

The background of the cover is a photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange glow and long rays of light. The water is dark blue with some whitecaps. In the foreground, there are large, layered, and cracked rocks, possibly a rocky shore or a beach. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

**JESUS  
IS  
GRACE  
AND  
TRUTH**

**BY WILLIAM R. HUNT**

**Jesus**  
**Is**  
**GRACE**  
**and**  
**TRUTH**

By William R. Hunt

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The author gives thanks to Shawna J. Wright  
for taking time out of her busy schedule  
to totally edit this little booklet.

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## Introduction

May this little booklet bring spiritual growth and a greater love for the Lord Jesus. In her 1856 prayer hymnal, Elizabeth Prentiss wrote, “More love to Thee, O Christ, more love to Thee! Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee; This is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ, to Thee; More love to Thee, more love to Thee.” “The LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart . . . .to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart . . .” (Deuteronomy 30:6). The fulfillment: “PURIFYING their HEARTS BY FAITH” (Acts 15:9, emphasis added). Romans 6:6 reveals the reason why God needs to circumcise the heart—“that the body of sin might be destroyed.” The body of sin is the inherited sinful nature, a work of Satan in man’s heart. Only the Mighty God can remove it. He works through the Holy Spirit. (Permission granted by Holiness Data Ministries.)

My goals for the booklet are to encourage readers to be people of prayer; to honor Christ in their daily lives; and to build confi-

dence in Christ Jesus, God the Father, and the blessed Holy Spirit. My pastor and Bible teacher R. E. Carroll gave me the following reasons for searching for Biblical truth (taken from my 1980 notes):

- A. To look for God's blessings
- B. To enjoy what you know
- C. To be a great influence for God
- D. To understand right concepts of sin
- E. To glean right concepts of God
- F. To learn right concepts of human nature

It is peaceful, stabilizing, rewarding, and joyful when people learn that God requires no obedience for His own pleasure. Being obedient unto God is for our own good. Are you sweetly resting in Jesus? If not, search the Bible for Biblical truths that you be not deceived (Matthew 24:4).

Neither the Lord nor I want anyone who reads this to miss heaven and spend eternity where life never ends, and the fire is never quenched (Mark 9:43, 44). The Lord is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). But

many will perish by choice. Jesus said, “Many will say to Me, Lord, Lord, I have prophesied, I have cast out devils, I have done wonderful works. All of these were in Your name.” Then Jesus will say, “I never knew you. Depart from Me, ye that work iniquity” (paraphrased from Matthew 7:22, 23). The way to find assurance of heaven is to be converted and become as little children (Matthew 18:3). Humble yourself and draw close to the Lord. Make it your life’s goal to always please and honor the Lord. Place all your confidence in Christ Jesus.



## Acceptance of Biblical Truths

Hebrews 11 is the what we call the “faith chapter.” It emphasizes the necessity and the rewards of “Bible faith.” “Bible faith” implies a number of things. One is ACCEPTANCE: God is, and He is the GREAT I AM. God is the Source of the gospel. Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. The Word of God is an absolute necessity for spiritual life. Attached to an eternal source is a pipeline large enough for the population of the whole earth. It is filled with nothing but the ingredients for Biblical faith. Heaven and earth will pass away, but the eternal Word of God will not pass away. Christ is the only begotten Son of God. All things were created *by* Christ and *for* Christ (Colossians 1:16). ACCEPTANCE OF THESE BIBLICAL TRUTHS is an excellent step toward building Biblical faith in Christ.

## The Reliability of God's Word

Another important element of faith is RELIANCE on God. 1. The Holy Bible as originally written is the WORD of GOD. Some are teaching that it only *contains* the word of God, which means it is alloyed. 2. "For by grace are ye saved through FAITH; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8, 9, emphasis added). Great are the exceeding riches of God's grace in God's kindness and mercy toward us through Jesus Christ. "But without FAITH it is impossible to please him [God]: for he that cometh to God must BELIEVE that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6, emphasis added). "Therefore being justified by FAITH, we have peace WITH God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1, emphasis added). The unsaved are at enmity with God. They are their own little gods. But Christ demonstrated His love for them by freely giving His life as a ransom for them that He might be their God. God's Word is reliable and eternal and more stable than the Rock of Gibraltar.

## **Prayer = Dependence**

Yet another element of faith is DEPENDENCE. Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). A small child is totally dependent on his father. Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow . . ." (Matthew 6:33, 34). Again, we see Jesus teaching dependence upon God by faith. Prayer is the language of dependency. People who think they are independent and self-sufficient do not pray except for 9-1-1 prayers. W. W. Walford, author of "Sweet Hour of Prayer," understood dependence upon God. You, too, can depend upon God; He CARES for you.

## **Faith = Obedience**

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8, 9). The Biblical foundation for these verses is the worst time of man’s history—just after the Fall (Genesis 6:5-9). God was grieved that He had to destroy man. But God held forth a shining light when the rest of the world was governed by the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eye, and the pride of life. God’s light was Noah, for he walked with God. Genesis 6:8 says, “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.” Noah labored by faith for 120 years. It is not recorded that God ever spoke to Noah during that time. Noah built the ark by faith. God saved Noah. God shut the door. Biblical faith results in obedience.

## **Noah Walked With God**

“Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God” (Genesis 6:9). The Bible is silent on how long Noah walked with God before he was told to build an ark. We know he lived 500 years before his three boys were born. Walking together builds an intimate relationship through communication. Thought patterns end up on the same wavelength, resulting in love and obedience to each other. Romans 10:17 tells us that faith comes by hearing the Word of God, resulting in confidence. Confidence in God always brings great faith. The benefits of walking with God are innumerable: faith, a clear conscience, answered prayers, a pardon from God, spiritual blessings, loving what God loves, and spending eternity in His presence. Oh, learn to walk with God and LOVE His Word!

## Marks of a Christian

Romans chapter five gives us the marks of a Christian. Christians 1. are justified by faith, 2. have peace with God, 3. have access by faith into grace wherein we stand, 4. experience the love of God poured into their hearts by the Holy Ghost, which is given unto them, and 5. have joy in God through the Lord Jesus Christ. After the Ethiopian eunuch found Jesus as his Saviour, he went on his way rejoicing (Acts 8:39). After the jailer at Philippi found Christ as his Saviour, he rejoiced, believing in God (Acts 16:34). Christians also show love one to another (John 13:35). All of these are marks of a Christian because of Christ's atonement for our sins. Jesus, "knowing that the Father had given ALL THINGS into his hands" (John 13:3), merits the placing of all our confidence in Him. Total confidence in Christ means freedom from uncertainty.

## God Knows and Cares

All men have frustrations and disappointments. God knows every situation in our lives. While John was banished to the Isle of Patmos, God gave him a revelation to write down (Revelation 1:9-11). Joseph was thrown in prison, but the Lord was with Joseph even there (Genesis 39:20, 21). King Nebuchadnezzar cast Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego into the fiery furnace, but the Lord walked with them in the fire (Daniel 3:24-27). Peter, in a time of discouragement, went back to his old occupation. Other disciples followed him. Jesus showed Himself to them, conversed with them, and served them a meal (John 21:1-11). The Lord knows every situation in your life. Place all your confidence in Him, and He will take you through. “Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:20).

## God's Love for Sinners

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God demonstrated His love for sinners. Christ died for those who were neither righteous nor good (Romans 5:8). Why? That they might have eternal life. Christ said to those who had forsaken all to follow Him, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20). Christ said, "No man taketh it (my life) from me . . . I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again" (John 10:17, 18). WHY, Lord, would You lay down Your life and take it up again? That by the Father, all men would have the opportunity to be delivered "from the power of darkness, and . . . translated into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Colossians 1:13). Great is God's love and power!



## Joseph's Example

From the life of Joseph, we can learn great lessons concerning circumstances in our lives. Joseph said to his brothers, "You thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good" (Genesis 50:20). As a young boy, Joseph was hated by his brothers (Genesis 37:20). They sold him into slavery (Genesis 37:28). It was a BAD CIRCUMSTANCE, BUT the Lord was with Joseph (Genesis 39:2). He was purchased in Egypt by Potiphar. Potiphar saw that the Lord was with Joseph (Genesis 39:3). Joseph did not allow bad circumstances to dictate his relationship with the Lord. Joseph made a choice to serve the Lord. Are you making the kinds of choices that reveal to those who have authority over you that the Lord is with you? Joseph is a great example of making choices that reveal the Lord to others.

## Spiritual Blessings

Many Americans use external rulers to measure spiritual blessings. In God's eyes, who is considered "blessed"? The one who has been accepted in the Beloved Christ (Ephesians 1:6) is a blessed person, whether he lives in a twenty-one-room mansion, or under a bridge in a cardboard box. The person is blessed who has presented his body a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God (Romans 12:1), whether he runs marathons, or can't stand or walk. They are blessed who meet Jesus, and allow Jesus to change their lives, their ambitions, and their goals, and receive a desire to follow Christ—whether they live in the tombs (Luke 8:27), or are bankers living in the richest part of town. Do not be deceived by this world's standard of a blessing.

## Wisdom From the Cross

Scripture records seven sayings of Christ from the cross. The first one—“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). After nailing Christ to the cross, the soldiers lifted up the cross and dropped it into a hole. Oh, the pain He must have felt! Yet there was NO SATANIC spirit in Christ that said, “I want to get even.” Instead, Christ prayed for those who hurt Him. Is the cry of your heart and soul in harmony with the Spirit of Christ? I don’t believe there are many people who would ask the question, “What would Christ do?” after they have been hurt by someone. A full surrender of our will to the will of God makes a difference in our attitude and actions. Let us not walk after flesh, but after the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:5).

## Salvation on the Cross

Another of the seven sayings of Jesus on the cross is this: “Today shalt thou be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43). Each Christian denomination has their own traditional “Road to Salvation” in Christ. I’m not belittling any road they may use. But all this man said to Jesus was, “Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom” (Luke 23:42). A man named Zacchaeus had a heart that cried out to see Jesus. He was willing to make every effort to see Jesus. The result was Jesus saying, “Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house.” Shortly thereafter, Jesus said to him, “This day is salvation come to this house” (Luke 19:1-10). Jesus would never break a bruised reed nor quench and smoking flax (Matthew 12:18-20). We should be very careful about our traditional “Roads to Salvation.”

## Care From the Cross

Of the seven sayings of Christ on the cross, one was, “Woman, behold thy son.” Christ also said to John, “Behold thy mother.” The titles “man” and “woman” were titles of much respect among the Hebrews. Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, “Behold the man,” and later Pilate said, “Behold your king.” In John 19:26, 27, the King of Kings bestowed two royal gifts—a son to a mother, and a mother to a disciple whom He loved. Jesus teaches us children are to respect, comfort, and provide for their parents. King David made provision and comfort for his parents (1 Samuel 22:3). Joseph made provision and comfort for his father. Speaking about child/parent relationships, Jesus said to the Jews, “Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?” (Matthew 15:3-7).

## Surrender on the Cross

“My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46) came the cry from the lips of the Lamb of God Who “tasted death for EVERY MAN” (Hebrews 2:9, emphasis added). Christ’s death was more than a physical death. Neither Enoch nor Elijah faced physical death. Nor will those who are changed “in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump” when the dead are raised from the grave. At this point on the cross, we see not only the great love that God has for all mankind, but also how unsympathetic God is toward sin. It is written the He was “smitten by God” (Isaiah 53:4). Though smitten, Jesus still said, “My God, My God.” Later, He was “buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead” (Apostles’ Creed). Total surrender to the Lordship of Christ is the great need of our day. Christ made a total surrender to God the Father.

## Examples From Scripture

Great examples are recorded for us in God's Word: Abraham, "the Friend of God" (James 2:23); God said that Levi walked with Him (Malachi 2:6); Enoch walked with God (Genesis 5:22); and Noah walked with God (Genesis 6:9). The Lord "sought him a man after his own heart," and David was the man (1 Samuel 13:14; 16:13). It is recorded five times that the Lord was with Joseph (Genesis 39:1-23). The three Hebrew men were cast into the fiery furnace. The king saw God walking in the furnace with them, and they were not hurt (Daniel 3:23, 25). By the grace of God, I plan on being identified with these men. These men all chose God to be in the first place in their lives. Some people's greatest desire is just to miss hell. With which group have you chosen to identify? I urge you—don't allow the complacency of just missing hell rule you.

## Who Said It?

Who is this One Who said, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock”? He is the One Who said: 1. “If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him” (Revelation 3:20); 2. “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and, learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls” (Matthew 11:28, 29); 3. “My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth . . .” (John 14:27); 4. “Come, follow me” (Luke 18:22); and 5. “Come and dine” (John 21:12). Who is this One who invites and makes promises? Answer: He is the promised Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14). “All things were created by him and for him” (Colossians 1:16). We’ve been given a great invitation with great promises from a great God, from the Creator Who created you for Himself, not for sin or Satan.



## **Faith Then and Now**

A lack of faith in God, in His Word, or in His ability and power has brought disaster to men, women, kings, families, tribes, and countries. In Hebrews chapter eleven, God shows His great love for all mankind, and that He is real. In essence, God is saying, “What I have done for others through their faith, I will do for you by your faith.” We see obedience and works through Noah’s faith when he built the ark God asked him to build. We see God rewarding Noah’s faith by saving Noah, his wife, and his three sons and their wives (Genesis 8:16; Hebrews 11:7). Faith was rewarded when the walls of Jericho fell down for Israel (Hebrews 11:30). Faith truly grounded and rooted in Christ will have the same results today as in Hebrews chapter eleven. God changes not.

## Will He Find Faith?

When Christ returns, “. . . shall he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8). The first prerequisite for faith is that a person “must believe that he [God] is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6). When one becomes rooted and grounded in the above truth, it will be a great help in maintaining faith in difficult times. Another prerequisite is faith. “Without faith it is impossible to please him” (Hebrews 11:6). Jude, writing about the last days, exhorts us that we should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Through the eyes of faith, Jude saw the great danger of faith being destroyed in the last days. Implant the following on your heart: “Your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God” (1 Corinthians 2:5). Set your affections on things above—GOD!

## Miracles

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8). During a bad storm at sea, the disciples asked Jesus why He didn’t care that they were perishing. Jesus said to the sea, “Peace be still.” The wind ceased, and there was a great calm (Mark 4:39). Jairus asked Jesus to heal his daughter who was almost dead. Jesus went to Jairus’s house, and said to the girl, “I say to you, Arise,” and the daughter arose (Mark 5:23, 41). I lost a set of keys to my padlocks. I search for the keys. After a few days, I found them in my hip pocket with my billfold. The pants had been washed and dried. I had taken my billfold out of my pocket probably fifteen to twenty times. Jesus answers prayer. It pays to seek everything Calvary provides. What are you seeking? Spend time with Jesus.

## The Essentials

Water, oxygen, and food are essential to every person's existence on earth. Similarly, there are things essential to Christianity. The Bible defines a Christian as a new creature. "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The following are essentials for a Biblical Christian: 1. to walk or live in the light as Christ is in the light (John 1:7); 2. to abide in Christ, and Christ abide in you (John 15:4); 3. to have an intimate relationship with Christ—His sheep know His voice, and follow Him (John.10:4, 14); and 4. to experience God's presence. God spoke face to face with Moses. Moses said, "If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence" (Exodus 33:15). Moses understood that God's presence was essential.

## Glory in Christ

It is written, “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD” (Jeremiah 9:23, 24). Today, God might say, “Let not the pleasure-seeker glory in pleasure. Let not the sport-lovers glory in sports. Let not the church leaders glory in their personal agenda . . . BUT LET THE CHURCH GLORY IN PROMOTING THE GLORY OF CHRIST, AND THE WELFARE AND FULL SALVATION OF ALL MANKIND”—that every church member may say with Christ, “I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do” (John 17:4). Personal agendas, sports, pleasures, riches, power, and wisdom will all pass away, but not God or His Word.

## Changed!

When the Lord speaks, circumstances change. A man dead and buried heard these words, "Lazarus, come forth," and he came forth! Later, he sat at the table with the Lord (John 12:1, 2). An untamable man living in tombs heard the Lord say, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit." Later, he was found sitting, clothed, and in his right mind. He was commissioned by the Lord to go preach the great things the Lord had done for him (Mark 5). A woman caught in adultery was brought by her accusers to the Lord who said to them, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." They all left. To the woman, the Lord said, "Hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more" (John 8:7-11).

## God's Footstool

The Lord said, "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool" (Isaiah 66:1). These things are essential for seeing and enjoying God's footstool: 1. a live birth; 2. eyes to see the footstool; and 3. the capability to comprehend. Not everyone who is religious will see God's throne and enjoy His presence (Matthew 7:21-23). These are essentials for seeing God's throne and enjoying His presence: 1. acknowledging Christ as the only begotten Son of God (Matthew 10:32, 33); 2. Christ's revelation of God the Father (Matthew 11:27); and 3. the truth that Jesus spoke, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the father but by me" (John 14:6). Placing all your confidence in Christ results in freedom from uncertainty. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8).

## **Hindrances to Service**

A great goal for pleasing God: "I HAVE GLORIFIED THEE ON THE EARTH: I HAVE FINISHED THE WORK WHICH THOU GAVEST ME TO DO" (John 17:4). Examples of hindrances to accomplishing the above goal are as follows: worldly allurements prevented the escape of Lot's wife (Genesis 19:26); an attempt to use King Saul's equipment delayed David (1 Samuel 17:39); unbelief hindered Christ's work in Nazareth (Mark 13:58); worldly possessions kept the rich young man from discipleship (Matthew 19:22); family ties prevented a man from following Christ (Luke 9:59); and discouraged men opposed the building of the wall of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 4:10). I urge you—don't be found in the above group. Live to glorify God and finish the work He has given you to do by placing all your affections and confidence in Christ.



## Faith Under Pressure

“By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8, 9). Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Job, a very rich man, displayed his faith even when under great pressure. In one day, Job lost all his livestock and all his children. He fell down on the ground and worshipped. Job said, “The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” Then we read, “In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly” (Job 1:20-22). In Job 23:8-10, Job explains more about his perspective: “I look toward the front, but God is not there. I look behind me, and I can’t find God. I look to the right and to the left, yet I cannot see God. But God knows the way that I take: and when He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold” (paraphrase).

## Lessons From Jairus—1

There are lessons to be learned about prayer as we study Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue (Mark 5:22-43). He selected those privileged to speak in the synagogue. It is apparent Jairus chose speakers with good and right concepts of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. We will be no more spiritual than our concepts of God. To be assured of a proper concept of God, we must read the Bible daily, prayerfully, with an open mind—asking God to open our eyes of spiritual understanding while enabling us to live a life pleasing to the will of God. We need to be very careful whom we choose to listen to about God, the Father of Jesus Christ. Not all churches or preachers have high and holy concepts of God. Be a seeker of correct concepts of the Trinity.

## Lessons From Jairus—2

Jairus displayed great confidence in Christ. When a crisis arose in the family, he had confidence enough to ask if Christ could take care of the situation (Mark 5:23). Apparently, Jairus knew that Christ cared about all of man's needs and frustrations. Jesus knows our every need, heartache, frustration, and pain. He knows our good days and our bad days. Jesus knows the circumstances that we have created for ourselves, and the circumstances others have created for us. Jesus knows what is ahead of us on the road of life. His eyes are on us; His ears are open to our cries for help. He cares for our sorrows. Place all your confidence in Christ; He will come to your rescue, or make a way of escape. "He that honors Me, I will honor," said the Lord.

## Lessons From Jairus—3

Jairus not only had right concepts and confidence in Jesus, the Messiah\Christ, but he also humbled himself before Christ and a multitude of people by falling at Jesus' feet. He pled earnestly with Jesus, "My little daughter lieth at the point of death . . . come, and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live." Jesus went with him (Mark 5:22-24). The Bible reveals many people who stood tall in God's eyes because they humbled themselves and earnestly sought God. Belief in God resulted in their needs being sufficiently met. "He that shall humble himself shall be exalted" are Jesus' words in Matthew 23:12. "God giveth grace to the humble." (James 4:6). Jairus teaches us how to approach Jesus in prayer if we wish to see our needs met.

## Lessons From Jairus—4

Jairus' request for the healing of his daughter is put aside temporarily while Jesus fine-tunes a woman's concept of her healing (Mark 5:25-34). The woman had said, "If I may touch but his [Jesus'] clothes, I shall be healed." When she touched Jesus' clothes, she *was* healed. Jesus said, "Who touched my clothes?" (v. 30). Jesus wanted the woman to confess her need to Him. I believe He also wanted her to know that it was not her action of touching Him that healed her, for Jesus said to her, "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole" (v. 34). Hebrews 10:38, Romans 1:17, and Habakkuk 2:4 all state, "The just shall live by faith." Jesus and the Holy Spirit taught that faith was the way for mankind to touch God. NOTICE: JAIKUS STAYED IN JESUS' PRESENCE DURING THIS DELAY. What a great example this is for us!

## Lessons From Jairus—5

Jairus faces another obstacle to his request that Jesus heal his daughter. His own household throws cold water on the situation with the statement, “Thy daughter is dead.” In essence, they said, “Give up; it is too late. You are wasting your time by making such a ridiculous request.” Wait! The message from Jesus was this: “Be not afraid, only believe” (Mark 5:35, 36). Jairus’ decision to stay in the presence of Jesus paid off. It will be the same way for us when we are praying if we stay in Jesus’ presence until the answer comes. When they arrived at Jairus’ house, another bucket of cold water awaits Jairus. The others laughed at the idea that Jesus could answer Jairus’ request. But the request is answered anyway. “Damsel . . . arise,” said Jesus. She arose and walked (v. 41, 42). Jesus answers prayer!

## Lessons From Jairus—6

Here is a summary of what we have learned about prayer from Jairus (Mark 5:22-43). 1. Choose to listen to people who have right concepts of Jesus. 2. Have confidence that Christ cares about your needs. 3. Believe that God is sufficiently able to do the impossible. 4. Be willing to humble yourself before Christ, no matter who is present. 5. Do not become discouraged. Stay in God's presence when requests are delayed. 6. Don't allow other people or Satan to weaken your faith or confidence by ridiculing you. 7. Your own household may say God won't answer your prayer. 8. Stay in the presence of Jesus. 9. Jesus will encourage His people. 10. God majors in impossibilities. Delays and throwers of cold water are part of "boot camp" for praying people, but the reward is great, to God's glory.

## Too Hard?

“Is any thing too hard for the LORD?” (Genesis 18:14). The LORD placed three Hebrews in high offices in foreign countries: Joseph as second in command to Pharaoh, king of Egypt (Genesis 41:41), Daniel as second in command over Babylon (Daniel 2:48), and Esther as queen to an empire that stretched from India to Ethiopia (127 provinces—Esther 2:17). The LORD delivered from one to three million unarmed Hebrew slaves out of Egypt, a powerful nation. He finished their deliverance by dividing the Red Sea. The Hebrew slaves walked through it on dry ground. When the Egyptians followed, they were drowned in the Red Sea (Exodus 14:14-30). The LORD delivered Daniel from the lions’ den (Daniel 6:22). All the above is mingled with FASTING, RELATIONSHIP, and PRAYER which is God’s will for us through Jesus.



## **Last Days**

Have you ever thought about the heart-ache, pain, and grief that God the Father felt as He turned His back on Jesus? This happened when Jesus, hanging on the cross, cried out, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Our sin was the cause. God the Father knew that in the last days, 1. men would be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God (2 Timothy 3:4), 2. men would be as it was in the days of Noah, and 3. men would be like the people of Sodom and Gomorrah (Luke 17:26-30). But the Triune God loved the world (John 3:16). Today, through the cross of Christ, God has given all people the opportunity to repent and surrender their lives to Christ, that they might have eternal life rather than eternal punishment. “Set your affections on things above” (Colossians 3:2).

## **Lessons From Zacchaeus—1**

The blessed Holy Spirit teaches us many spiritual truths through Zacchaeus. He was chief among the publicans. He was equivalent to the IRS (U.S. collection agents). He was despised by the Jews. He was considered an enemy to Israel. He was a sinner. But he wanted to see Jesus. He was hindered by people (Luke 19:3). Today, great multitudes of people are hindered from seeing Jesus because Satan gets their eyes focused on people. Examples: “The preacher’s wife never speaks to me.” Or “The Joneses completely ignore me.” Or “The leaders don’t recognize my talents.” You may add to the list. Satan deceived Eve by turning her focus to a tree and the fruit on the tree. Jesus said, “FOLLOW ME.” Keep your eyes focused on Jesus. He will lead you to God the Father.

## Lessons From Zacchaeus—2

“HE RAN . . . ” (Luke 19:4). Zacchaeus was fleeing from that which hindered him from seeing Jesus. Zacchaeus was putting forth effort just to see Jesus. Zacchaeus was a great example. Multitudes need to flee from whatever hinders them from getting closer to Jesus. As a sinner or a Christian, any effort that we make to flee from hindrance, and draw closer to Christ, will be rewarded and pleasing to our Lord Jesus Christ. The greatest asset of a Christian is a pure heart set on seeking Christ. Christ is the Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 13:46). Jeremiah wrote that such effort would be rewarded: “. . . and FIND ME, when ye shall search for me with ALL YOUR HEART” (Jeremiah 29:13). Set your heart and eyes on Christ. He is the only Door to eternal joy and peace.

## **In God's Image**

There are two very important passages of Scriptures that if misunderstood will lead to cult thinking. 1. God promised Satan that he could only bruise the heel of the woman's seed, but Eve's seed **WOULD BRUISE SATAN'S HEAD**. Man's greatest glory is not his wealth, his ancestry, or his fame, but that he was created in God's image. 2. "Let us make **MAN IN OUR IMAGE**, after our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). **WHAT IS GOD'S IMAGE?** God is a Spirit (John 4:24). God is immortal, deathless, eternal (an endless life). "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God" (Psalm 90:2). Adam and Eve were created with the ability for **THE EARTH TO BE FILLED WITH GOD'S IMAGE**.

## Mighty Weapons

The blessed Holy Spirit had the writer of 1 Samuel 17:22 pen the account of the uncircumcised Philistine Goliath who challenged God's people for the purpose of destroying them. But David used the weapons he had—a slingshot and a stone—to defend Israel. Though today we live in the flesh, “we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the PULLING DOWN of STRONG HOLDS)” (2 Corinthians 10:3, 4). The corruption, the distortion, the twisting of right and wrong going on in Washington, D.C., is a disgrace to our founding fathers who fought for freedom for the United States of America. I am expecting the Spirit of the Lord to move upon Washington, D.C. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God.

## Choice for Eternity

Man was created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26). God revealed He was a Spirit, “And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters” (Genesis 1:2). We know that WE, TOO, ARE SPIRITS. The blessed Holy Spirit gave us a great word picture of the image of God, “eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God” (1 Timothy 1:17). God created man and woman with the ability to recreate His image for many generations. Great honor and glory were given to men and women. Being created in the image of God, we are also immortal. Our spirits will never die. We will either spend eternity with Christ, or we will spend eternity in torment with the rich man (Luke 16:24). The choice is ours. Will it be the narrow way which leads to life, or the broad way which leads to destruction? (Matthew 7:13)

## God Revealed

God reveals Himself in many ways. One is through God's WORD; another is by different NAMES for Himself. In his book *Names of God*, Nathan J. Stone lists twelve different names or compound names of God. One of the names in Hebrew is Elohim. It carries the idea of creative and unlimited authority and power. God's Word says, "God is the high and lofty One that INHABITETH ETERNITY, whose name is Holy" (Isaiah 57:15). Eternity means "time without end" or "continuous existence." For God's glory and pleasure, He chose to recreate His image and likeness in man (Genesis 1:26). The image of God is an eternal spirit. Man was created with an earthly body, but also with a spirit that will never die. We choose whom we want to serve. God decides the consequences of that choice.

## **In His Image—1**

Adam and Eve were created in the image of God, and after His likeness. God's intention was for THE EARTH TO BE FILLED WITH HIS IMAGE and His likeness. God's image is very precious to Him. The Psalmist worded it this way; "Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, WHEN AS YET THERE WAS NONE OF THEM" (Psalm 139:16). God's watchful eye is on each reproduction of His image from conception to the end of man's life on earth. God gave the death sentence in Genesis 9:5, 6 to anyone who willingly killed another person because, "for in the image of God made he man." You are special because God sent Christ to destroy the work Satan did to God's image through Adam and Eve.



## **In His Image—2**

In King Solomon's prayer of the dedication for the new Temple, he prayed that when a GENTILE who had chosen Israel's God to be his God prayed, God would hear and answer. Why? So that ALL the PEOPLE of the earth may KNOW God's name, fear Him as the Israelites did, and KNOW that God's house (which Solomon built) was called by GOD'S name (2 Chronicles 6:32, 33). Here we see the Spirit of God reaching out to GENTILES. What a challenge to Christians today to reach out to ALL men, whether they live under a bridge, or in a forty-room mansion; whether their skin color is the same as ours, or not. God created every man, woman, and child in His own image. God's Word tells us that God's image is precious to Him (Genesis 9:6). Are you revealing Christ to others?

## **In His Image—3**

Man was created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:1-31). What does God reveal about Himself? 1. He has creative abilities. 2. God is a Spirit. 3. God's Word is powerful. 4. God is intelligent, and can correctly organize. 5. He's not a God of confusion. 6. Correct reproduction was one of His creative powers. 7. God was a master at aeronautics (v. 20). 8. God bestows gifts and instructions. He blessed the animals that came forth from the waters, and gave them instructions (v. 22). 9. He is a God of provision, water, grass, energy, light, and food. These all came before animals and man. None of the animals have written a book, or built an airplane, submarine, or skyscraper. This type of intelligence God gave only to man. Great is God's likeness!!

## Prayer

God's Word emphasizes prayer. The following are thoughts on spiritual growth through prayer. 1. Pray that God will not answer any prayer that would cause leanness of soul (Psalm 106:15); 2. Pray that our love for Christ shall not wax cold (Matthew 24:12); 3. Pray that the Holy Spirit will pour the love of God into our hearts (Romans 5:5); 4. Pray for a love of assembling with God's people in Christ's church (Hebrews 10:25); 5. Pray that the Holy Spirit will help us to submerge our will into God's will until our will is God's will (Matthew 26:39); 6. Pray that, whatever the cost, we will glory in nothing but the cross (Galatians 6:14); and 7. Pray that we will not become selfish lovers or lovers of PLEASURE more than lovers of God (2 Timothy 3:1-4).

## Jesus' Example

Genesis 1:1-31 tells us man was created in the image and likeness of God. This likeness is displayed through Jesus: His COMPASSION for others (Matthew 9:36); His MEEKNESS (1 Peter 2:23); His CONDESCENDING, etc. Example: Jesus washing the feet of the disciples (John 13:4, 5). Jesus had just washed Judas Iscariot's feet before Judas went out to betray Christ. Even though Christ knew who was going to betray Him, He still treated Judas with such love that none of the disciples had the slightest idea Judas was going to betray Jesus (John 13:21, 22). After Jesus said, "One of you shall betray me," every one of the disciples begin to say to Jesus, "Lord, is it I?" Finally, Judas asked, "Master, is it I?" (Matthew 26:21-25). Jesus rose from the dead to restore God's likeness in us, but we must daily surrender our will to God's.

## To the Corinthians

1st and 2nd Corinthians reveal spiritual directions to a people who lived in a city noted for being depraved, dissolute, marked by vices, and debauched. Virtue and duty were near zero. Through Paul, the Holy Spirit spoke to them about “Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:24); “He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord (1 Corinthians 1:31); Let not your faith “stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God” (1 Corinthians 2:5); “The temple of God is holy, which temple ye are” (1 Corinthians 3:17). In 2 Corinthians, the Holy Spirit reveals God’s character. “God is true” (2 Corinthians 1:18). King Solomon said that not ONE WORD of God’s promises have failed. TRUST JESUS! He will guide you through your frustrations and life’s disappointments. Jesus’ Word is a precious light to all mankind.

## Faithfulness

Jesus is the “Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and FAITHFUL” (Revelation 17:14). People, churches, and denominations have a certain standard people must meet who wish to be WITH Christ. I’m not here to say they are wrong in their standard. I do know those who meet the LORD’S standard will be WITH Christ. WE NEED TO BE PEOPLE WHO READ, STUDY, AND ASK FOR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD’S WORD. The word “faithful” is a key word. Every person has the ability to choose whether to be faithful to Christ, or whether to commit adultery against Christ. Acts 15:9-11 tells us the Holy Spirit made provision for all mankind to be faithful to Christ. The Holy Spirit “purif[ied] their hearts by faith.” Jesus also said, “BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART” (Matthew 5:8).

## Master

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given” (Isaiah 9:6). The angel said to Mary, “Thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS” (Luke 1:31). When this child born to Mary became an adult, He displayed that He was the Mighty God Isaiah wrote about. He showed that He was Master over TIME—He turned water into wine (John 2:9). He was Master over GRAVITY—He walked on the water (Matthew 14:25). He was Master over the ELEMENTS OF WEATHER (Mark 6:51). When Jesus went up unto them into the ship, the wind ceased. Matthew 14:30 says the wind was boisterous. This wind was mighty strong, and it was a powerful storm, but Jesus was Master over it all. Verse 24 says the ship was tossed with the waves. It was written that this Child “shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God . . .” (Isaiah 9:6).

## Master—2

The angel said to Joseph, “she [Mary] shall bring forth a son and thou shalt call his name JESUS” (Matthew 1:21). Jesus was the fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” or “God with us.” Isaiah 9:6 called the child the “Mighty God.” Jesus showed that He was the Mighty God by being Master over THE GRAVE—Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth.” Lazarus, who had been dead four days, came forth (John 11:39-44). Jesus was Master over FEVER or body temperature—Jesus took the hand of Simon’s mother-in-law, and immediately the fever left her (Mark 1:29-31). Jesus is Master over EYESIGHT—Jesus anointed the blind man’s eyes, then said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.” He obeyed and came seeing (John 9:1-7).



## Jesus' Uniqueness

The uniqueness of Jesus: He was the promised Seed of Eve that would bruise Satan's head. He was the promised Seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that would bless all the people of the earth. He was the promised Seed of David that would sit on David's throne as King. He was the One that Isaiah called "The Mighty God." Yet He was born in a stable by a woman who was a virgin. He was first worshiped by the shepherds—common people. The king of that day wanted to kill Him. Wise men from the East came and worshiped Him. No other founder of any religion other than Jesus (Founder of Christianity) has done the following: revealed He was master over time, gravity, the wind and sea, the grave, and evil spirits and diseases.

## Help for Seekers of Salvation

*What does Jesus offer to ALL people?*

*Answer: Forgiveness from sins*

To be saved, you must acknowledge that you are a sinner. You must believe you are created by God and have enough faith to believe God's Word. Forgiveness is for "who-soever" shall confess with his mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in his heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead. The Bible says *that* person "shall be saved" (Romans 10:9). St. John confirmed this when he said, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). "Whosoever believeth in him [Jesus] should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:15). The gospel of Jesus Christ is for you!

*What does Jesus have to offer to the world?*

*Answer: Removal of sin*

If a person travels straight north until he reaches the North Pole and then he keeps moving, he will begin going south. If a person travels straight east, though, he can continue indefinitely, never meeting the west. “As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us” (Psalm 103:12). God will “subdue our iniquities” and cast all our sins “into the depths of the sea” (Micah 7:19b). God said, “I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more” (Jeremiah 31:34). Not only does God remove sin and remember it no more, but God also said, “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18).

*What must I do to receive God's salvation?*

*Answer: Believe that God will forgive you of your sins when you ask Him.*

Reader, you, too, can be saved and have a personal relationship with Christ. Here is a suggested prayer. "Lord, I know I am a sinner and need to be saved. Lord, I know Jesus arose from the dead and that His blood was shed for my sins. Lord, I'm asking You to forgive me of my sins and cleanse me. Lord, help me grow in Jesus and develop a love for Your Word. Lord, above everything, help me to keep my eyes focused on You and not on people. Lord, Your Word has confirmed that You would save me; I believe You *have* saved me. Please give me a witness from Your Spirit to my spirit that I am Your child. By faith I believe Your Word; still, my faith is weak. Lord, increase my faith. Amen."

Name and Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Scriptures for Times of Doubt

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

“As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

“Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:35-39).

“. . . Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:20).

## Scriptures for Times of Doubt

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love” (Ephesians 1:4).

“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:7).

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).

## Scriptures for Times of Doubt

“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

“And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day” (John 6:37-39).

“The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah” (Psalm 46:11).

“The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower” (Psalm 18:2).

“In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears” (Psalm 18:6).

“For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock” (Psalm 27:5).





