say.
I am more than what a legalistic, self-righteous person thinks about me.
I am what God says about me.
I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
I am an heir to the throne.
I am a joint heir with Jesus Christ.
I am what I AM says I am.
I am an overcomer.
I am more than a conqueror.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
I am complete in Him.
I am surrounded by angels.
I have on the whole armor of God.
And even though I am weak and vulnerable, I still have on the whole armor.



What Is Faith?

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

I believe God is.
I believe God rewards those who seek him.
I believe God made the heavens and the earth.
I believe He created man in His own image.
I believe He formed the planets and constellations.
I believe He put the shine in the moon and the fire in the sun.
I believe He put the banana in the peel and the pea in the pod.
I believe He made the living creatures of the earth, sea and sky.
I believe He numbers the stars and calls them by their names.
I believe He commands the weather patterns.
I believe He set this earth on its axis.
I believe He set the seasons in motion.
I believe He formed every flying fowl, every creeping thing and all things that walk.
I believe He is high and lifted up and His train fills the temple.
I believe He is the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.
I believe He is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient.
I believe God is who He says He is!



Do You Still Believe?

I know you believe, but do you still believe at midnight?
I know you believe, but do you still believe in the valley?
I know you believe, but do you still believe at the grave side?
I know you believe, but do you still believe in the courtroom?
I know you believe, but do you still believe at the doctor's office?
I know you believe, but do you still believe in the waiting room?
I know you believe, but do you still believe on the job?
I know you believe, but do you still believe in the desert?
I know you believe, but do you still believe on the battlefield?
I know you believe, but do you still believe in a crisis?
I know you believe, but do you still believe when you've been let down?
I know you believe, but do you still believe in rejection?
I know you believe, but do you still believe when your feelings have been hurt?
I know you believe, but do you still believe when your TV evangelist just quit?
I know you believe, but do you still believe when trouble comes to your house?
I know you believe, but do you still believe when life doesn't turn out the way you want?

I know you believe, but do you still believe when the loan doesn't go through?
I know you believe, but do you still believe when your child drops out and makes bad choices?



Come On Up

Sometimes the plan isn't for God to come down. Sometimes the plan is for you and I to come up.

Come up . . .

To a new level of faith
To a new way of thinking
To a new realm of spirituality
To a new spiritual plateau
To higher ground
To God's vantage point
To a new level of relationships
To a new way of living
To a new understanding of the Word
To a new dimension of prayer
Above the circumstances
Above the cares of this life
Above the shadows
Above the battle
To a new level of commitment
Higher ground will give you a new perspective.
Sometimes God wants you to come up instead of Him coming down.



Remember in the Dark What He Told You in the Light

Matthew 10:27 says, "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light."
Even when you can't see Him, believe what He told you when He was with you.
When God gives you a word, write it down, claim it and stand on it.
That word will keep you when you search for Him and can't find Him.
That word will sustain you when you feel you are all alone.
I don't feel like praying; but I've got this word I am holding on to.
I don't feel like going; but I've got this word I am holding on to.
I don't feel like trying again; but God promised me a good marriage.
I don't feel like staying; but God promised me a godly home.
I don't have the faith to tithe, but God promised me He would be my resource.
I don't have the energy to go, but God told me I would walk in victory.
God, I can't see you, but there is still a prophecy hanging over my head.



There Is a Prophecy Hanging Over My Head

This prophecy hanging over my head says . . .
This battle can't last forever.
I am coming out.
This storm will calm down.

This home is coming into divine order.
This marriage may crash, but if God buries it and it stinks, He can raise it up again new and better than before.
My child is coming back.
These circumstances are going to change.
My future is in His hands.
My ministry is going to bloom again.
My healing may be delayed, but it is not denied.
My children will walk in blessings, not curses.



God Doesn't Want Me to Figure It Out

John 12:39, 40 says, "Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: 'He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see with their eyes, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.' "

Oh, now I understand; God doesn't want me to figure it out.
He doesn't want me to know what He has been up to.
If I figure it out, I will tell everybody that I did it.
But if I don't even know how I came through, God will get the credit.

Lest they should say . . .
God doesn't want me to say I did it.
God doesn't want the doctor to say he did it.
God doesn't want the mayor to take the credit.

So He blinds me for a season, so I have to hold His hand.
He blinds me for a season, so I have to follow Him around.
He blinds me for a season, so I have to hold on to keep from stumbling.
He blinds me for a season, so I have to let Him lead.
He knows if I see, I will go the wrong way.
He knows if I think I know, I will make the wrong choice.
God's not going to bring my answer the way I think He's going to.
God's not going to do it the way I thought He would.
He wants to manifest Himself in my life. He wants me to know that He is God.

He is going to use the foolish things of the world to confound the wise.
He is going to bring me in through a door I could not have opened on my own.
He blinded me for a season, so when He opens my eyes all I can say, is "I don't know how I got here, I only know whose hand I was holding in the dark."



The Testimony of Lazarus

A few days earlier . . .
They buried him.
They declared that it was over.

They said he would never rise again.
They wrapped him in a dead man's clothes.
They put him in a dead man's tomb.
They gave him a dead man's funeral.

Everybody said . . .

Everybody said it was over.
Everybody said he would never sing again.
Everybody said he would never hug his children again.
Everybody said he would never live in his house again.
Everybody said he would never serve the ministry of Jesus again.
Everybody said he was dead.
Everybody said he was finished.
Everybody said his testimony was over.
Everybody said his ministry had ended.
Everybody said he had prayed his last prayer and read his last scripture.
Everybody said he wouldn't get up this time.
Everybody said God was too late.
Everybody said by now he stinks.
Everybody said, everybody said, everybody said, everybody said . . .
But Jesus said, "Lazarus come forth!"

Jesus can . . .

Jesus can declare life to those things that are already dead.
Jesus can speak life into a dead body.
Jesus can speak life into a dead marriage.
Jesus can speak life into a dead church.
Jesus can speak life into a dead vision.
Jesus can speak life into a dead hope.
Jesus can speak life into a dead mind.
Jesus can speak life into a dead home.

Lazarus—the product of the power

Lazarus—the proof of the miraculous
Lazarus—the undeniable evidence of the power of God
Lazarus—the unstoppable voice
Lazarus—the man on a mission
Lazarus—the fruit of the faith
Lazarus—the confirmation of the Christians



Silencing the Lambs

The *Shepherd* had already ascended into heaven. Satan then changed his strategy to silencing the voices of the *lambs*.

John the Baptist was beheaded, but only after confessing, "I am not even worthy to tie His shoes."

Andrew, the first disciple, was nailed to a cross for his testimony. He hung on that cross for two days

before expiring. He preached from his cross for two days and the crowds gathered and hundreds were converted during his execution.

Bartholomew was beaten and crucified for his testimony.

James the Son of Alphaeus preached until the age of 94. But at this ripe old age, he was stoned and beaten to death for his testimony.

James the Son of Zebedee was accused before the courts. He was found guilty of preaching a resurrected Lord. His accuser was so moved by his courage that, during the trial, he was converted and requested to be beheaded along side James.

John the Beloved was boiled in oil, but he did not die. God was not through with Him yet, because he would give to us the Revelation.

Judas (not Iscariot) preached in Turkey and was killed with clubs for his testimony.

Matthew preached in Ethiopia, and was speared to death for his testimony.

Peter was crucified upside-down in Rome.

Philip was flayed alive.

Simon the Zealot was crucified in Britain.

Thomas was speared to death in India.

Matthias was stoned and beheaded in Jerusalem.

Paul the apostle was also beheaded in Rome, but not before being thrown to the Lions' dungeon where he barely survived. But in his dying days they had to change the guards every 15 minutes because he preached up through the hole that they let him down through and was converting Roman guards.

Mark probably never met Christ, but was changed through the testimony of others. They dragged him through the streets of Alexandria for an entire day and he preached and praised the whole day before dying at nightfall.

Polycarp, the Bishop of Smyrna, was burned alive.



The Fear of the Lord

Proverbs 9:10 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

We don't fear God because He wants to hurt us.

We don't fear God because we are afraid of Him.

We don't fear God because He is a dictator.

We don't fear God because He threatens us.

These are the reasons why we fear men and Satan, but not why we fear God.

We fear the Lord because we have seen His size.

We fear the Lord because His words cannot lie.

We fear the Lord because He cannot tolerate sin.

We fear the Lord because He will go to great depths to prove His love.

We fear the Lord because His prophecy cannot fail.

We fear the Lord because His glory surpasses all forms of light.

We fear the Lord because His knowledge is infinite.

We fear the Lord because His angels are greater than the hordes of Satan and the armies of men.

We fear the Lord because He grants all authorities and permits them to exist.

We fear the Lord because He controls the universe and the elements of earth.

We fear the Lord because He controls the eternal state of existence of all things.

We fear the Lord because His thoughts are pure and He cannot be deceived.

We fear the Lord because He conceived the plans of all existence.
We fear the Lord because He is the Father of all living things.
We fear the Lord because He is the Master Architect of the worlds, galaxies and planetary systems.
We fear the Lord because He is the author and enforcer of the laws of the universe.
We fear the Lord because He is over all things, including the powers of this world, the underworld and the worlds to come.

We fear the Lord because He alone is omnipresent.

Every nook, every crevice, every square centimeter. Under every stone, under every leaf.
In every cloud, under the sea and in the sea.
No depth too deep, no place too high, no galaxy too far.
The heaven is His throne and the earth is His footstool.
He holds the stars in His hands and calls them all by name.
He weighs the mountains in a scale and knows the number of hairs on every head.

We fear the Lord because He alone is omniscient.

Every thought, every motive, every intent, every idea, every emotion, every secret, every scheme, every plan, every plot, every analysis, every act of the will. He knows it all.

We fear the Lord because He is omnipotent.

All power in heaven, every source of energy, every drop of running water, every ray of light, every degree of heat, every motion of man and animal.
He holds the secret to every calorie, every function, every voluntary and involuntary muscle.
The table of elements is His servant. He told the chemicals which ones could mix and which ones could not. He told them what would happen when combining two hydrogens with an oxygen. He told the atom what to do when it was split. He is over every breath of wind, every tide of the sea, every ray of the sun.
All energy serves Him. He is the source of light and the source of life.
There is no life without Him. It is by Him that every living creature breathes and by Him that every terrestrial and celestial being continues to exist.
He is the maker of all things, the designer of all things, and the maintainer of all things. Nothing that exists does so without His permission.
He is all in all!



When God Hides Himself

He's not hiding to hurt you; He's only hiding so you will seek Him out.
Solomon said, "He is like a lover looking through the lattice, wanting you to chase Him."
David said, "He is trying to lure you into the secret place of the Most High."
He's only hiding until you quit trusting in everything else but Him.
He's only hiding until you get too tired to do it without Him.
He's only hiding until you get tired of your evil ways and turn to Him.
He's only hiding until you are willing to let Him change you.
He's only hiding until you learn you can't keep your word without Him.
He's only hiding until you learn you can't keep your promises without Him.
He's only hiding until you learn that you can't keep making plans without asking Him.
He's only hiding until you learn that He is your answer.

He's only hiding until you start praying again.
He's only hiding until He teaches you how to fast.
He's only hiding until He teaches you how to put Him first.
He's only hiding until He teaches you how to tithe.
He's only hiding until He teaches you how to love other people more than yourself.
He's only hiding until you realize you can conquer your problem without Him.
He's only hiding until you get so tired of walking you need Him to carry you.
He's only hiding until you start reading your Bible again.
He's only hiding until you get back in the race.
He's only hiding until you realize you are not self-sufficient and your plan failed.
He's only hiding until you have no other place to go but to Him.
He's only hiding until you are more concerned about pleasing Him than anyone else.



He Put All Things Under His Feet

Hebrews 2:8, 9 says, “ ‘You have put all things in subjection under his feet.’ For in that He put all in subjection under him, *He left nothing* that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. But we see Jesus.”

He left nothing that is not put under Him. We must first identify the *He*.
He is the One who fought.
He is the One who won.
He is the One who won the authority.
He is the One who conquered the enemy.
He is the One who bled.
He is the One who felt the spear.
When He left, every demon was conquered.
When He left, He said, “All power is given to me in heaven and in earth.”
When He left, He said, “He that is in you is greater than he that is in the world.”
When He left, He had made a public spectacle of every principality.
When He left, He said, “These things you see me do, greater will you be able to do.”
When He left, He left us with authority, power and dominion over all things.
Then *He* is Jesus.

We see Jesus . . .

We see Jesus, the One who walked on the water.
We see Jesus, the One who made the blind see.
We see Jesus, the One who confounded the teachers.
We see Jesus, the One who turned the water to wine.
We see Jesus, the One who fed the multitude.
We see Jesus, the One who raised the dead.
We see Jesus, the One who commanded the wind.
We see Jesus, the One who cast out demons.
We see Jesus, the One who preached to the poor.
We see Jesus, the One who set the captives free.
We see Jesus, the One who paid the ransom for mankind.
We see Jesus, the One who brought hope and peace to man.

We see Jesus, the One who empowered the church.
We see Jesus, the One who healed the multitudes.
We see Jesus, the One who fulfilled prophecy.



I'm Saved and I Know That I Am

Romans 10:9, 10 says, "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Being saved is as easy as A, B, C.

A—Admit

B—Believe

C—Confess

I am saved and I know that I am. . . .

It doesn't matter if I got that revelation from a church pew or a café booth.

It doesn't matter if I read it in the Bible or on a tract.

It doesn't matter if I heard it on TV or saw it on a bathroom stall.

It doesn't matter if I read it on a billboard or heard it from a stranger.

If I grew up in church or heard about Jesus in prison.

If I grew up with a praying father or never met my father.

If I grew up going to church on Sunday or getting drunk on Saturdays.

It doesn't matter if I heard it in Sunday school or Juvenile Hall.

The only question that remains is, "Did I hear it, did I believe and did I confess?"

I might not have ever had a baby dedication, but I can still confess.

There was not a ceremony of confirmation, but I can still confess.

I never saw a baptism, but I can still confess.

Like the thief on the cross, it might have been a deathbed repentance . . .

- ▶ Lying at the bottom of a wreck
- ▶ Lying in intensive care
- ▶ On my way into surgery
- ▶ Writing my last will and testament
- ▶ Drawing my final breath. I can still confess Jesus!



No Matter Who You Are, All You Have to Do Is Call

Galatians 3:28 says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Jew or Greek—all you have to do is call.

Slave or free—all you have to do is call.

Male or female—all you have to do is call.

Good or bad—all you have to do is call.

Educated or uneducated—all you have to do is call.

Raised rich or raised poor—all you have to do is call.

Vocationalized or victimized—all you have to do is call.
Abused or abandoned—all you have to do is call.
Doctor or drug addict—all you have to do is call.
All-star or juvenile delinquent—all you have to do is call.
Big house or no house—all you have to do is call.
Red, yellow, black or white—all you have to do is call.
4-H Club, Olympic athlete or Mafia—all you have to do is call.
Whether you belong to the FFA or the KKK—all you have to do is call.
Whether you belong to Wimbledon or the Bloods and the Crips—all you have to do is call.

Just call . . .

You don't have to have a perfect record—just call.
You don't have to be born in a nice family—just call.
Jewish, Arabic, Russian, Romanian—just call.
Catholic or Communist—just call.
Church of England or Church of Satan—just call.
You are never out of His reach if you will just call!



The Anointing Makes the Difference

The anointing will . . .

Turn a song into a psalm.
Turn a teaching into a proverb.
Turn a sermon into a message.
Turn a bottle of oil into a healing agent.
Turn a preacher's hand into a surgeon's hand.
Turn a building into a church.
Turn a shoe salesman into a gospel preacher.
Turn a life into a lesson.
Turn a tragedy into a testimony.
Turn a prayer line into a power line.
Turn a poor preacher into a powerful patriot.
Turn a foolish mind into confounding wisdom.
Turn a horn of oil into a healing stream.
Turn a musical instrument into an implement of praise.
Turn a Bible into a sword.
Turn a victim into a victor.



There's Nothing Wrong With the Anointing!

The anointing will put asbestos suits on three Hebrew boys.
The anointing will turn a sling shot into a .357 magnum.
The anointing will turn a teenage boy into a giant-killer.
The anointing will turn a shepherd into a king.
The anointing will turn a farmer into a prophet.
The anointing will turn a whale into a submarine.
The anointing will turn a rooster into a prophet.

The anointing will turn a scarlet cord into a bloodline.
The anointing will turn a rock into a fountain.
The anointing will turn a Christian-killer into an apostle.
The anointing will turn a group of shouting saints at Jericho into a demolition crew.
The anointing will turn the wicked city of Nineveh into a revival.
The anointing will turn a sea into a highway.
The anointing will cause the elders to dance, the women to sing, and the youth to shout.
There's nothing wrong with the anointing!



No Weapon Formed Against You Shall Prosper

“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me, says the Lord” (Isaiah 54:17).

No weapon . . .

No gossip

No rumor

No accusation

No past history

No revealed sins

No childhood wounds

No victimization

No verbal abuse

No vented anger

No bad attitudes

No misguided spiritual advise

No ignorance

No evil looks

No intimidation

No old buddies

No old flames

No old friends

No old sins

No newspaper articles

No media exposure

No old photos

No old habits

No old phone numbers etched in your mind

No psychic hotline

No psychiatric label

No weapons of the mind

No weapons of the body

No weapons of the flesh

No weapons of the emotions

No weapons of the spirit

No weapons in your home

No weapons at your job
No weapons in your past
No weapons in your family history
No generational curse
No hocus pocus
No weapons of low self-esteem
No weapons of addiction
No weapons of allurement
No weapons of entanglement
No-no-no-no-no-weapons!



Don't Forget Who You Are!

God designed you to win.
He created you to be the head and not the tail.
You were made in His own image.
You are fearfully and wonderfully made.
You were filled with gifts in your mother's womb.
You are a recipient of grace.
You are a child of the King.
You are more than a conqueror.
You are an heir to God's kingdom.
You are a joint heir with Jesus.
You are a living testimony.
You are a lively stone.
You are a burning ember.
You are a voice of prophecy.
You are proof of the Resurrection.
You are the temple of the Holy Ghost.
You are an empty vessel that carries the oil of God's anointing.
You are the light of the world.
You are the salt of the earth.
You have been engrafted in the True Vine.
You have been given a unique personality.
You have been made distinctly different from every other creature in the universe.
You are made in the image of God.
You are the one Satan fears.
You and your destiny are a demon's dread.
You have been given your own harvest.
Your Father is the Creator of the universe.
Your Elder Brother is the King of kings and the Lord of lords.
Your guide through this life is the Spirit of the living God.
Your name has been written down in glory.
You have been bought with a price.
Your destiny has been purchased on Calvary.
Your pardon has been signed in blood.
Your victory has been guaranteed by the zeal of the Lord of Hosts.

Your steps have been ordered by God.
Your body has been assigned to resurrection.
Your soul and spirit are eternal.
Your future is in heaven.
You have been destined to rule and reign with Christ.
Your hope is not in this world alone.
Your home is heaven.
Your path is straight.
Your God is the King.
Your future is secure.
Your race is almost won.
Your finish line is just in sight.
You are coming into a season of blessing and the favor of the Lord.



I'm Still in His Hands

Jeremiah 18:5, 6 says, "Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: 'O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?' says the Lord. 'Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!'"

I may be sick, but I'm still in His hands.
I may be tired, but I'm still in His hands.
I may be hurting, but I'm still in His hands.
I may be weak, but I'm still in His hands.
I may be scared, but I'm still in His hands.
I may be different, but I'm still in His hands.
I may be battered, but I'm still in His hands.
I may be war torn, but I'm still in His hands.
I may be confused, but I'm still in His hands.
I may be struggling, but I'm still in His hands.
I may be waiting, but I'm still in His hands.
I may be wrong, but I'm still in His hands.
I may be poor, but I'm still in His hands.
I may be down, but I'm still in His hands.
I may be scarred, but I'm still in His hands.
I may be wounded, but I'm still in His hands.
I may be shaken, but I'm still in His hands.
I may be growing, but I'm still in His hands.
I may be groping, but I'm still in His hands.
I may be sweating, but I'm still in His hands.

Don't count me out, because I'm still in His hands.
Don't dig my grave, because I'm still in His hands.
Don't say it's over, because I'm still in His hands.
Don't say goodbye, because I'm still in His hands.
Don't give up on me, because I'm still in His hands.
Don't close your eyes, because I'm still in His hands.

Don't wrap me in a dead man's clothes, because I'm still in His hands.
Don't chase me away, because I'm still in His hands.
Don't quit praying, because I'm still in His hands.

I may not be what I want to be, but thank God I'm not what I used to be!



The Power of Vision

“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he” (Proverbs 29:18, KJV).

Vision . . .

Keeps us alive.
Gives us a reason to get up.
Gives us hope.
Gives us energy.
Gives us motivation.
Gives us joy.
Gives us strength for the journey.

Vision is to the soul what milk is to the bones.
Vision builds the fiber of our souls.
Vision allows our souls to breathe.

From vision flows ideas.
From vision flows creativity.
From vision flows resources you would have never tapped.
From vision flows adventure.

Vision is the enemy of stalemate and mediocrity.
Vision is the resurrector from boredom.
Vision is the opposer of laziness.
Vision is the eye of the Spirit.
Vision allows you to see what God already knows exists.
Vision taps into latent potentials.
Vision is the starting line.
Vision is where you begin.



This Is Your Destiny

There are some things God has ordained for you to do.

You are distinctly different from anybody else. You are *forbidden to imitate* other people. You have been marked. You don't ever have to be stressed trying to be anybody but yourself. God wants you! Your fingerprint is distinctly different from the six billion people on this earth. Your print has never been repeated—past, present or future. The hairs on your head are numbered—not counted, but numbered.

The Enemy is terrified of people who have been sanctified.

He will set traps and bondages to stop you from coming into your prophetic season.

Satan doesn't care how excited you get as long as you don't know what you are excited about.

He doesn't mind if you shout, as long as you don't have any character.

He wants to rip you until you become impotent, an empty building, a spiritual ghost town, a vacant house.

He wants you to go through the motions as long as you deny the power.

He doesn't mind how many days you live as long as you don't live in the days you have.

He wants to sabotage your success because you were created to win.

You were formed to win.

You were carved out carefully to win.

The Potter designed you to win. He carefully formed you with His anvil and hammer so you would be strong enough to win.

You were designed to be a vessel of honor, meant for the Master's use.

You were created to walk in blessings and not curses.

You were created to be the head and not the tail.

You were created to walk in dignity, not shamefacedness.

You were created to hold your head up, not drag yourself around in defeat.

You were built to last, not meant to quit.

You were designed to walk in prosperity, not struggle.

You were crafted to soar with the eagles, not scratch in the dirt like a chicken.

You were created to run and not be weary, to walk and not faint.

You were not created to be stressed out, but to be strong in battle.

You were not made to lose, you were created to win.

You were fearfully and wonderfully created in the express image of the God of this universe.

You have His seed planted in you. God did not call you to be hungry, lonely, isolated and depressed. He created you to show forth His glory, to demonstrate His power, to fulfill His will and to keep up the fight.



Launch Out Into the Deep

“When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, ‘Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch’ ” (Luke 5:4).

Launch out into the deep . . .

You're hanging around this shallow water.

You're fooling with shallow people.

You're thinking shallow thoughts.

You're depending on shallow feelings.

You're leaning on shallow relationships.

You're operating in a shallow knowledge of the Word.

You're living in a shallow prayer life.

You've become a shallow worshiper.

You've become a shallow husband.

You've become a shallow father.

You've become a shallow friend.

You've become a shallow preacher.

You've become a shallow witness.
You've become a shallow learner.
You've become a shallow listener.
You're living in shallow faith.
You've become a shallow giver.
Get out of the shallow water and launch out into the deep!



You've Got to Know What You Do Have and What You Don't Have

“Then Peter said, ‘Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk ’” (Acts 3:6).

Every time you get ready to be used of God in ministry, the devil always wants to throw up what you don't have. You need to know what you don't have, but don't ever forget what you do have!

I've been through the storm, but I still have Jesus.
I've been through the flood, but I still have Jesus.
I've been to the emergency room, but I still have Jesus.
I've been awfully lonely, but I still have Jesus.
I've had to encourage myself lately, but I still have Jesus.
I had to send myself a birthday card this year, but I still have Jesus.
I had to wish myself Happy Mother's Day, but I still have Jesus.
I had to buy myself a Christmas present, but I still have Jesus.
I've been in the fire, but I still have Jesus.
I've been persecuted, made fun of and talked about, but I still have Jesus.
I've been thrown out, looked down on and lied about, but I still have Jesus.



The Prayer Covering

A prayer covering is essential for any ministry to operate. If you want to get into ministry, first begin to build your prayer base. Without it, you will be powerless.

Only prayer . . .
Only prayer can turn a life around.
Only prayer can sober the alcoholic.
Only prayer can clean up a drug abuser.
Only prayer can change a hardened criminal.
Only prayer can set us free from the bondage of the soul.
Only prayer can cleanse our minds of old thoughts.
Only prayer can summon the angels into the conflict.
Only prayer can break through the heart of stone.
Only prayer can draw back the person who is running.
Only prayer can pull a person from despair.
Only prayer can break the yoke of bondage.
Only prayer can give sight to the spiritually blind.
Only prayer can give strength to the weary.

Only prayer can bring in our lost loved ones.
Only prayer can overthrow the attack of Satan.
Only prayer can unlock the doors to God's storehouse of blessing.



It Was Prayer

It was prayer that . . .

It was the prayer of Daniel that closed the mouth of lions.
It was the prayer of Peter that made the lame man walk.
It was the prayer of Elijah that stopped the rain.
It was the prayer of Elijah that brought fire from heaven.
It was the prayer of Samson that renewed his strength.
It was the prayer of Elisha that raised the dead boy.
It was the prayer of Moses that spared Israel.
It was the prayer of three Hebrew boys that summoned the fourth man.
It was the prayer of Paul that healed the sick.
It was the prayer of the disciples that empowered them.
It was the prayer of the church that freed Peter from prison.



Unless We Pray

Unless we pray . . .

Unless we pray, we can only be a church, not a ministry.
Unless we pray, sin will become rampant.
Unless we pray, hell will continue to enlarge itself.
Unless we pray, sons and daughters will die without God.
Unless we pray, our sick will go unhealed.
Unless we pray, our lives will go unguided.
Unless we pray, our minds will stay confused.
Unless we pray, our lives will remain meaningless.
Unless we pray, we will never get out of depression.
Unless we pray, we will never conquer fear.
Unless we pray, we will never conquer insecurity.
Unless we pray, we will never keep getting back up again.
Unless we pray, we will never handle the opposition.
Unless we pray, we will only see the bad side of life.
Unless we pray, we will never grow in our faith.
Unless we pray, we will always settle for less.
Unless we pray, we will never live in victory.



Somebody Prayed

If anything happens . . . somebody prayed.

If you are saved, somebody prayed.
If you are healed, somebody prayed.
If you are spared, somebody prayed.
If you are forgiven, somebody prayed.

If you are secure, somebody prayed.
If you are whole, somebody prayed.
If you survived a tragedy, somebody prayed.
If you have conquered an enemy, somebody prayed.
If you have overcome a habit, somebody prayed.
If you've been delivered, somebody prayed.
If you've been set free, somebody prayed.
If you are walking victorious, somebody prayed.
If you've been pulled from the trenches, somebody prayed.
If you are an overcomer, somebody prayed.



The Power of His Might

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might” (Ephesians 6:10).

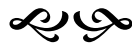
The power of His might . . .
His height is unscalable.
His depth is incomprehensible.
His worth is incalculable.
His strength is immeasurable.
His might is unreachable.
His greatness is far-surpassing.
His glory is all-illuminating.
His mercy is far-exceeding.
His power is unlimited.
His wisdom is unfathomable.
His wealth is indescribable.
His beauty is all-desirable.
His love is all-encompassing.
His victory is eternal.
His justice is flawless.
His joy is unspeakable.
His size is unspanable.
His holiness is untouchable.
His presence is inescapable.
His face is unseeable.
His mercy is undeniable.



We Are in a War

God has declared the war.
Satan has committed the crime.
Christians are the soldiers.
The world's system is Satan's artillery.
The victory of Calvary over the world is the church's artillery.
The Christian community is the armory.
Life is the battle.

The church is the army.
Ministers are generals.
Christian leaders are the sergeants.
The Word of God is our sword.
The Bread of Life is our rations.
The Cross is our emblem.
The Holy Ghost is our security system.
The Lord of hosts is our commander in chief.
The angels of heaven are our supply carriers.
Eternal life is our reason.
The Bema Judgment of Christ is our coronation day.
The will of God is our marching orders.
The Great Physician is our medic.
The blood of Christ is our sick bay.
The tongues of the Spirit is our secret code.
The old gospel ship is our transportation.
The portal of glory is our final destination.



The Bible Will Stand Forever

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away” (Matthew 24:35).

Armies have burned it.
Governments have forbidden it.
Humanists have tried to explain it away.
Evolutionists have tried to discredit it.
Cultists have tried to distort it.
Satan has tried to steal it.
Revolutions have tried to overthrow it.
Pagans have tried to replace it.
Theorists have tried to twist it.
Liberal theologians have tried water it down.
Feminists have tried to question it.
Judges have outlawed it.
Lawyers have deliberated it.
Kings have ruled against it.

But in spite of every effort to keep it quiet . . .

The Bible maintains its title as the bestseller of the year.
The Bible still changes more lives than clinical psychiatry.
The Bible still pronounces more judgments than the judicial system.
The Bible still prophesies the overthrowing of governments and kings.
The Bible still holds the secrets of the universe.
The Bible still reveals the true explanation for the existence of man.
The Bible, written by 40 different authors in a 1500-year span, still holds its title as the most amazing piece of literature in history.
The Bible is more than a book.

It is more than literature.
It is more than history and science and mathematical equations.
It is a living book.
It is bread to those who are hungry.
It is light to those in darkness.
It is strength to the weak.
It is hope to those in despair.
It is comfort to the weary.
It is a compass to those who are lost.
It is a companion to the lonely.
It is an answer to the confused.
It is a lighthouse to the shipwrecked.
It is a staff to the weary shepherd.
Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of God will never pass away!



You Have a Gift

Regardless of your genetics, the circumstances of your life, you still have a gift.
Whether you were born to a loving mother and father or whether or not you even met your mother or father, you still have a gift that was given to you by God.
You might have been adopted at birth, but you have a gift.
You might have been abused as a child, but that did not take away your gift.
Maybe someone stole your innocence early, but they didn't take your gift.
You may have been sexually, mentally or physically abused, but you still have the deposit of God within you.
God did not choose your parents for you, but He still chose your gift.
Maybe your parents divorced, but you still have a gift.
Maybe you had to live in foster homes, but you still have a gift.
Maybe you were farmed out to relatives, but it didn't hinder your gift.
Maybe you were raised by a controlling parent, an angry parent or a mentally-ill parent, but they couldn't touch your gift.
Maybe your world is turned upside-down, but the gift is still there.
Maybe your world has ended because your mentor fell, but your gift is still there.
Maybe your pastor left, your son ran away, or your child became rebellious, but you still have your gift.
You can't change what has happened to you, but it does not change what was put inside you. You have a gift.
Sometimes bad things happen to good people, but when God designed you in the womb of your mother, He deposited a gift in you.
Life will be filled with changes, but you still have a gift.
You can't avoid having pain and disappointments, but you still have a gift.
God knew you would suffer, so before your first heartbreak, let-down or betrayal, He gave you a gift.
The world didn't give it to you, and the world can't take it away—you *have a gift!*



New Leader, but the Same God

“And the Lord said to Joshua, ‘This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you’ ” (Joshua 3:7).

As I was with Moses . . .

New leader, but the same God.

New territory, but the same God.

New geography, but the same God.

New plan, but the same God.

New battlefield, but the same God.

New enemy, but the same God.

New weapons, but the same God.

New assignment, but the same God.

New generation, but the same God.

From Pastor Moses to Pastor Joshua, the same God.

From an old generation to a new generation, the same God.

From a tribe of wanderers to a group of soldiers, the same God.



Go Back to the Book

When you need a word—go to the Book.

When you can't find God—go to the Book.

When you need a promise—go to the Book.

When you need a friend—go to the Book.

When you need the victory—go to the Book.

When you need direction—go to the Book.

When you need a protector—go to the Book.

When you need an answer—go to the Book.

When you need deliverance—go to the Book.

When you need real peace—go to the Book.

When you can't go on—go to the Book.

When you think it's over—go to the Book.

When you need reassurance—go to the Book.

When you need a plan—go to the Book.

When you need a prophecy—go to the Book.

When you need to believe—go to the Book.

When you need to love—go to the Book.

When you just need to breathe—go to the Book.

When you need to trust—go to the Book.

When you need faith—go to the Book.

When you need hope—go to the Book.

When you need truth—go to the Book.

When you need honesty—go to the Book.

When you need a song—go to the Book.

When you need an assignment—go to the Book.

When you need a counselor—go to the Book.

When you need a healer—go to the Book.

When you need a doctor—go to the Book.

When you need a lawyer—go to the Book.

When you need an affirmation—go to the Book.

When you need perspective—go to the Book.
When you need a vision—go to the Book.
When you need new hope—go to the Book.
When you need a new fire—go to the Book.
When you need a new wind—go to the Book.
When you need a fresh oil—go to the Book.
When you need a fresh anointing—go to the Book.
When you need new energy—go to the Book.
When you need a new desire—go to the Book.
When you lose your way—go to the Book.
When you lose your family—go to the Book.
When you lose your marriage—go to the Book.
When you lose your money—go to the Book.
When you lose your mind—go to the Book.
When you lose your memory—go to the Book.
When you lose your health—go to the Book.
When you lose your way—go to the Book.
When you lose your understanding—go to the Book.
When you lose your mobility—go to the Book.
When you lose your passion—go to the Book.
When you lose your grip—go to the Book.
When you lose your fire—go to the Book.
When you lose your creativity—go to the Book.
When you lose your leader—go to the Book.
When you lose your identity—go to the Book.
When you lose your language—go to the Book.
When you lose your power—go to the Book.
When you've been let down—go to the Book.
When you've been looked over—go to the Book.
When you've been lied to—go to the Book.
When you've been stared at—go to the Book.
When you've been jeered at—go to the Book.
When you've been mocked—go to the Book.
When you've been thrown out—go to the Book.
When you've been talked about—go to the Book.
When you've been persecuted—go to the Book.
When you've been misunderstood—go to the Book.
When you're taken for granted—go to the Book.
When you've been left out—go to the Book.
When you've been blessed out—go to the Book.
When you've been cursed out—go to the Book.
When you've been cast out—go to the Book.
And when you're broke—go to the Book.
And when you're busted—go to the Book.
And when you're sad—go to the Book.
And when you're bad—go to the Book.
And when you're mad—go to the Book.

And when you're scared—go to the Book.
And when you're scarred—go to the Book.
And when you're bruised—go to the Book.
And when you're shaken—go to the Book.
And when you're shunned—go to the Book.
And when you're shattered—go to the Book.
And when you're desperate—go to the Book.
And when you're disturbed—go to the Book.
And when you're sleepless—go to the Book.
And when you're helpless—go to the Book.
And when you're hopeless—go to the Book.

He can put your marriage back together again.
He can heal your body.
He can renew your mind.
He can restore your losses.
He can put your life back together again.
He can replenish your energy.
He can change your heart.
He can change the outcome of your year.
He can put new relationships in your life.
He can mend your broken heart.
He can remove your fears.
He can give you a new job.
He can heal your broken relationships.
He can teach you to trust again.
He can help you to love again.
He can put joy back into your life.
He can cause you to sleep in perfect peace.
You can draw a blood line around you and dare the devil to cross it.
The angels of the Lord encamp around your house.
The church will be victorious.
Your name is written down in glory.
You don't have to fear tomorrow.
He will be your father, mother, spouse and friend.
He will be your lawyer, counselor and judge.
He will fight for your rights and defend the innocent.
We have a high priest who can be touched by our pain.
He cares about you.
He demonstrates His love toward you.
He woke you up this morning in your right mind.
He started you on your way.
He has ordered a better future for you than you could have made on your own.
He'll be your bridge over troubled waters.
He'll be your problem-solver, burden-bearer and heavy-load carrier.
He'll be your friend that is closer than a brother.
He'll be your refuge in the time of storm.

He'll be your defender, your high tower, your shield and buckler.
He is an ever-present help in the time of need!

You can have a new life.
You can have a new mind.
You can have a new future.
You can have a new hope.
You can have a new purpose.
You can have a new outlook on life.
You can have a new perspective.
You can have a new family.
You can have a new lease on life.
Old things are passed away.
All things are new.
Just because He lives!



The Nature of God

He's my God.

My God is the only One for whom there are no means of measure to define *omnipotence*.

No far-seeing telescope can bring into visibility the coastline of His *omnipresence*.

No barriers can discover the boundaries of His thoughts, for He is *omniscient*.

He is **Altogether** Lovely.

He is **August**.

His **Beauty** is as a million spring times within the limits of a single garden.

He is the **Bright** and Morning Star.

He is the **Centerpiece** of civilization.

He is the **Deliverer** to the delirious.

He's **Enduringly** strong.

He's **Entirely** sincere.

He's **Eternally** steadfast.

He's **Enticingly** beautiful.

He's **Encouragingly** comforting.

He's **Excellently** precise.

He's **Fairest** of ten thousand.

He's **Gracefully** generous.

He's **Heaven's** King and Earth's Provider.

His **Height** is unscalable.

He's **Immortally** graceful.

He's **Imperially** powerful.

He's **Impartially** merciful.

He's **Incomprehensibly** intelligent.

He's **Invincible**.

He's **Irresistible**.

He's **Jehovah-Jireh** to the needy.

He's **Jehovah-Shammah** to the lost.

He's **Jehovah-Nissi** to the warrior.

He's **Jehovah-Tsidkenu** to the unclean.
He's **Jehovah-Rapha** to the sick and the broken.
He's the **King** of the ages.
He's the **Lily** of the valley.
He's the **Magistrate** of the universe.
He's the **Miracle** of the age.
He's the **Noblest** of the noble.
He's the **Never-sleeping, never-slumbering One**.
He's **Omnipotent, Omnipresent and Omniscient**.
He's the **Power** source of the universe.
He's **Preeminent**.
He's the **Quickener**.
He's the **Righteous Ruling and Reigning Redeemer**.
He's the **Sinner's Savior**.
He's the **Truest** thread of theology.
He's the **Universal** problem-solver.
He's **Understanding and Unique**.
He's **Unparalleled**.
He's **Unprecedented**.
He's **Victory** to the victims.
He's a **Wellspring** to the weary.
He's **Excellent** in all of His **Ways**.
He's **Yours** and He's **mine**.
He's **Zeal** to those who are burning out.

He's the loftiest idea in literature.
He's the highest personality in philosophy.
He's the supreme problem in high criticism.
He's the fundamental doctrine of true theology.
He's the cardinal necessity of spiritual religion.
He's the only One able to supply all of our needs simultaneously.
He supplies strength for the weak.
He sympathizes and He saves.
He heals the sick.
He forgives sinners.
He serves the unfortunate.
He's available for the tempted and the tried.
He cleanses the lepers.
He discharges debtors.
He delivers the captives.
He defends the feeble.
He rewards the diligent.
He blesses the young.
And He beautifies the meek.

He's the *key* of knowledge.
He's the *wellspring* of wisdom.

He's the *doorway* of deliverance.
He's the *pathway* of peace.
He's the *roadway* of righteousness.
He's the *highway* of holiness.
He's the *gateway* of glory.

He's the *Master* of the mighty.
He's the *Captain* of the conquerors.
He's the *Head* of the heroes.
He's the *Leader* of the legislators.
He's the *Overseer* of the overcomers.
He's the *Governor* of governors.
He's the *Prince* of princes.
He's the *King* of kings.
He's the *Lord* of lords.

His *office* is manifold.
His *promise* is sure.
His *life* is matchless.
His *goodness* is limitless.
His *mercy* is everlasting.
His *love* never changes.
His *word* is enough.
His *grace* is sufficient.
His *reign* is righteous.
His *yoke* is easy.
His *burden* is light.

The Heaven of heavens cannot contain Him, let alone a man explain Him.
You can't get Him out of your mind.
You can't get Him off of your hand.
You can't outlive Him, and you can't live without Him.

Pharisees couldn't stand Him but they found out they couldn't stop Him.
Pilate couldn't find any fault in Him.
Herod couldn't kill Him.
Death couldn't handle Him and the grave couldn't hold Him.

He always has been, and He always will be.
He had no predecessor.
He'll have no successor.
You can't impeach Him, and He's not gonna resign.

He put . . .
The shine in the *moon*.
The fire in the *sun*.
The twinkle in the *star*.

The red in the *rose*.
The fish in the *sea*.
The seed in the *grape*.
The banana in the *peel*.
The pea in the *pod*.

He's the Alpha and Omega
Wonderful
Counselor
Mighty God
Everlasting Father
Prince of Peace



The Law of Probability

1. One prediction equals 2 to 1 odds.
2. The odds of 11 of those prophecies being fulfilled is 33,554,532 to 1.
3. The odds of 30 of them coming true is 1,073,741,021 to 1.
4. Isaiah alone records 55 prophecies. The odds of these 55 coming true are 36,028,797,018,963,968 to 1 (*36 quadrillion, 29 trillion, 797 billion, 18 million, 963 thousand and 968*).
5. If you take the 332 prophecies of the Major Prophets, the odds of those coming true are:
8,749,002,899,132,046,697,490,
008,908,470,485,461,412,622,723,
572,849,745,703,082,425,639,811,
996,797,503,692,894,052,708,092,
215,296 to 1
6. There are 2,048 prophecies, most of which have already come to pass.



Sow in Tears and Reap in Joy

After the weeping comes the joy.
After the darkness comes the dawn.
After the storm comes the calm.
After the grave comes the Resurrection.
After the battle comes the victory.
After the wound comes the healing.
After the Cross comes the crown.
After the earthquake came the still small voice.
After the wilderness came the land of milk and honey.
After the persecution came the spread of the gospel.
After the prayer comes the power.
After the storm came the Master of the sea.
After the furnace came the fourth man in the fire.
After the whale came the revival of Nineveh.
After the great Tribulation comes the millennial reign.
After the Battle of Armageddon comes Jesus on white horse.
After the trial comes the triumph.

After the test comes the trophy.
After the pressure comes the prize.
After the death comes eternal life.



Joy Comes in the Morning

You've got to know when to stop crying and start shouting.
That's your joy, it's part of your harvest.

This is my joy . . .

Unspeakable
Indescribable
Elatable
Immovable
Internal
Non-taxable
Full of glory
Full of laughter
Full of peace
Not as the world giveth
Unexplainable
Unfathomable
Foot-stomping
Hand-clapping
Belly-laughing
Face-glowing
Teeth-showing
Tall-standing
Heart-swelling
Head-bobbing
Mind-boggling
Friend-hugging
Neighbor-loving
Deed-provoking
Growth-producing
Slap-on-the-back . . . Hallelujah kind of joy.



It's Your Time

All this time God was raising you up, and now it's your time!
You thought He had forgotten you, but now it's your time!
The devil said you were finished, but now it's your time!
You lost one season, but God has given you another one, and now it's your time!
You went into the grave, but now it's resurrection day, and now it's your time!
You thought your life was over, but it's just now beginning, and now it's your time!
God had to change your direction, but don't quit now, cause now it's your time!
You thought the seed would never take root, but now it's your time!

You thought your day would never come, but now it's your time!
You were all prepared to settle for less, but now it's your time!
You thought the tears were in vain, but now it's your time!
You thought your hard work would never pay off, but now it's your time!
You thought all of your critics were right, but now it's your time!
You thought you had wasted years of your life, but now it's your time!
You thought that God wouldn't give you a second chance, but now it's your time!
You thought the healing would never be complete, but now it's your time!
You thought the pain would never go away, but now it's your time!
You thought the tears would never stop flowing, but now it's your time!
You thought the advice was all wrong, but now it's your time!
You thought God had assigned you to a life of loneliness, but now it's your time!
You thought God had chosen you to suffer forever, but now it's your time!
You thought God didn't hear your prayers, but now it's your time!



Jesus Paid It All

All I have to do is believe in Jesus and what He did for me.
He bore my sins.
He carried my grief.
He pulled my heavy load.
He signed my pardon.
He paid my price.
He paid my ransom.
He bore my shame in His own nakedness.
He paid for my sins by being the only man to die without sin.
He conquered my enemies.
He spoiled the principalities.
He thwarted Satan's plans.
He became the ultimate sacrifice.
He took my place.
He let them nail His hands so mine could be lifted up in praise.
He let them nail His feet so mine could be free to walk in His light.
He let them break His heart so mine could be mended.
He let them scourge His body so I could have wholeness of life.
He let them give Him a crown of thorns so I could wear a crown of glory.
He let them offer Him a bitter cup so I could drink from the living water.
He let them put Him in a tomb so I could be resurrected.
He let them beat His back so I could be healed.
He let them mock Him so I could have dignity.
He let them crucify Him so I could be free.
He let them drag Him to an unjust courtroom so I could be justified.
He let them show no mercy so I could have mercy.
He let them take away His rights so I could have grace.
He let them strip Him so I could be clothed with righteousness.
He let them put Him through agony so I could be mentally whole.
He let them scream at Him so I could have peace of mind.

He allowed Himself to be separated from the Father so I could be reunited with the Father.
He allowed Himself to die so I could live.
Jesus paid it all!



There Is No Difference

Big sin, little sin . . . no difference!
Big liar, little liar . . . no difference!
Shoplifter or bank robber . . . no difference!
Bully or murderer . . . no difference!
Self-righteous or no righteousness . . . no difference!
Gossip or adultery . . . no difference!
Gluttony or drug abuse . . . no difference!
Drunkard or rapist . . . no difference!
Male or female . . . no difference!
Poor man or rich man . . . no difference!
Jew or Greek . . . no difference!
Bond or free . . . no difference!
Young man or old man . . . no difference!
Dabbling in sin or demon possessed . . . no difference!
Backslider or assassin . . . no difference!
Robbing man or robbing God . . . no difference!
Hatred or anger . . . no difference!
Envy or strife . . . no difference!
Cheating or murder . . . no difference!
He died once for all—there is no difference in levels of sin.



The Difference Between Religion and Relationship

Religion says, “Let the preacher and the staff do it.”
Relationship says, “Here am I Lord, send me.”

Religion says, “Let the choir do the singing.”
Relationship says, “I bless the Lord at all times. His praises will be in my lips.”

Religion says, “Let the pastor do the witnessing.”
Relationship says, “Knowing the terror of the Lord we persuade men.”

Religion says, “Let the elders do the praying.”
Relationship says, “Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth” (Psalm 54:2).

Religion says, “Let the young people do the working.”
Relationship caused an 80-year-old Moses and an 85-year-old Aaron to start a new journey with God.

Religion says, “Let the wealthy do the giving.”

Relationship says, “How can I give to the Lord that which cost me nothing.”

Religion says, “Let the ministers seek God for the spiritual gifts.”

Relationship says, “Holy Spirit, flow through me.”

Religion says, “Let the pastor teach the Bible so I don’t have to read it.”

Relationship says, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Religion says, “Ministry is too hard.”

Relationship says, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him.”

Religion says, “I’m gonna drop out of church because of problems.”

Relationship says, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4).

Religion says, “We have to stand up too long to sing. These seats are too hard, too soft, too shaky or too close. The music is too loud, too soft, too fast, too slow. Give me what I want. Give me my kind of song, my kind of sermon, my kind of prayer. My kind of church. Just enough. Not too much of this or that.

Relationship says, “Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that the Lord, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name” (Psalm 100:1-4).



Without Christ

Without Christ there would be no . . .

1. Planet Earth—“All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men” (John 1:3, 4).
2. Universe—“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether throne or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:16).
3. Salvation—No other name given under heaven whereby men might be saved (Acts 4:12).
4. Holy Ghost—He said, “If I do not go away, the Helper will not come” (John 16:7).
5. Deliverance—“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it” (Colossians 2:15).
6. Peace—Isaiah 9:6 says He is the Prince of Peace.
7. Church—“On this rock I will build My church” (Matthew 16:18).



He Is . . .

He is not a way—He is the Way.

He is not a truth—He is the Truth.

He is not a life—He is the Life.

He is God’s way to man—He is man’s way to God.

One mediator between God and man—the man, Christ Jesus.



Christian Martyrs

Peter—crucified
Andrew—crucified
Matthew—the sword
John—natural death, but was also boiled in oil.
James, son of Alphaeus—crucified
Philip—crucified
Simon—crucified
Thaddaeus—clubbed to death
Thomas—spear thrust through him
Bartholomew—flayed alive
James, son of Zebedee—sword thrust through him
James, brother of Jesus—stoned
John the Baptist—beheaded
Paul—beheaded
Timothy—dragged by horses
Isaiah—sawn apart in a log
Stephen—stoned



First and Greatest Commandment

“Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:37-40).

Teach your children to love the Lord . . .

If you never teach them to swim, teach them to love the Lord.
If you never teach them to play baseball, teach them to love the Lord.
If you never teach them to cook, teach them to love the Lord.
If you never teach them to invest, teach them to love the Lord.
If you never teach them to operate a computer, teach them to love the Lord.
If you never teach them to play an instrument, teach them to love the Lord.

Unless we teach them to love the Lord . . .

Their investments will only be temporary.
Their homes will be built on a shaky foundation.
Their relationships will never be totally secure.
Their faith will always falter.
Their dreams will never be reached.
Their lives will always have an empty space.
Their futures will always be uncertain.
Their marriages will always be chancy.
Their children may not make it to heaven.
They may spend eternity in hell.

When you leave our house, I have to know . . .

Did I instill in you a love for God and His work?

Did I show you a life of happiness, or do you leave thinking Christians are miserable?

Did I show you how to worship the Lord, or do you leave with nothing but an intellectual knowledge about religion?

Do you know that I can't wait to go to church on Sunday?

Do you know that I pay my tithes with a cheerful heart?

Do you know that I love to praise His name?

Do you know that I pray to Him often?

Do you know why I love Him so?

Do you know what He has done in my life?

Do you know why I am sold-out to Christ and His church?

Did you see something in me that makes you want Him too?

Did you see that Christ has made a difference in my life?

I know you made the honor roll, but do you love the Lord with all your heart?

I know you got the scholarship, but do you love the Lord with all your heart?

I know you made the all-star team, but do you love the Lord with all your heart?

I know you graduated with honors, but do you love the Lord with all your heart?

I know you got a job promotion, but do you love the Lord with all your heart?



I Am the First and the Last and Everything in Between

He is still God in between the darkness and the daylight.

He is still God in between the operating room and the recovery room.

He is still God in between sickness and health.

He is still God in between the bad day and the good day.

He is still God in between the last paycheck and the next paycheck.

He is still God in between the last relationship and the next relationship.

He is still God in between the doctor's report and God's report.

He is still God in between the old job and the new job.

He is still God in between the fire and the choir.

He is still God in between the junk and the joy.

He is still God in between the old and the new.

He is still God in between the prophecy and the promise.

He is still God in between the test and the testimony.

He is still God in between the trial and the triumph.

And means He's the man in the middle.

Hanging between life and death on a cross, He proved He was the King over death *and* life.

Hanging between two thieves, He proved He was God over the one who mocked *and* the one who repented.

Hanging between sinful man and Almighty God, He proved He was the God of heaven *and* earth. He is the One who was dead *and* is alive for evermore. He holds the keys to death and hell.

It looked like the end, but it was just the beginning.

He looked like the Last, but He was still the First.

He is the Man in the middle . . .

AND - Hanging between heaven and hell.
AND - Hanging between life and death.
AND - His body died, but His spirit was still alive.
AND - His brain was dead, but His soul was alert.
AND - To His mourners He was gone, but to the captives, He had just arrived.
AND - To His mother, He was unconscious, but to the angels, He was fully aware of what was going on.
AND - He went into the heart of the earth.
AND - Now, He has the keys.
AND - Now, He is the conqueror.
AND - Now, He triumphed over demons and made a spectacle of them.
AND - Now, He has been the Name above every name.
AND - Now, He is the King of kings
AND - Now, He is the Lord of lords
AND - Now, He is the Deliverer.
AND - Now, He is the Healer.
AND - Now, He is the Savior of the world.
AND - Now, He is the Prince of Peace
AND - Now, the angels rejoice.
AND - Now, the demons tremble.
AND - Our prayers are heard in heaven.
AND - Now, the veil is rent in two.
AND - Now, we have a High Priest who can be touched by the feeling of our infirmities.
AND - Now, He signed our pardon.
AND - Now, He reigns forever.
AND - Now, He sits at the right hand of the Father.
AND - Now, the captives are free.
AND - Now, the doorway of death is unlocked.
AND - Now, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.
AND - Now, He is the Redeemer.
AND - Now, He is the Ruler of the nations.
AND - Now, He is the Head of the church.



The First Time He Came and the Next Time He Comes

The first time He came, He came as a baby in a manger.
But the next time He comes, He will be on a white horse.
The first time He came, He came as a pauper.
But the next time He comes, He will come as the owner of the universe.
The first time He came, He came as a carpenter's son.
But the next time He comes, He will come as the Son of God, risen with healing in His wings.
The first time He came, He came as deity clothed in flesh.
But the next time He comes, He will come as deity clothed in glory.
The first time He came, He came as a man, but was still yet God.
But the next time He comes, He will come as Lord of lords.
The first time He came, He came for the purpose of redeeming mankind.
But the next time He comes, He will come to judge the world and to reclaim it for mankind.
The first time He came, He came as a Jewish boy.

But the next time He comes, He will come as the head of every race, tongue and tribe.
The first time He came, He only lived 33 years.
But the next time He comes, He's here to stay.
The first time He came, He was born in Bethlehem.
But the next time He comes, He will come to Jerusalem.
The first time He came, He came as a teacher and prophet.
But the next time He comes, He will come as the King of all kings.
The first time He came, He healed the sick, raised the dead and set captives free.
But the next time He comes, He will do away with sickness, disease and poverty.
The first time He came, His birth was heralded by angels.
But the next time He comes, He will be riding with His saints.
The first time He came, a star marked the place of His birth.
But the next time He comes, He will be the bright and the morning star.
The first time He came, three wise men followed the star to find Him.
But the next time He comes, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess . . .
The first time He came, shepherds came to visit Him.
But the next time He comes, He will come as the Chief Shepherd.
The first time He came, He was presented gold, frankincense and myrrh.
But the next time He comes, He will present gifts to men and women and reward them for their labor.



It Only Takes a Word From the Lord

God can direct your life with only one word.

Sometimes it comes in a song.

Sometimes it is one sentence.

He gave Jeremiah a word at the potter's house.

He gave Peter a word through a rooster.

He gave Balaam a word through a mule.

He gave David a word through a dream.

He gave Daniel a word through a vision.

He can speak through the voice of a child.

He can speak through a conversation you overhear on a bus.

He can speak through a sermon, a song or a TV commercial.

He can give you a word from a man or woman of God, but He can also speak to you from a picture,
from nature or from a total stranger.

Can you hear Him when He speaks "only a word"?



Breaking Down the Walls of Denominationalism

Jesus died on the cross.

He rose again.

He commissioned the disciples.

He ascended into heaven.

The apostles went throughout the world preaching. They made disciples.

They established churches that met in the homes of the new believers.

A.D. 70

Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans. The church was scattered around the world. When the church preached about the Holy Supper, the Roman government thought they were teaching cannibalism (eating flesh and drinking blood). This doctrine made the new Christian church an enemy of Rome. They began to burn Christians at the stake. They thought the Christians were evil people who ate people and had secret spiritual meetings. God raised up a group we now call Apologists. These apologists defended the faith of Christianity. They were intellectuals of their day who argued and debated the doctrine of Christianity openly. The little house meetings continued to grow.

A.D. 156

One hundred twenty-five years after Calvary a group of bishops tried to unite the efforts of the church. Ignatius called the group the *Catholic Church*, which meant the universal church. The word *catholic* means “universal.”

Medieval Times

A scholar at Oxford University by the name of John Wycliff developed a system of lay witness where people would scatter the Scriptures throughout the land. He began to translate the Bible into English. His work would change the face of England forever.

1517

Martin Luther posted his Ninety-five Theses to the door of the Wittenburg Castle. His writings became controversial because he challenged the authority of the pope to grant indulgences and the rights of the priests to sell forgiveness in the streets like vendors. Luther’s life was stormy and riotous. It was filled with pressure, stress and grief. He spent much of it in hiding because of the price on his head. But from his work were born the Protestant churches, the first being the Lutherans. The original Lutheran church was born for one purpose: to study scriptures and to put the gospel back into the hands of the people.

1525

There were some who didn’t believe Luther did enough to reform. They felt that everyone should go and do their first works over. They wanted all the new Lutherans to be rebaptized. All of them had been baptized Catholic, and now felt they should be rebaptized like Paul did in Acts 19. Those who felt this way started their own group. The people teased them and called them the Anabaptist. The word *ana* in their language was a prefix meaning “to do over again.” The anabaptists, or rebaptizers, became the first branch of what we know as the great Baptist church.

1670

In Frankford, Germany, Philip Spitz started cottage prayer meetings. This birthed the Pietist Movement.

1730

Two brothers who were students at Oxford University formed a club called the “Holy Club.” The club members committed themselves to discipline and holy living. They walked in single file wherever they went. The students teased them for their methods calling them by the nickname, “Methodists.” John and Charles Wesley were great preachers and their followers were called Methodists.

1820

An attorney in New York City by the name of Charles Finney was defending a client. Finney said to his client, “I can’t defend you anymore. I have got a retainer from God. I must go and defend the gospel.”

1856

In the British Isles Mrs. Coalfield went from door to door witnessing for Christ. She went an entire year without a single convert. But after that year, she led her first convert to the Lord. From that one conversion a revival broke out that didn't stop until 40,000 people gave their hearts to the Lord.

1860s

In Chicago, God got ahold of a shoe salesman by the name of D.L. Moody. He and Ira Sanky put up their shoes and put on the shoes of the gospel of peace.

1886

R.G. Spurling, a 70-year-old Missionary Baptist preacher, met with a group of Methodists and formed a church called the Christian Union. The Christian Union later changed its name to the Church of God. They began to seek God and the Holy Ghost fell. They became the oldest Pentecostal denomination in America.

1906

W.J. Seymour at the Azusa Street Mission

From Azusa Street, God birthed the Pentecostal Renewal in America.

From Azusa Street, God raised up many of the largest Pentecostal denominations in the world today.

1908

In Moscow, Russia, 300 Spirit-filled churches were born that would keep the light on during Russia's darkest hours.

1970

Charismatic Renewal

1990

The Worship Renewal

2000

Still going and looking for the sudden return of our Lord.

Regardless of your denominational preference, we are all a product of each other!



Psalm 136

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy endures forever.

Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy endures forever;

To Him who alone does great wonders, for His mercy endures forever;

To Him who by wisdom made the heavens, for His mercy endures forever;

To Him who laid out the earth above the waters, for His mercy endures forever;

To Him who made great lights, for His mercy endures forever—

The sun to rule by day, for His mercy endures forever;

The moon and stars to rule by night, for His mercy endures forever.

To Him who struck Egypt in their firstborn, for His mercy endures forever;

And brought out Israel from among them, for His mercy endures forever;
 With a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm, for His mercy endures forever;
 To Him who divided the Red Sea in two, for His mercy endures forever;
 And made Israel pass through the midst of it, for His mercy endures forever;
 But overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, for His mercy endures forever;
 To Him who led His people through the wilderness, for His mercy endures forever.
 To Him who struck down great kings, for His mercy endures forever;
 And slew famous kings, for His mercy endures forever—
 Sihon king of the Amorites, for His mercy endures forever;
 And Og king of Bashan, for His mercy endures forever—
 And gave their land as a heritage, for His mercy endures forever;
 A heritage to Israel His servant, for His mercy endures forever.
 Who remembered us in our lowly state, for His mercy endures forever;
 And rescued us from our enemies, for His mercy endures forever;
 Who gives food to all flesh, for His mercy endures forever.
 Oh, give thanks to the God of heaven! For His mercy endures forever.



The Last Cup of the Last Supper

In the traditional Jewish seder, four cups were drunk to celebrate the Feast of Passover. Jesus was celebrating this feast with His disciples. However, He stopped before He drank the last cup, saying that He would drink it with them in His Kingdom. Understanding the different reasons for each cup will explain why He did not drink the cup of victory.

The first cup accompanies the story of the first sin (Adam).

The second cup represents the blood on the door post (Passover).

The third cup goes with the story of the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world (The Passover Lamb).

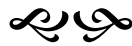
But the fourth cup is the cup of victory over death.

At the Last Supper, Jesus stops on the third cup.

At the Last Supper, the last cup tells about . . .

- the last war
- the last heartache
- the last funeral
- the last counseling session
- the last courtroom
- the last prison sentence
- the last arrest
- the last indictment
- the last accusation
- the last injustice
- the last taxes paid
- the last old folks home
- the last hospital waiting room
- the last homeless shelter
- the last hungry child
- the last starving country

the last divorce
the last bankruptcy court
the last prison sentence
the last abused spouse
the last abused child
the last molestation
the last crime
the last drug deal
the last siren
the last locked door
the last scared child
the last heartbreak
the last day of depression
the last surgery
the last sleepless night
the last lonely day
the last hopeless moment!



The Next Cup

“The next time I drink with you, it will be in My Father’s Kingdom” (see Matthew 26:29).

The next time I drink of this juice . . .

The lamb will lie down with the lion.

The child will lie down with the bear.

The earth will have plenty of rain.

The 12 disciples will reign upon thrones from Jerusalem.

The saints will rule and reign as kings and priests.

The 24 elders will fall prostrate off their thrones and shout “Alleluia! For the Lord God omnipotent reigns” (Revelation 19:6).

The curse on the earth will be lifted.

The Ancient of Days will rule from His throne in Jerusalem.

The earth will cease her groaning.

The heavens will rejoice.

The prayers will cease.

Songs of joy will be heard throughout the land.

The world will proclaim a global jubilee.

The sick will be whole.

All debts will be canceled.

The nations will sing.

The angels will dance.

The elders will shout.

Satan will be bound.

The Antichrist and false prophets will be cast into the lake of fire.

The day of temptation will be over for the saints.

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb will be over.

The groom will receive His bride.

The church will be triumphant.
The Word of God will still be standing.
The earth will be renovated.
The wastelands will bloom like a garden.
The reign of Christ will be at hand.
Even so—"Come Lord Jesus!"



The Sermon on the Mount

Most of the time when the Sermon on the Mount is covered, only portions of it are explained at a time. The Sermon on the Mount covers a variety of subjects on how we should live.

The Beatitudes are 12 principles for true happiness:

- A lesson on witnessing, comparing us to salt and light
 - A lesson on the law of Moses versus the law of the heart
 - A lesson on how to deal with your enemies
 - A lesson on pleasing God rather than man
 - A lesson on "how to pray"
 - A lesson on fasting
 - A lesson on giving and stewardship
 - A lesson on worry
 - A lesson on judging others
 - A lesson on seeking God's will
 - A lesson on false prophets
 - A lesson on the judgment of man
 - A lesson on how to build your life on the right things
- The wise man built on a rock and the foolish man built on the sand.*



Walking in the Spirit

When you walk in the Spirit . . .

- You won't need someone to tell you that it's wrong to mistreat your brother.
- You won't need a rule book to convict you.
- You won't need to look to see if someone is watching you before going into that place.
- You won't need to see who's looking when you give to the Lord.
- You won't need to make sure no one is looking before you raise your hand.
- You won't need a spiritual cheerleader to become a worshiper.
- You won't need an elder's permission to come and pray.
- You won't need a counselor to tell you not to disrespect your spouse.
- You won't need a judge to tell you to pay your bills.
- You won't need a youth pastor to tell you to honor your father and mother.
- You won't need a doctor to tell you to give up gluttony.
- You won't need a policeman to tell you to quit hitting your kids.
- You won't need a preacher to tell you it's time to pray.
- You won't need an evangelist to bring revival to your house.
- You won't need to ask if the song is the gospel.
- You won't need to be asked if you want to go to church.

You won't need to ask if it's OK to do drugs and worship Jesus at the same time.
You won't need to ask if it's OK to lose your temper.
You won't need to ask if tithing is Biblical.
You won't need to ask if God wants you to support a missionary.
You won't need to ask if it's OK to pass judgment on others.



The Pharisees Were Nothing Like Jesus

The Pharisees were people committed to preserving the old ways. All they could do was quote the past. Their primary reason for existence was to preserve the Ten Commandments. They wrote 640 rules that would help you to never break one of the Ten Commandments. But soon, the rules became more important than their mission. This is when they lost their way and became the brood of vipers that disgusted Jesus. The choices they made and the choices Jesus made show how far apart they were in their missions to please God.

They would have never chosen Simon the Zealot to be a disciple.
They would have never chosen Matthew the tax collector to be a disciple.
They would have never chosen Saul of Tarsus to be the apostle to the Gentiles.
They would have never chosen a radical to be a youth pastor.
They would have never chosen an alcoholic to be an elder.
They would have never let a sinner-woman anoint them for burial.
They would have never chosen a woman married five times to be the first evangelist in Samaria.
They would have never chosen a poor country boy to be the pastor of a great church.
They would have never chosen James the brother of Jesus, who was a disbeliever, to be the head of the early church.
They would have never chosen a teenage girl betrothed to a poor carpenter to bear the Son of God.
They would have never chosen you or me to be the chosen generation, the royal priesthood, the holy nation.



Loose the Bonds of Wickedness

“Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke?” (Isaiah 58:6).

I am hungry to loose the bonds of the wicked.
Too many people bound
Too many church people bound
Bound up in their lives
Bound up in their bodies
Bound up in their marriages
Bound up in their finances
Bound up in their spirits
Bound up in their minds
Bound in habits
Bound in fear
Bound in depression
Bound in problems

Bound in deception
Bound in worry
Bound in anger
Bound in lust
Bound in greed
Bound in the past
Bound by drugs
Bound by alcohol
Bound by lustful thoughts
Bound by TV
Bound by lies
Bound by intimidation

But now . . . loosed into freedom
Loosed into praise
Loosed into joy
Loosed into obedience
Loosed into peace
Loosed into love
Loosed into righteousness
Loosed into glory
Loosed into a renewed mind
Loosed into life in the Spirit
Loosed into prayer
Loosed into a new life in Christ



Break Every Yoke

Isaiah 10:27 says, “It shall come to pass in that day, that his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck, and the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing.”

We need people who operate in a heavier anointing . . .

The kind of anointing that convicts sinners when they walk in the building.

Anointed choirs that can sing down the glory

Anointed preachers with swords in their mouths

Anointed teachers, who break the yokes of lies with their light of truth

Anointed youth services that radically change young people’s lives

Anointed elders who take their rightful place as the authority over sickness

Anointed services that leave us in awe of God

Anointed altar calls where the glory of God is so thick the priest can’t stand up to minister

Anointed prayers that can paralyze a demon

Anointed music that calls out to angels to come and join in

Anointed hands for healing

Anointed voices for proclaiming

Anointed ears for hearing



Cast Your Cares on Him

Jesus is a burden bearer.
Jesus is a problem solver.
Jesus is a way maker.
Jesus is a heavy-load sharer.
Jesus is a cross carrier.
Jesus is an on-time God.
Jesus is a spirit refresher.
Jesus is a soul saver.
Jesus is a life transformer.
Jesus is a mind renewer.
Jesus is a body healer.
Jesus is a church builder.
Jesus is a mighty God.
Jesus is an everlasting father.
Jesus is a prince of peace.
Jesus is a storm calmer.
Jesus is a wind stiller.
Jesus is a wave walker.
Jesus is a soul seeker.
Jesus is a promise keeper.
Jesus is a demon chaser.
Jesus is a debt payer.
Jesus is a blood donor.
Jesus is a prayer answerer.
Jesus is a gift giver.
Jesus is a load lifter.
Jesus is a hardship handler.
Jesus is a funeral wrecker.
Jesus is a heaven taker.
Jesus is a hospital releaser.
Jesus is a jail breaker.
Jesus is a bond freer.
Jesus is a chain dropper.
Jesus is a lock picker.
Jesus is a mind settler.
Jesus is a nerve quieter.
Jesus is a mouth stopper.
Jesus is a energy charger.
Jesus is a yoke breaker!



The Angels Got There First

Joshua looked up and saw an angel. The angel identified himself as the Commander of the Lord's army. Joshua then noticed something as he talked with the angel. The angel was wearing a sheath on his side. But

his sword was not in the sheath. The sword was in his hand.

Joshua suddenly realized that he was not alone in this battle. He asked the angel, “What are my instructions from the Lord?” The angel replied, “Take off your shoes for you are on holy ground.”

Joshua realized that he and the children of Israel just got there, but the Lord’s army had already been fighting.

While he was praying, they were already fighting.
While he was worrying, they were already fighting.
While he was making plans, they were already fighting.
While he was sharpening his sword, they were already fighting.
While he was looking for a sign, they were already fighting.
While he was getting advice, they were already fighting.
While he was getting up his nerve, they were already fighting.
While he was reading a book on “how-to,” they were already fighting.
While he was talking to the banker, they were already fighting.
While he was sitting in the lawyer’s office, they were already fighting.
While he was in the prayer line, they were already fighting.
While he was staying up all night, they were already fighting.
While he was wondering how it was ever going to happen, they were already fighting.
There stood an angel, blood dripping off of his sword. Sweat on his brow.
The walls of Jericho were still standing, but the ground beneath them was already holy.



Who Do Men Say I Am?

The Jews said, “He is only a carpenter’s son from Nazareth and a blasphemer.”
The Romans said, “He was a troublemaker and a menace to Rome.”
The Mormons say, “He was a great prophet, but one of many sons of God.”
The Buddhists say, “He was a great prophet, but not the greatest prophet.”
The Muslims say, “He was one of many spiritual leaders sent from Allah, but certainly not greater than Muhammad.”
The Hindus say, “He is a spiritual leader who came to enlighten us about one of the thousands of gods in the world.”
Pilate said, “He is an innocent man, but certainly not the Son of God.”
Herod said, “He is a political tool in the hands of Rome to chastise the Jews, but certainly no match for Roman politics.”
Vice President Al Gore was trying to impress a crowd in an interview and said, “I am a Christian and my favorite scripture is John 16:3.” I am certain he was trying to say John 3:16. John 16:3 says, “And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me.”



Some Say Jesus Was Just Another Prophet

If Jesus is just one of the prophets then . . .
Tell me why no other prophet was born of a virgin.
Why was no other prophet announced by a host of angels declaring his birth?
Why was no other prophet teaching the scribes in the Temple at the age of 12?

Why did no other prophet strategically fulfill the seven feasts of Israel?
 Why did no other prophet interpret most of the Old Testament?
 Why didn't He foretell the coming of the Messiah like the prophets before Him?
 Why was He born in the town Micah said the Messiah would be born in?
 Why was He born in the year Daniel said the Messiah would be born in?
 Why did He fulfill the prophecies of Isaiah concerning the Messiah by riding a young donkey through the streets of Jerusalem as they proclaimed "Hosanna to the King?"
 Why did He fulfill the prophecies of David concerning the Messiah in the way He was crucified?
 Why did He rise again on the third day?
 If He was only a prophet, then who appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus and changed him to the apostle Paul?
 If He was only a prophet, then who did John the Revelator see when he was on the Isle of Patmos and described as one He calls the Son of God? And why did this spiritual being identify Himself as the Christ who was dead and is alive?
 To which of the prophets did a legion of demons ever cry out saying, "Oh, Son of the Most High God, have you come to torment us before our time?"
 Which of the prophets ever commanded the sea to be still and the wind to cease?
 Which of the prophets ever disappeared in a crowd or walked through a wall while His disciples were locked fearfully in a room?
 Which of the prophets ever fulfilled over 200 prophecies concerning the Messiah in only 33 years of living?



But Who Do You Say I Am?

I know what the world's view is, but what do you say?
 This is something you have to know for yourself.
 Jesus has to be more than your grandmother's Savior.
 Jesus has to be more than Grandpa's blessed hope . . .
 More than Dad and Mom's Lord.
 Jesus has to be your personal Savior.
 Regardless of what the world says, what do you say?

Has He ever answered your prayer?
 Has He ever healed your body?
 Has He ever picked you up out of depression?
 Has He ever supplied your needs?
 Has He ever filled you with His Spirit?
 Has He ever given you the hope of eternal life?
 Has He put a song in your heart?

You have to know Him for yourself.
 You have to have your own prayer,
 You have to have your own song,
 You have to have your own praise,
 You have to have your own testimony,
 You have to have your own loyalty.

Is He your Jesus?
Is He your Savior?
Is He your Redeemer?
Who do you say He is?



You Are the Christ

“Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God’ ” (Matthew 16:16).

This is the only answer.
He is the embodiment of all the Old Testament types and shadows.

You are Adam’s promise.
You are Noah’s rainbow.
You are Abraham’s city-builder.
You are Ruth’s Redeemer.
You are Moses’ rod.
You are the bread in the Holy of Holies.
You are the rock that watered the children of Israel.
You are the sacrifice on the altar in the Temple.
You are the King of Righteousness that Abraham tithed to.
You are the fourth man in the fire.
You are the children of Israel’s cloud by day and fire by night.
You are David’s song.
You are Jeremiah’s tears.
You are the manna from heaven.
You are the scapegoat of atonement.



The Gates of Hell Will Not Prevail

Satan is sitting at the gates of hell, making plans against born-again believers.
Jesus is saying, “These plans would prevail, except for one thing—the church.”
Satan planned for you to lose your marriage, but somebody prayed.
Satan planned for you to lose your mind, but the church sang a song just in time.
Satan planned for you to lose your health, but you got in a prayer line.
Satan planned for you to lose your family, but the church had a marriage retreat.
Satan planned for you to lose your resources, but you paid tithes and God paid the bills.
Satan planned for you to lose your friendships, but the family of God stood by you.
Satan planned for you to quit and go back to the world, but you went to the altar instead.
Satan planned for you to quit believing, but the church had a testimony service.
Satan planned for you to follow the path of greed, but a missions trip changed all that.
Satan planned for you to go to hell, but you said, “Save me.”
Satan planned for you to get tired of religion, but you got filled with the Holy Ghost.





The Worldview and the Word View

The worldview says, "Government is lord," but the Word view says, "Jesus is Lord."

The worldview says, "The earth is our mother," but the Word view says, "In the beginning. . ."

The worldview says, "Politics has the last word," but the Word view says, "God can dethrone kings and governments with one command."

The worldview says, "Make your own way," but the Word view says, "The steps of a righteous man are ordered by God" (Psalm 37:23).

The worldview says, "Seek popularity," but the Word view says, "If you are ashamed of Me, I will not confess you before My Father" (see Mark 8:38).

The worldview says, "Ecology is the hope of the future," but the Word view says, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35, KJV).

The worldview says, "Get rich now," but the Word view says, "Lay up treasures in heaven where worms, moths and thieves can't destroy them" (see Matthew 6:20).

The worldview says, "Stay fit to live longer," but the Word view says, "Honor your father and your mother that your days may be long upon the land" (Exodus 20:12).

The worldview says, "It's not what you know, but who you know," but the Word view says, "If God be for you, who can be against you?" (see Romans 8:31).

The worldview says, "Elections determine the future," but the Word view says, "God holds the whole world in the palm of His hand" (see Isaiah 40:12-26; 49:16).

The worldview says, "Live now, pray later," but the Word view says, "Our lives are as a vapor, here and then gone. If the Lord wills, I will do this or that" (see James 4:14, 15).

The worldview says, "Be pro-choice," but the Word view says, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you" (Jeremiah 1:5).

The worldview says, "Be number one," but the Word view says, "The first shall be last and the last shall be first" (see Mark 9:35).

The worldview says, "You are your own religion," but the Word view says, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15, KJV).



Get It Out

Anything that gives the Enemy a reason to come back to your house again, get it out!

Anything that gives you a key to the exit door, get it out!

Anything you are holding onto, just in case it doesn't work out, get it out!

You can't trust God for your marriage while you've still got the divorce lawyer's card in your wallet. Get it out!

You can't trust God for your finances when there are no tithes in your heavenly bank account. Get it out!

You can't trust God for the salvation of your kids while you are still pronouncing curses on them. Get it out!

You can't trust God for your family when you really want everybody to change but you.

Get it out!

Get the bitterness out!

Get the unforgiveness out!

Get the lies out!

Get the secrets out!

Get the anger out!

Get the hatred out!
Get the jealousy out!
Get the competition out!
Get the judgmentalism out!
Get the criticism out!
Get the curses out of your heart, out of your mouth and out of your head!
Get the sin out.
Get the negative clichés out.
Get the old phone numbers out.
Get the old girlfriends out.
Get the old boyfriends out.
Get the old pictures out.
Get the old thinking out.
Get the old habits out.
Get the old attitudes out.
Get the old language out.
Get the old mind games out.
Get the old gossip out.
Get the old tricks-up-the-sleeve out.
Get the old emotional buttons out.
Get the old ways out.
Get the old proof out.
Get the old excuses out.
Get the old junk out.
Get the old guilt trips out.
Get the old ammunition of the heart out.
Get it out! Get it out! Get it out!

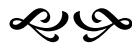


The Things You Will Remember When You Come Into the Blessing

The first thing that will happen when you come back into the *blessing*, is that God will give you your memory back!

You will remember the first time you fell in love with Jesus.
You will remember that life is only temporary and heaven is your home.
You will remember the Lord.
You will remember your praise.
You will remember your passion.
You will remember that God is the One who gave you your gift.
You will remember that God is the One who gave you your talent.
You will remember that God is the One who saved you.
You will remember that God is the One who kept you from danger.
You will remember that God is the One who gave you a purpose.
You will remember that God is the One who kept His promise in your life.
You will remember that God is the One who gave you the apples of your eye.
You will remember that God is the One who helped you conquer your fears.
You will remember that God is the One who kept you from falling.

You will remember that God is the One who put meaning in your life.
You will remember that God is the One who gave you what you asked for.
You will remember that God is the One who took the wrong people out of your life.
You will remember that God is the One who put the right people in your life.
You will remember that God is the One who saved you from what you were becoming.
You will remember that God is the One who saved you from what you used to be.
You will remember that God is the One who saved you from what you could have been.
You will remember again, when you are living under the blessing and not the curse!



The Real Competition

The real Enemy has been identified. The real Enemy is Satan!

Our competitor is not the church who disagrees with our interpretation of Scripture.
Our competition is not the church of the same faith or of a different faith.
God did not raise us up to compete with the other churches in our district or in our state.
God did not call us to empty out the Baptist church, He called us to empty out the bar.
God did not call us to empty out the Methodist church, He called us to empty the casino.
Our crown is not because we're the biggest church, or in the top twenty, or the biggest church in town. If we are going to advance the Kingdom, we have to start looking at other churches as allies, not competitors.
Our competition is the bar that is ruining a man's family and stealing his marriage.
Our competition is the violence that is taking over our schools.
Our competition is the pornography industry that is enslaving millions.
Our competition is the abortion clinics and the prayerlessness in our schools.
When you pick a theological fight with someone of another belief, it is only sibling rivalry. You are fighting with your brothers and sisters.



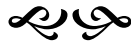
Hungry People Want Bread

Our sheep are hungry! We are past hunger—we are famished from lack of spiritual depth. Our people are dying, drying and crying.
They don't want another motto—they want bread!
They don't need another three principles, four steps and five questions. They want bread!

They want bread!

They don't want talent—they want bread.
They don't want jokes—they want bread.
They don't want poetry—they want bread.
They don't want more tradition—they want bread.
They don't want more religion—they want bread.
They don't want false hopes—they want bread.
They don't want personality—they want bread.
They don't want more charisma—they want bread.
They don't want manipulation—they want bread.
They don't want spiritual "white magic"—they want bread.

They don't want politically correct—they want bread.
They don't want news headlines—they want bread.
They don't want emotionalism—they want bread.
They don't want formalism—they want bread.
They don't want intellectualism—they want bread.
They don't want dazzling words and phrases—they want bread.
They don't want crowd dynamics—they want bread.
They don't want more promises—they want bread.



When God Is First in Your Life

When God is first in your life, your attitude is different.
When God is first in your life, your choices are different.
When God is first in your life, you choose different tones when you say things.
When God is first in your life, your ideas about money are different.
When God is first in your life, your ideas about how to spend the weekend are different.
When God is first in your life, your ideas about family devotion are different.
When God is first in your life, your ideas about witnessing are different.
When God is first in your life, your ideas about prayer and Bible reading are different.
When God is first in your life, your ideas about raising children are different.
When God is first in your life, your ideas about sex are different.
When God is first in your life, your ideas about what goes in your mind are different.
When God is first in your life, your ideas about marriage are different.
When God is first in your life, your ideas about eternity are different.
When God is first in your life, your morals are different.
When God is first in your life, your values are different.
When God is first in your life, your priorities are different.
When God is first in your life, your choices change.
When God is first in your life, your relationships change.
When God is first in your life, the way you see the world changes.
When God is first in your life, the way you see the church changes.
When God is first in your life, the way you see yourself changes.



He's an On-Time God

What happens when we petition God first, but when He doesn't move in our time frame, we move on without His blessing or an answer?

God says . . .

I know you left Me out because you thought I was unfair.
I know you left Me out because you thought I wasn't going to show up on time.
I know you left Me out because you thought I didn't want to answer you.
I know you left Me out because you couldn't see what I was doing in the spirit realm.
I know you left Me out because you thought I forgot about your situation.

*There are two sides to reality and you can only see one side of it.
While you thought I wasn't moving, I was working in your favor.
I was doing something you couldn't see.*

I was subduing devils, hell's henchmen, who were assigned against your life.
I was showing you who your real friends were and who just said they were.
I was realigning your life for your next level of conquering.
I was putting new angels on your assignment.
I was getting some old relationships out of your life that were hurting you.
I was raising up a prayer covering over you, because your old one died out.
I was teaching you how to walk by faith and not by sight.
I was putting new resources in your life.
I was putting demons under your feet that used to have free access to your mind and emotions.
I was showing you who really pulled you out of that wreck.
I wanted you to see who really pulled you off that operating table.

The Enemy would have killed you if I had let him.
He would have ruined your reputation.
He would have stolen your marriage.
He would have taken your health.
He would have turned your kids against you.
He would have caused your family to quit trusting you.
He would have taken you down.

But I told him "No!"
All you heard was "wait," but what Satan heard was "No!"
All you heard was "wait," but your old buddies heard "Go!"
All you heard was "wait," but the demon of lust and greed heard "It's over."

While you were waiting, I was warring!



It All Starts With One Thing: Hearing the Voice of God

Unless we can hear His voice, we will not obey.
Unless we can hear His voice, we will not go.
Unless we can hear His voice, we will not give.
Unless we can hear His voice, we will not send.
Unless we can hear His voice, we will not speak.
Unless we can hear His voice, we will not know how to pray.
Unless we can hear His voice, we will not know what to say.
Unless we can hear His voice, we will not preach.
Unless we can hear His voice, we will not know how to write songs or books.
Unless we can hear His voice, we will just be floundering in a pool of doubt, not ever really knowing if we are fulfilling our highest purpose or pleasing the Lord.
All that we are, all that we can be, all that we should be depends upon the single fact that when God speaks, we know it is Him.



How Do I Know the Difference Between Satan's Voice and God's Voice?

Satan's voice sounds more like you than God's voice does because Satan plays on your carnal side, but God appeals to your spiritual side.

Satan can only use your fears, doubts and weaknesses to speak to you.
God uses faith, Scripture and purpose to speak to you.
Satan's voice sounds like a temporary solution.
God's voice has eternal value and destiny attached to it.
Satan's voice will always lead to the sins of *lust, pride and greed*.
God's voice leads to purpose, value and making a difference in the world.
Satan's voice will leave you in doubt.
God's voice will confirm His voice with His word.
Satan's voice will throw you a sales pitch.
God's voice will give you guidance and truth.
Satan tells you that if you do what he wants you to do, you will hear the applause of men.
God tells you that if you do what He wants you to do, you will hear Him say "well done."



Come to the Mountain

God says, "Come to the mountain."
Come to the mountain where things look better.
Come to the mountain where you can look down on your valley.
Come to the mountain where the voice of God is heard.
Come to the mountain where the air is fresh.
Come to the mountain where the eagles soar.
Come to the mountain where you can walk on "hind's feet" (see Habakkuk 3:19).
Come to the mountain where the glory is.
Come to the mountain for a dance with God.
Come to the mountain for a spiritual refreshing.
Come to the mountain for your meeting with God.
Come to the mountain for a better view.
Come to the mountain to gain a new perspective on your position.
Come to the mountain and leave the valley behind you.
Come to the mountain and rest a while.
Come to the mountain to be reassured that God is in charge.



Regardless of Your Past, You Are Saved

When you come to God and ask Him to forgive you of your sins, "old things are passed away"
(2 Corinthians 5:17, KJV).

You can be saved . . .

It doesn't matter if you came from an upstanding family or from a dysfunctional family.

It doesn't matter if you come from rags or riches.

It doesn't matter if you come from . . .

Alcoholism or academia

Drug addiction or the Dean's List

Prominent family or prostitution

Harvard or Harlem

New hope or no hope

Park Avenue or poverty
Society page or skid row
Shop at Galleria or Goodwill
CEO or the M-A-I-D
Politics or podunk
Classmate or inmate.

When you get saved, you are just as saved as the next person. There are no degrees of salvation. It doesn't matter if He blotted out one sin or one thousand sins—He still ended up with a blank page when it was over.
It doesn't matter if God had to forgive you for something big or little. Once He casts your sins into the sea of forgetfulness, there is no more condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.



The Veil Is Torn in Two

The veil has been torn in two . . .
We can now come boldly before the throne of grace.
We can approach the mercy seat without fear.
We can come into His presence with singing and do not have to stop at the outer court.
We can bring our petitions to Him without a mediator.
We can get forgiveness without offering the blood sacrifice.
We can be set free without a year of jubilee.
We can be purified without the ashes of the red heifer.
We can be saved without works.
We can die without going through purgatory.
We can be healed without the sacrifice of animals.
We can be clean without the days of purification.
We can talk to God without the help of a mediator.
We can come boldly into His presence.
We can be filled with the Holy Spirit.
The veil has been rent in two from the top to the bottom.



One Word Says It All

“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’ ”
(Galatians 5:14).

The Bible is made up of 66 books. Those 66 books were written by 40 different authors during a period of 1,500 years. The Bible was written on stone, papyrus, parchment, metal and animal skins. It was preserved supernaturally by the Holy Spirit, by angels and by individuals God raised up to keep the manuscripts safe. This book we call the Bible contains 1,188 chapters and a total of 773,746 words. It was written in three different languages, but not transcribed into a modern language until 800 years ago.

More than 6,000 years of human history have been recorded in its pages. It tells the story of kingdoms and of great kings. Its prophecies have accurately foretold the future of the human race hundreds of years in advance. It has been printed more than any book in history. It has been translated more than any book in history. It has been studied by the sages of the ages.

The Bible has been used for the swearing in of kings and presidents. It tells of some of the greatest battles, past and future, to ever be fought. It contains scientific formulas, the entire rudiments of the science of human behavior. It contains some of the greatest literature ever transcribed by man. But more than all of this, it is the Holy Writ of a living God who wrote down His thoughts so that man can know Him. Yet, in all of this, the whole matter can be summed up in one word.

One word can sum up the thoughts of the Omniscient God.
One word tells the story of the redemption of mankind.
One word relives the 6,000 years of man.
One word unveils the mysteries the sages searched a lifetime to learn.
One word unfolds the indescribable depths of grace.
One word reveals the unknown parameters of mercy.
One word conceals the secrets of the spirit world.
One word tells why you are saved.
One word tells why God didn't give up on you.
One word tells why God went to so much trouble to bring you the Bible.
One word tells why God bankrupted heaven of its glory, wrapped it in swaddling clothes and laid it in a manger.
One word tells you why Jesus bore the cat of nine tails until His royal back was riven.
One word tells why God laid down His entire eternal agenda to adopt the human race.
One word tells why God would give away all of His Creation, just to have a family.
One word tells why angels go to battle every day.
One word tells why God never sleeps.
One word tells why He will have to wipe the tears from every eye, including His own.
One word tells why Jesus laid down His life.
One word describes the thoughts of Jesus as He hung on Golgotha's Hill.
One word tells the story.
One word ends the argument.
One word describes the one power every element of the universe succumbs to.
One word, the strongest word, the loftiest word, the most powerful source that exists.
Not a word that a moon-struck boy says to a star-struck girl.
Not a word that is scratched ever so thoughtlessly onto an impulsive note of sentiment.
This word is full of strength, valor and honor.
It is a word that stands alone and is filled with poise, virtue and grandeur.
This word is propped up on one side with beauty and on the other with steel.
This word, this amorous word, this magnanimous word, is *love!*



Christianity Is the Good Life

When you become a Christian, it gives you the good life.

There is nothing like a Christian marriage.
There is nothing like a Christian home.
There is nothing like a Christian friend.
There is nothing like a Christian wedding.
There is nothing like Christian children.

There is nothing like Christian holidays.
There is nothing like Christian joy.
There is nothing like Christian peace.
There is nothing like Christian love.
There is nothing like being a Christian.
There is nothing like having a prayer partner.
There is nothing like taking your burdens to the Lord and leaving them there.
There is nothing like being baptized and knowing that old things are gone.
There is nothing like standing under the anointing.
There is nothing like knowing there is hope beyond the grave.
There is nothing like knowing God is ordering your steps with His Word.
There is nothing like having the joy of the Lord as your strength.
There is nothing like knowing you are part of an international family of brothers and sisters.
There is nothing like having your mind renewed by the Spirit.
There is nothing like experiencing the peace that passes all understanding.
There is nothing like finding joy unspeakable and full of glory.
There is nothing like paying your tithes and knowing that your resources come from heaven.
There is nothing like having God read your mail and send you a song, a sermon or a rhema.
There is nothing like living without guilt, shame and condemnation.
There is nothing like being knowing that God has a purpose and a will for your life.



Why Should I Go Back?

Second Timothy 4:9, 10 says, “Be diligent to come to me quickly; for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.”

Why should I go back when He gives me a song in the morning?
Why should I go back when He gives me strength for each new day?
Why should I go back when He gives me joy for the journey?
Why should I go back when He gives me peace in the midst of the storm?
Why should I go back when He gives me peace that passes understanding?
Why should I go back when He orders my steps with His Word?
Why should I go back when He is a friend who sticks closer than a brother?
Why should I go back when He gives purpose and meaning to life?
Why should I go back when He gives me love without condition?
Why should I go back when He gives me grace without measure?
Why should I go back when His mercy endures forever?
Why should I go back when He lifts me above my circumstances and gives me hope that this world doesn't know?
Why should I go back when He gives His angels charge over me?
Why should I go back when He gives me honor and favor with men?
Why should I go back when He opens doors no man can shut?
Why should I go back when He subdues devils under my feet?
Why should I go back when He is a fence all around me?
Why should I go back when He is a tower I can run to and be safe?
No, No, No! I'm not going back. I have decided to go all the way with Him.



God Is Making You Into Something

Jeremiah 18:4 says, “And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.”

God might not have called you for the one talent you see in yourself. That might not even be the one He uses.

When God anointed Gideon, He turned a baker into a warrior.

When God anointed Moses, He turned a shepherd into a national leader.

When God anointed Amos, He turned a farmer into a prophet.

When God anointed David, He turned a shepherd boy into a king.

When God anointed Nehemiah, He turned a cup-bearer into a city-builder.

When God anointed Peter, He turned a fisherman into an apostle.

When God anointed Paul, He turned a Christian-killer into an apostle.

When God anointed Joseph, He turned a prisoner into a prince.

When God anointed Simon, He turned a gang member into a disciple.

When God anointed D.L. Moody, He turned a shoe salesman into an evangelist.

When God anointed Charles Finney, He turned a lawyer into a preacher.



Worship Wars

Listen to some of the statements that have been made about the music of many churches.

1. *There are several reasons I oppose the music of our church. It is too new and too worldly. The new Christian music is not as pleasant as the old style. It puts too much emphasis on the music instead of the words. The new music creates disturbance and disorderly worship. The generation before got along without it.*

These words were voiced in 1723. It was the voice of the critics who opposed Isaac Watts, who produced the first hymnbook in the English language. The music style that preceded hymns was Psalms, which simply repeated the same one or two lines over and over to a tempo, but with little music.

2. *Get rid of that flute and trumpet, those instruments do not belong in the church. That is the music of pagans.* This quote was made in A.D. 200.
3. *Hymns to God with rhythm and marching, how worldly can it get?*
This is what the critics said to Ambrose of Milan, who is called the father of hymnology. He was the first to sing anything in church other than a psalm. This quote was made in A.D. 300.
4. *The congregation sings too much and stands too much. Soon the cantor will be out of a job.*
This quote was made in A.D. 500, when congregations started standing while they sang.
5. *Music solos by ordinary people, what a disgrace. I come to worship God, not a man.*
This is from A.D. 600.
6. In the 800s, church music was called *boring*.

7. *How arrogant for musicians to think their new songs are better than what we have sung for years.*
This quote comes from the 900s, when the first church choirs began to sing.
8. *Hymns that use rhyme? Surely worship should sound different than a school yard ditty.*
This comes from the 1100s when they started adding verses to the choruses.
9. *This complicated, chaotic confusion is going to ruin the church.*
This was what the critics corner said about the use of “harmony” in church music around the 1200s.
10. *It’s too loud and the music drowns out the words.*
This comes from the 1400s.
11. *They want us to sing in today’s language. Shouldn’t talking to God sound more special than that?*
King Henry VIII declared that all church music should be in English and that it could only be sung one syllable to each note. This was in the 1500s.
12. *OK, men on verse 2, ladies on verse 3 and the organ on verse 3.*
This controversial style of music was introduced in the 1600s.
13. *Our children will grow up confused, not respecting the Bible or anything else that is sacred.*
This is what the critics said about Charles Wesley’s hymns.
14. *These Christian quartets are on slippery slopes. Don’t they realize that the airwaves are the domain of Satan, the ruler of the kingdom of the air? How dare they bring barroom music into the church.*
These were quotes made in the 1900s about the new worldly music called “Southern Gospel.”



Grace and Mercy

Grace means “you do get what you don’t deserve.”

Mercy means “you don’t get what you do deserve.”

Mercy will pardon your past and Grace will give you a gift you didn’t even deserve.

When Mercy and Grace are at work, you will see . . .

Pimps become preachers.

Drug addicts become elders.

Adulterers become teachers.

Gossipers become soul winners.

Criminals become prison ministers.

Porn addicts become chaplains.

Street people become millionaires.

Thieves become top givers.

Embezzlers become evangelists.

Foul-mouthed, cursing brawlers become prophets.

Wife-beaters become marriage counselors.

Men who abandoned families will lead boys’ clubs.

God doesn't just want to save you, He wants to raise you up to sit in heavenly places. That's grace!



Five Is the Number of Grace

How can you prove that five is the number of grace?

1. In five days of Creation, God had completed everything that man was to live in and, on the sixth day, He brought man into the picture, whereby man did no labor, but received it all by the gratuity of God. God said, "I'm going to bring you into something you have never had to work for."

2. The first five books, the Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) contain the Law, which was the foreshadow of grace.

3. The priesthood began with five priests: Aaron and his four sons, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. "Bring Aaron and his four sons to Me that they may minister to Me in the priesthood" (see Exodus 28:1).

4. At the Pool of Siloam, there were five porches where the sick would wait to be healed, and when the angel troubled the water, one would get in and be healed. It was the grace of God.

5. Five for ministry. God said He was going to perfect the saints through apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

6. There are five pints of blood in our body, and Christ's body gave up every drop that we might be redeemed.

7. There are five fingers in the mighty hand of God.

8. Whenever the Enemy comes against you and talks about your past and tries to bring up what you used to be, stand in his face and say, 1-2-3-4-5.



No Substitutions for the Word

There are no substitutions for the Word in your life.

Your favorite Christian magazine cannot substitute for the Word.

Your favorite CD cannot substitute for the Word.

Your favorite TV evangelist cannot substitute for the Word.

Your favorite singing group cannot substitute for the Word.

Your favorite book cannot substitute for the Word.

Your favorite devotional cannot substitute for the Word.

Your favorite video cannot substitute for the Word.

Your favorite prayer cannot substitute for the Word.

Your favorite novel cannot substitute for the Word.

Your favorite praise and worship tape cannot substitute for the Word.

Your favorite book of inspirational poetry cannot substitute for the Word.

Your favorite Christian comedian cannot substitute for the Word.

Your favorite drama cannot substitute for the Word.

Your favorite skit and mime cannot substitute for the Word.

Your conversation with a friend cannot substitute for the Word.

Your preacher cannot substitute for the Word.

Your spouse's praying cannot substitute for the Word.

Your prayer life cannot substitute for the Word.

Your *Sunday School Commentary* cannot substitute for the Word.

You need the Word. It is the seed of God in your life that allows you to grow.