

Three Keys For Success



In The Christian's Life

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Table of Contents

Why This Subject	3
Key 1 — The Lordship of Jesus Christ.....	12
Key 2 — Hearing / Recognizing God's Voice and The Ways He Speaks	32
Key 3 — Sharing Your Christian Faith	52
Credits and References	85
Bible Translations Used	87
Suggested Reading	88
About the Author	90
This Booklet Covers These Questions / Topics	Back of Cover

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Why This Subject?

After graduating from Melodyland School of Theology with a bachelor's degree, I went back to working for my father in rental housing and ranch maintenance. Six years before that I had finished Miracle Valley Bible College with a 95.3 GPA for the two years condensed into one ministerial program. For practical on the job training, I was supposed to get a field work assignment with an established ministry, but that was delayed for about six months. I thought it was because I was the only student with a beard, making ministers suspicious of me. After working with my Dad, night after night I would go for a walk in the mountains, crying out to God as to why I had not gotten an assignment.

One day a personal letter arrived from the head of the organization, Don Stewart, who had taken over from the late great Evangelist A.A. Allen. He said the Lord woke him in the night and would not let him go back to sleep until he prayed for me. He wanted to know what was going on. I didn't write back, but got a call from the Miracle Valley staff who assigned me to a seasoned evangelist, Raymond Boswell, in Warner Robins, Georgia. When he and I drove up to his home from the Atlanta airport, a elderly woman came out and told me that she had been given an apparently agonizing burden from God to pray for me. I felt sorry for her and asked if there were anything I could do to help. She implied or straight out told me that the burden was for me to learn to "get out of my head and into my heart". My key to success would not be my abilities, but His ability working through my availability and cooperation with the step by step leading of God the Holy Spirit living within me.

In a meeting at the evangelist's home, he told the others, regarding me, "If there were ever a young man who wanted to be used by God more than anything else in the whole world, this is that young man." In the first week of the first Bible college God had, surprisingly, used me as His instrument to grow out a short leg of two

students. Now I was with a seasoned minister who had prophetic dreams, and even a vision where I heard him talking to God after he had been overcome ("slain in the Spirit") by the Holy Spirit and fallen against the hallway wall. He was having a two way conversation, but, in the physical realm, he wasn't all there!

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, **I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last:...** And I turned to see the voice that spake with me... And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. – Revelation 1:10,12,17 KJV

I was transferred for three weeks to Perry, Georgia to help a Spirit filled pastor and wife leading a rural Baptist church. From there I lived for months in rural Macon, Georgia with Richard, a 21 year old union plumber working at the family convenience store. His mother, Doris was a seasoned prayer warrior. Richard, praying a lot in the backwoods, was on his way to becoming a church pastor with his future wife. One day I told him I was feeling down and as we sat by the garden in prayer, the gift of prophesy came on him and for about four hours he talked to me by the inspiration of the Lord as if it were Jesus Himself talking! I was told of a glorious future ahead, when I was older. Other *words from God*, through other prophetic men and women came after that, even bringing me to tears.

God had plans to use me for His glory, but I wasn't ready yet. Back working for my father, The Lord gave me words from a personally significant song from the Maranatha singers¹: "[We must wait](#)¹, wait, wait on the Lord...If we learn our lessons well, in His timing He will tell us, what to do, where to go, what to say." God had been speaking to me, but I was not tuned in. In addition, because of an overbearing scientific father, I had made a subconscious decision not to grow up. This had opened the door to a demonic spirit named *introvert*. After the Navy, I connected with a couple I called my *spiritual parents*. On my first visit to their apartment, Frances prayed for me for twelve hours, seeing into the spiritual realm and breaking evil forces trying to hold me back. On one occasion, I developed a stomach ache after a mutual meal that hadn't bothered them at all. I was determined to get to the underlying cause. In two night's time, the Lord gave me the names of 100 demons I renounced. Their names were all, evil, all in

the dictionary, and not in my normal vocabulary. A couple examples are, *persnickety, taciturn, and evil concupiscence*.

The journey to becoming a successful Christian minister had begun. At one low point in life, the Lord gave me a new mentor or *spiritual father*. In my depressed state after breaking up with a girl who would not marry me because I had no successful career job, or paid ministry position, I was praying over another student of the prophet, and I prophesied. Afterward, the man told me he could, physically, not move while I had been praying. Then, under a strong anointing, the Man of God turned to me and said, "Thus saith the Lord, I will make a successful preacher out of you!"

"Why sit we here until we die?"

In the Book of Second Kings in the Bible (6:24 - 7:20), Samaria, the capital city of the northern kingdom of Israel, was shut up pending an attack by a Syrian army. People were starving, even to the point of cannibalism. Elijah the prophet was summoned by the king. The man of God told the city administrator that the next day, he would see food being sold at the entry gate to the city, but he would not be a recipient of the blessing because he made a statement to the effect that the fulfillment of such a prophecy would be impossible. In order to bring the word of God to pass, God needed key people to do something. Thus this statement by four lepers outside the city. They were also without food. Going into the city would not feed them, so they decided to go to the enemy camp in search of food, even if it meant risking death. They found the enemy camp had been quickly, deserted, with plenty of food left behind. The lepers told the city officials, who gathered the food to feed the city, ending the famine, and bringing to pass the word of God through the prophet the day before.

We have a part to play in fulfilling God's pre-recorded plan for our individual lives (see Psalm 139:1-18). We may think we are waiting for God to move on our behalf, when He is really waiting on us to start cooperating with Him and do something. It has been said that "God cannot steer a parked car." In the 1970s I went to the annual Charismatic Clinic at [Melodyland Christian Center](#). Televangelist [T.L. Osborn](#) was speaking on our part to play in fulfilling Jesus' *Great*

Commission to go into all the world and preach the good news to every creature.

Mark 16:15 KJV - And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

"Just what part of the word *go* do you not understand?", Osborn had asked us.

Stepping Out — Doing My Part

In 1981 I was working for my father again, and doing gospel tract (evangelism literature) printing for other ministries on a table top offset duplicator in a sheet metal building. My first *spiritual father* asked another minister to pray about me. The man replied, "If that young man doesn't get busy and start doing what God has called him to do, the Lord says he is going to find someone else!"

That made me angry. I got some tracts together and put them in a shoulder bag, and headed out to the city streets. Gaining some confidence, I started talking to individuals about the Lord. Little Auggie, a short prophet told me twice I had to connect to a local church or miss the next great move of God in my life. I did, and found another young man, Donnie, to go with me on the streets, and pass out tracts at local parades.

I heard that Donnie was leading a Bible study in a home, so I decided to check it out. When I arrived, I heard my helper ask the people, "What do you say, next meeting, we launch out into a study of the Book of Revelation?"

"Oh, no!" I thought to myself. About 1978, even though the Lord had warned me the night before not to bring it up, I had confronted a known Evangelist I had worked with about his view of a particular *endtime prophecy* event (the [Time of Jacob's Trouble?](#)). A disagreement had started; he said I was in deception, and he could not work with someone like that. I was asked to give the keys to his print shop back, and I was gone for months, something the Lord never wanted.

I had started recognizing (tuning in to) the inner knowing of the Lord beginning about 1975. I immediately asked, "Lord, what would You have Christians in a group like this to learn?" I got an immediate answer of three topics or subjects:

1. The Lordship of Jesus Christ
2. Hearing / recognizing the voice of God or leading of the Holy Spirit.
3. How to share one's Christian faith.

I asked Frances, my *spiritual mother*, if this had been God speaking to me and she confirmed that it was. This booklet is an attempt to cover these things. It is my belief, that if we learn these three keys, our Christian lives will be pleasing to the Lord, and we will be blessed beyond our expectations. As a start, let's take a look at the question,

"Does God care about me as an individual?"

My earthy father was a research scientist, inventor and evolutionist. His agnostic view was that, If there is a God in charge, He is too busy dealing with major world problems to have time for me and my needs like getting my next tank of gas for my car. What Dad didn't know is that Psalm 139 (Living Bible) tells some amazing things about how God views each of us, individually.

O Lord, You have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit or stand. When far away You know my every thought. You chart the path ahead of me, and tell me where to stop and rest. Every moment You know where I am. You know what I am going to say before I even say it. You both precede and follow me, and place your hand of blessing on my head.

This is too glorious, too wonderful to believe! I can *never* be lost to your Spirit. I can *never* get away from my God!" — verses 1-7

If I ride the morning winds to the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, your strength will support me. — verses 9-10

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body, and knit them together in my mother's womb...You were there when I was being

formed in utter seclusion! You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your Book! — verses 13-16

How precious it is, Lord, to realize that you are thinking about me constantly! I can't even count how many times a day your thoughts turn towards me. And when I waken in the morning, you are still thinking of me! — verses 17-18

Psalms 107:4-9 in the Living Bible tells about the return of Jewish exiles (God's chosen people) to their homeland:

They were wandering homeless in the desert, hungry, and thirsty, and faint. "Lord, Help!" they cried, and he did! He led them straight to safety and a place to live. Oh that these men would praise the Lord for his lovingkindness, and for all of his wonderful deeds! For he satisfies the thirsty soul and fills the hungry soul with good.

For the eyes of the Lord are intently watching over all who live good lives, and he gives attention when they cry to him...The good man does not escape all troubles—he has them too. But the Lord helps him in each and every one. God even protects him from accidents. — Psalm 34:15-17,19-20 TLB

In the New Testament of the Bible, in the Amplified Translation, the Apostle Peter, one of Jesus' first disciples, tells us to give our concerns to the Lord because He cares more than we could imagine.

Casting the whole of your care [*all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all*] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully. [*Ps. 55:22.*]

— 1 Peter 5:7

I want to close this topic by sharing an experience when I was almost down and out in Hollywood, CA. After getting my Bachelor of Theology degree, I agreed to work on commission as a phone salesman for a Messianic Jewish photographer who, evidently, wasn't getting enough business to sustain the dance studio he was renting. I don't remember getting paid, but I learned about photography. It was 1980 and there was a penny shortage. I had been reading a book on

prayer by Dr Cho, pastor of the largest church in the world in Seoul, Korea. I knew I would be needing food, so I decided to offer a specific prayer for a few of the three billion pennies that supermarkets were looking for. I stated my case (Psalm 119:154 NLT), putting God in remembrance of His promises to care for me as one of his beloved children (Galatians 3:26); and, I asked in faith, believing I received the answer at the time I prayed according to Mark 11:24 in the Bible. Without feeling, I thanked the Lord for hearing and answering my prayer as He had promised in His Word the Bible He would. I had prayed silently. Within two minutes, my boss walked up to the secretary's desk from his office separated by an accordion door, and said he felt he was supposed to give me the 70mm metal film can he was holding in his hand. It was heavy. When I removed the lid, behold, it was half full of only pennies he had, unknown to me, been saving in his desk drawer. God is good!

What is Success?

Years ago I went to downtown Los Angeles to do street witnessing. I met a young Messianic Jewish man from Jerusalem, Israel named Joshua. He told me that Christians in America have a wrong concept of Prosperity. He said the Hebrew viewpoint is to succeed at what one is doing. I looked up the Hebrew word for *Prosper* in W.E. Vines *Dictionary of Old Testament Words*.²

tsaleach (H6743), "to succeed, prosper." This word is found in both ancient and modern Hebrew. Occurring some 65 times in the text of the Hebrew Old Testament, the word is first found in Gen 24:21 : "...whether the Lord had made his journey prosperous [literally, "to prosper"] or not." This word generally expresses the idea of a successful venture, as contrasted with failure. The source of such success is God: "...as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper" (2Ch 26:5). In spite of that, the circumstances of life often raise the question, "Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper?" (Jer 12:1).

In this booklet that has the word *Success* in the title, my emphasis is that, when Jesus is in charge of our lives, and we are tuned into Him, following the divine guidance or leading of God the Holy Spirit living within us, God's blessing or anointing is on us, and our endeavors

succeed more than if we don't involve the Lord. Years ago, at the Omega center in the city of Orange, CA, the former Satanist, Mike Warnke was a guest speaker. He said he told the Lord, "I am doing your will, but things aren't going so well." He said the Lord replied with, "No you're not! You're doing your will in my name." "So what's the difference?", Warnke asked. The answer, "Results". **Perhaps we are praying, "Lord, bless my plan!" when we should be asking, "Lord, what is the plan?"**

Here are a couple of supporting Bible verses:

1. The Lord to Joshua, Moses' successor:

Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. This is My command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:7-9 NLT

2. Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do. For the LORD watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction. – Psalm 1:1-3,6 NLT

3. Wash yourselves and be clean! Get your sins out of My sight. Give up your evil ways. Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. "Come now, let's settle this," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool. If you will only obey Me, you will have plenty to eat. But if you turn away and refuse to listen, you will be devoured by the sword of your enemies. I, the LORD, have spoken!" – Isaiah 1:16-20 NLT

4. And we will receive from Him whatever we ask because we obey Him and do the things that please Him. – 1 John 3:22 NLT

5. Regarding King Uzziah: "As long as the king sought guidance from the Lord, God gave him success." – 2 Chronicles 26:5 NLT

Lesson learned: In wanting to be successful, there is no magic formula for using God as a means of getting ahead in life; and, that should never be our motivation. Matthew 6:33 says "all these things shall be added" when we "seek first the kingdom of God". In one of Jesus' parables (Matthew 13:44), a man finds hidden treasure buried in a field. In order to dig the treasure out, the man had to first, "sell all and buy the field." Success comes when our lives are *sold out* to Jesus Christ.

Who is a Christian?

W.E. Vine² states this is the Greek word transliterated Christianos. It signified an adherent of Jesus. His followers didn't seem to adopt it for themselves in the times of the first Apostles. It was a word applied to Jesus' follower by non Jewish Gentiles, and was considered a derogatory term. "From the second century onward the term was accepted by believers as a title of honor."

The word *adherent* is defined by the Merriam / Webster online dictionary³ as: 1 : "to give support :maintain loyalty 2 : to stick fast :CLING

Have you contemplated this question?

"If you were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"

Key 1

The Lordship of Jesus Christ

The Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans tells us that, in order to be saved or become a child of God, one must confess with his mouth that Jesus Christ is his personal Lord and Savior, along with believing that God raised Jesus from the dead (10:9-10). The Greek word for Jesus is Savior. The word Lord, is transliterated *Kurios*. It comes from the word *kuros* meaning supremacy; supreme in authority, that is, (as a noun) *controller; by implication Mr.* (as a respectful title): - God, Lord, master, Sir.⁴

The W.E. Vine *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*² adds:

1. "from the outset of His ministry this was a common form of address to the Lord Jesus, alike by people, Mat 8:2; John 4:11, and by His disciples, Mat 8:25, Luke 5:8; John 6:68"
2. The Greek translation of the Old Testament, the Septuagint, and the New Testament use the word to represent the Hebrew word Jehovah used in the Old Testament of the Bible ('LORD' in English versions. See Mat 4:7; James 5:11
3. Jesus Christ Himself assumed the title, Mat 7:21, Mat 7:22; Mat 9:38; Mat 22:41-45; Mark 5:19
4. When Thomas, a disciple of Jesus, was invited to put his hands into the wounds of the resurrected Jesus, he exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).
5. After Thomas' declaration, except for Acts 10:4 and Revelation 7:14, "there is no record that *kurios* was ever again used by believers in addressing any save God and the Lord Jesus." The lower meaning had been suspended.
6. The word *kurios* is used interchangeably for God and Lord Jesus. For example, the Apostle Peter, in his first sermon after Jesus'

resurrection from the dead, said, "God hath made Him (i.e., Jesus) — Lord' (Acts 2:36). At Cornelius' household, Peter says, about Jesus, "He is Lord of all". The writer Jude, in verse 4 speaks of "our only Lord, Jesus Christ", then, in the next verse (5), uses "Lord" of God. The Apostle Paul also uses the word *kurios* of the Lord Jesus (e.g., 1 Corinthians 1:3), but also for God when he quotes the Old Testament (e.g., 1 Corinthians 3:20).

7. "The full significance of this association of Jesus with God under one appellation 'Lord,' is seen when it is remembered that these men belonged to the only monotheistic race in the world. To associate with the Creator one known to be a creature, however exalted, though possible to Pagan philosophers, was quite impossible to a Jew."

In the *New World Translation* of the New Testament, used by the Jehovah's Witnesses, it states in Revelation 1:18 that Jesus Christ calls Himself the Almighty, the Alpha and Omega (first and last letters of the Greek alphabet), then says He died, but is now alive forevermore. In the last chapter, New Living translation, Jesus again states:

"I am the A and the Z, the Beginning and the End, the First and Last....He who has said all these things declares: Yes, I am coming soon! — Revelation 22:13,20. If there is any doubt as to who is speaking, the Apostle John who is listening closes with "Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!"

The Bible states that, sooner or later, every person, dead or alive, will confess or acknowledge that Jesus is the Man in charge of our world.

Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, **God elevated Him to the place of highest honor and gave Him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should**

bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

– Philipians 2:6-11 NLT

Romans 10:9-10 tells us that if we, individually, here and now, sincerely confess out loud with our mouths, that Jesus is our Lord and Master, and that God raised him from the dead, we become a ***born again* (born from above) child of God**. Galatians 3:26 states "We are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ." John 1:12-13 in the Living Bible tells us:

But to all who received him, he gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust him to save them. All those who believe this are reborn!—not a physical rebirth resulting from human passion or plan—but from the will of God.

The Amplified Translation of John 5:24 adds that we are given eternal life (eternity with God), and that this new life, on a spiritual plane, begins right away!

I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, the person whose ears are open to My words [*who listens to My message*] and believes and trusts in and clings to and relies on Him Who sent Me has (possesses now) eternal life. And he does not come into judgment [*does not incur sentence of judgment, will not come under condemnation*], but he has already passed over out of death into life. – John 5:24 AMP

The Apostle Paul tells us that **God takes our sins that separated us from God and places them on Jesus on the cross as a perfect substitute sacrifice. Then, in exchange He puts Jesus' goodness in us, and we are declared to be *righteous* (in right standing with God), qualified for heaven.**

And God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favor and be reconciled to him. For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting them out. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others. We are Christ's ambassadors. God is using us to speak to you: we beg you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, receive the love he offers you—be reconciled to God. For God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness into us. As God's partners we

beg you not to toss aside this marvelous message of God's great kindness. For God says, **'Your cry came to me at a favorable time, when the doors of welcome were wide open. I helped you on a day when salvation was being offered.'** Right now God is ready to welcome you. Today he is ready to save you.

– 2 Corinthians 5:18b-6: 2 TLB

We have a *window of opportunity* to get right with God by asking Jesus into our hearts as Savior and Lord, asking Him to write our names in His RSVP (reservation for heaven) Book of Life. If we die without Jesus, or let this opportunity pass, we will someday face Jesus as our judge, and have to pay the consequences of our disobedience or sins ourselves, even though we, then, are forced to acknowledge Him as Lord. The difference then will be no salvation, no heaven, but a conscious eternity of separation from God. (Revelation 20:10)

Rev 20:11-15 NLT – And I saw a great white throne and the One sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from His presence, but they found no place to hide. I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

There is another benefit of making Jesus your Lord **now**. The Bible tells us that when we call on the highest power, Jesus, as Lord, we are renouncing the connection we all had to Satan, the "god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4). Writing to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul states that, without Jesus in charge of our lives, unknowingly, we are *dead* in a spiritual sense, cut off from God, and linked to the devil for time and eternity.

Ephesians 2:1-10 NLT - Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very

nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For He raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of His grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all He has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. **Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.** For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.

Jesus told the very religious leaders of His day:

John 8:42-44 NLT – "If God were your Father, you would love Me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on My own, but He sent Me. Why can't you understand what I am saying? It's because you can't even hear Me! For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does."

The Country and Western song writer, [Bob Dylan](#), acknowledged Jesus as his Messiah or Lord. In [Gotta Serve Somebody](#), he wrote:

"But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes you are
You're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody."

In his letter to the Colossians, the Apostle Paul tells us a divine transfer from one kingdom to the other occurs when we call out to Jesus to become the reigning Lord or King in our lives.

Colossians 1:12-14,22 NLT – ...always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to His people, who live in the light. **For He has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His dear Son, who purchased our freedom [with His blood] and forgave our sins.**

He has reconciled you to Himself through the death of Christ in His physical body. As a result, He has brought you into His own presence,

and you are holy and blameless as you stand before Him without a single fault.

Heaven or Hell – Your Chosen Master Determines Your Destination

In the early 1900s, a revival broke out in the Adullam orphan home in China. After becoming Christians and being filled with the Holy Spirit, the children could see into the spiritual world around us. They visited both Heaven and Hell. They saw two eternal destinations for every man and woman. The outcome was determined by what they did with Jesus Christ, whether they made Him their Lord and Savior and dedicated themselves to serve and obey Him; or, whether they rejected Jesus, continued in sin, and on a downward path. In the book [*Visions Beyond the Veil*](#)⁵, the rescue home leader, H.A. Baker records what the children saw when a person dies.

One Boy Was Given a Vision of *The Death of a Christian*:

As relatives and friends gathered about the dying one an angel stood by the bed, awaiting the liberating of the Christian's soul. When the man was set free from his bodily encumbrance, the angel took him by the arm and ascended with him into heaven. The principalities and powers of evil hosts in mid-heaven in their attempts to hinder the passage of the angel and his charge were overcome by the angel's faith and praise as the ascent continued toward the heavenly city. Having been welcomed at the gate, this new arrival was received by hosts of angels, singing, dancing, rejoicing, all uniting in giving him a royal welcome into the eternal city of the redeemed.

Without Jesus:

When one man who did not know the Gospel died, his soul, after being liberated from the body, wandered about unhindered from place to place on earth, until one of the devil's angels, descending from the sky with chains, bound him and forced him down to hell.

The Professing Christian - A person not sticking with Jesus and following on to really know Him (Hosea 6:3 NLT), refusing to *repent* and change his or her sinful behavior.

The death of a professing Christian who had known the Lord, but had not truly repented, was still more terrible. When this man was dying, demons by his death bed waited in fiendish delight for the liberation of the soul of this hypocritical, one-time professing Christian. The demons began to bind him before he was entirely out of the body and completed the binding of their captive the minute he drew his last ungodly breath. The hypocrite did not enjoy one moment of freedom to wander about the earth. An object of ridicule to his demon captors, in terror he was at once dragged and pushed into hell.

Oh, that we might know the LORD! Let us press on to know Him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring." – Hosea 6:3 NLT

And My righteous ones will live by faith. But I will take no pleasure in anyone who turns away." But we are not like those who turn away from God to their own destruction. We are the faithful ones, whose souls will be saved. – Hebrews 10:38-39 NLT

The Bottom Line

The summation of the above listed verse is that our eternal destination of Heaven or Hell is, according to 1 John 5:11-13 NLT, determined by the location of Jesus in relation to us as an individual in need of God. In personal evangelism, I ask new people I meet these two questions. First, "Where is Jesus Christ in *your* life - on the inside or just on the outside?" Second, " If you don't know, will you pray with me right now and get Him in?

"And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life."

We Learn to put Jesus First, then give Him Time to Bless Us

About 1981, I left my Christian friends in the Southern California area, to go back to working for my Dad in ranch maintenance. I received a mysterious letter. It had a Marina Del Rey post mark. I suspect it came from Wanda, the wife of the photographer I had been working with. Wanda had a close up vision of the face of Jesus. I

realize now that it must have hurt my friends when I moved and didn't stay in touch. Now I hurt, wishing I hadn't done that. The letter contained only this Bible verse:

Another said, "Yes, Lord, I will follow You, but first let me say good-bye to my family." But Jesus told him, "**Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.**"

– Luke 9:61-62 NLT

Jesus is saying that we have to love Him more than we love our relatives.

"If you love your father or mother more than you love Me, you are not worthy of being Mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than Me, you are not worthy of being Mine. – Matthew 10:37 NLT

After the School of Theology, and other schooling to get a Bachelor of Theology Degree, I didn't know what to do next. When I told my spiritual father I had decided to move back with my parents, Frank said, "I'm sorry to hear that. It might set you back ten years in the ministry." Apparently I had disobeyed God and made a wrong decision. God had mercy on me, and, over time, I still developed a ministry in the city of Santa Barbara I had returned to. Like with Moses, accomplishing all God had pre-recorded for us to do (Psalm 139) can take many years. Let's be faithful and patient.

...you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance. – Hebrews 6:12b NLT

The Maranatha Singers have a relevant song [*In His Time*](#)¹. "He makes all things beautiful, in His time." Here are a few more Bible passages on Jesus' desire to be first place in our lives:

"So why do you keep calling Me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say? I will show you what it's like when someone comes to Me, listens to My teaching, and then follows it. It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins."

– Luke 6:46-49 NLT

"You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it. "Not everyone who calls out to Me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of My Father in heaven will enter. On judgment day many will say to Me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in Your name and cast out demons in Your name and performed many miracles in Your name.' But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from Me, you who break God's laws.'" – Mathew 7:13-14, 21-23 NLT

Then He [Jesus] said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be My follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow Me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for My sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?" – Luke 9:23-25 NLT

A modern song writer penned this phrase about Jesus: "If He's not Lord of everything, then He's not Lord at all." On the other hand, when we become a child of God, the song [*I must tell Jesus*](#) states: "He ever loves and cares for His own." The following Bible verse implies that Jesus is jealously watching out for us:

The Spirit Whom He has caused to dwell in us yearns over us and He yearns for the Spirit [*to be welcome*] with a jealous love. [*Jer. 3:14; Hos. 2:19ff.*] – James 4:5b AMP

So [*Recognize that you are*] sinners, get your soiled hands clean; [*realize that you have been disloyal*] wavering individuals with divided interests, and purify your hearts [*of your spiritual adultery*]. [*As you draw near to God*] be deeply penitent and grieve, even weep [*over your disloyalty*]. Let your laughter be turned to grief and your mirth to dejection and heartfelt shame [*for your sins*]. Humble yourselves [*feeling very insignificant*] in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you [*He will lift you up and make your lives significant*].

– James 4:7-10 AMP

I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference. – Revelation 3:19 NLT

Who's in Charge Here?

In the summer of 1982 I arranged for the Christian Latin American band group Aisha (meaning *life* in the Swahili language), to do an evangelistic concert at the beach after the Fiesta Parade. My permit for the event was pending with the police department. After about two hours, a police officer showed up, and, to cut to the chase about what was going on, asked, "Who is in charge here?" This question regarding who is the governing authority or administrator over our actions, is important on an earthly and a spiritual level.

Jimmy, My college roommate for a ministerial degree, had the biggest set of frog like thighs / legs I had ever seen, and he had a first degree black belt in Judo. He said he had torn up a bar. He had been a chief gunnery sergeant in the Army and been in combat in Viet Nam. He had asked Jesus into his heart, and been healed of Hodgkin's disease. He told me he was with a noted Christian Archeologist on a river bank when the Lord picked him up, threw him down on his back and held him down for five minutes to show him who would be the Boss, the one in charge of his life, now that he had become a Christian.

I watched the first *Star Wars* movie when it came out. For me it was a kind of spiritual experience, an analogy of how success comes from having a central command with the helpers tuned in and working in harmony and unity. The leading influence was called the *Force*. One star fighter volunteered his spacecraft to aid Luke Skywalker and the good guys. He meant well, but he had not yet learned to follow the invisible leader, and his part to play was not really helping the team or the cause. I identified with this man's struggle, and I was in tears.

Instant Obedience - "Yes Lord"; "But Lord!"

For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. – Isaiah 55:8-9 KJV

Mel Tari from Indonesia, author of the book [*Like a Mighty Wind*](#)⁶, came to Melodyland School of Theology where I was a student, to speak on the topic *Instant Obedience*. In a supernatural revival in the

1960's in his country, the Lord send out evangelism teams to surrounding villages. There was a strong emphasis on following the team leader and the direction of the Lord. In our Christian walk we learn that, on occasion the Lord asks us to do things that don't make sense to our natural minds, so we have to walk by faith and do what He tells us, trusting He knows what He is doing because He is all powerful, sees the whole picture and end result; and we don't. In one story in Mel's book, the Holy Spirit told a team to go to a certain village, but it meant crossing the largest river in the country. There were no boats, and it was flood season. To swim across was out of the question.

"The team stopped at the edge of the river and prayed, 'Lord, what must we do?'...The Lord said to them, 'You cross the river.'"

One team member figured that if God had told them to get there, and it meant crossing the river, he would risk his life, take a literal step of faith and proceed to try and go across. He put his foot down and the water didn't go above his knee. He could feel ground under his feet. He walked half way across, then invited the others to come with him. They all crossed safely to fulfill their miracle mission at the village. When the non team bystanders put one foot in the water, they almost drowned! The Lord gave the team this Bible verse:

When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee... – Isaiah 43:2a KJV

In the Book of Acts, persecution of Christians was prevalent. One zealous man, Saul, was on an official journey to Damascus in Syria to find and arrest believers in Jesus and take them back to Jerusalem to stand trial. On the way there, Jesus appeared to Saul, knocking him off his horse, blinding him, and speaking to him in an audible voice. Paul came to Jesus, but was still blind. Having arrived in Damascus with the help of the other men riding with him, he wondered what to do next. Then the Lord, in a vision, spoke to Ananias, a disciple of Jesus, calling him by name.

"Ananias!" **"Yes, Lord!"** he replied.

The Lord said, **"Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to Me right now."**

I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again."

"**But Lord,**" exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon Your name."

But the Lord said, "**Go, for Saul is My chosen instrument to take My message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel.**"

And I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."

So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized.

– Acts 9:10b-18 NLT

In the Old Testament, The prophet Samuel, speaking by the Lord, had told King Saul not to start fighting a battle until he arrived to do a sacrifice. Samuel got delayed and Saul got nervous, and acted out of turn as if he were a priest, making the sacrifice himself. He lost his position as king because of this, and became intensely angry and was tormented by an evil spirit as he tried to kill his God appointed successor, David. When Samuel arrived, he told Saul this valuable lesson for all of us.

But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to His voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams. Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the LORD, He has rejected you as king."

– 1 Samuel 15:22-23 NLT

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy. – Proverbs 28:13 KJV

At one point in my life, when I was being stubborn, rebellious, and in denial about issues the Lord was trying to expose and root out of my life, my spiritual parents surprised me by saying, "We're sorry to hear you have been practicing witchcraft!"

Our Prayer

"Lord, in Jesus' name I ask that you search my heart, purging me from my rebellion, making me yielded and instant in obedience to You, even when Your way doesn't make sense, or requires a personal sacrifice on my part. You are in charge of my life. You, my Heavenly Father, know what's best. You have everything under control, and are working all things after the counsel of your will, and together for my good, in Jesus' name, Amen."

Rescue me from my rebellion.— Psalm 39:8 NLT

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.

— Psalm 51:10 NLT

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends You, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. — Psalm 139:23-24 NLT

How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. Keep Your servant from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to You, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

— Psalm 19:12-14 NLT

Jesus our only God Appointed Way to Eternal Life

Jesus said He is God's only provision, gateway, or door for getting right with God, to gain heaven, and escape hell.

But He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on Him the sins of us all.

— Isaiah 53:5-6 TLB

"Come now, let's settle this," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool." — Isaiah 1:18 NLT

John 14:6 NLT — Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me."

Jesus told His disciple Peter, "**Unless I wash you, you won't belong to Me.**" — John 13:8b NLT. Peter later preached, "There is salvation in no

one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved." – Acts 4:12 NLT

Lord, Liar, or Lunatic?

The obvious conclusion here is that we must see Jesus as more than just a human being. We must get connected to Him for eternal life, and to get Satan off our backs. In his book [*Mere Christianity*](#), the Cambridge University professor, agnostic turned believer in Jesus, C.S. Lewis wrote:⁷

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

Your Personal Response

The late Chuck Smith, founder of the Calvary Chapel group of churches, was asked by a non Christian man why God had allowed him to suffer loss or hardship in his family. Smith replied, "Are you one of God's Children, that He should care for You?"

The immediate step we must each make to be a recipient of God's earthly and eternal blessings and care, is to pray what I call [*The World's Most Important Prayer*](#), whereby we confess our sins, repent of our sins, and give our lives to God, by an out loud confession with our mouths that, from this point forward, Jesus is our Lord and Savior, we belong to Him, and He makes us a part of the family of God.

For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

– Galatians 3:26 NLT

If you haven't yet done so, please pray, out loud, and from your heart:

Dear Jesus, Come into my heart, Forgive all my sins, Wash me in Your blood, Write my name in the Book of Life. Fill me with the Holy Spirit, so I can serve and obey You. In Jesus' name, Amen, so be it!

Your assurance that God has answered you, rests with His ability to keep His word. Here are a few Bible (Word of God) promises:

For you answer our prayers. All of us must come to you. Though we are overwhelmed by our sins, you forgive them all.

– Psalm 65:2a-3 NLT

Jesus said, in Revelation 3:20 NLT, that He has been standing at our heart's door, wanting into our lives. He said that, when we open the door, "**I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.**"

I will never reject them. - John 6:37 NLT

And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those He has given Me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. For it is My Father's will that all who see His Son and believe in Him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day."

– John 6:39-40 NLT

And this is the promise that he hath promised us, *even* eternal life.

– 1 John 2:25 KJV

Welcome to the Family of God!

Chorus to a [song by Bill Gaither](#)⁸

I'm so glad I'm a part
Of the family of God
I've been washed in the fountain
Cleansed by His blood
Joint heirs with Jesus
As we travel this sod
For I'm part of the family
The family of God.

Put Jesus in the Driver's Seat

While in the Navy in Long Beach, CA, a fellow Christian sailor introduced me to a group of 90+ churches under a modern day Apostle. I saw two of the main churches operating in total harmony

along the lines of the Apostle Paul's writings to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 14:26 NLT):

Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize. When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you.

The power and presence of God was definitely there. I heard spontaneous Holy Spirit inspired impromptu songs and prophecies from members of the audience, and heard what sounded like an opera between the worship leader and the congregation. I was told what I believed to be an explanation for all this wonder. **For the first year of this church's existence, their primary teaching had been The Lordship of Jesus Christ!**

I was driving away from our print shop, down the alley, when I man stopped me. He asked if I could feed him, which I agreed to do. He said he had just gotten out of nine months in prison where he had been involved in a group fight. He was so hungry he had smoked some kind of drug (crystal meth?) cigarette to ease his hunger. He was living in a van, had a girlfriend, and was sure he never wanted to go back to prison again! I told him he needed to do two things. First, he needed to put Jesus in the driver's seat of his life. Second, he need a support group like the Christian *Power of God* church next to the bowling alley where it seemed to me the Holy Spirit filled people had been former drug addicts.

The man followed me to the side of our building where I had the *Know Your Future* gospel tract booklet pages enlarged, in read order, on a [poster in a window](#)⁹. I pointed to the salvation prayer on page twelve and he immediately began reading it out loud. Afterward, I laid a hand on his shoulder and prayed for him. He was surprised that he felt a touch from God.

The Bike Ride

In the book *A 2nd Helping of Chicken Soup for the Soul*¹⁰, I read a story by an unknown author submitted by Claude Pepper, a U.S. Congressman, that affirms our need for Jesus' Lordship / leadership. At first the man saw God as an observer and judge, keeping a record

of his wrong doings to see if he merited heaven or hell for his eternity. At first He recognized God's existence, but didn't really know Him at all. Then God became his higher power. He envisioned God as the back seat rider on a tandem bike, helping pedal as he remained in control, keeping on a boring, but predictable path.

At one point in his life God suggested they change places. The man agreed and his life became much more exciting. The way God was leading looked like madness, prompting him to ask "Where are you taking me?" He was connected with people who were a source of healing, acceptance, and joy for him. He began to see his life as "*Our* journey, that is, God's and mine."

"I did not trust Him at first, in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it. But He knew *bike secrets*, knew how to make it bend and take sharp corners, jump to clear spaces filled with rocks, fly to shorten scary passages.

"And I'm learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places, and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, *my higher power*.

"And when I'm sure I can't go on anymore, He just smiles and says, 'Pedal...'"

Hymn - [He Leadeth Me](#)¹¹ – Lyrics by Joseph H. Gilmore

1. He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain:

He leadeth me, he leadeth me;
by his own hand he leadeth me:
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

2. Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
sometimes where Eden's flowers bloom,

by waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. Refrain

3. Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis my God that leadeth me. Refrain

4. And when my task on earth is done,
when, by thy grace, the victory's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me. Refrain

"Jesus be the Lord of all the kingdoms of my heart."

All to Jesus I Surrender — A True Life Example

"Be encouraged and inspired to go on (to find) Jesus Christ in all His fullness." – Gordon P. Gardner, author of [*Radiant Glory*](#)¹²

Martha Wing Robinson (1874-1936) was constantly exposed to Christian teaching, and embraced Jesus at a revival meeting in 1886. Her Methodist uncle had told her, "the Lord wants you to live and work just for Himself." She had plans to be a writer and struggled against the call of God on her life for six years. She developed health problems and at age twenty-three she was hospitalized for three months. There she drifted from God almost totally. In 1898, seeing a celestial sign in the heavens, she knew there must be a God and set out to pursue Him. She prayed eighteen hours a day for a month, "God, if you're out there, reveal yourself to me!" "One night at midnight she was awoken and it seems that the heavens opened above her and the Holy spirit revealed the existence of God in a way that she would never question again."¹³ She pressed into God for her health, seeking the Healer more than the healing. Over time, she was completely healed, and began praying for others with dramatic results. She and her husband got baptized in (filled with) the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4; Ephesians 5:18).

Martha "followed on to know the Lord" (Hosea 6:3). She prayed over the love chapter in the Bible (1 Corinthians 13) until it became a

part of her system and she was possessed by Jesus Christ for seven years. Jesus even did the dishes through her. "Shortly before she died she stated her life's message 'Nothing matters but Christ Jesus.' Her whole life was spent in the service of God and for the Glory of His Son Jesus. She had seen many healed, saved, delivered, empowered and sent out."¹³ In the biography, the Lord showed Robinson that, in the days ahead, others would be similarly possessed by Him. Consider this statement:

"It yet remains for the world to see what God can do through one person who is totally sold out to Him."

I would like to be that person. What about you?

[*Is Your All on the Altar?*](#)¹⁴ – Elisha A. Hoffman

1. You have longed for sweet peace,
And for faith to increase,
And have earnestly, fervently prayed;
But you cannot have rest,
Or be perfectly blest,
Until all on the altar is laid.
 - o Refrain:
Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?
Your heart does the Spirit control?
You can only be blest,
And have peace and sweet rest,
As you yield Him your body and soul.
2. Would you walk with the Lord,
In the light of His word,
And have peace and contentment always?
You must do His sweet will,
To be free from all ill,
On the altar your all you must lay.
3. Oh, we never can know
What the Lord will bestow
Of the blessings for which we have prayed,
Till our body and soul

- He doth fully control,
And our all on the altar is laid.
4. Who can tell all the love
He will send from above,
And how happy our hearts will be made;
Of the fellowship sweet
We shall share at His feet,
When our all on the altar is laid.

*He's Everything to me*¹⁵ — Ralph Carmichael

In the stars His handiwork I see,
On the wind He speaks with majesty,
Though He ruleth over land and sea,
What is that to me?
I will celebrate Nativity,
For it has a place in history,
Sure, He came to set His people free,
What is that to me?
Till by faith I met Him face to face,
And I felt the wonder of His grace,
Then I knew that He was more than just a
God who didn't care,
That lived a way out there and
Now He walks beside me day by day,
Ever watching o'er me lest I stray,
Helping me to find that narrow way,
He's Everything to me.

Key 2

Hearing / Recognizing God's Voice

Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people), making the very most of the time [*buying up each opportunity*], because the days are evil. Therefore do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understanding and firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is. - Ephesians 5:15-17 AMP

If we are living now by the Holy Spirit's power, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Then we won't need to look for honor and popularity, which lead to jealousy and hard feelings.

– Galatians 5:25-26 TLB

Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God. And God's peace [*shall be yours, that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot of whatever sort that is, that peace*] which transcends all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 4:6-7 AMP

From the above Bible verses we see that God is more interested in our individual daily lives than we have imagined. If we could somehow fully cooperate with Him by knowing in detail what He wants us to do, how much more successful we would be. One translation of Galatians 5:25 above uses the words "walk in step with" the Holy Spirit. This involves tuning in to what God the Holy Spirit within us is saying, and, being willing to do it.

Note: In both the Old and New Testaments God has spoken to people directly (e.g., dreams and visions, and angelic visitations). He has spoken to us through the office of the prophet (Romans 12:4-8); and what are called *gifts of the Holy Spirit* (e.g., a *word of wisdom*, or, a *word of knowledge*, *speaking in tongues with interpretation*) described in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. In this section I put emphasis on God speaking to the individual Christian from the Holy Spirit living

within him or her; then go on to show other ways He speaks or guides us today.

The Bible is God's *road map* or *instruction manual*. As children of God (Galatians 3:26). if we follow Jesus, we are persecuted, but blessed.

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

– Isaiah 1:19 KJV

Then Peter began to speak up. "We've given up everything to follow You," he said.

"Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for My sake and for the Good News, will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life. – Mark 10:28-30 NLT

The *Ten Commandments* found in Exodus chapter 20 in the Old Testament are a general guideline. It looks to me like, at first God spoke directly to the people out of the cloudy mountain, until they told their leader, Moses, they could not bear it because it was too scary. God still desires to speak to us and guide us today, although the primary method He uses now, is from God the Holy Spirit who lives within the believer in Jesus.

Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. – Hebrews 1:1 NLT

They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when He told them in advance about Christ's suffering and His great glory afterward. – 1 Peter 1:11 NLT

And now in these final days, He has spoken to us through His Son.

– Hebrews 1:2 KJV

The spirit of man [*that factor in human personality which proceeds immediately from God*] is the lamp of the Lord, searching all his innermost parts. [*1 Cor. 2:11.*] – Proverbs 20:27 AMP

For His Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. – 2Corinthians 2:10b NLT

You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. – Romans 8:9b NLT

Anyone who believes in Me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.' (When He said "living water," He was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in Him.) – John 7:38-39 NLT

The Inward Witness of the Holy Spirit

Before Jesus Christ came to earth, the Spirit of God rested upon the prophet, priest, and king. Under the new covenant (agreement), we have *the priesthood of the believer* - God the Holy Spirit coming to live inside each child of God, location wise, in his solar plexus or belly.

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

– John 14:16-17 KJV

Years ago, when I was down, emotionally, the Lord connected me with a modern day prophet of God. Meeting him for the second time, I was driving him and his belongings to a new place to live in Santa Barbara, the city where I lived. At the same time, the Lord within communicated to both of us. He told me Harold would be a source of stability to me, while telling Harold he would be a *spiritual father* to me. One day a ministry associate and I were in Harold's apartment, talking about helping a troubled divorced woman with two young boys. Harold interrupted us to say, "If you are going to continue talking about that woman, will you please step outside because I am getting a real quenching down inside where the Holy Spirit lives."

In Romans 8:10 NLT the Apostle Paul says, "Christ lives within you". In verse 9 (also vs. 11 & 23), he writes "you have the Spirit of God living in you". Vs. 4 "no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.". Verse 16 says, "His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's Children.". Verse 14 states that true, mature, "children of God" "are led by the Spirit of God". God is leading us by the Holy Spirit (as a Person) living within us, who (KJV) not only "bears witness" that we are a child of God, but also gives us a sense of right or

wrong (an "inward witness") about other things in our lives we need to be aware of.

I have never heard God speak to me directly in an audible voice; but, He has been directing me from the Holy Spirit living within me, mostly by what I call an *inner knowing* – something that I would not have thought of through my natural thinking processes in my mind. In the Bible, the Apostle Paul uses the term "I perceive." In the book of Acts, Paul had been arrested for preaching about Jesus. Having appealed to Caesar, the Roman Emperor, to hear and decide his case, he was under the guard of a soldier, on a ship headed for Rome. It was not the season for easy sailing. Paul had a sense from the Lord not to go any further, but all he could do was talk to the officers in charge of the ship.

"Men," he said, "I believe there is trouble ahead if we go on—shipwreck, loss of cargo, and danger to our lives as well." But the officer in charge of the prisoners listened more to the ship's captain and the owner than to Paul. – Acts 27:10-11 NLT

Because the Lord's inner prompting was ignored, a fierce storm resulted in a shipwreck on the island of Malta. One day, when I was praying with Harold, the Lord spoke to us through him by what the Bible calls *The Gift of Prophecy* (Romans 12:6). The purpose of prophecy is to strengthen, encourage and comfort others (1 Corinthians 14:3). The Lord told us, "**I am a master at taking the devil's tricks, and turning them into things that glorify Me!**" In Paul's case, no one was harmed in the shipwreck, people on the island were healed through Paul, and they were give all they needed to continue their journey to Rome.

In 1991 I had a similar sense of knowing to what Paul had. I got a job in duplicating at the city college. The starting take home pay was only \$1008 a month (about \$8 an hour). I should have kept that job as I would have put in twenty years with a California PERS retirement, and a TSA (tax sheltered annuity). Instead, I took nine tests for a postal worker position, getting three job offers starting at about \$11.45 as a mail carrier trainee, a mail processor, or a mail handler on an 80 day trial period. With the personnel lady waiting on the phone, I asked my prophet of God roommate about taking the mail processor position. Later he told me, "I would be very careful, if I were you,

about ever leaving your city college job or living at your sister's house." His father had been a railway mail clerk and he knew how stressful that was.

I was nervous inside. God the Holy Spirit living in my gut was impressing me that it was not right to take the main mail processing center position. I was terminated from the Mail Processor position before the 80 day trial period was up. A few years earlier I had had a break up with a girlfriend who wouldn't marry me because I didn't have a career job. The hurt from that, had me in desperation, determined to get a respectable career job. I ignored the "still small voice" of God heard by Elijah the prophet, when evil queen Jezebel's men were out to get him (1 Kings 19:11-13).

Because I didn't follow the Lord's inner perception or lack of peace (a "quenching" of the Holy Spirit), I struggled for years at lower wage printing jobs without benefits. Eventually, after the Lord turned my failure into success, I reached the goal of having our own Christian evangelism print shop and a nice home to live in, but the long detour to get there was a real lesson. The late Kenneth E. Hagin, in desperation to take care of his family, had taken an speaking engagement against the Lord's wishes. The Lord had told him, "I have something good for you. Just wait, and I'll show you what it is." Looking back, Hagin wrote, " I figured it would cost me, I just didn't figure it would cost me so much."

Heed these words from the hymn [*What a Friend we have in Jesus*](#)¹⁶ - "Oh what peace we often forfeit, On what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer."

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel... – Isaiah 1:19-20a KJV

The *Inward Knowing* / voice of the Holy Spirit

Here is a second way the Lord speaks to us on an individual level. For me, I can be minding my own business and suddenly, in a flash, know something (get a message, directive, Bible verse, or song / hymn) that didn't come through the thinking processes of my reason or brain. First, I will tell you how I became aware of this, and then, tell a few life experience examples of it since that first awareness. Like radio frequencies broadcasting from radio stations, God had been broadcasting, but I wasn't tuned in as a receiver. My spiritual parents

or mentors had told me, "David, God speaks to you, but you don't listen." Hearing that made me angry until I realized they were right!

While attending Melodyland School of Theology in Anaheim, CA, I connected with a *House of Prayer* under the ministry of Trinity Institute. This group specialized in inner healing, and I wanted to get free of lingering negative baggage from my childhood that had led to my making a subconscious decision not to grow up. At my first meeting in a vacant house in Rialto, CA, I saw women all following the Lord's leading in all they did. One woman, Mary Williams, had died at such a prayer home, and the prayers of those present had brought her back to life! I thought to myself, "I am just a young intellectual Bible College student who doesn't know anything about this. If I try to participate, I will mess up the good things God is doing here. I'll just sit here, be quiet, and watch."

I was the only man there that day. Mary Williams walked over and said, "We like to have the men minister to the women. Ask the Lord if you aren't supposed to do...." I was surprised that what she suggested I do was something the Holy Spirit had already placed on my heart, but I didn't recognize the subtle leading from within was God trying to lead me by what I call an *inner knowing*. I had been an introvert and had been too shy to act, but now I was being *put on the spot*, so to speak. Over the successive weeks of meetings, I began stepping out. At one meeting, I felt the Lord instructing me to lay my hands on the back of a man, the owner of the house. He said my hands got hot when I did that. This was evidence of the power of God going through me to minister to him.

At One meeting the young daughter of one of the women was sitting on the prayer stool, but nothing was happening. I was uneasy. I silently told the Lord, "It looks like everybody is waiting on somebody to obey You, and I think that somebody is me. I feel You are telling me to lay one hand on the girls back and the other on her stomach and pray in my heavenly prayer language of *other tongues* (Acts 2:4). Lord, if this is You speaking, please give me confirmation one more time." Immediately sister Mary Williams came over, looked me in the face and said, "David, the Lord tells me to tell you that you don't need any more confirmation!" My training period had ended.

From that point forward, when I sensed the Lord was leading (impressing) me to do or say something to someone, I have had to step out in faith, and the Lord has not disappointed - He showed up in power and did His work. For example, I was working part time at the city college print shop, while also being a caregiver for a diabetic woman, and a treasurer at a local church. I took Carol Ann to a bridal shower for the Lady pastor of the church at the worship leader's apartment. I had been feeling depressed like God had forgotten me and life my wasn't going anywhere. When we got inside, I saw Leticia, a soul winner and prophetic person I hadn't seen for a while. The Lord moved on me to pray with her. I told her that the Lord had two things for her. I told her what they were and then took her hand to pray. The Spirit of the Lord came upon her, and she crumpled to the floor. Wow!

"Why does God use sinful men to do His work? Because that's all he's got." Someone said, "If God could work a miracle through Balaam's ass, don't be surprised if He works a miracle through you!" [the donkey talked to the prophet riding it to tell him there was an angel blocking the path, and that is why he refused to go any further.

– Numbers 22:20-35]

As Jesus *walked in step* with the Heavenly Father, so must we walk.

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

– Romans 8:14 KJV

It may surprise you that Jesus Christ was not operating alone, but in tandem with the Heavenly Father in all He said and did. He was able to demonstrate the power of God and work miracles, because the power or anointing of the Holy Spirit was upon Him and working through Him. (See John 5:19, 30; 14:10)

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

– Luke 4:14 KJV

The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering

of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. – Luke 4:18-19 KJV

The author of the Gospel according to Luke was a physician and he wrote:

Everyone tried to touch Him, because healing power went out from Him, and He healed everyone. – Luke 6:19 NLT

But Jesus said, "Someone deliberately touched Me, for I felt healing power go out from Me." – Luke 8:46 NLT

Jesus told his followers in John 4:12-13 NLT, "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in Me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in My name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father.

When we, too, are filled with or baptized in the Holy Spirit, walking in step with Him, "everything Jesus **began** to do and to teach" (Acts 1:1 NLT), is continued and multiplied through us as He extends His ministry "to every creature" (Mark 16:15 *The Great Commission*).

For example, The pastor of the church I was working with could not do the church service one morning, so he asked me to take his place. At the end of the sermon, I reminded the congregation that the Bible says the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them, confirming the word with signs that followed (Mark 16:20 KJV). I suggested we all be quiet while I asked the Lord what He wanted to do next. The Lord gave me an inner knowing or "word of knowledge" (1 Corinthians 12:8) that someone had a tooth problem, so I told the people. The pastor's wife spoke up, "It's my daughter, Jennifer. Her tooth is cracked off." The girl was sitting next to her mother on the front row. I asked her to come to forward for prayer. I laid my hands on her and something like electricity went through me and she shook. She went back to her seat and about ten minutes later, her mother told us, "I just want you to know that since you prayed for my daughter, her tooth has grown back!" I had cooperated with the Holy Spirit and Jesus worked a miracle through me, his servant. To God be the Glory!

Here are a couple more quotes by Jesus that show us the secret to Jesus' and our success, is to walk in step with the expressed leading of

the Holy Spirit and God our Heavenly Father. One tuned in minister said, "God is not interested in our ability, or inability, but our availability." When he tried to tell the Lord that he was not capable of doing what God had just told him to do, the Lord replied with, "I'm not looking for people that are able, I'm able. I'm looking for people who are available." One lady minister, author of the book *Though an Host Should Encamp*¹⁷, was asked by the Lord to get a teenage girl off heroin addiction. "But Lord, I can't!", she had replied, to which the Lord responded, "I didn't ask you to do it. I only asked you to let me do it through you!" Thus, the Apostle Paul teaches us (Amplified translation) this principle for success:

I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [*I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency*].

– Philippians 4:13 AMP

Jesus said, **I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.** – John 5:30 KJV

"My Father is always working, and so am I."..."I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself. He does only what He sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows Him everything He is doing. In fact, the Father will show Him how to do even greater works than healing this man. Then you will truly be astonished. For just as the Father gives life to those He raises from the dead, so the Son gives life to anyone He wants." – John 5:17, 19-21 NLT

Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words I speak are not My own, but My Father who lives in Me does His work through Me.

Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen Me do. I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in Me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.

– John 14:10-12 NLT

But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you. – Luke 11:20 KJV

A Couple More Personal "Hearing from God" Stories

Working with my Dad on the ranch, we were welding an A frame winch on the back of a 1943 Dodge truck. The pipes were covered with tar and cloth. I was using a propane blow torch to melt the tar and scrape it off in the places I needed to do welding. The torch tip would get clogged with tar. While Dad went to the main house, I dropped the small die cast nozzle in the sandy soil while trying to clean it. I frantically searched for it to no avail. I stood up and prayed, "Lord, please show me where this tip is, (so I don't get in trouble with my Dad)." Immediately this message popped into my *human spirit* where the Holy Spirit lives: "Look one inch in front of your right toe." I leaned over, scratched away the sand with my index finger, and there it was!

In the early 2020s, I was taking care of a 50+ year old diabetic lady who was in the hospital several times. On one occasion she was dealing with MERSA infection after a foot surgery. I was on my way to a print shop in a garage on the East Side of town when I began to feel uneasy. Suddenly, the Lord dropped these words into my spirit, "Turn around and get to the hospital, C.A. is about to have a serious operation. I arrived at the surgery waiting room to find the mother already there. Then doctor P. came out to tell us that the MERSA infection had spread from the foot and the patient only had fifteen minutes left to live. He had tried to squeeze out the infection, but it was too late. He had to take her leg off below the knee!

Tongues and Interpretation

Here is another way God communicates with us, inwardly, and through others. When one asks Jesus into his or her heart and becomes a *born again* child of God or Christian, Romans 8:9 tells us that God the Holy Spirit comes to live within us. There is an additional experience where the Holy Spirit comes upon a person (he is *baptized in the Holy Spirit*) to empower that person to live godly, and to be anointed to carry on the ministry Jesus began (Acts 2:4, Acts 1:1, 8; 2:4). Jesus did no recorded miracle until the Holy Spirit descended upon Him at his water baptism by his cousin John the Baptist (Luke 3:22). The first disciples were told to tarry (not go out with a message to the world) until they also received this same experience (Luke 24:49). Many Christians today fail to realize that being *Spirit Filled*

(having the Holy Spirit's power or anointing upon them as well as in them) is not optional! The Apostle Paul commands us to be filled in his letter to the Ephesians:

Therefore do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understanding and firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but **ever be filled and stimulated with the [Holy] Spirit.** [*Prov. 23:20.*] – Eph. 5:17-18 AMP

The Book of Acts records five instances of believers receiving the gift of being *Holy Spirit Filled* (Acts 2:4; 8:14-20; 9:17-18 ;10:44-47; 19:1-7). In four of the five instances, *speaking in tongues* was the initial evidence of these believers having received this gift (Acts 2:38). The fifth instance implies they spoke in tongues because Simon the Sorcerer saw them receive something when the Apostles Peter and John laid hands on the new believers. This raises two questions and answers:

1. What are tongues? – speaking in a known or unknown language as a new avenue of divinely inspired praying and worshipping God (Acts 2:5-18; 1 Corinthians 14:2).

2. Why Tongues? They are a sign to the unbeliever (1 Cor. 14:22). They are a means of charging oneself up spiritually like charging a battery (Jude vs. 20 AMP). When accompanied by an inspired interpretation (1 Cor. 14:5, 13-14) the minds of those present are engaged, and they are all strengthened. In addition, the Weymouth translation of (1 Cor. 14:2) states that when a child of God prays in tongues, he is unlocking *divine secrets*.

For one who speaks in an [*unknown*] tongue speaks not to men but to God, for no one understands or catches his meaning, because in the [*Holy*] Spirit he utters secret truths and hidden things [*not obvious to the understanding*]. – 1 Cor. 14:2 AMP

A Point of Interest about Tongues

Tongues is not something a person makes up. I found out that tongues don't come from the regular speech area of my brain. I had a [TIA](#) (temporary ischemic attack) that lasted for about a half hour. My wife and I were to meet a woman facing eviction and looking for an emergency place to live. She had an American Indian wolf fetish in her mobile home. Suddenly, I could not read the cover title of a book, and

I would start to speak a sentence and then forget the rest. Strangely, I could speak in my heavenly language of tongues just fine. Dr. Wolf, a VA Medical Hospital neuro-stroke doctor told me the *other tongues* came from a different part of my brain. Dr. Carl R. Peterson, M.D., did a [study](#) at Oral Roberts University, finding that speaking in tongues has health benefits – reduction in stress, positive mood and calmness, release of two chemical solutions into one's immune system to give it a 35 to 40% boost!

Here are a couple of personal stories from my life that that illustrate how divine tongues have helped me with the Holy Spirit's guidance in life. A Camp meeting was held once a year at Miracle Valley Bible College. People came from all over to this isolated place at the border with Mexico.

One visitor told me his gift from God was *Interpretation of Tongues* in public meetings (1 Cor. 12:10; 14:26). In an evening meeting at the church, Don Stewart, the head of the organization shared how he had lined up television spots across America for an Evangelistic Easter Special, but he needed sponsors to pay for air time at each of the displayed TV studios. My Dad had sold my travel trailer since I could not take it to college, and had the money saved in an account. I wanted to give some of the sale to this event, but I was afraid to call my Dad. Then someone stood up and gave a public message in tongues for all to hear. Then, the visitor, sitting next to me, stood up and gave a strong interpretation whereby the Lord said this was a unique opportunity we should all respond to. I then contacted my Dad, and he sent the amount needed to air the special in Decatur / Huntsburg, Alabama.

When I was staying in Georgia with another young man in training for future ministry, we were driving down the road when Richard had an uneasy, what I call a *check in the spirit*, moment. "David, something is coming down, and I don't know what it is!" I said, "Let me pray in my heavenly language and see what the Lord gives me." I began praying in tongues and then stopped to say "You won't believe this, but the Lord just showed me..." It was an issue in Richard's family we knew nothing about. We prayed together about it, believing the Lord would take care of it. He did, and I got to be a part, but it didn't turn out the way we expected.

Desperation prayer in Tongues, with fasting, brings good job

So too the [*Holy*] Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance. – Romans 8:26 AMP

This Bible verse come two verses before the familiar verse that all things work together for the good of those who love God and are following His purposes in their lives (Rom. 8:28). There is a connection here between praying *with the spirit* (1 Cor. 14:15), and things working out. In verse 14, Amplified Translation, Paul states, "For if I pray in an [*unknown*] tongue, my spirit [*by the Holy Spirit within me*] prays, but my mind is unproductive [*it bears no fruit and helps nobody*]."

In 2008, I had been living with the pastors of the church for a year after the lady I was caring for suddenly died and I was left without a place to stay or a job. I had not found a job, my unemployment insurance had run out, and I had filed for bankruptcy. I borrowed the pastor's station wagon and drove to a camping area in the mountains. I had started out in my truck with a bad engine, and had had to turn back because water was blowing out the exhaust pipe. Since I had no cash to pay for a campsite, the park ranger I said I had to leave. I got permission to park in the front yard of a cabin down the road owned by the parents of the lady I had cared for. I didn't eat and stayed for three days. I didn't know how or what to pray in English, so I prayed in my personal prayer language which the Apostle Paul had written was my human spirit, by the help of God the Holy Spirit within me, praying – a perfect prayer. I desperately needed fresh guidance from the Lord to get back to work and move on in my life and ministry.

This prayer was a turning point for the better. A prophetic lady pastor and law school professor had told me that doors of opportunity would open for me, and I should not be afraid to enter into them. Another visiting minister had told me God was going to bless me in this life for having been a giver. One lady in the church, Rosa, told me the Lord showed her that I would be getting married within two years! In a divine appointment while shopping at Costco Wholesale, a nurse who had lived on the property where I had been a care-

giver, told me that, with a few medical certificates behind my name, I could make good money using the care giving experience I already had.

There was an opening for the three class CNA, CHHA course at city college. I just made the enrollment before the classes were full. For the practical exam for the state certificate, I got the easiest demonstration of five skills one could get! I signed up for four health aide agencies and a year later got private duty at \$15 an hour. My older parents gave me a free place to live in exchange for occasional help. I met my wife, moved to a nice home, and switched to doing ministry work exclusively. My truck got rear ended and totaled in a shopping center, and I was give a red sports car to drive! In buying a better car together, my credit score was repaired, going up 60 points in two days.

We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.

– Proverbs 16:9 NLT

The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the LORD holds them by the hand. Once I was young, and now I am old. Yet I have never seen the godly abandoned or their children begging for bread. – Psalm 37:23-25 NLT

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers.

– Philippians 4:6 TLB

When, in our desperation, we are at loss for words, the Lord gives us a heavenly language which brings "grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it]." – Hebrews 4:16b AMP

Your Prayer

"Lord, I see I need to be filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues as a private prayer language that will help reveal Your perfect will and direction for my life. Your Word, the Bible states that it is offered to me as a free gift. According to Jesus' promise in Mark 11:24, I ask for, desire and believe I receive it now by faith. Your word say if evil men know enough to give good gifts to their children, how much more will You, my Heavenly Father, give the fullness of the Holy Spirit to me your child (Luke 11:13). I thank you

and praise you for answering my prayer as You promised You will. I will speak out in faith, and your heavenly language will pour out just as Jesus promised in John 7:38-39a NLT. In Jesus' name, Amen, so be it!"

Anyone who believes in Me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'"

(When He said "living water," He was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in Him.

Discerning (seeing the difference) between Good and Evil

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.* – Hebrews 5:12-14 KJV

The mature Christian, after years of experience with encountering cults, occult practitioners, and demons, should develop an inward witness sense from God the Holy Spirit of both the OK of things that originate from God, and a sense of inner quenching when evil is present; or, a belief or activity on our part quenches or grieves the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19). Romans 8:16 say the Holy Spirit who comes to live in us when we ask Jesus to come into our hearts, assures us that we are a child of God.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God – Romans 8:16 KJV

He also *bears witness* about other things or matters. When the first Apostles had decided on some simple guidelines for non Jewish believers in Jesus to follow, they wrote in the letter that went out with missionaries, "For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us," (Acts 15:28). This bearing witness can be a sickening sensation in one's gut, or the hair standing up on ones arm. A visiting man of God at a local meeting told the audience, regarding Frances, my spiritual mother, "the Holy Spirit affects this woman's motor nerves." For example, I started taking two printing classes at the Fullerton, CA city college. I told her I didn't know why I was taking these classes. She

replied, "I think it will come in handy someday." Immediately, her body began to shake. "That's right, that's right!" she said. Little did we know that I would make my lively hood in printing for fourteen years and today have our own Christian evangelism printing ministry!

On the other hand, when Frances was praying over people and encountered demons, she would display a mannerism that looked like she was spitting. She could even smell the presence of demons. One day we were each competing to determine what evil was making me shy, reserved, and almost anti-social. "It is a spirit of *introvertism*." I said. I was so right on, Frances got a big reaction to that one. Once, the prophet of God and I did what I call a "No, no!" We went to a low budget theatre to watch a Freddy Cougar scary horror movie. After it started, Harold said, "I've got to get out of here, the Lord won't let me watch this. We left, went to the ticket office, and got a refund.

In my early days with my spiritual parents, Frank and Frances, we were at an Hispanic contractors home when the subject of Ouija boards (a tool for communicating with demonic sources of information) came up. The neighbor child said they had one, and we asked them to go get it. We wanted to burn it in the barbeque and see what happened. When the game was brought into the house, we felt a creepy sensation, and the dog got scared and ran down the hall.

At the School of Theology, I had a talk at a community meeting in our apartment complex with a fellow female student my age. Although I was immature and couldn't support a wife, I wanted to be married. Could this be the one? In my desperation I would try to connect with the wrong women. I developed a joke: "I need somebody really bad! Tell me, are you really bad?" Visiting my parents, I decided to call Frances and ask her about this girl. "No! she said. "Stay away from her!" One girl had me in tears, then was diagnosed as bipolar and got on disability and medication, calling to apologize months later. My prophet of God mentor didn't know anything about her, but when I mentioned her name, he said "Stay away from her." He was right!

Here's one more exceptional story. As a CNA (certified nursing assistant) I had to maintain my state certification by taking enrichment classes at Adult Education. In one psychology class I attended, the MFT (marriage and family therapist) teacher was having us do exercises that she said were scientific, but I sensed were connected to

the spirit realm. She came over and told me I had to participate. She and her assistant called me to the front and had me hold out my arm strong and stiff while they tried to send out *bad vibes* to take my strength away so they could easily bend my arm. I silently prayed in tongues and plead the protection of the blood of Jesus over myself. When the assistant could not bend my arm, the teacher said, "We know what you're doing! Now knock it off!" I found out she was a Jewish practicing Psychic who later taught classes on communicating with the dead!

Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. The eyes of the LORD watch over those who do right; His against those who do evil; He will erase their memory from the earth.
– Psalm 34:14-16 NLT

And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.
[For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]
– Matthew 6:13 NLT

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. – James 4:7 KJV

Prophetic Dreams and Warnings

Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things. ...And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. – Joel 2:21, 28-29 KJV

Come close to God and He will come close to you. – James 4:8 AMP

In eighth grade, My Dad was helping me get better grades in school, and I was reading my Bible regularly, drawing near to God. I had a significant dream. I saw Jesus coming back to earth in the clouds with people behind Him, just like the Bible says in Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. I was then bodily caught up to stand with other people on top the clouds. I recognized a woman there, and shook her hand, saying, "Thank God, you made it!"

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the

church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and the knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. – Ephesians 4:11-13 NLT

God has a *checks & balances* system.

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: – 1 John 4:1a KJV

Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

– 1 Corinthians 14:29 KJV

Indeed, the Sovereign LORD never does anything until He reveals His plans to His servants the prophets. – Amos 3:7 NLT

"Danger, Danger!"

The late Steve Irwin, with the Australia Zoo would say this when he was dealing with a poisonous snake on his TV documentary on the Animal Planet Network. Throughout the Bible, when people were about to make a wrong move, a Prophet of God appeared with a warning message. We, today, at times, are in a dangerous situation, stressed out, too tired, just not tuned in to hear from God. God in His mercy intervenes through a true man or woman of God to save us from disaster. A New Testament example is the prophet Agabus warning the Apostle Paul, who was on his way to Jerusalem, that there would be trouble ahead.

Several days later a man named Agabus, who also had the gift of prophecy, arrived from Judea. He came over, took Paul's belt, and bound his own feet and hands with it. Then he said, "The Holy Spirit declares, 'So shall the owner of this belt be bound by the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem and turned over to the Gentiles.'"

– Acts 21:10-11 NLT

At about age forty nine, I had been working full time at night, care giving for a disabled woman, and working part time on the weekend at the city college print shop, a total of up to eighty hours a week. One night the lady called me at work, needing help. I set the printing machine to run by itself while I drove to the woman's apartment five miles away. Someone had let the air out of the two passenger side tires of my car. When I started out I sensed a problem and put the spare on the front flat tire; but I never found out about the back tire

until the next morning when a fellow employee pointed it out. It had a wear ring on the sidewall. I had been so tired, that, with God's help and protection, I had driven five miles and back on that flat tire with no awareness of a problem!

In that time period of working too many hours, my spiritual mentor, a prophet of God, also called me at the night job. Years earlier, in his own business with his wife, he had overworked himself one week and had a heart attack. He simply stated, "If you don't make a change in your schedule, you will have a heart attack or stroke within three days!" I had observed this man ministering to me and others, I knew this was a dire warning from God. I talked to my supervisor and quit that job, saving my life.

In 2 Chronicles chapter 20, King Jehoshaphat and his people were about to be attacked by three combined armies (verses 1-2). The King, terrified by the news, felt powerless in his own strength, so he prayed, begging the Lord for help. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel who prophesied, "Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle *is* not yours, but God's. ... see the salvation of the LORD with you... the LORD *will be* with you." (verse 17). Going out to engage the enemy the next morning, the King encouraged the people with these words: "Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper." (verse 20b). The people praised the Lord, God moved, the enemies destroyed each other, and God's people collected the spoils. The place was named *Valley of Blessing*, and the people were "overjoyed that the LORD had given them victory over their enemies." (verse 27 NLT).

There is an axiom to be learned here. A prophet of God and I were together when the Lord spoke, saying, "I am a Master at taking the devil's tricks, and turning them into things that glorify Me."

Our Application Prayer – Psalm 25:4-10 TLB

Show me the path where I should go; O Lord, point out the right road for me to walk. Lead me; teach me; for you are the God who gives me salvation. I have no hope except in you. Overlook my youthful sins, Lord! Look at me instead through eyes of mercy and forgiveness, through eyes of everlasting love and kindness.

The Lord is good and glad to teach the proper path to all who go astray; he will teach the ways that are right and best to those who

humbly turn to him. And when we obey him, every path he guides us on is fragrant with his lovingkindness and his truth.

My Prayer for You

I close with the reminder that, as a child of God through your faith in Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:26), God the Holy Spirit lives in you and **has been speaking** to you in the *still small voice* He used in speaking to the prophet Elijah (1 Kings 19:9-18).

"Lord, it is written in the Book of Revelation, 'Let him that hath an ear to hear, hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.' (Rev. 2:7, 17 KJV). As you had mercy on me and helped me to tune in to the inner leading of the Holy Spirit within me, so help these readers now, in Jesus' name, Amen."

Key 3

Sharing Your Christian Faith

But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! – John 4:35b-36 NLT

The harvest truly *is* great, but the labourers *are* few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. – Luke 10:2 KJV

...those who turn many to righteousness (to uprightness and right standing with God) [*shall give forth light*] like the stars forever and ever. [*Matt. 13:43.*] – Daniel 12:3b AMP

Greg Laurie's book *How to Share Your Faith*¹⁸ makes an astonishing statement: "Statistics tell us that 95 percent of all Christians have never led another person to Christ." Terry Mize, a missionary to Mexico spoke at a church I was at. He made the statement, "**There is nothing God won't do for you, if you will but help spread the Gospel!**" As an Evangelist, my emphasis is soul winning - getting people to pray and ask Jesus to forgive their sins, come into their hearts as Lord and Savior, and take them to heaven for their eternity.

The New Testament part of the Bible states that God "wants everyone to be saved." (1 Timothy 2:4). We can see this by how large He made the *New Jerusalem* city in heaven. William Shepard and I designed a gospel tract, [*A Tourist's Guide to Heaven*](#)¹⁹, that points out the city can hold a trillion people - all who have ever lived! Eternal life is a *free gift* (Ephesians 2:8-9), complements of Jesus having died in our place for our sins (disobedience to God's Ten Commandments) that cut us off from God and earned us hell, not heaven. In exchange, we are given the goodness of Jesus that then qualifies us for heaven, by God's grace and mercy, rather than our works or good deeds (Titus 3:5).

All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on Him the sins of us all...But it was the LORD's good plan to crush Him and cause Him grief. Yet when His life is made an offering for sin, He will have many descendants. When

He sees all that is accomplished by His anguish, He will be satisfied. And because of His experience, **My righteous Servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for He will bear all their sins.** — Isaiah 53:6, 10-11 NLT

For God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness into us!

– 2 Corinthians 5:21 TLB

...those who receive [*God's*] overflowing grace (unmerited favor) and the free gift of righteousness [*putting them into right standing with Himself*] reign as kings in life through the one Man Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). — Romans 5:17b AMP

For the free gift of eternal salvation is now being offered to everyone; — Titus 2:11 TLB

But when the time came for the kindness and love of God our Savior to appear, then he saved us—not because we were good enough to be saved, but because of his kindness and pity—by washing away our sins and giving us the new joy of the indwelling Holy Spirit whom he poured out upon us with wonderful fullness—and all because of what Jesus Christ our Savior did so that he could declare us good in God's eyes—all because of his great kindness; and now we can share in the wealth of the eternal life he gives us, and we are eagerly looking forward to receiving it. — Titus 3:4-7 TLB

For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."

But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? **And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?**

And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!" — Romans 10:13-15 NLT

Someone must tell others how to become a child of God and receive eternal life with God by simply asking Jesus into his or her heart as Savior and Lord. That job is not the church Pastor or Evangelist's job; it's **your job** as a disciple (follower) of Jesus Christ.

These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe... And the disciples went everywhere and preached, and the Lord worked

through them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs.
— Mark 16:17a, 20 NLT

While many Christians are eagerly awaiting Jesus' return to earth at any moment (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 KJV), Jesus is waiting for us to do our part so He can return. The Bible states that five things have to occur before He comes back; here is one of them:

And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come. — Matthew 24:14 NLT

Until recently, the worldwide daily death rate was greater than the number of people coming to Jesus, and even now, the fastest growing religion in the world is Islam, not Christianity. Fortunately, in Communist China alone, 20,000 people a day are becoming Christians. Their communist party has a membership of 90 million, but there are more Christians at 100 million!

The best approach to winning lost souls is the principle of *synergism*, and the saying, "Each one win one, then all will be won." A Merriam-Webster³ definition of *synergism* is: conditions such that the total effect is greater than the sum of the individual parts. In 1973, in a Bible College class of about fifty students, we were told that if each one of us led one person to Jesus per year, and then those each won one person each year as a continuing activity, the whole world could be won to Jesus in less than 40 years. A story tells of an oriental wise man doing the emperor a favor and the emperor asking what he could give the man in return. The wise man said to take a chess board and put one grain of rice on the first square, two grains on the second square, four grains on the third square, doubling the amount in each successive square.

The Simplicity that is Knowing Christ

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from **the simplicity that is in Christ**. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*. — 2 Corinthians 11:3 -4 KJV

Consider the saying, "Religion says 'Do!' Jesus says 'Done!'" Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me." – John 14:6 NLT. The Apostle Paul tells us in Galatians 3:24 that The Ten Commandments acted as a trainer to bring people to personal trust in Jesus for getting right with God, because the system of trying to be good enough by rule keeping was not doable. There has got to be an easier way, and there is!

Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. **For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law.** – Galatians 2:16 NLT

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all. – James 2:10 KJV

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. – Romans 3:28 NLT (Habakkuk 2:4b)

For God has imprisoned everyone in disobedience so He could have mercy on everyone. Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand His decisions and His ways! – Romans 11:32-33 NLT

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let anyone who hears this say, "Come." **Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life.** – Revelation 22:17 NLT

Jesus' Fix, and Great Invitation to All

Jesus replied with this story: "A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, 'Come, the banquet is ready.' But they all began making excuses..."The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, 'Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' After the servant had done this, he reported, 'There is still room for more.' So his master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.'" – Luke 14:16-18a, 21-23 NLT

Matthew 22:12 tells us the key requirement for our joining the feast is having a wedding garment, something Jesus gives us.

I am overwhelmed with joy in the LORD my God! For He has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness. I am like a bridegroom in his wedding suit or a bride with her jewels. – Isaiah 61:10 NLT

The Apostle Paul adds, "And God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favor and be reconciled to him. For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting them out. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others. We are Christ's ambassadors. God is using us to speak to you: we beg you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, receive the love he offers you—be reconciled to God." – 2 Corinthians 5:18b-20 TLB

No Other Name!

An October 25, 2004 Time Magazine cover read: "*The God Gene – Does our DNA compel us to seek a higher power? Believe it or not, some scientists say yes.*"²⁰ Because God programmed it into people's genetic makeup to want to find and know Him, men created the many religions in their quest to reach God. On the other hand, God provided only one acceptable and satisfying way to have a meaningful personal relationship with Him. We *can* meet God, but it has to be His way, and on His terms. Peter, a church leader and one of the original followers of Jesus Christ laid this out clearly before the Jewish religious leaders of his day:

There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved." – Acts 4:12 NLT

My siblings drifted away from this truth. They embrace other (additional) ways to God; or, their high IQs and accomplishments have led them to believe that they no longer need God like I and others do. My answer to them is this question: "Did God the Heavenly Father pay too much? If there had been another, less costly, way that God the Creator could have brought fallen man back into right standing with Himself, other than by sacrificing the most precious thing He had, His only Son Jesus Christ, to die on the cross as payment for our sins, don't you think He would have know about it and utilized it?"

[It's Your Move!](#)²⁰

Years ago I wrote a gospel tract with this title. The cover graphic showed two men playing chess. God has made His move, and now he is waiting on sinners everywhere to accept what I call [The Greatest Offer Ever Made by the Greatest Man who ever lives.](#)²¹ (another tract I wrote).

Our eternal destination of Heaven or Hell lies with us, and these three questions we each must answer:

"What have I done with Jesus Christ?"

"Where is Jesus Christ in my life—on the inside, or just on the outside?"

"If He isn't living inside me, but is knocking at my heart's door wanting in, will I now respond favorably and invite Him in as my personal Lord and Savior by praying [The World's Most Important Prayer?](#) (another tract).

So be diligent and turn from your indifference. "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear My voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

– Revelation 3:19b-20 NLT

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life,** and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. – 1 John 5:11-13 KJV

Dr. Esther Mallett's Divine Revelation Prayer

Destination Heaven for One's Eternity is just a prayer away!

Dr. Mallett, a co-founder of Century 21 Real-estate, was one of the world's most successful personal soul winners, leaving us a pattern or blueprint for soul-winning. One day, while she was driving down the street, the Lord began to talk to her in an audible voice. She stopped the car, got out, looked up, and said, "Jesus, are you talking to me?" On one occasion she said to herself, "There ought to be a flyer or piece of literature that tells people God's Bible way to find / know Him. The Lord told her, "You write it!" She got a pen and paper and it

all came to her and she wrote it down, [How to Live Forever — There is Only One Way](#)²². The gospel tract included this prayer of salvation:

Dear Jesus, Come into my heart, Forgive all my sins, Wash me in Your blood, Write my name in the Book of Life. Fill me with the Holy Spirit, In Jesus' name, Amen.

Her experience in getting people to pray this prayer has show that getting right with God, and on the road to Heaven, becoming *born again* (John chapter 3, 1 Peter 1:23), becoming a child of God through personal faith in Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:26), starts with simply praying this prayer. Sure, God will expect a person to, with His help, leave one's sinful life behind and live for God according to the Bible. But **we do good works, not to be saved, but because we are saved** (Titus 2:14). Mallet's high success rate in bringing people to Jesus is an example for us to follow. We went as a group to eat at the *Home Town Buffet*. We went inside, but the master soul winner was missing. I went back outside and there she was, leading a group of young people to Jesus by leading them in the prayer of salvation God had shown her. I and a Filipino missionary were standing in Dr. Mallet's apartment when she asked the question, "How many people have you led to the Lord this year?" I was embarrassed that we could not give a direct, truthful answer.

"Get Him to Say the Prayer, Dave!"

[Arthur Blessitt](#) carried a cross around the world, telling people about Jesus. His office was in Hollywood where I had been working with a photographer, along with going street witnessing. Like others, I wanted to go street witnessing with him. He would ask candidates, "Have you talked to your neighbors?" Later, working for my parents, this prompted me to reach out to the renters on the property where I was living. Two renters had prayed the salvation prayer with me. Now I wanted to reach Paul, an electronic technician at Raytheon. I had heard about a new approach called *Taking God on a Dare*. I told Paul that if God is out there, but you are not sure, He is big enough to prove himself to you. You can pray something like, "God, I'm not sure you are out there. If You love me and care about me like You said in the Bible, and if you did send Jesus to die on the cross to make a way for me to know you and have a personal relationship with you; then I challenge you to reveal yourself to me, forgive my sins, and come into

my life in Jesus' name." Paul repeated the words after me. God had to give me the word's because I had never used this approach before.

I didn't find out the wonderful result until later. I was the Harbor Chaplain representative and small boat driver for three cities. Paul was with me on a Santa Barbara Harbor outreach. I was talking to an intoxicated man on a boat dock. It was not easy. The head of the local *Drug Abuse Preventative Center* had refused to talk with a man I had taken there because he was not sober and therefore could not engage in a meaningful conversation. In the harbor, all of a sudden, Paul came forward from the back of the boat and blurted out, "Get him to say the prayer, Dave; get him to say the prayer!" Something must have really changed in Paul when he had prayed with me earlier, taking God on a dare.

The Bible tells us that Jesus is standing at each person's heart's door wanting in, promising to come in when we answer and open the door (Revelation 3:20). the Apostle Paul had told the religious, but non-Christian people of Athens, Greece,

"His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him—though He is not far from any one of us." – Acts 17:27 NLT

In Romans 10:13 KJV, Paul also tells us, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

The Bible tells us God already did His part over 200 years ago and is now waiting patiently for our response.

For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting them out. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others. — 2 Cor. 5:19 TLB

Hopefully, you can now see the importance of getting people to pray with you a prayer like that given to Dr. Mallett by the Lord Himself, so they can experience Jesus and His love for themselves. I wrote a tract titled [*The World's Most Important Prayer*](#), because it reconnects fallen man with his Creator, makes him or her a child of God (Galatians 3:26), and records the prayer's name in Gods RSVP for heaven *Book of Life* (Revelation 20:12,15; 21:27).

[Reach Out to Jesus](#) by Ralph Carmichael

Is your burden heavy as you bear it all alone?
Does the road you travel, harbor dangers yet unknown?
Are you growin' weary in the struggle of it all?
Jesus will help you with all his name you call
He's always there hearing every prayer, faithful and true
Walking by our side, in his love we hide all the day through
When you get discouraged just remember what to do
Reach out to Jesus, he's reaching out to you.
Is the life you're living filled with sorrow and despair?
Does the future press you with its worry and its scare?
Are you tired and jealous, have you almost lost your way?
Jesus will help you, just talk to him today.

This fascinating true story shows how available the Lord is to help us, and how simple it is to find Him. Sid Roth, Messianic Jewish host of the TV program [It's Supernatural](#) was a stock broker. He took some kind of [New Age](#) course, and acquired a supernatural spirit entity wisdom advisor he thought would help him in his business. This *spirit guide* turned out to be a demon and turned on him, tormenting him. In desperation, Roth cried out two words, "Jesus help!". The evil suddenly left and Jesus the Messiah came into Sid's life. How simple, and wonderful!

Location and The Two Kinds of Knowing

And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, **that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ.** This is the true God, and eternal life. – 1 John 5:20 KJV

In the French and Spanish languages, there are two verbs for the infinitive *to know*. In Spanish Saber is use for knowing facts, while Conocer is used for our relationship with other people. In Christianity, the relevance is clear. A lot of people are willing to talk about God or admit that He exists; but a knowledge of history, or belief alone, doesn't result in *salvation* or getting into a right relationship with our Creator. Romans 10:9 says we must believe the historical record facts that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and His heavenly Father raised Him from the Dead. The tenth verse adds that we must make

an out loud confession that Jesus Christ is our personal Lord and Savior.

A simplified statement I like is, "Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior and He is taking me to Heaven." This came to me for a lady at the bank that I had been giving gospel tracts to. She believed in Jesus as a person who once lived here on earth, but could not seem to bring herself to tell me, out loud, the above statement. The late Kenneth E. Hagin visited a men's Bible study. One man told him that he had been attending the study for twenty years. He could see the other men were Christians, but he felt he was not and could not figure out why. Hagin told him he had not done the second part of Romans 10:9-10. He asked the man to face the other men and simply tell them "Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior; and, He is taking me to heaven." When the man did it, he knew he was saved and a child of God.

Another Spanish verb, *Estar*, is used as a reference to location. When telling Hispanic people about Jesus I ask the question, "¿A donde vive Jesucristo en su vida, a dentro, o a feurta?" In English, "Where is Jesus Christ in your life; on the inside, or just on the outside?" While coordinating feeding the homeless, I was also doing chapel services at the rescue mission. After a service, I had my ministry van parked outside the auto parts store, when a homeless man who had attended one of the services came up to me, saying he had enjoyed the service. I fixed him a drink of powdered milk, and reminded him of the above question I had asked at the service. He replied, "Mostly on the outside." I then added a second question, "If He (Jesus) isn't on the inside, then would you like to pray with me right now and get Him in? The man agreed to pray the salvation prayer with me, asking Jesus to forgive his sins, and to come into his heart. Another soul was enrolled in Heaven's [*Book of Life*](#).

You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.

– James 2:19 NLT

When my mother, sister, and I would visit her family's farm in South Dakota, we would all go to church Sunday morning in the nearest city. Back home in Santa Monica, CA, I asked my parents to take us to church. My sister and I attended an Assembly of God Church in Culver City, CA. It never occurred to me that I could have, or

needed a personal relationship with Jesus, until I revisited the farm at age eleven, when Grandma packed a lot of kids into her 1955 Pontiac and took us to a Summer [Vacation Bible School](#). A teacher used a [flannel graph](#) to contrast a black heart tarnished by sin and a red heart cleansed by Jesus after a child asked Jesus to take the bad heart out of him, and, in its place, put the red heart that is pure in God's sight. An altar call was made to ask Jesus into our hearts as Personal Lord and Savior, and I responded, making the transition from just knowing *about* God to personally experiencing Him and becoming a child of His, a part of the *Family of God* (Galatians 3:26; 1 John 3:9 NLT)

But to all who received him, he gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust him to save them. All those who believe this are reborn—not a physical rebirth resulting from human passion or plan—but from the will of God. – John 1:12-13 TLB

Am I a Good Person?

A proven and anointed (God blessed) method for winning lost souls to Jesus and eternal life is found in the gospel tract [Are You a Good Person?](#) which is for sale on the Ray Comfort website www.livingwaters.org. Also, here is a link to a [printable PDF document](#) of this tract which is now in forty languages!. A similar approach is used in the small booklet tract by Mel Gerrard titled [Know Your Future](#) (also in [Spanish](#)). In this approach, a person is asked if he or she thinks they are a good person. As a second question, they are asked if they have kept God's Ten Commandments. It is pointed out that Jesus said even if you look with lust on a woman (that is not your wife) you have committed adultery in your heart (Matthew 5:28). Then one points out that, according to James 2:10, if one *stumbles* in just one part of keeping these commandments, in the eyes of God, he is disqualified from making Heaven. Also, Revelation 21:8b states that all liars shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone. The Bible states we will all, individually, stand before God to give an account for our activities while on earth.

For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body. – 2 Corinthians 5:10 NLT

The person is then asked, if God judged him today by his keeping His commandments, would he be guilty or innocent. Romans 6:23 tells us good and bad news. The wages we earn for disobeying God result in eternal death (conscious separation from God). The W.E. Vine Dictionary of New Testament Words², regarding the meaning of the word "destroy" (Greek word *apollumi*) in Matthew 10:28 says "The idea is not extinction but ruin, loss, not of being, but of wellbeing." On the other hand, the second half Romans 6:23 tells us the Good News, that God offers us eternal life and Heaven as a *free gift* through Jesus Christ when we ask Him to be our Lord and Savior.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. – Romans 6:23 TLB

How can this be? If God is so holy, pure and just that working one's way to heaven is a failed system, what hope does mankind have? Page 6 in the *Know Your Future* tract booklet tells us, "Although **all** of us have sinned by breaking God's commandments, God [in His love and mercy] **provided a way** for us to be forgiven, to **Know Him**, and have **Eternal Life**."

For God has imprisoned everyone in disobedience so He could have mercy on everyone. – Romans 11:32 NLT

"For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." – John 3:16 NLT

For the life of the body is in its blood. I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with the LORD. It is the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible.

– Leviticus 17:11 NLT

Throughout the Old Testament of the Bible, when one sinned against God, the blood sacrifice of a substitute unblemished lamb covered the sin. In the New Testament, God arranged for His only Son, the unblemished "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29b NLT), to take on Himself the sins of the whole world when He voluntarily died on the cross as a substitute payment (paid our death penalty) for our sins, His life for our lives.

He is the one who died to cleanse us and clear our record of all sin.

– Hebrews 1:3b TLB

For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time. – Hebrews 10:10 NLT

For God took the sinless Christ and poured into Him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness into us. - 2 Corinthians 5:21 TLB

And he is able to keep you from slipping and falling away, and to bring you, sinless and perfect, into his glorious presence with mighty shouts of everlasting joy. Amen – Jude verse 25 TLB

Paul tells his understudy, Timothy (page six in the *Know Your Future* tract booklet) that Jesus is like a bridge over the chasm of separation between sinful people and a Holy God and eternal life.

God our Savior...longs for all to be saved and to know this truth: That God is on one side, and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus, himself man, is between them to bring them together, by giving his life for all mankind. – 1 Timothy 2:4-5 TLB

Page 10 in the KYF booklet tells us that we must "Believe and trust that Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins." We must *repent* (turn from our sins) (Luke 13:3); Receive Christ (John 1:12); and love and obey Him (John 14:15). Page 11 states that Jesus is standing at the door to our heart, wanting in (Revelation 3:20). "Would you like to invite Jesus into your life? Here's how...". Page twelve leads us in the prayer of salvation or what I call, [*The World's Most Important Prayer.*](#) Page 13 gives us promises from the Bible that give us proof that we now have eternal life. Our assurance of making Heaven our destination for eternity safely rests on God's ability to keep His Word! (Isaiah 55:11; Jeremiah 1:12; Luke 21:33)

Page 14 tells us what to do now that we are children of God through personal faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior (Galatians 3:26): Read and obey the Bible daily, along with daily prayer and thanksgiving to God our heavenly Father, go to church (fellowshipping with other believers in Jesus), be baptized in water, and show our love for Jesus in bringing others to Him wherever we are.

Page 15 is a Bible based review of one's future *with* and *without* Jesus. Although we will all give an account to God for the good or bad we have done, God's main concert with each of us will be the question, "What have you done with My Son Jesus Christ?"

And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and

this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life. 1 John 5:11-13 NLT

Perhaps the world's greatest personal soul winner, the late Dr. Larry Beckman, in 32 years, personally led 160,000 people to Jesus Christ using this same method. Rev. Dick Handley and I put together a free read order PDF booklet guide for you as to how he did it, [God's Anointed Soul Winning Plan](#)²⁵. Below is the *Plan* or essential dialogue between Larry and a person needing Jesus in his or her heart. In seminars, Larry trained others in this exact approach, and they also led hundreds to Jesus, because it is anointed (blessed and empowered) by God! Note that Beckman's approach to personal soul winning includes both the fact that we cannot get to heaven by doing good or keeping the Ten Commandments, and the *location* emphasis of getting Jesus to live inside you.

The Plan

NOTE: This is not a tract. This is a tool for soul-winners. Only read what is printed in **red** to the people with whom you witness. The first two times you read this, read it exactly as written. Do not let Satan trick you into believing you'll look foolish reading this. Because of the anointing on this plan, the person you are witnessing to will listen!

Pardon me, may I ask you a question?

I'm a Christian and I'm taking a survey; can you listen for about three minutes?

You believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Is that true?

Nine in ten Americans believe this much. This will vary from country to country. If the person does not believe this, END the survey. Then SOW SOME SEED to help him/her come to Christ at a FUTURE time.

Don't stop reading in the MIDDLE of these next two questions – read them through to the end.

Have you ever met Christ personally, where He has come into your heart as Savior?

You've never met Christ personally, have you?

NEVER ask: "Are you a Christian?" NEVER ask: "Are you saved?" Why? Because almost EVERYBODY says "Yes" to either of these two questions. And once they say "Yes" you can't win them to Christ. The previous two questions lead them into a "No" answer. However, if they are saved, these questions are written in such a way that you will be able to read to them and see if they are saved.

I advise you to MEMORIZE this next statement—and then use it for the rest of your life as you witness.

It's simple to get Jesus into your heart.

The first thing to realize is that Christ LOVES you. When He hung on the cross He died for YOU. He died in your place.

John 3:16 NLT (Read it or say it to them . . . best to let them look at it in the Bible with you.)

"For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

Do you know why He died for you on that cross?

So you wouldn't have to go to HELL and burn forever.

Look at my finger . . . how many sins does it take to put you into Hell, according to the Bible?

(Hold up one finger.)

Just ONE. James 2:10 teaches that.

Everybody has sinned. You've sinned.

(Read or say Romans 3:23 to them - best to let them look at it in the Bible with you.)

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

NLT

Which means, if you died tonight in a car wreck without Christ, you would be in Hell.

And that's the reason I stopped you. Because it is very easy to protect you from Hell.

Of course, I can't protect you from Hell, but God can.

If you're a good person, will you go to Heaven?

No! Ephesians 2:8 says that being good doesn't even help.

(Read it or say it to them . . . best to let them look at it in the Bible with you.)

Eph 2:8 NLT God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

Church, baptism, believing—none of these [good works] can save you.

The devil BELIEVES that Jesus is God, and the devil is NOT going to Heaven. Believing is only the first step.

HERE'S THE ANSWER!! To get to Heaven you must let Jesus come into your heart.

Revelation 3:20 NLT (Read it or say it to them . . . best to let them look at it in the Bible with you.)

In Revelation 3:20 Jesus says, "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear My voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."

Be honest, do you WANT to let Jesus come into your heart?

Because you LOVE Him, right?

And you don't want to go to Hell.

And you need Him.

In order to be saved from Hell, you must REPENT! That is, TURN from wanting Christ only partially . . . to wanting Him 100%. Are you willing to turn from your sins?

Do you want Jesus to come into your heart as a FRIEND?

Now, I'm going to make it real hard for you. Do you want Jesus as a friend with ALL your heart?

Don't pray with them unless they are 100% sure.

If you mean this prayer, you won't have to go to Hell.

Just repeat [this prayer] after me.

Jesus, I believe You are here. (PAUSE) I'm sorry for my sins. (PAUSE) And you promised to save me from Hell if I would ask you into my heart. (PAUSE) So I ask you, Jesus . . . please come into my heart right now.

He heard your prayer . . . He is in your heart NOW!

Did you really mean that prayer?

So . . . where is Jesus living right now?

In your heart!

Do you have to ask Jesus into your heart every day to go to Heaven, or just once?

Just once. Once does it. You pray every day. You pray hundreds of times. You confess your sins every day. But you only let Jesus come into your heart once.

Now . . . let's do a little review. Are you saved?

Yes! You just got saved. Don't base your salvation on FEELINGS. Most people don't feel anything when they get saved. Base it on what the Bible says.

Does the Bible say you're saved?

More than 100 verses say you are saved. For example, John 1:12 says you are saved, and Revelation 3:20 says you are saved. More than 100 verses assure you.

If you have time to read these two example verses, here they are from the Living Bible:

John 1:12 - But all who received him, he gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust him to save them.

Revelation 3:20 - "Look! I have been standing at the door and I am constantly knocking. If anyone hears me calling him and opens the door, **I will come in** and fellowship with him and he with me."

(Question) And what did you do that saved you?

(Answer) You let Jesus come into your heart.

Write down five scripture references on a piece of paper for them to read later (or, you can have them preprinted). These verses are helpful to give them added assurance of their salvation when doubt comes. These are the scriptures to write down:

- John 1:12
- Romans 10:9,10 & 13.
- Revelation 3:20
- 1 John 5:12
- Ephesians 2:8-10

There are four things God wants you to DO now that you are saved.

#1. Find a Church home. (Recommend a good power church to them).

#2. Read the Holy Bible every day. Don't start in the front of the Bible, because Jesus wasn't born yet. The first book, Genesis, was 4,000 years before Jesus was born. Begin by reading MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, and JOHN. These four books quote Jesus' words hundreds of times, and show what the Holy Spirit did through Him. Then read the Book of Acts to see exciting things the Holy Spirit does through Christians.

#3. Pray. Talk to Jesus many times each day . . . whenever you want. He's your BEST FRIEND.

#4. Tell others about Jesus. Try to tell several people today and tomorrow that you let Jesus come into your heart. Not only will this challenge others to get saved, but it will STRENGTHEN YOU greatly.

Write down the person's name, address, E-mail address (if any), and telephone number so either you or a church can FOLLOW UP with them.

Start Your Witnessing with Gospel Tracts

The Lord gives the word, and a great army brings the good news.

– Psalm 68:11 NLT

When I began sharing Jesus in public I was shy and feared rejection. I first started using gospel tracts like [What Fills The Void?](#), and the [Know Your Future](#)²⁷ booklet I shared earlier. One gospel tract I wrote and printed in English and Spanish, [Why John 3:16?](#)²⁸ was distributed to over 225,000 people. The booklets, printed in English and Spanish on a two color printing press now number in the hundreds of thousands. When my courage or boldness increased, I began to talk with people, asking them if they had ever asked Jesus into their hearts as their personal Lord and Savior. If they hadn't I asked them to pray with me. Later, speaking engagements and opportunities to reach groups of people opened. It all happened just as a woman of God had told me, "Doors of opportunity will open for you. Don't be afraid to enter into them!"

Here is a short testimony showing the effectiveness of passing out Christian literature in public places. A man in Kenya, Africa, with the last name of Clapperton, was standing in a sugar cane field, not wanting to go on living. He began planning his suicide. He got a rope and found a tree to hang himself. He figured he had better write a suicide note. He looked around for a piece of paper to write on and saw one lying on the ground. When he picked it up, it was a gospel tract. He read the message and began to cry because he knew he was not ready to die without coming to Jesus. An Evangelist came buy and talked with him and prayed with him. Claperton changed his mind and decided that, with Jesus, life was worth living. He became a minister and started about fifteen churches and an orphanage. I got to talk with him on the phone when he visited the United States.

The Website www.tracts4u.com lists over ninety free downloadable PDF file format tract documents that you can print yourself. There are also read order e-tract versions that you can send by social media. You can also have tracts printed and mailed to you for a price. In addition, we now manage the website www.freetractsociety.net where 260 printable gospel tract documents are posted for free use.

***Divine Appointments* and the role of Miracles in Saving Souls**

"Lord, lay some soul upon my heart, and lead that soul to me; then help me, Lord, to do my part, to win that soul for Thee."

And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. – 1 Peter 3:15b NLT

And the disciples went everywhere and preached, **and the Lord worked through them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs.** – Mark 16:20 NLT

But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. **Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did.** Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city.

– Acts 8:4-8 NLT

Terry Mize, a missionary to Mexico, told a church group I was at, "Miracles are the world's dinner bell to the Gospel!" When God the Holy Spirit arranges a *divine appointment* for us to talk to someone, we can expect "the God who works miracles among you" (Galatians 3:5 KJV) to show up and show off! After a short introduction to how I got involved in street witnessing, I will share an example from my time spent street witnessing that involved God's perfect timing, and a miracle.

About 1980 I was working for my Dad in ranch maintenance, but not fulfilling my spiritual office of Evangelist (Ephesians 4:11), actively telling others about Jesus. Another minister told my *spiritual Father* (mentor), " If that young man doesn't get busy and do what God has called him to do, the Lord says He is going to have to find someone else!" When the message was relayed to me, I was angry. I got a tract bag and gospel tracts and started going out to talk to people on the street Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday. This initial effort, along with connecting with a local church, led to other ministry opportunities like nursing home church services, being a harbor chaplain representative for three cities, preaching in front of the theater, and having weekly pancake breakfast for up to eighty

homeless. Through the California Parks Ministry, I got to do summer church services at the Forest Service recreation campground. While treasurer at one church, I led their monthly meeting at the rescue mission, and taught an evangelism course for their accredited Bible college. One night at the mission, an older Hispanic church worker lady walked up and asked if I would like to take over her doing the weekly Sunday chapel service which lasts for an hour. My wife and I did that for ten years!

"What's that in Your Hand?"

I heard a minister give a sermon with that title, about Shamgar, a judge in Israel before there were kings. There are only three sentences in the Bible about this man's great accomplishment of rescuing Israel by killing 600 enemy Philistines with an ox goad (Judges 3:31 NLT). **The lesson to learn here is to start where you are at with what you have, and begin to step out and do something for God by sharing your faith.** It has been said that "God can't steer a parked car." You will gain confidence and boldness and your ministry opportunities will expand into working with others in group evangelist events.

Here's the miracle story. Street witnessing by myself over the weekend, I asked the Lord, "Am I done for the day, or is there something else you would like me to do?" The *still small voice* of God the Holy Spirit within me, replied, "Take your tract bag and go down to the breakwater." As I began walking down the rock barrier around the harbor, I met five Hispanic teenagers. One of them was carrying a stick. I decided to engage them in a conversation by asking the question, "Which President of the United States said 'Speak softly, and carry a big stick.?' " It was Teddy Roosevelt. Then the Holy Spirit gave me what the Apostle Paul called *a word of knowledge* (1 Corinthians 12:8). "I'll bet one of you has a short leg.", I said. Chiropractor's tell us that one in three people have one leg shorter than the other, and their solution is to put a lift in one's shoe. Immediately, one of the boys answered. "It's me! I'm the one with the short leg!"

I asked him to sit on the barrier wall. I held my hands under his feet and one leg was shorter than the other. While all watched, I said, "In the name of Jesus, I command this shorter leg to grow out and become equal length with the other leg." It did! One boy queried,

"You just did that to pull the preachers leg, didn't you?" "No, man, it really happened!" I had the five boys make a circle with me, hold hands, and all repeat the prayer of salvation after me. Five souls were added to the kingdom of God that day.

Overcoming Demonic Opposition

The Apostle Paul wrote, "For a wide door of opportunity for effectual [*service*] has opened to me [*there, a great and promising one*], and [*there are*] many adversaries." – 1 Corinthians 16:9 AMP.

Peter wrote, "Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are." – 1 Peter 5:8-9 NLT

According to Colossians 1:13, when we lead a person to Jesus, we are rescuing him from Satan's kingdom of darkness, and transferring him into the kingdom of God's dear Son, Jesus Christ. Soul winners are stealing the devil's subjects and the demons that are forced to give up their hold on sinners, are sore losers. Paul also said, "we are not ignorant of his (i.e., Satan's) devices." (2 Corinthians 2:11b). I mention this because spiritual warfare is a fact of life—we expect it and we overcome it! (Romans 8:37). Here are two experiences I had.

I was helping an Insurance broker feed sandwiches to the poor and homeless on Sundays in a park near the beach. One man, lying on the grass had cracked lips. I told him I would walk down to the 7-11 store and get him some lip balm. When I came back, Dr. Drost and I tried to get the man to repeat after us the *sinner's prayer* but he could not say it. We had to stop and take authority over the hindering evil spirits in the man; then he was able to pray.

When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to Him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use Your name!" "Yes," He told them, "I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. — Luke 10:17-19 NLT

In the early 1980s a young man, Donnie, at church, volunteered to go street witnessing with me, if I were a really sincere Christian. I

ignored that remark and we passed out Gospel tracts at the annual *Solstice Parade* which I believe is evil. We were not together. I found Donnie downtown sitting on a patch of grass with his head down. He had encountered demonic oppression. I prayed over him, pushing back the demon forces (Psalm 44:5). He was refreshed and wanted to continue witnessing!

I Shall not be Moved – African American Spiritual – public domain

Though all Hell assail me, I shall not be moved

Jesus will not fail me, I shall not be moved

Just like the tree that's planted by the water

I shall not be moved

My wife's mother, Ruth, was in her 90s. I didn't know where she stood with the Lord – whether she was just acknowledging Jesus as an historical person, but had not come to know Him personally by asking Him into her heart. I brought up the issue at the kitchen table and she just laughed. Harriet's mother in Law, also named Ruth, and also in her 90s had made it clear she wanted no one talking to her about the Lord, even though she had been raised Catholic. When around her, I had respected her wishes and kept quiet. Without warning, she unexpectedly died.

My mother and I opened the garage door of the Harriet's mother's garage to get out the red sports car to go to an appointment. Ruth heard the noise, and came out of the house to tell us, "I've got my house clean. I think I'm ready to go!" Before that point it appeared that she felt she was acceptable to God because of the good deeds her family had done in feeding the poor during the Great Depression. Now she seemed unsure about her future. "Go where?" I asked. "Heaven I hope; that is, if God will accept me.", she said.

I told Ruth I had a prayer I had been using, and we could pray the prayer together and she could know for sure that she was going to Heaven. "Sometime." she responded. I told her we would stop and pray the prayer right there in the garage. I started the prayer and asked her to repeat after me, a line at a time starting with "Dear Jesus..." Ruth wasn't talking so I asked her why. She said she was praying silently. I told her that wasn't good enough. I knew that Jesus said we have to confess Him before men (Matthew 10:32). We started again. There was demonic interference or opposition. I had trouble

saying the familiar prayer and Ruth struggled to get the words out also; but we made it through.

Ruth died at 102 and I believe she is in Heaven now. God willingly accepted her on His terms. The Book of Revelation says, "And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." – (Rev. 22:17 KJV). Jesus said, "him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. ...And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life:" – John 6:37b, 40a KJV

Share the Good News, Leave the Results with God

In Jesus parable (story) of the planter and the seed (Matthew 13:3-9,18-23), the seed thrown out by hand, fell on favorable and unfavorable soils which affected whether the seed sprouted, and the size of plants that grew. Later on, Paul the apostle, states:

I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. – 1 Corinthians 3:6-7) NLT

My cousin Randy was visiting in the 1970's. I had bought booklet comic gospel tracts by Chick Publications. Randy and I were passing them out when the movie *Bullet* with Steve McQueen was playing at the drive-in movie theatre. I felt impressed to tell Randy, we need to go to a certain small group home meeting. There Randy confessed his sins. He married a Christian wife and raised a Christian family. About 1998, my wife and I were visiting relatives within thirty minutes of Randy and his wife. We called ahead, then made a visit. He told us it was at the meeting I took him to years ago that he got truly saved and began serving the Lord.

God told us to preach the good news to *every creature* (Mark 16:15). We go witnessing and leave the uninterested or hostile encounters with people in God's hands. They are not just rejecting us, but, sadly, Jesus who sent us. (1 Samuel 8:7; John 15:21)

Assurance of Salvation — God's Bible Promises

"My making Heaven my eternal home, rests not on my feelings, but my faith in God's faithfulness, and His ability to keep His Word."

God told the prophet Jeremiah, "I am watching, and I will certainly carry out all My plans." – Jeremiah 1:12b NLT

Blessed *be* the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant. – 1 Kings 8:56 KJV

for Your promises are backed by all the honor of Your name.

– Psalm 138:2b NLT

Paul, regarding the patriarch Abraham: He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever He promises. – Romans 4:21

When have prayed and asked Jesus into our hearts as our personal Lord and Savior, God's Bible promises are our assurance that He is living in us, we are his child, and we will spend our eternity with Him.

Because I was a *supersensitive* person who shut off my feelings as a child so as not to experience further pain (something a psychologist with two PhDs told me), some suggested I be put on disability for being [*Skitzotypal*](#) (Bland or strange emotional responses). For three years after I had asked Jesus into my heart at age eleven, I wasn't sure if I was saved because I was going by my day to day feelings / lack of feelings, rather than God's promises to save me and make me His child.

Thus, every new believer in Jesus needs to be given some Bible assurance of salvation scriptures. For relevance, let's look at the five verses used by Larry Beckman that I listed earlier under *The Plan*:

- John 1:12 TLB – But to all who received him, he gave the right to become children of God. All they needed to do was to trust him to save them.
- Revelation 3:20 NLT – "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear My voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."
- Ephesians 2:8-10 NLT – God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

• Romans 10:9,10 & 13 – If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."

• 1 John 5:11-13 NLT – And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.

"God said it, I believe it, and that settles it!"

Follow up for New Believers in Jesus

"...go and make disciples of all the nations...Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you." Matthew 28:19-20 NLT

In his *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, W.E. Vine points out the Greek word for disciple, *Mathetes*, indicates thought accompanied by endeavor, those abiding in His (Jesus') Word, those who believed upon Him and confessed Him; "not only a pupil, but an adherent; hence they are spoken of as imitators of their teacher"²⁶.

The Apostle Paul to Timothy: "You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others." – 2 Timothy 2:2 NLT

After leading someone to the Lord, we are not to just leave them hanging, so to speak, and walk away. We are to keep in touch with, and make disciples, followers, adherents, of the people we lead to Jesus. Larry Beckman's plan includes handing new believers a card with the name and address of a church in the area to contact, and collecting a contact information card on the person prayed with to be given to that church. In addition, I suggest these three additional free resources that are PDF downloads from the internet connected to these links:

1. [Discipleship / Evangelism Course by Andrew Wommack](#)
2. [What it Means to be Born Aqain — Understanding God's Plan of Salvation](#)

3. Free Bible Studies by Dick Handley [English](#) [Spanish](#)

The Testimony of Your Life

Ye are the light of the world. .. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. – Matthew 5:14a, 16 KJV

... you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. – 1 Peter 3:15-16 NLT

The Merriam-Webster Computer Dictionary² Defines *testimony* as: evidence based on observation or knowledge. In the Bible (Revelation 12:11) we are told that believers overcame "the accuser of the brethren" "by the word of their testimony" (Greek word *maturia* - witness, evidence, testimony). One minister of *inner healing* and *deliverance* said, "A testimony is worth a thousand theories."

My agnostic father was a research scientist and inventor. His youngest brother was a Baptist lay minister and had tried for years to win my Dad for Jesus. In my early twenties, at a Christian meeting in an apartment, a lady I didn't know said, "Don't try to cram religion down your father's throat. He will be won by the personal testimony of your life, and by the success of your ministry." On one occasion the Lord anointed me to speak for about forty-five uninterrupted minutes to my Dad, Mom, and brother. When my dad was eighty-eight and dying of cancer, he called me to come over and pray for him. He did not want to die and was desperate for a miracle. The Lord gave me the exact words to say. "It's not your time to go because, one, you don't know where you are going; and, two, you don't know how you are going to get there." Surprisingly, my Dad humbled himself, took my hands and asked Jesus to forgive his sins and come into his heart. Later, I had a reconciliation with him and received his approval. He told me he loved me, that I had made good progress and was a good son.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." – Acts 16:31 NLT

When I joined the Navy in 1969, it looked like former hippies or drug users also joined because they didn't want to get drafted into the Army and be sent to Viet Nam. I was assigned to a destroyer tender (repair ship). Instead of being nervous, I felt the presence of the Lord. In the berthing (sleeping) compartment, I saw some men who looked like former drug users sitting at a table. "If I really looked, how many funny little cigarettes do you think I could find around here?" I asked. When I was putting things in my locker, Mike V. came over and asked if I was looking for some marijuana. "If I'm high on anything, I'm just high on Jesus Christ." I told him. He later went to a [Jesus People](#) Christian concert in the city of Long Beach where the ship was docked, and he went forward at the altar call and gave his heart to the Lord. At one point, an officer asked two sailors who had been in my group in Viet Nam if my Christian way of living was sincere and obvious to them, and they both said "Yes."

It seems to be true, that one can walk up to a stranger, ask if he has ever asked Jesus Christ to come into his heart as his personal Lord and Savior, and if not, lead them in the prayer of salvation right on the spot. My spiritual father, told me, **Sometimes you have to win the person to yourself, before you can win them to the Lord.** A case in point is the testimony [Graham Kerr](#), the *Galloping Gourmet* celebrity. First his wife came to Jesus and the positive change in her brought her husband to the Lord. This also happened to the investigative reporter and New York Times bestselling author, [Lee Strobel](#) who wrote the book *The Case for Christ*.

In the New Testament, In witnessing on a personal level, Jesus, in talking to the woman at the well (John 4:5-30), first showed an interest in her life to get her attention. Using a gift of the Holy Spirit the Apostle Paul called *a word of knowledge* (1 Corinthians 12:8), the Master was able to tell her about her relationships history which led her to the knowledge that He was the expected Prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15) or Messiah. From there, through this woman's testimony, the whole village was introduced to Jesus. (See gospel tract [Living Water - The Ultimate Thirst Quencher](#).)

When a tidy and organized modern day Evangelist stayed overnight in the apartment of my roommate and I, he said, "This apartment is not a good witness." The following statements shows

that, not living right in the eyes of lost souls around us, hinders our efforts to win them for Jesus."

"I'd rather see a sermon than hear one, any day."

"What you are speaks so loud, I can't hear what you say!"

Spiritual Pointers to see a Specific Person Saved

1. God wants all men to come to him and be saved.

...God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. – 1 Timothy 2:3b-4 KJV

...He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. – 2 Peter 3:9b NLT

2. God wants to save one's whole household, by them, as a group believing in Jesus (Acts 16:31).

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. ...Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized... they all believed in God. – Acts 16:30b-34 KJV

But the love of the LORD remains forever with those who fear Him. His salvation extends to the children's children of those who are faithful to His covenant, of those who obey His commandments!

– Psalm 103:17-18 KJV

3. God already did His part over 2000 years ago when Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead. Now He is waiting on individuals to respond by asking Jesus into their hearts.

"Come, let us return to the LORD. ...now He will bandage our wounds. In just a short time He will restore us, so that we may live in His presence. Oh, that we might know the LORD! Let us press on to know Him. – Hosea 6:1-3 NLT

For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. – 2 Corinthians 5:19-21 NLT

Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life.

– Revelation. 22:17b NLT

4. God the Father, Jesus His Son, and the Holy Spirit are all working on getting a lost soul / sinner to come back (return) to the Lord and get right with Him.

For no one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws them to Me, – John 6:44a NLT

For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that *sheep*, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. – Matthew 18:11-13 KJV

"Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear My voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

– Revelation 3:20 NLT

the Advocate [i.e., Holy Spirit]...I will send Him to you. And when He comes, He will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in Me. – John 16:7b-9 NLT

6. The Holy Spirit convinces the unsaved that they are sinners in need of a Savior. Since Jesus took the sins of the world upon Himself a long time ago, the remaining hang-up (sin) in getting right with God is refusing the sins cure, Jesus Christ.

God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him. "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in Him. But anyone who does not believe in Him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son.

– John 3:17-18 NLT

In Peter's first sermon after being filled with the Holy Spirit, the convicting power of the Spirit of God convinced the people listening that they need to do something (i.e., believe in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior).

Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in

the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God." – Acts 2:37-39

At Miracle Valley Bible College, a fellow student, living across from me in the dorm, said when he was a drug user, he went to an evangelistic meeting just because a friend had invited him. When the altar was given, he found himself at the altar giving his heart to Jesus, something he had not planned.

5. Our enemy, Satan, is working as a blinding evil *strongman* against our seeing our need for God and *the* Savior. Jesus gave us authority over that dominating demonic influence in a sinners life, to bind it powerless to hinder a person's coming to Jesus.

If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. **Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News.** They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. – 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NLT

But if I am casting out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you. For who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man like Satan and plunder his goods? Only someone even stronger—someone who could tie him up and then plunder his house. – Matthew 12:28-29 NLT

Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. – Matthew 18:18 KJV

Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven." – Luke 10:19-20 NLT

Jan R. was also fellow student at the Bible college, who had been invited to a meeting. He was Jewish. He had attended a hypnotism entertainment show. Although he had not gone on the stage, a strange power came upon him, giving him supernatural strength which he had been using in the sport of wrestling. He had become what German

Theologian and missionary [Dr. Kurt E. Koch](#) called "occultly subjected". When the altar call was given, the Holy Spirit convicted Jan of his need of Jesus as his personal Lord and Messiah. He stood up to respond, but the demon in him would not let him step out of his seat to the altar. The others had sat down, but Jan was still standing, frozen in place.

The Lord showed the minister what was going on. While the demon was telling Jan all the reasons he should not go forward, the Lord was speaking through the minister telling why he needed to come forward. The minister asked some young men to assist Jan to the altar. He made it, but his heels dug the carpet the whole way there. At the altar he was gloriously saved, set free, and filled with the Holy Spirit. The next day God used Jan to set someone else free from a demonic stronghold!

6. In order for people to respond to God's free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ, they must first be made aware of this great offer. The lost person must be spoken to by Christians. We need to pray for people we want to see saved to be lovingly witnessed to by disciples of Jesus actively sharing the Good News with those around them. This is what the Bible calls the Lord sending laborers into the harvest field of a person's soul.

For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved." But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "**How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!**" So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ. – Romans 10:13-15,17 NLT

7. In Jesus' parable (story) of the planter and the seed, the seed that fell into good soil sprouted and reproduced by a factor of 100. I believe we can ask God to prepare the heart of someone we are praying for, to be receptive and productive.

For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so My ways are higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts. "The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing

seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with My word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it."

– Isaiah 55:9-11 NLT

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure. – Philippians 2:13 KJV

We can sum all of the above into a single prayer for an unsaved individual:

Father God, in Jesus' name, I bring _____ before You. I thank You for loving _____, and sending Your Son Jesus to die on the cross for _____ to give _____ a new life and an eternity with You. As Jesus said, I ask that You draw _____ into a saving relationship with you by asking Jesus to forgive his sins and come into his heart. In Jesus' name I take authority over and bind powerless the demonic strong man of evil that has hindered _____ from coming to Jesus Christ. I loose upon _____ the conviction of God the Holy Spirit that he is a sinner who needs to repent of his sins and believe in Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior.

Lord, I ask that you send Your messengers of Good News to sow the seed of the Truth and the Word of God into _____'s heart. Prepare his heart to be good and fertile soil. Put in his heart a desire to find and know You. According to your Bible promise in Mark 11:23-24, I say in faith that _____ will ask Jesus into his heart and be saved. I have asked for and desired it; and I believe I receive it now, by faith. I thank you for hearing and answering this prayer as you promised you would, in Jesus the Savior's wonderful name. Amen"

Closing Prayer

"he that winneth souls is wise." – Proverbs 11:31 KJV

"Lord, forgive us for our indifference to spreading the Good News and bringing people to right standing with You through Your son Jesus Christ. Give us boldness (Acts 4:29) to speak the truth in love. Spur us to action, to do our part. Make daily divine appointments for souls. Replicate Jesus in and through us, continuing the things He "began to do and to teach (Acts 1:1)". Touch our hearts with the things that touch your heart – Your love and compassion for lost. Make us sons and daughters of fresh oil. Let it be as the Apostle Paul said, 'Woe be

unto me if I preach not the gospel!' Protect and cover us with your guarding angels and the blood of Jesus as we go forth. According to You word the Bible in Acts Mark 16:20, work with us, confirming Your word "with signs following". In Jesus' name we pray and agree, Amen.

"And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, Your servants, great boldness in preaching Your word. Stretch out Your hand with healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:29-31 NLT

Prophet Samuel to King Saul: At that time the Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them. You will be changed into a different person. After these signs take place, do what must be done, for God is with you. – 1 Samuel 10:6-7 NLT

Song chorus by Carol Owens:

He said '[Freely, freely](#)²⁹ you have received; freely, freely give. Go in my name, and because you believe others will know that I live."

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About the Author

David was born in 1950. At birth, his Pentecostal grandmother laid a hand on his head and dedicated him to the Lord's work. A lifelong struggle emerged to find and fulfill this mission. Winning lost souls for Jesus, writing, public speaking, and Christian Evangelism Printing were blessed when no secular career except printing seemed to succeed. Six years of college, including a Bible college and a school of theology, made him an intellectual, but didn't show him the need to get out of his head and into his heart where God the Holy Spirit lived.

As David pushed back his shyness and transitioned to walking *in step with* the Holy Spirit's leading, a few miracles happened, along with financial blessing, favor with God and others, and good health. The Lord told him, "You will write things that will help other people, whether you think it will help them or not."

At age seventy, David believes a *Greater Glory* outpouring of God is just ahead for all who position themselves to be used by God. One of David's prophetic associates in bringing revival to his city had delivered a sermon titled:

Take Your Positions, the Rain is About to Fall!

Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Daniel 11:32 ...but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do *exploits*.



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If I just pray with someone who is lost, but don't follow up on him, is that enough?

If I get people out of the Devil's hands, there will be opposition.

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If I take care of God business of winning people to Jesus, He will take care of my business — I will be blessed.