

For Further Study:

Hard Questions About Christianity Made Easy, pp. 50-51, by Mark Water (John Hunt Publishing) 2000

216. You're trying to convert/proselytize me. Oh, no, he's talking about God; He'll probably try to convert me to try to make me live right and believe as he does. Are you one of those "born-again"-type Christians? (as if that's bad, or as if there is any other kind of Christian!)

Response(s): Jn. 3:3, 7, Mt. 18:3.

--Sir, I absolutely do not have the power to convert you to God. I am, however, trying to speak with you about how you can know for sure that when you die, you will go to heaven. Is that the sort of morally offensive good news message one should, naturally, recoil at hearing? [**implied, hard heart warning**].

--May I please accurately inform you that God and His Bible know of no other type of Christian than one who is "born again," and that everyone who does not become born anew will spend eternity separated from God and His glorious, heavenly presence.

For Further Study:

True for You, but Not for Me, pp. 38-40, by Paul Copan (Bethany House: Minneapolis, MN), 1998

217. Are you pushing a religion or denomination? (Ex.: Mr. Hunter down on Baptists).

Response(s):

--Absolutely not. In fact, I would usually never tell you about where I attend church, because I am here to make sure you don't go to hell but that you do go to heaven by receiving God's forgiveness of all your sins through the payment made by Jesus Christ, God's Son.

--No Sir/Mam. God may want you in a different denomination than He has me in (so long as its Bible-believing). I'm trying to tell you how to make sure you end up in heaven, no matter what church you ultimately join. It is not where you go but who you know, and unless you personally know Jesus Christ as the Savior of your sins, you could attend church(es) the rest of your life, in vain, as you would not end up in heaven.

--"Denominations" are man-made (**I Cor. 1:12-13**), based on divisions over specific beliefs and practices. I am non-denominational [**if you are**], and am here to speak to you about how you can become a member of God's eternal family...

--I do not offer you pressure or coercion—I am simply giving you the opportunity to hear a message which will inform you how you can know for certain that when you die, you will go to heaven.

--If one feels "pressured" just by having another person speak with Him about Jesus, I would suggest that that "pressure," perceived as a negative experience, reflects more on the condition of the heart before God, and the "pressure" not to listen, I can assure you is directly from the devil.

218. I don't like your method/approach.

[I have NEVER heard a lost person raise this objection—it's usually raised by believers, who either don't evangelize, or do evangelize so infrequently that they are intimidated that anyone would actually use a biblical (i.e., a bold) way to speak Gospel words to lost and dying people.

Response(s):

--To lost people: If you would suggest to me a better way for me to get the opportunity to tell you how you can have eternal life and go to heaven, and not hell, when you die, I'd be open to trying a different approach.

--To complaining believers (borrowed from Larry Moyer?): That's fine; tell me about what method you regularly use and I'll consider learning a new approach. [if no response...] I like my method better than yours!

The following was actually said to me by a pastor one day, regarding my Gospel Signs, held 50+ yards away from any Mormon person, at their temple's Grand Opening, a week after a sermon stating that each church member must do their part to make sure each person in the given locality hears the Gospel..."We don't do that 'in your face' evangelism." As Larry Moyer has said, I like my method better than that.

219. The Gospel is for poor people.

Response(s):

--It's for all people, and especially the poor, in that they are especially receptive as they have less security and assets to cling to.

--Trust me, sir, whether you know it or not, the Bible assures me that you are absolutely poor, as is everyone who is hopelessly and helplessly lost without God in this world (and the next).

--To consider poor people as one's inferior is to reflect an attitude of pride, which indicates that there is at least one sin we need forgiveness of, as it takes only one sin to qualify a man to go to hell—Jas. 2:10.

--In heaven's terms, even if you're a billionaire in this life, you are spiritually poor before God.

--Not poor in financial matters, but poor in spirit—humble—which impoverished people can exhibit, maybe more than most rich people, or at least self-reliant ones.

220. God will make me be poor, like a Monk. “Will I have to drive a Cavalier?”

Response(s):

--How do you know that? Most likely you are simply (verbally) expressing a fear/phobia you have, or at least a misunderstanding of Christianity that the devil has propagated—that God will call every believer to the remotest parts of jungle life if they really get committed to Him.

--Do you have any idea how many Christians there are in the world? Compare that number to the number of monks in the world, and you will quickly see that your argument does not hold water.

--God does not say whether poverty, riches or a modest lifestyle will be your particular calling—all such financial statuses are possible callings for the believer. The key is serving God with a full heart, and not loving money more than you love the Lord.

--I have known rich Christians and I have known poor ones, and what they share in complete harmony/common—if they are committed to following Him—is the joy, peace and blessings they both share, no matter their lot in life, from knowing God personally.

--Just because one Christian is led to drive a car you do not value does not have any bearing on how God will lead you. I will tell you, however, that if you admire too much, or idolize material assets over God, He may BLESS you by not allowing you to have that which you want, but do not need. He has promised to meet our needs—not all of our wants and desires, as He is not a divine errand boy.

--Better to live poor in this life and rich in the next, in heaven, than to live well in this life, and be poor in heaven—or worse, to be in hell. There is some biblical evidence for the truth that some people spend all their blessings in this life, to the impoverishment and detriment of the next (See Lazarus and the rich man parable). To be deceived—that is, unknowledgeable of what the Bible says—that this life is the main thing, and to neglect the much more important next life, is to be poor and unwise indeed. After all, what gain has a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?” (-----). It is NOT the one who dies with the greatest amount of toys who wins, but who often loses. Rather, it is, in fact, the one who ends up with the most faithful service to God who is indeed rich in life.

221. You can't have any fun as a Christian. Christianity is just a bunch of prohibiting rules.

Bible Reference(s): See Answer to Question #145, above.

Response(s):

--Really? Then I must not be a Christian, even though God lives within me, because I sure do have fun.

--As a Christian, you may experience a change in your desires and interests, and God may redefine what you consider fun once you're related to Him, but it is not true that you will not have any fun if you do pray to receive Christ.

--That is a misconception that several people fall prey to, which bears no connection to reality. Christianity is not a bunch of rules to prohibit you, but a personal relationship with the God of all creation, whereby He enables and empowers you to live the way He would have you live.

--In fact, the exact opposite is actually the case...the same book some people think of as a bunch of negative rules itself says that the more you come to know its truthful contents, the more freeing (vs. confining, or binding) your life will be. (Jn. 17:17).

--Really? Then you must please describe for me what your definition of Christianity is. Are you one of those uninformed persons who believes that Christianity is, basically, not drinking, gambling, smoking, dancing or going to 'R'-rated movies, because I can assure you that that is a very narrow and somewhat off-track understanding?

--You may be surprised to learn this, but some, if not many of those people who you think are Christians, because they are stoic, strict and basically mean---aren't.

--In fact, the most joyous and “fun” life anyone can live is to live the exact lifestyle that God has created man to live, in full pleasing of His Creator in every activity he engages in. What could be more fun than being yourself, within the guidelines of serving God, and knowing that such behavior reaps eternal rewards?

--In your upbringing, have you ever been exposed to strict training, because I'm trying to see why you would think that way?

222. Didn't that Discovery Channel filmmaker find Jesus' crypt and bones Feb. 26, 2007?

No, that was a bogus Hollywood claim. Those were rich person's crypts, those first names were common, it could have been a hoax from back then or now, and DNA can be connected to no one—God is spirit.

223. Have you ever sincerely thought something (to be true), only to discover later that it wasn't? That is, have you ever changed an opinion, or been wrong? Ill.: the bowing pillars of Egyptian landmarks look straight from a distance.

---We're not talking about pillars, and we are able to examine God's word up close—not from a deluded far away distance! An unrelated truth (i.e., that those pillars appeared straight from afar) carries no weight as a corollary analogy/

APOLOGETICS UPDATE:

Responses to Issues Raised in Bill Maher's movie, "Religious"...

224. The virgin birth and a talking snake are not credible, and years of Christ's life are unaccounted for.

See also answers to #s 7 and 15, above.

Response(s):

---If you are predisposed to disbelieve in miracles or to deny the Bible's truthfulness, there is little hope you will believe these two accounts.
---The fact that God did not see fit to mention anything of Christ's life between age 12 and 30 could never mean those years never happened. His ministry started at age 30, and what we do know of Him is what's most relevant to what we need to know about Him and for our own lives.

For Further Study:

Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics, pp. 759-764, by Norman L. Geisler (Baker Books: Grand Rapids, MI), 1999

225. New Testament prophecy (Ex.: "Revelations") was written by those who knew the Old Testament.

Response(s):

---The prophetic sections of the New testament have many new revelation details that are compatible but not repetitive of Old Testament prophecy sections. John received the book of Revelation as a vision, so he was not referencing Old testament prophecies when he wrote what he heard and saw. The truest test will be when all prophetic events transpire and God's doubters have to endure the Tribulation unto hell.

226. Those who wrote of Jesus never met Him, and the Gospels should all have the same accounts.

Response(s):

---Pure factual inaccuracy. Peter, Matthew, Mark and John met Christ. Luke got his account first hand from one who met Christ and even Paul even met Jesus directly on the road to Damascus.

227. Religion is just selling the invisible—which is easy.

Response(s):

---There is evidence for Christianity (See: Evidence That Demands a Verdict, and More Evidence That Demands a Verdict, by Josh McDowell), and invisible things can be real—take electricity and wind.
---It's easier to "sell" a product the "buyer" can investigate, observe and test out.

228. Religion shuts off rationality and impedes human progress—grow up already.

Response(s):

---Many aspects of the Bible are completely compatible with logic and rationality of thought. Other parts require faith, as they are more supernatural in nature.
---I hope that some of the books I have written demonstrate that, in fact, the exact opposite is true. God calls believers to love Him with all their mind, and accuracy is the essence of proper biblical interpretation—which requires great brain power.

229. There's no proof Christ existed. He's like Santa Claus and Jack and the Bean stalk.

See also answers to # 13 and 226, above.

Response(s):

---No rational nation or government has ever constructed their entire calendaring based on a non-historic myth.

230. It's fishy that God spoke privately to His prophets instead of simply audibly to everyone. And isn't it a low emotion that God is a jealous God?

See answers to # 23, above.

Response(s):

---If He spoke audibly, faith would not be needed, and faith is the one criteria for salvation god requires of man (perhaps because to doubt Him is a high insult, calling Him a liar in what He has written). God's jealousy is based in his love of His people—not envy from lacking anything others possess.

231. Fully surrendering to "God" just opens one up to manipulation by men with agendas (such as money, control over other's hopes, adoration by the masses, etc.).

See also answers to # 37, above.

Response(s):

---Total surrender to Christ only subjects one to His control—no man needs to be involved. In fact, it is when humans intervene in ones direct relationship and fellowship with Christ that false doctrine and sinful motives can get entangled/intertwined.

---It is true that false prophets and corrupt minister do and have abuse their authority, but an honorable Christian will study the Scriptures and test everything being asked of them by that standard alone.

232. Why don't the 10 Commandments include rape, child molestation and torture? All men could agree with no stealing or murder, without the need for religion.

Response(s):

---If you love God and man (the two greatest of the 10), you will not do those related antithetical sub-acts.

233. If God's all powerful, why doesn't He eliminate the devil and solve the problems? God is to blame for everything negative or evil as he could have stopped it (illness, lost legs in war, etc.).

See answers to # 10, above.

234. Many ancient gods were born on December 25—Christ's not unique.

Response(s):

---They are "gods"—human-imagined beings in the minds of men. He is the only one God and above all. The exact date of His birth is most likely not December 25th, but to set a date to celebrate it's having happened is the issue that matters.

---No one claims December 25 is the exact historical date of Christ's birth—in fact, the story of the shepherds tending their fields seems to indicate a Spring time-frame. However, December 25th is the traditional, ceremonial/symbolic date that has been established for millennia.

235. The Gospel is a story of God birthing Himself through a virgin, as His Son and Himself/God. The trinity is not monotheistic.

See answers to #s 4 and 54, above.

Response(s):

---God birthing His Son is not God birthing Himself. Though Jesus is God/deity, he is not the same Person as the Father who birthed Him through a virgin woman. Three Persons of the one Godhead is not contrary to monotheism, but a higher understanding of exactly what the nature of our one God is in His organic essence.

236. Religion just makes men arrogantly feel they have the answers to all life's questions. Doubt is more humble.

Response(s):

---Al contraire—it gives great confidence, yet humble reliance on the One who enables us to learn such matters.

237. Christians call coincidences "miracles," and many have a low threshold for identifying miracles.

See answers to # 15, above.

Response(s):

---Some Christians do have a low standard for defining "miracles." Biblical miracles—especially those performed by Jesus—are certainly not in a low category.

See also: Miracles and Modern Thought, by Norman L. Geisler.

238. The Old Testament has non-credible parts, such as Lot being a holy man who offering his daughter to be raped, God killing off a lot of people in the first 5 books, Jonah inside a big fish for 3 days, a 900 year

old man and 39 acts being guilty of the death penalty.

See answers to # 18, above.

Response(s):

---For specific responses to every alleged contradiction in the Bible, see books listed in our Apologetics Bibliography.

239. Doubt is a luxury for those who have. Those who are desperate cling to faith, as a jailed inmate or someone in a fox hole.

Response(s):

---In fact, doubt is the riskiest, most foolish assuming man can make, for he knows not the day of his demise, nor what will occur to him devoid a relationship with Christ. Having all the assets in the world will not get one to heaven, so the rich man could be said to be the poorest of all men—relying on his riches in a futile, false confidence. No matter one's material circumstances, a miracle of god's Spirit's conviction is necessary or no man could ever be saved.

---Your financial wealth provides zero protection from the impending wrath of God, and though it may make you feel secure, you're more at risk and vulnerable, being un-forgiven and never knowing when you will meet your Maker, than any other category of people on earth.

240. If Christ is God, how was He omnipresent while on earth? Can one be both God and yet not possess all God's powers?

---He willingly and obediently surrendered access to some of His intrinsic divinity powers in order to live as and identify with man.

241. Isn't Christianity just true for you, or because you were raised to believe it by what your parents told you?

---We are free to believe whatever we want, but that freedom does not make our beliefs equally credible. If Jesus lived, was resurrected—is alive—and said He was coming back to judge unforgiven sinners, that coming event (and fact) is true for all, whether they refuse to believe it for themselves.

---It is no more subjective than all men have sinned and deserve punishment—an objective fact. The subject is universal, not unique to any one individual or group or nation.

242. You cannot prove God exists without seeing Him, hearing His audible voice, a video of the same or the testimony of eye witnesses.

---Can you prove the wind exists, or that love exists? Some things are invisible. The Bible argues creation's beauty, order and intelligent design (and complexity) as well as the existence of a conscience in fallen man gives us enough 'proof' to be held morally accountable before God as rejecting what He has made known of Himself, which merits His judgment.

---If He were to make himself that obvious, there would be no need to require faith from man.

243. Don't the good deeds/lifestyle of Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons prove their theology is superior?

---It proves they are more serious about living morally than lesser-achieving true Christian believers (as you might be if you feared you'd go to hell without them). Their works-based theology, at odds with Scripture, in fact argues against a superior theology, as force or fear and threats of hell are not conducive with the grace-based gospel and nature of God in Christ.

244. Doesn't the sinful ("carnal") deeds and lifestyle of so many claiming Christians disprove their claimed beliefs?

---It does prove their lack of taking their beliefs as seriously as they are supposed to, and could potentially prove them to be tares among the wheat.

---Though Christians are forgiven all their sins, they will never be morally perfect in this life. They still have a sin nature, that wars against their mind and a devil who tempts them regularly.

245. The writers of the Bible were biased, and wrote their stories to prove the conclusion they sought to prove.

---The human Bible authors were for Christ, but biased writers hide negative or bad news, including their own weaknesses and moral failings—which these men did not do. Luke was especially scientifically precise, being a doctor who extensively researched the facts before penning Acts (and Luke), and the consistency, detail, and historically, geographically and archaeologically corroborated events of the Bible further illustrate that under

the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, natural biases can be accurately overcome in favor of accurately presenting Christ's word.

246. How do we know Christ literally lived on our earth?

---Honest eye witnesses, and even opponents testified to His existence, as well as credible historians.

---Objective, unbiased and independent historians tell us so (Jewish Josephus as one example).

247. Anyone can claim their Scriptures are perfect and from God. Claiming is much easier than proving the claim.

---That's true, and is why a detailed and thorough investigation of claimed Scriptures is beneficial, as well as corroboration from outside sources, and history, geography, archaeology and other sciences. Such studies have been undertaken and consistently verify the claim, as well as there being no inconsistency in the materials as originally given. As well, the credentials of Christ—miracles, deity claims, morals, teachings and prophecies fulfilled—attest to His right to authoritatively speak for God, as has been recorded in our holy Bible.

248. Many religious leaders have taught ethics, performed miracles, and many other men have claimed to be God.

---To the person, all false prophets who may have done some of these things have never done them all, nor to the extent or quality as Christ alone—nor have any been resurrected from the dead, and changed so many peoples' lives forever after their purported deaths, based on being alive from the grave.

249. Christ studied the Old Testament from childhood. He could easily have chosen His life path to fulfill prophecies about Messiah, and made claims based on those verse He already knew.

---It's hard to orchestrate people arresting you, placing you on a cross—the exact death instrument prophesied—and other specific prophecies (Ex.: where and how He was born, where His family moved to, etc.) that statistics alone would tell you require more than mere coincidence or intentional choosing to do the prophecies in order to perpetrate a fraud that they were indeed prophecies. Plus, such behavior is inconsistent with the revealed moral character of the Christ.

250. Don't Christians have 2 separate/different Gospels? Is God's word that confusing?

---They certainly have two different gospel invitations and salvation requirements. Otherwise, their message concerning Jesus is essentially the same. However, since the response of man IS part of the gospel—or it is mere information dissemination lacking the most crucial element for the benefitting of the hearer, one could argue they have two separate gospel messages, and the Bible teaches only one can be true—the other a false gospel—an assertion to which I would agree.

For Further Study:

The Complete Book of Bible Answers, pp. 175-232, by Ron Rhodes (Harvest House: Eugene, OR), 1997

Pro-Saviorhood:

Absolutely Free, by Zane Hodges

The Gospel Under Siege, by Zane Hodges

Balancing the Christian Life, by Charles Ryrie

Biblical Evangelism, by Michael Cocoris

Free and Clear, by R. Larry Moyer

Pro-Lordship:

The Gospel According to Jesus, by John MacArthur

Faith Works: The Gospel According to the Apostles, by John MacArthur

A Layman's Guide to the Lordship Controversy, by Richard P. Belcher

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735 Baffling Bible Questions, by Larry Richards (Revell: Grand Rapids), 1993

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Evidence That Demands a Verdict, by Josh McDowell (Here's Life Publishers: San

Bernadino, CA), 1979
More Evidence That Demands a Verdict, by Josh McDowell (Campus Crusade for Christ:
San Bernadino, CA), 1975
I Don't have Enough Faith to be an Atheist, by Norman L. Geisler (Crossway Books:
Wheaton, IL), 2004
Ready With an Answer, by John Ankerberg (Harvest House: Eugene, OR), 1997
I'm Glad You Asked, by Ken Boa (Chariot/Victor Publishing: Colorado Springs, CO), 1994
The Case for Christ, by Lee Strobel (Zondervan: Grand Rapids), 1998
The Case for Faith, by Lee Strobel (Zondervan: Grand Rapids), 2000
Defending Your Faith, by Dan Story (Kregel: Grand Rapids), 1997
Scientific Creationism, by Henry M. Morris (Creation Life Publishers: San Diego, CA),
1974
True For You But Not For Me, by Paul Gopan (Bethany House: Minneapolis, MN), 1998
When Critics Ask, by Norman L. Geisler (Baker Books: Grand Rapids), 1992
When Cultists Ask, by Norman L. Geisler (Zondervan: Grand Rapids), 1997
When Skeptics Ask, by Norman L. Geisler (Zondervan: Grand Rapids), 1990
How Christianity Changed the World, by Alvin J. Schmidt (Zondervan: Grand Rapids), 2001
Five Views on Apologetics, by Steven B. Cow

14. God Bless The Evangelists (through the Church)!

You have perhaps been told that Christians are supposed to “tithe” to the local church. Without exception this statement probably came from a pastor, who is the *direct recipient* of that statement. Read the Bible and see what the New Testament says about **giving** and “tithing.” I am certain you will see that **all** God’s ministers need financial support and the New Testament standard for a Christian—a maturer subject some won’t be able to apply yet—is to **give as you are Spirit-led to do so**, and in the amount or percentage **He** instructs. The Old Testament is *fully inspired* and inerrant, but if any changes have been instituted in Christ, they will be found in the *New Testament* (Ex.: the Sermon on the Mount, no more blood sacrifices, circumcision not required, etc.)

Of course, if we have no significant daily walk with Him, this can *hardly be done*, to which many traditional pastors say “if you aim at nothing you are sure to hit it,” or “10% is a good goal to set.” Why compromise God’s standard because of immature attitudes and lifestyles? **Do what God leads you to as He has blessed you**, but **PLEASE** remember that your gift should include those PROFESSIONAL HEROES (in my mind) who are out there *regularly* preaching the Gospel to lost people!

We all know about Billy Graham and his great organization. There are many **other** evangelists whose names you DON’T likely know, who *struggle* to support their family and still reach **MANY** with the life-giving message of Jesus (over 10,000 of which attended an *Amsterdam 2000* Conference sponsored by the BGEA a few years back). They are stuck raising their own support, often by people who like them or believe in what they are doing (**which is a small number of people**, given only 5% of American Christians actively participate in evangelism).

Pastors often see Evangelists’ ministry, if holding “crusades” or “revivals,” as needing to “pay for itself” in converts joining the pastors’ church and **tithing!** Is it not enough that **SOME PEOPLE** are evangelizing the lost **not** for **profit**? I had a staff Pastor admit this to me: the “investment” in hosting an evangelistic campaign rarely ‘paid off’ in this way, so the trend the past 10 years is to *cease* holding revivals. **How selfish** can we be to not see evangelism as a **legitimate and AT LEAST equally important** universal Church function to that of a Pastor, deserving at least equal respect and support. In MBA terms, evangelism is “*business required*” for a Church, but it is **SO** much more than just that if you care about lost people more than yourself!

Churches will not (or *rarely*) raise funds for specific Evangelists, and often offer an evangelism course to members, preach on evangelism once a year or so, and often evangelize the mostly saved people who attend every Sunday. **Shouldn’t those who full-time reach LOST PEOPLE** be entitled to **at least** the SAME ECONOMIC DEVOTION by laymen as **Pastors receive**, and **can call for every Sunday**? **DO** pay your church staff, but **PRIORITIZE** with this standard of values in mind: Luke 15:7. I am not speaking this for *myself*, as I am currently **not in professional ministry!** Professional Evangelists **CANT** say it because they depend on church member’s private contributions and church speaking engagements, but I can *on their behalf*, and am happy to help these **hard-working** laborers!

I urge you from the bottom of my heart to **contact an “unknown” Evangelist** who is effective and efficient in reaching *numbers* of lost people (or see our Giving section to reach the ‘10/40 Window’ with the Gospel) to see how **PART of your giving** could go to further the evangelization of the world rather than just to pay for the sermon, fund the buildings, and all the **tertiary** activities modern churches perform to “*attract*” people”. Most of them have yet to address *head-on* the more critical needs for **every Christian—relational discipleship**, becoming **habitually evangelistic**, and **using their spiritual gift** in a **biblical ministry**. *Be devoted to your church*, but have **biblical PRIORITIES** in your activities, actions and *giving*!

15. Evangelism Theology (A Brief Summary)

A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF EVANGELISM

Elementary Principles

1. The *Bible* teaches (and practiced) “**go and tell**” (and *as you’re going*) vs. “**come and hear**” evangelism. (Ex.: “go”—Mt. 28:19, 10:5-7, 22:9, Acts travels examples, etc.). Even the Bible symbol for evangelism is not lips moving so much as blessed FEET (Rom. 10:14). In the only 3 exceptions, people came to Paul because he was *famous* and was **physically unable** to move about any longer, Andrew brought his brother, but **first told him all he knew** about Christ, and Cornelius invited friends and family to hear Peter—because Cornelius **did not know** any message to otherwise tell them. Most of us don’t have **any** of these excuses.
2. **ALL** believers are called to evangelize **vs. just some**, and that call is not just *subjective* (or if you feel like it). (Col. 1:25-28, etc.; Proof positive is Ac. 8:2, 4, 10:19, where all the Jerusalem church’s laymen evangelized, **absent any** leaders!)
3. **Evangelizing only ONCE** does NOT fulfill your **lifetime evangelism** obligation! (Ac. 14:7)
4. Doing **anything else** but speaking the Gospel, **IF** the lost person *allows*, **falls short** of the definition and description of “**evangelism**.”
5. Biblical evangelism has **urgency** and **boldness**, and **SPEAKS**. (Mt. 25:13; Heb. 10:15, 9:27; Eph. 6:20; Ac. 14:3, 18:26, 9:28-29; Phil. 1:20; Lk. 8:1; I Th. 2:2; Lk. 24:47-48)
6. **Good deeds** are to please God, but can serve as evangelism *corroboration*. They are **not evangelism** in themselves, **nor** evangelism *prerequisites*. (I Th. 1:5; II Cor. 5:9-11).
7. Sharing the Gospel with people **IS love** and *loving*. **Proof?** Ultimate love lays down its life for another. Christ showed *ultimate love* and we must **tell others** of that deed. Also, **how can you “love” someone** and NOT tell them how to miss hell and go to heaven? (Jn. 15:13)
8. **EVERY** human is to be eventually **reached**. (Ac. 22:15; Tit. 2:11; Col. 1:28; Rev. 14:6)
9. An **accurate** and **loving** Gospel message is to be given in the *leading* and **power of the Holy Spirit**. (Ac. 1:8, 18:24-26, 13:4, 16:6, etc.)
10. **Prayer** should *precede* evangelism, and may occur **during** and **after**. (**Col. 4:3; Ac. 4:31**)
11. Love is our motive, and **even CARNAL evangelism is better than the NO evangelism** offered by 95% of “Christians.” (Phil. 1:16-18; II Cor. 5:14)
12. God **will judge non-evangelism**, whether in **this life** or the **next**. (I Pet. 4:17; Heb. 12:9-11, 10:30; Rev. 3:19; Ps. 135:14; etc.)
13. God **rewards** obedient **evangelizing**, both in **this life** and the **next**. (I Cor. 3:7-8; Ps. 126:6, etc.)
14. We present a **simple** yet *profound* message, and **no human cleverness** is needed. (I Cor. 1:17-23; ~II Cor. 11:3)
15. The Bible teaches (and practiced) “**direct**” **evangelism**. New Testament Christians were **straightforward** about the truth of the Gospel. (Jn. (3:1-21), 4:7-42, Ac. 2:14, 22,

3:12, (4:1?), 4:8-13, (19-20), 31, 5:28-29+, 42, 6:(10), 7:2+, 8:4-6, (12), 25-31, 35, 9:19b-20, 22, 27-28, 10:28+, 34, 11:(1), 19, 21, (24), <12:24-25>, 13:5, 14-16+, 46-49, 14:1, 3, 7, (9), 21-22, 25, 15:<13>, 35, 16:13-14, (25?), (30-32), 17:1-4, 10-13, 16-19, 22+, 18:4-5, 8-9, 11, (13), 19, 19:8-10, 20:(18-21?), 21:(20-21), 22:1+, 23:1+, 24:10+, 25:8+, (11), 26:1+, 27:<10, 21+>, 28:17+, Gal. 2:14; etc.)

16. The non-argumentative, un-sinful type of “**arguing**” can be part of evangelism. (Ac. 9:29 vs. Tit. 2:9 type)
17. We are **not to be ashamed** of the Gospel, and there are **reasons** not to be. (Rom. 1:16; Phil. 1:20; II Tim. 1:12)
18. Discipleship did not always **immediately follow** evangelism. (Ac. 15:36; I Th. 3:5; Phil. 2:19)
19. Evangelism is **NOT** a **perfunctory formality** we perform which makes no difference and has no *influence* on men’s lives! (Ac. 11:14; Col. 1:28)
20. There are **many ways** to *disciple* people. (ex.: I Th. 3:5; Phil. 2:19; II Cor. 2:9; Eph. 1:15-19; II Tim. 2:2; I Th. 2:8; Ac. 15:32, 14:28; I Tim. 4:12)
21. The spiritual parent (“evangelizer”) **does not have to** be the discipler—that job can biblically be handed off (for there are **so few evangelizers!**). (I Cor. 4:15; Ac. 8:39)
22. Water baptism does **not have to be performed by the evangelizer**, for even that is a *lesser function* to evangelism. (I Cor. 1:16-17; Jn. 4:2)
23. Evangelism’s purpose is **NOT** to increase local church membership. That is **SECONDARY**, and *MAY* be the outcome if they choose and are **led** to YOUR church. **Care more about men’s souls** than their potential ‘*tithe*.’ (I Th. 2:16; Ac. 8:39)
24. Telling people about your church is **NOT evangelism** (per se and by definition). You, your church and anything other than Jesus are **NOT** the Gospel message. (I Cor. 2:2, 1:21-24)
25. Evangelism is **selfless** (save for receiving rewards for so doing), *especially* if it’s done **without receiving pay**. (I Cor. 10:33; Phil. 1:14-18)
26. Christians can possibly be **positional disciples**, and even *secret disciples*, though that is **discouraged** (save in such places as today’s China, perhaps). Carnal Christians might be considered *positional disciples*, but certainly do not meet the experiential requirements of a disciple of Jesus Christ. (**See:** Why Be Totally Committed to Christ section; Jn. 19:38; ~Ac. 19:1; Jn. 6:66)
27. Discipleship is required in sanctification/the Christian life, and though we have been given the *choice* to cooperate with God, that does not make spiritual growth “optional,” or something we are **free to reject**. (Heb. 12:14; Rom. 6:1, 15)
28. The Great Commission has **three aspects**:
Step 1: “**Evangelism**” (i.e., speaking the Gospel to lost people)
Step 2: Water **Baptism**.
Step 3: “**Discipleship**” (i.e., teaching them to observe all Christ spoke—a life-long process). (Mt. 28:18-20)
29. “Discipleship” and “Evangelism” are **distinct**, and they can be legitimately separated in

time and activity **or** occur at the same time. (i.e., they are different, related, **positionally tied** and *can be* chronologically tied). (Col. 2:6; Rom. 13:14; Eph. 4:24; Rom. 12:1-2; I Pet. 4:3; Gal. 4:19; Rev. 2:4-5; I Tim. 1:20, ETC.—written to Christians!)

30. **Baptism** USUALLY followed **SOON after** salvation (in the New Testament). Also, water baptism by *immersion* is the **most accurate** way to publicly portray what happened to you at salvation (i.e., death, burial and resurrection). Salvation *washed away* your sins like bathing—not like mere sprinkling. Salvation is **FULLY (vs. partially) identifying** with Christ (i.e., the *definition* of “baptism”). (Ac. 2:41, 8:12, 38, 9:18, 16:14-15, 22:16; Col. 2:12-13; I Pet. 3:21; Jn. 13:10; Tit. 3:5)
31. *Some people evangelized* **immediately** upon salvation. (Ac. 9:20)
32. Disciples/Disciple-Makers can be different from Evangelizers, though **ALL** are called to evangelize. That is, **not all Evangelizers** will fully (or even partially) **disciple every convert** God gives them. They’re too needed among the few who evangelize. (I Cor. 4:15; Ac. 8:39, 15:36)
33. Professional Evangelists are **NOT** to do ALL the work of evangelism. (Eph. 4:11-12; Col. 1:24-25)
34. Pastors/Ministers are responsible to train laymen through *role-modeling* and **LEADING**, and this includes in evangelism. (I Pet. 5:1-3; I Tim. 4:12; Tit. 2:7; II Th. 3:9)
35. God will save whom He saves, but **RARELY IF EVER** will He save people without our (i.e., the Church’s) *involvement*. (Rom. 9:11; Col. 1:25; Rev. 14:6—only exception, in the Tribulation)
36. God desires **EVERY person** to come to Christ, and **Christ died for ALL**. (I Tim. 2:4; II Pet. 3:9; II Cor. 5:15; Jn. 6:51)
37. You can “*save*” no one on your own, and certainly you will ‘save’ no one **if you don’t evangelize!** Also, it is improper thinking to think you saved them, but not unbiblical terminology. (I Cor. 9:19-22; Jn. 6:44; II Cor. 3:5; Jn. 15:5; Rom. 7:18)
38. **Prayer** and **holy living** are **not substitutes** for *evangelism*, just as evangelism is not a substitute for holy living. They work hand in hand, but are *distinct*. (II Cor. 2:14-16; Mt. 5:16—not stated as an evangelism **METHOD**; **I Pet. 3:1**—surely her husband knows of her salvation, so only deeds remain to corroborate its validity)
39. **Power** in evangelism yields results and is a **virtue**. Abrasiveness, argumentativeness and arrogance are **NOT** such power. (I Cor. 4:20; I Th. 1:5)
40. *Persecution* can embolden and encourage the church to **evangelize**. (Ac. 8:4, 11:19; Eph. 6:20) So can an *evangelistically-zealous* brother. As they say, “evangelism is more ‘caught’ than ‘taught.’”
41. Evangelism results occur because **God works** (in and) through *you*. (Ac. 11:21, 16:14; Ac. 11:21; Gal. 6:14; Rom. 15:18; Jn. 3:21))
42. **Not all people** will be receptive to your Gospel message (but you may be *pleasantly surprised* how many **will be**, if you **TRY**). (Jn. 4:35; Ac. 16:30-31, 7:54, 14:4)
43. Evangelism is a **command**. (Ac. 13:47; Tit. 1:3; Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15)

44. Sometimes people evangelize an area, then **return LATER** to conduct *follow-up* and *discipleship*. (Ac. 15:36)
45. Evangelism involves offering an **invitation to RESPOND**. Don't JUST *educate* people. (Ac. 16:31)
46. **Biblical evangelism plans** are **THOROUGH**—they leave no man out. (Rom. 15:19)
47. **Forgiveness of sin** is **THE** issue of *salvation*. (Ac. 17:11)
48. Many times New Testament Evangelizers had an **evangelism custom** or habit. **DO YOU?** (Ac. 17:2-3)
49. **The way you speak**—that is, the words you choose and your godly tone—do have influence, impact and importance, though they are not 'the clincher.' There are *degrees of skill* one can possess and **obtain** (with *experience*) in evangelism. (Ac. 14:1)
50. The Great Commission is **unto every land**—not just the United States or the non-closed countries. (Ac. 8:25; Mk. 13:10)
51. One should use **wisdom** in facing **danger** in evangelism. (Ac. 21:13 vs. 9:25, 18:10)
52. **Persuasion** is *involved* in evangelism. (Ac. 19:8, 18:13, 28:24)
53. Evangelism is *effective* when we **rely on God**. (Ac. 14:3)
54. Evangelism can involve **explaining** and **giving evidence**. (Ac. 17:3, 18:28)
55. Evangelism is to **ALL TYPES** and *every group* of people. (Ac. 17:34)
56. **Eloquence** in evangelism is not necessary, but can be **helpful** and used of God. (Ac. 18:24-28;)
57. You should not AVOID evangelizing people of **other religions**—they need Christ *too*. (Ac. 6:7, etc.). Relatedly, in one sense Christianity is not a 'religion' because it's a **relationship with God**, but it **IS termed** a "religion" in the Bible. (Jas. 1:26-27)
58. **Refutation** and **reproof** can be part of your evangelism *repertoire*. (Ac. 18:28, 28:26)
59. **Protesting** and **warning willful Gospel rejecters** is morally acceptable and sometimes necessary. (Ac. 3:23, 18:6, 2:40; Lk. 16:28)
60. In evangelism, **do not fear** and **do not remain silent**. God is *with you*, and as has been said, 'courage is not the absence of fear, but proceeding despite your fears.' (Ac. 18:9, 23:11; Mt. 10:27-28)
61. **Reasoning** can be part of evangelistic *persuasion*. (Ac. 19:8)
62. Evangelism is to occur in **public** and in **private**, and to be going on in the world **DAILY**. (Ac. 16:5, 20:20)
63. You **never quit** in evangelism until the job is **COMPLETE**. (II Tim. 4:5-8; Rom. 15:19; Ac. 20:26)
64. **Solemnly testifying** and exhorting can be part of your evangelism *manner*. (Ac. 2:40, 8:25)
65. Speak to those **willing to hear**, and 'don't cast your **pearls before swine.**' (Ac. 28:28-29)

66. In evangelism, be 'wise as serpents and innocent as doves.' (Mt. 10:16)
67. Do not *withhold the truth* from a lost person to make the message '**more palatable**.' We are speaking to **please God**—not man. (Ac. 5:20; I Th. 2:4-6)
68. Evangelizing *as you live your life* is a perfectly good strategy—if you do evangelize. (Ac. 8:40)
69. Evangelism is **proclaiming CHRIST**. We are not *selling* or *peddling* and we are not preaching ourselves. (I Cor. 2:1-7; II Cor. 4:5; I Th. 2:8; Ac. 4:12)
70. It is a **privilege** to be able to tell a lost soul how to get to heaven! (Eph. 3:8; I Cor. 3:5-6)
71. Pray for evangelism opportunities (i.e., '*divine appointments*') but **don't wait**, hands folded, for that opportunity to "**fall in your lap**" like manna did. (Eph. 6:19)
72. The Gospel is to be offered **freely** and **clearly**. (Col. 4:4)
73. Speaking the Gospel with someone is **NOT** a **normal**, "*natural*" conversation, so stop trying to *water it down* to be such. It's **supernatural**, so become more *spiritual* so it comes more 'natural' for you. (I Cor. 1:23, 2:13-14; II Cor. 4:4-6)
74. Evangelism is one of the **top 3 priorities** of the Church, and **the NUMBER ONE LEAST executed**. (I Cor. 15:1, 3)
75. There can be (and are) differences in the amount of **effort** individual Christians put into evangelism (and, therefore, differences in **rewards**). (I Cor. 15:10, etc.)
76. Evangelism is to be performed *humbly*, with **reliance upon God**. (I Cor. 3:5-8)
77. Anything which can *distract* or *detract* from an evangelism conversation or evangelizer's *credibility* should be avoided at all costs. Evangelism is a **sacred event** and *entrustment*. (Col. 1:25; I Th. 2:4; Tit. 1:3)
78. The Gospel has—and **IS**—**power**! (I Th. 1:5-6, 2:13; I Cor. 1:18)
79. **Faith** leads you to **speak** of the Object of your faith—Jesus Christ. (II Cor. 4:13)
80. A legitimate **fear/reverence** of God will lead you to evangelize. Do you, instead, take Him for granted? (II Cor. 5:11; Lk. 5:10)
81. The Gospel is the **word of God**—not of *man*—and must be *accepted* as such. (I Th. 2:13)
82. Christ's **love** will *constrain* you to evangelize, if you have experienced and continue to *experience* it. (II Cor. 5:14)
83. Man's salvation is **why Christ came** to earth and died, and **EVANGELISM** is **how** His work is made **effective** in lost men's lives. (Lk. 4:43, 19:10; Duh 101)
84. Evangelism can be by **media means** (Ex.: book, here) (Jn. 20:30-31)
85. In the New Testament at least, **LAYMEN evangelized!** (I Th. 3:2)
86. Christians are instructed—told—to **view humans** as **ONLY lost or saved**. Assessing their *physical appearance*, or other distracting perspectives can *deter* a mind set to purposefully evangelize. (II Cor. 5:16)
87. **Today** is the day of salvation; therefore, **today MUST BE** the day to **go evangelize!** (II

Cor. 6:2; cf.: Heb. 3:7, 15, 4:7)

88. Feet are an unusual and lowly part of the body to be *blessed* by God, but they **represent** the fact that evangelism takes **movement TO people**, after which the mouth is used to *utter* words of eternal life. (Rom. 10:14; Eph. 6:15)
89. We are not pushing myths or opinions, but sober truths and spiritual facts. (Ac. 3:15, 26:25; II Pet. 1:16, etc.)
90. If God does not continue in His *patience*, there is **no hope** for the world. (II Pet. 3:15)
91. **Suffer** in and **work hard** at evangelism. That's normal, and you're no different and certainly *not so special* that you can avoid these unpleasanties by never evangelizing. Evangelism takes **effort!** (I Cor. 15:30; II Tim. 2:3; Phil. 1:14)
92. Our heavenly hope gives us great **boldness** in evangelism. (II Cor. 3:12; Eph. 6:19)
93. Some knowledge of the Scriptures is needed to effectively and practically engage in evangelism; yet, *not as much as you may think*. Do you know **John 3:16?** Get to it! (II Tim. 3:15)
94. There is a window of opportunity for lost people to *respond*. No one knows how long it lasts per individual, but OUR emphasis should always be for them to **decide NOW** and to **not delay!** (Jn. 12:36)
95. Evangelism is the *closest thing* a human can do to snatching another out of the flames of hell. (~Jude 1:23)
96. We are to compel people to come to Christ. (Lk. 14:23)
97. We have been *commissioned* and given authority to speak the **Kings'** edict. Christ earned that right for us to speak—we needn't earn anything—**just TELL**. (II Cor. 5:20; Mt. 22:1-10)
98. Pray for all mens' salvation, and pray for **more evangelism laborers**. (Mt. 9:38)
99. You can be "**evangelical**" and not be "**evangelistic**" (by *definition*). That is, you believe in evangelism—you just don't **do** it. One is a term, the other an action.
100. **Over-work** in evangelism is sometimes if not often NEEDED to **make up for** others in the Church's *lack*. (Phil. 2:30; I Cor. 15:10; II Cor. 11:24-28, 15:32)
101. Our message is an **eternal** one—not subject to *societal trends, fads or whims*. (Rev. 14:6)
102. The fields are always white for harvest to an unknown degree you can only discover by **harvesting it**. (Jn. 9:4, 4:34-37, 6:27)
103. Be a **role-model** in and for evangelism! (Phil. 1:14; Tit. 2:7)
104. You **bless** people by evangelizing them, even if you *don't believe it* because your culture yells *otherwise*. (Ac. 3:26; Rev. 19:9)
105. Each successive generation is to take up the *global call* to world evangelism. (Rom. 10:18)
106. Do **YOU** ever experience **great sorrow** and **unceasing grief** over the condition of the lost?

(Rom. 9:2-4)

107. Christ gave His **LIFE** and **all** to *save* mankind. The *least* we can do is **TELL them** about Him! Want proof? You can't do **more important** work, but you can certainly do **lesser** things. (Phil. 1:21-22)
108. If Christianity to you does not mean more than **2 hours of church a week**, with no evangelism... **YOU DON'T GET IT!** (Lk. 9:23-26)
109. As others *have said*, you can evangelize and not love but you **CANNOT LOVE without evangelizing**. (Jn. 3:16; Tit. 3:4-5)
110. There will be **no more opportunity** to evangelize once *prophecy* transpires and you are raptured (if you're saved). (II Th. 2:11, etc.)
111. We are to be **faithful** in and to do evangelism. (I Tim. 1:12)
112. Pastors are to **do evangelism** (II Tim. 4:5, 1:6-8), relationally disciple (II Tim. 2:2, 1:13) and teach (II Tim. 2:24-25, 15, 3:16-17; I Tim. 5:17—'pastoral epistles!')—**not** just preach sermons and *manage* the business and *counsel* (carry, marry and bury).

Want more?...

Study the Scriptures and *add your own* propositions regarding **biblical evangelism!**

EVANGELISM ETHICS ("MANNER")

Everyone knows a Christian should evangelize *ethically*. The IDEAL **manner** for how to evangelize would be (among other things):

Lovingly (II Cor. 5:14, Eph. 4:15, I Cor. 13:4-8, Jas. 2:8), eagerly (Rom. 1:15), unashamedly (II Tim. 1:8, 12, Rom. 1:16, Mk. 8:38, ~I Pet. 4:16), boldly—not timidly or scared (Eph. 6:20, Phil. 1:20, I Th. 2:2, II Tim. 1:7), urgently (Mt. 24:44-50, Jas. 4:13-14), wisely and innocently (Mt. 10:16), focused (I Cor. 2:2), with purpose (i.e., not in vain—Gal. 2:2, I Th. 2:1, I Cor. 9:23-27), Spirit-led (**See:** the book of Acts), relying on God through His Word (Isa. 55:11), powerfully (II Tim. 1:7, Gal. 6:10, 14-17, Tit. 3:5-7, ~2:11-15, Eph. 1:14, 2:8-10, 16, 3:8, 4:21, 29, 6:15, 19-20, Phil. 2:12-21, Col. 1:6, 25-29, thoroughly (II Tim. 4:17), committedly (Phil. 2:29-30, Gal. 2:20-21), pleasing God vs. man (I Th. 2:4), **not** flatteringly, nor greedily or seeking after glory (I Th. 2:5-6, Ac. 20:33, I Th. 2:5), excitedly/motivatedly (I Cor. 9:9-10), clearly (Col. 4:4), accurately (i.e., good word choices—Ac. 17:10-12, 18:26), truthfully (Gal. 4:16), understandably (Col. 1:6), straightforwardly (Gal. 2:14), **not** with cleverness or the wise words of men (I Cor. 1:17, 2:4), with integrity (II Cor. 6:3, ~I Pet. 2:12), **causing no offense** by misbehavior (II Cor. 6:3, ~I Cor. 9:27), **taking** vs. missing opportunities (I Cor. 16:9, Col. 4:2-6), expecting suffering (Mt. 10:22, 24:9, ~I Pet. 4:16, II Tim. 1:8-12, 2:3-9, 4:5, 17, I Th. 2:2).

You were taught how to study and interpret the Bible in "How To Have a Quiet Time" and "Why Read the Bible," so consider taking the above references and seeing what I have only *abbreviated*.

Why should we still be urgent about evangelism? Because people are urgently going to hell.

—Dr. Jack Graham

EVANGELISM, PRAYER AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

For a *brief* discussion on the theologies which *can* teach either that...

1. Christian prayer would have **no affect** on a lost person's evangelism response.
2. Christian prayer **IS** evangelism, or
3. Even without Christian prayer, lost people respond by their own volition (i.e., not needing the Spirit's power of conviction to respond, though conviction *forces* no one)...

See: Calvinism and Arminianism Errors

16. Disclaimers and Objections

1. You are a Doom-and-Gloom Alarmist-Extremist, or Just Seeking Attention. ‘It’s Not Like It’s the END OF THE WORLD.’ You’re on your Religious ‘Soap Box.’

Really? The **subjects** I am discussing and the ramifications of our inaction do **lead directly to the “end of the world”** ONLY THE DAY OF WHICH WE DON’T KNOW! Study the Bibles’ ‘signs of the times’ and you’ll learn that it’s **closer than you think**. **Prove otherwise** if you’ve studied **Bible prophecy** and have *better insight*. While we *need* a **CODE RED ALERT** for evangelism in the *Church*, most *American* Christians are living life as if nothing serious is on the **horizon!**

Am I making a “mountain out of a mole hill,” to be so severely righteously indignant at **5% of Christians EVER evangelizing**, and established pastors having allowed this figure to remain constant for over 30 years without *relationally discipling* or otherwise solving it? Isn’t the eternal salvation of mankind an **important enough** subject, at least to God and lost people?

Does the universal Church **rarely** having a **practical plan to ACTUALLY reach EVERY human being**, thus **disobeying** the Great Commission cause **YOU** any concern? If my concern is *different* from yours, does that make me evil? There are several positive things about modern “church” that I am thankful for and I may address in web site updates, but I desire no *patting ourselves on the back* to distract from the NEED to—literally—**COMPLETE** the Great Commission!

Physics teaches us that in order to move a *large (and heavy) object* even a small distance from a state of no momentum to having inertia requires exertion of a **great amount of force** and pressure. The Church of Jesus Christ, being so many million, and especially in the non-evangelistic condition of the United States, needs a **hard bang on the head JUST to get her to average ONE evangelistic contact a year per Christian**.

If you believe my ‘Open Letter’ was ‘too harsh,’ judgmental, bitter or “negative/critical,” I refer you to the following verses (**See:** Negative-Tending Truths, below), and tell you that after seeing the 5% statistic never change, and **hardly anyone discussing it**, and the consequences for **billions** of souls God loves and Christ died for going to an **eternal hell**—with no way out, once there—I am *determined* to be but one God might use to help *change* this **sin**, and I **hope** you will be too!

The hardness of the ground and the length of time no significant change has occurred, coupled with the **complicit culpability of church leaders allowing it to continue** by not trying EVERY conceivable biblical method under the sun (and Son) to affect change makes it **necessary** and **essential** that this message gets out! You probably disagree with my “methods,” probably because the 5% scourge does not bother you enough or as much as it does myself, perhaps because you have yet to fully think it through, or because our culture has taught you to be politically correct and positively mental attituded to an unbiblical extreme, where all negative motivation is seen as **not coming from God**. **Be biblical, be accurate, and above all, BE EVANGELISTIC!**

You are totally free to **try** as positive of motivational techniques as you can find (i.e., the ‘you can catch more bees with honey than vinegar’ philosophy). I and many others have tried many of them the past 30 years. **American Christians are de-sensitized, deluded, hardened and sanctimoniously content with not having to think about their non-evangelism!** There is

no more *treasonous* mind-set to God and lost people, and Pastors are where the buck stops biblically to bring about maturity and change in the body of Christ. If they **cannot** (i.e., are incapable vs. the task being *impossible*), should they keep their jobs? Do they have Holy Spirit power, or just earned ‘power’ by the office they hold in a religious organization or business?

There are **MANY godly pastors**, and I believe most American church-going Christians are merely innocently ignorant of God’s word and have been sold a *bill of goods* that they are O.K. in their personal responsibility for evangelism being *re-interpreted* as trying to live holy before unbelievers. However, each of us is responsible before God for our walk with Him, and **this yearly and continued ignorance becomes morally culpable**, especially if pastors ever educate them (as a believer did to myself, in College—**See: About Us**), so that they are *more accountable* and put on notice/record of their need to grow and evangelize.

Did God write His **eternal love letter** to be *spurned and ignored*? **Is the Bible so easy and THIN that we need to buy so many other Christian books for our entertainment?** Should we not just burn our Bibles or throw them away if what is taught therein is insignificant, ‘*boring*’ or untrue? **THINK ABOUT IT—how many verses have you memorized, and how many years have you been a Christian?** *Abhorrent and intolerable*, most likely.

Of course, to those believers who **DO** walk with God, **DO** know the Bible and **DO** evangelize, **you have no reasonable basis for having any opposition to the Open Letter and this web site campaign.** I am *confident* the Spirit of God has led you to understand these words of reproof have no application to you. To you, God bless, and continue being faithful till we meet in the life hereafter (though I’d *love* to meet or hear from you beforehand!)

2. You are “Unloving and Arrogant.” You Have a “Critical Spirit.” You are “Confrontational, Negative and Judgmental.” (Implying My Behavior and Words are Sinful, or Should NEVER Be Stated).

I am content, though find no enjoyment in not being liked or *appreciated* for my views and words and “tactics,” even being accused of being mean and arrogant—accusations which can deflect attention **OFF** the message of needed change in evangelismlessness. But God knows my heart, and that of any accusers! (**Gal. 1:10; Lk. 6:26; Mk. 6:4; Ac. 5:13; Gal. 4:16; Ac. 5:29; II Tim. 4:3-5**).

If you think the approach I have been led to use is “*ineffective*,” shouldn’t be used, that I should “be (more) positive,” or that reproving evangelismlessness “does not work,” I appreciate your constructive criticism of methods that have been utilized by no less than Jesus, Paul and John the Baptist. I would be **honored to even be allowed in their presence** if they were here.

Perhaps you ought to consider that you have been raised in a positive mental attitude and politically correct society the past 20 years, and **you might benefit from learning more about what the Bible says than what our culture demands.** I’ll make that easier on you, and spoon feed some thoughts to you to save you having to **dig**, since our culture seems too busy to **have time for God** and His word and hardly interested in reading at all. (**See:** Negative-Tending Truths, below). In the Bible a man is honored for his knowledge (and associated wisdom), but in America today—even in *Christian churches*, he is viewed as a weirdo, or a **fool**. (I Cor. 4:10)

NEGATIVE-TENDING TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE
(**TRUTH** is the Standard—Not Positivity!)

Gen. 6:3, Pv. 9:8, 14:14, 26:11, Ecc. 7:5, Eze. 3:18, Mt. 3:7, 7:6, 13-14, 10:34, 14:4, 15:14, 18:15-17, Mt. 23:33, 37, 24:12, Mk. 6:11, 10:29-30, Lk. 6:22-23, 26, 11:42-44, 46-48, 16:28, 19:45-46, Jn. 8:44, Ac. 7:51, 8:20, 20:24, 26, I Cor. 4:10, 21, 11:17, 15:33, 16:22, II Cor. 6:17, 11:5, 12:11, 21, Gal. 1:8-10, 2:5, 11-16, 3:3, 4:16, 20, 5:12, Eph. 5:11, 16, 6:13, 20, Col. 3:1-2, I Th. 4:1, 10, II Th. 2:3, I Tim. 1:20, 5:19-20, II Tim. 3:16-17 4:1-3, Tit. 1:10-11, 13, Heb. 10:24, 11:25, 12:6-8, Jas. 2:16, 19 (sarcasm and rebuke), 3;10. 4:11, 5:2-3, I Jn. 2:15, (Jude 1:9), Rev. 1-3 (only ONE church never reprov'd!), 3:2, 16, 22:11

There are also Old Testament examples galore. We even teach, 'love the sinner but hate (i.e., don't tolerate) the sin,' and 'all that's required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing.' The Bible's so large, and so few read it, no wonder so many false impressions of IT are allowed to exist in our congregations!

Passively allowing the 5% evangelizers figure to continue, and indecision in addressing it **IS** a decision and **a sinful one at that!** Relatedly, don't accuse Paul, as so many have, of having had *a bad temper*. We are commanded to be angry (i.e., "righteous indignation"), yet not sin. Does our *peaceful co-existence* with evil follow any biblical pattern, or is it just a **compromise with the world?** (Eph. 4:26-27)

3. We Love our Pastor(s)—Aren't You Being Too Hard on Him/Them?

I'm **GLAD** you love your Pastor(s)! If he is new to ministry work, he should be allowed a period of time to enact discipleship and evangelism strategies targeting **every believer and every lost people**. Those green in the profession are certainly *not guilty or needing reproof* for virtual inaction. For all others (perhaps 90% of pastors) and more and more so the longer they have ministered—no excuse. They likely were not taught relational discipling in Seminary, and have never *experienced it* or heard much about it in their *circle of peers*. But these are **FLIMSY EXCUSES**. Christ did it, and that's all they should have needed to read to be on notice and responsible to implement HIS priorities. The Navigators (in discipleship) and Campus Crusade for Christ (in evangelism) have **been around for DECADES**—para-church organizations that I believe far surpass any accomplishments in these *two critical areas* of most American churches.

I am sorry to have to be so *constructively critical* of the leaders of our churches! I do not find joy in pointing out these things, but **the issues are LARGE**—the **TWO LARGEST omissions** in American church life—**and have existed for years**. I have met with many pastors and tried *various* methods to affect change, but now feel led to go more public, to, God-willing, affect even more change, or maybe just stimulate *serious discussion*. John the Baptist was a loner of sorts, and negative to an extent, and Paul had years of obscurity and times of severe reprov'g—**argue your case to these men IF you end up in heaven to say they were sinning**, could have used more "positive" and "effective" methods, or that their methods "*didn't work*." I, for my part, will continue doing as I am LED, trying in God's power to **shed light on the Church's lack of evangelism and relational discipling**. I hope you'll **pray for my endurance**, success, and protection—I will need it—and **come JOIN ME!** God bless you if you do!

4. Couldn't You be More POSITIVE and Encouraging?

I could, and have, but **it would not work on the MAJORITY of American Christians**. Want proof? The Church has been inundated with positive motivation for 30 years, and the 5% figure remains a **TESTIMONY AGAINST US**. The Bible is usually *POSITIVE* at the start, but with

continued resistance, **warning, reproof, rebuke, exhortation and even righteous indignation** are not only *appropriate*, but needed and necessary. 30 years is certainly enough time to have gotten *results* from a more *positive* approach, and the Bible's pattern is that God is always gracious enough to lead **some** people to **warn** His people **BEFORE** impending doom (or *judgment*), even more so with their **continued** hardness of heart and stubborn, sinful resistance.

5. Can't one ever relax in evangelism?

Yes, if you or your church has done your part and God doesn't call you to go the extra mile to make up for so many others' lack (Cor. 15:10; Col.1:24).

6. What if the 5% CAN do 100% of the work?

First, I would rejoice that **all** men **HEARD** the Gospel!

Second, the inaction and disobedience of the *lazy, weak* and *defeated* 95% would still be morally reprehensible. The ***EXTREME IRONY*** is that we have to *extol* people to do something so positive! It's not like we are asking volunteers to clean out a *septic tank*—we're inviting you to ETERNALLY bless and forever *positively change* men's lives and **KEEP them from Hell**. There is no more *enthraling* calling! **If salvation is the greatest GIFT of all, why do so many Christians consider it a CURSE to share?** They treat knowing the Bible well and doing evangelism like one were a typewriter salesman, a teletype operator or had just bought a set of 5" floppy disks—*old-fashioned* and out-of-step with modern (and *hellhound*) trends!

Finally, I am increasingly convicted that **IS** our last and only option (i.e., for the 5% to DO IT ALL), perhaps using technology to *increasingly assist* these few!

God bring 'revival' to your *passive* Church!

You've done it before, You can do it now—

***MELT* our hearts, O God.**

17. Why Read The Bible?

Why Read the Bible?

“The Bible is worth all other books which have ever been printed.”
--Patrick Henry

"The secret of my success? It is simple. It is found in the Bible,
"In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths"
--George Washington Carver

"The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country" --Calvin Coolidge

"The existence of the Bible, as a book for the people, is the greatest benefit which the human race has ever experienced. Every attempt to belittle it is a crime against humanity" --Immanuel Kant

"I am busily engaged in the study of the Bible. I believe it is God's Word because it finds me where I am "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good of the Savior of the world is communicated to us through the Book. But for it, we could not know right from wrong. --Abraham Lincoln

“The New Testament is the very best book that ever was or ever will be known in the world.” --Charles Dickens

"There is no other book so various as the Bible, nor one so full on concentrated wisdom" --Herbert Hoover

“The Bible is a book that has been read more and examined less than any book that ever existed.” --Thomas Paine

“One of these days some simple soul will pick up the Book of God, read it, and believe it. Then the rest of us will be embarrassed.”
--Leonard Ravenhill

“If Paul were to come to the typical American church I think he'd be **shocked** at how one has to prod, nag, pester and *obligate* Christians to **read** God's word! We've won the **eternal lottery** with the privilege of having the Bible in our hands! Yet, if you ask **MOST** Christians to READ it regularly, they look at you like you're giving them a **rotary dial telephone**, a **TYPEWRITER**, or the chance to **hand-clean** the inside of a used trash dumpster! The PROBLEM is **not** that more **positive** motivational methods work *better* but that we are a **spiritually dry** Church!” --J. Meroney

Many Christian Reformers *suffered*, and some **died** to get the Bible to the masses, yet only 13% of American 'Christians' read it regularly.

Why Read The Bible? (External Evidence)

Unique in its Continuity. Here is a book:

1. Written over a 1,500 year span.
2. Written over 40 generations.
3. Written by over 40 authors from every walk of life including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars, etc.:
 - Moses, a political leader, trained in the universities of Egypt
 - Peter, a fisherman
 - Amos, a herdsman
 - Joshua, a military general
 - Nehemiah, a cupbearer
 - Daniel, a prime minister
 - Luke, a doctor
 - Solomon, a king
 - Matthew, a tax collector
 - Paul, a rabbi
4. Written in different places:
 - Moses in the wilderness
 - Jeremiah in a dungeon
 - Daniel on a hillside and in a palace
 - Paul inside prison walls
 - Luke while traveling
 - John on the isle of Patmos
 - Others in the rigors of a military campaign
5. Written at different times:
 - David in times of war
 - Solomon in times of peace
6. Written during different moods:
 - Some writing from the heights of joy and others writing from the depths of sorrow and despair
7. Written on three continents:
 - Asia, Africa and Europe
8. Written in three languages:
 - Hebrew
 - Aramaic
 - Greek
9. Its subject matter includes hundreds of controversial subject. A controversial subject is one which would create opposing opinions when mentioned or discussed.

Biblical scholars spoke on hundreds of controversial subjects with harmony and continuity from Genesis to Revelation. There is one unfolding story: "God's redemption of man."

Unique in its circulation: The Bible has been read by more people and published in more languages than any other book.

Unique in its translation: The Bible has been translated and retranslated and paraphrased more than any other book in existence.

Unique in its survival: Being written on material that perishes..., having to be copied and recopied for hundreds of years before the invention of the printing press, did not diminish its style, correctness nor existence. The Bible, compared with other ancient writings, has more manuscript evidence than any 10 pieces of classical literature combined.

Unique in its teachings:

Unique in its influence on surrounding literature: --**Josh McDowell**

“The existence of the Bible, as a book for the people, is the greatest benefit which the human race has ever experienced. Every attempt to belittle it is a crime against humanity.” --**Immanuel Kant**

“The book to read is not the one which thinks for you, but the one which makes you think. No book in the world equals the Bible for that.”
--**McCosh**

Seven Wonders of the Word

1. The wonder of its formation—the way in which it grew is one of the mysteries of time.
2. The wonder of its unification—a library of 66 books, yet one book.
3. The wonder of its age—most ancient of all books.
4. The wonder of its sale—best-seller of all time and of any other book.
5. The wonder of its interest—only book in the world read by all classes of people.
6. The wonder of its language—written largely by uneducated men, yet the best book from a literary standpoint.
7. The wonder of its preservation—the most hated of all books, yet it continues to exist.

--**Paul Tan**

“There are more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history.”--**Sir Isaac Newton**

1. It Reveals Eternal Truth in Life

“The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.” (**Is. 40:8**)

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away. (**Mt. 24:35**)

“Voltaire expected that within fifty years of his lifetime there would not be one Bible in the world. His house is now a distribution center for Bibles in many languages.” --**Corrie Ten Boom**

2. Meditating on It and Obeying It Brings a Successful, Blessed Life

“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.” (**Josh. 1:8**)

“But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.” (**Jas. 1:25**)

“How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the LORD. How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, Who seek Him with all their heart. They also do no unrighteousness; They walk in His ways.” (**Ps. 119:1-3**)

“O how I love Thy law! It is my meditation all the day.” (**Ps. 119:97**)

Reading the Bible without meditating on it is like trying to eat without swallowing. --**Anonymous**

“If there is anything in my thoughts or style to commend, the credit is due to my parents for instilling in me an early love of the Scriptures.”
--**Daniel Webster**

3. It is the Authoritative, Written Breath of God

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” **(II Tim. 3:16-17)**

“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” **(II Pet. 1:20-21)**

Our greatest leaders know the secret...

“It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.”

--**George Washington**

“I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this Book that you can by reason and the balance by faith, and you will live and die a better man. It is the best Book which God has given to man.”

--**Abraham Lincoln**

“I have always said that a studious perusal of the sacred volume will make better citizens, better fathers, and better husbands.” --**Thomas Jefferson**

“So great is my veneration for the Bible that the earlier my children begin to read it the more confident will be my hope that they will prove useful citizens of their country and respectable members of society. I have for many years made it a practice to read through the Bible once every year.” --**John Quincy Adams**

4. It is Pure

“The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.” **(Ps. 12:6)**

5. It is Extremely Valuable and to be Extremely Valued

“How sweet are Thy words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” **(Ps. 119:103)**

“Therefore I love Thy commandments Above gold, yes, above fine gold.” **(Ps. 119:127)**

“How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver.” **(Pv. 16:16)**

6. It is the Instrument for Setting Us Free From the Bondage of Sin

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word. With all my heart I have sought Thee; Do not let me wander from Thy commandments. Thy word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against Thee.” **(Ps. 119:9-11)**

“Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” **(Jn. 8:31-32)**

“And I will walk at liberty, For I seek Thy precepts.” **(Ps. 119:45)**

“The word of God hidden in the heart is a stubborn voice to suppress.”
--Billy Graham

7. It is the Sword Which Judges the Intents and Motives of Hearts

“And take **THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**” (Eph. 6:17)

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (**Heb. 4:12**)

8. It is the Foundational Witness in Evangelism

“The sower sows the word.” (**Mk. 4:14**)

“And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God’s message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.” (**I Th. 2:13**)

“For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (**I Cor. 1:18**)

“You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life.” (**Jn. 5:39-40**)

9. Keeping It Proves/Demonstrates Our Love for Christ

“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him.’” (**Jn. 14:23**)

“Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.” (**I Jn. 5:1-3**)

10. It Encourages Us and Brings Us Hope

“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” (**Rom. 15:4**)

“The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.” (**Ps. 19:7-10**)

11. It is the Instrument Which Sets Us Apart for Spiritual Growth

“They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.” (**Jn. 17:16-17**)

“Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like

newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,” (I Pet. 2:1-2)

“Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.” (Jas. 1:21-24)

12. It is the Basis for Fruitful, Effective Prayer

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.” (Jn. 15:7-8)

“Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.” (I Jn. 3:21-22)

“And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.” (I Jn. 5:14-15)

13. It is the Revealed Will of God Which Instills Faith

“So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” (Eph. 5:17)

“But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH, EACH ONE of you, WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.” (Eph. 4:20-25)

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” (Rom. 10:17)

14. It Inspires Us to Do God’s Will

“I delight to do Thy will, O my God; Thy Law is within my heart.” (Ps. 40:8)

15. It Instructs and Disciplines Us to Do God’s Will

“Thy word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path.” (Ps. 119:105)

“For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life,” (Pv. 6:23)

“Who decides what is right and wrong in the world? Who has the authority to define morality for all of creation? It is not the courts, congress, the media, public opinion, the "politically correct" police, the "tolerance" brigade or even the church. The only answer has been, is and always will be Jesus Christ. You can find His opinion on a great variety of subjects in His best seller... The Bible.” --Jeffrey E. Ramey

16. It Substantiates the Abundant, Eternal Life Through Straightening our Path

“You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.” (Jn. 15:3)

17. It Gives Us Peace

“Those who love Thy law have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble.” (Ps. 119:165)

18. It Gives Us Strength Over the Christian’s Enemies

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock.” (Mt. 7:24-25)

“I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.” (I Jn. 2:13-14)

“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (Col. 3:16)

19. When It is Proclaimed It Accomplishes God’s Purposes

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth, And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.” (Is. 55:10-11)

20. God Encourages Our Diligent Study, Teaching and Practice of It

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.” (II Tim. 2:15)

“For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD, and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.” (Ezra 7:10)

21. It Yields Life and Health to Us (Though Perfect Health is Not Guaranteed Till Heaven)

“My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their whole body.” (Pv. 4:20-22)

“My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments; For length of days and years of life, And peace they will add to you.” (Pv. 3:1-2)

22. It Works God’s Power Within Us

“And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God’s message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of

God, which also performs its work in you who believe.” (1 Th. 2:13)

23. It Bears Fruit

“We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the Gospel, which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth;” (Col. 1:3-6)

24. The Power of God’s Spoken Word Upholds All Things

“And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;” (Heb. 1:3)

25. It Sets Apart All Food as Clean for the Believer

“For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with gratitude; for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.” (I Tim. 4:4-5)

26. Man Cannot Live Without It

“But He answered and said, ‘It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’” (Mt. 4:4)

27. It is Established, and is Not to be Tampered With

“Forever, O LORD, Thy word is settled in heaven.” (Ps. 119:89)

“Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words Lest He reprove you, and you be proved a liar.” (Pv. 30:5-6)

“You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.” (Deut. 4:2)

“Here, then, is the real problem of our negligence. We fail in our duty to study God's Word not so much because it is difficult to understand, not so much because it is dull and boring, but because it is work. Our problem is not a lack of intelligence or a lack of passion. Our problem is that we are lazy.” --R.C. Sproul

Saying “I love God, and **Jesus is my best Friend**”, yet you don’t read the Bible much is like saying **I love my wife**—I met her in a bar once and could pick her out in a line-up.

It’s also like saying the following:

- I love my wife but we only **talk once a week** for about an hour (Ex.: church as your only access to God and His word per week).
- I love my wife but we **communicate through a third party** (Ex.: pastor sermon vs. 24/7 direct access to God).
- I love my wife but we **only have monologues** (Ex.: praying only your worries, as you hardly

know the Bible).

- I love my wife but can **write on one page** the total content of all our marital conversations (Ex.: Hardly knowing the Bible). Or,
- I know my wife's **data/statistics** and facts (Ex.: knowing the Bible trivia vs. knowing God through His love letter—the Bible).

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

When reading God's word, to arrive at **proper interpretation**, there are a few basic *principles* which you would *do well* to keep in mind:

1. **Contextual** Context always *rules* (i.e., read the verses preceding and following the verse being interpreted (i.e., who wrote, who received it, etc.), to get the immediate **perspective** on that verse.
2. **Completeness**. Get the **full counsel** of the Bible (i.e., Old and New Testament, interpreting the Old Testament in light of the New, etc.).
3. **Comparison**. The Bible never **contradicts** itself.
4. **Clarity**. Doctrine is **not** based on **obscure** texts (i.e., remote interpretations with *no other corroborating* verses supporting that interpretation).
5. **Content**. Interpret the Bible literally (i.e., grammatical, literal, **normal**, common meaning of the words). That is **not** to say that we take things in a woodenly literal way, or ignore literary genre (figures off speech), such as *idioms, similies, metaphors, proverbs, allegories, parables, types, prophecy and apocalyptic literature*.
6. **Cultural-Historical**. *Seek* to find the author's original, **intended meaning** for words or phrases.
7. **Consultation** Check your *conclusions* by reputable **commentaries** (Ex.: Greek words and grammatical rules, etc.).

Adapted from Kay Arthur's, How To Study Your Bible and Don Anderson's, Bible Teacher Training Course

18. Pointers For Prayer

Pointers for Prayer

I. Priority: Why Pray? (Famous Quotes)

“What would you think of a man who had \$1,000,000 in the bank and only drew out a penny a day? That’s you and me, and the sinner is blinder than we are.

The throne of grace is established. There we are to get all the grace we need. Sin is not so strong as the arm of God. He will help and deliver you if you will come and get the grace you need.” --**Paul Tan**

“The Church has not yet touched the fringe of the possibilities of intercessory prayer. Her largest victories will be witnessed when individual Christians everywhere come to recognize their priesthood unto God and day by day give themselves unto prayer. --**John R. Mott**

“When I pray, coincidences happen, and when I don't pray, they don't.”
--**William Temple**

“The potency of prayer hath subdued the strength of fire; it hath bridled the rage of lions, hushed anarchy to rest, extinguished wars, appeased the elements, expelled demons, burst the chains of death, expanded the gates of heaven, assuaged diseases, repelled frauds, rescued cities from destruction, stayed the sun in its course, and arrested the progress of the thunderbolt. Prayer is an all-efficient panoply, a treasure undiminished, a mine which is never exhausted, a sky un-obscured by clouds, a heaven unruffled by the storm. It is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings.” --**John Chrysotom**

“The prayers of holy men appease God’s wrath, drive away temptations, resist and overcome the devil, procure the ministry and service of angels, <*rescind the decrees of God.*> Prayer cures sickness and obtains pardon; it arrests the sun in its course and stays the wheels of the chariot of the moon; it rules over all gods and shuts the storehouses of rain; it unlocks the cabinet of the womb and quenches the violence of fire; it stops the mouths of lions and reconciles our suffering and weak facilities with the violence of persecution; it pleases God and supplies all our need.” --**Jeremy Taylor**

“If we could only know and understand what happens when we pray, we might well have difficulty doing other things that now occupy our main attention. Prayer is a miracle. It has all the credentials of a miracle. Give your favorite definition, and prayer qualifies as a miracle every time. ‘An earthly event with a heavenly explanation.’ Prayer passes through that gate with no difficulty. ‘A happening that is not governed by laws of time and space.’” --**Jack Taylor**

“More things are wrought by prayer than the world dreams of....” --**Alfred Tennyson**

“The men who have accomplished most for God have been men of prayer. John Wesley was wont to spend at least two hours each day in prayer. Samuel Rutherford rose at three o’clock each morning to wait upon God.

John Fletcher was said to have stained the walls of his chamber by the breath of his prayers. The greatest missionaries have been uniformly men of prayer.

Think of David Brainerd dying at the age of twenty-nine, and Henry Martyn at the age of thirty-one, and yet their names stand out among the brightest stars in the missionary firmament. These young men exerted a profound influence not only upon their own generation, but upon all succeeding generations as well. It was not by their actual labors, which were soon cut off, so much as by their prayer life and their resultant saintly characters.”

--**Gospel Herald**

“**GEORGE WHITEFIELD**, famous English evangelist, said, ‘O Lord, give me souls, or take my soul.’

HENRY HARTYN. Missionary, cried as he knelt on India’s coral strands, ‘Here let me burn out for God.’

DAVID BRAINERD, missionary to the North American Indians, 1718-1747, declared, ‘Lord to Thee I dedicate myself. Oh. Accept of me, and let me be Thine forever. Lord, I desire nothing else; I desire nothing more.’

THOMAS A. KEMPIS, 1349-1471, said, “Give what Thou wilt, and when Thou wilt. See me where Thou wilt, and deal with me in all things as Thou wilt.’

DWIGHT L. MOODY implored, ‘Use me, then, my Savior, for whatever purpose and in whatever way Thou mayest require. Here is my heart, an empty vessel, fill it with Thy grace.’

MARTIN LUTHER prayed on the night preceding his appearance before the Diet of Worms: ‘Do Thou, my God, stand by me against all the world’s wisdom and reason. Oh, do it! Thou must do it. Stand by me, Thou true, eternal God.’

JOHN MCKENZIE prayed as a young missionary candidate as he knelt on the banks of the Lossie: ‘O, Lord, send me to the darkest spot on the earth.’

‘**PRAYING HYDE**,’ a missionary in India, pleaded, ‘Father, give me these souls, or I die.’”

“Satan: Blessed is he who has no time to pray, for he will become an easy prey.” --**Paul Tan**

“Seven days without prayer makes one weak.” --**The Bible Friend**

II. **Prayer Defined: (Speaking with God... a 2-Way Street)**

“Perfect prayer is only another name for love.” --**Francois Fenelon**

“Prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance, but is laying hold of His highest willingness.” --**Archbishop Trent**

“Prayer should be the breath of our breathing, the thought of our thinking, the soul of our feeling, and the life of our living, the sound of our hearing, the growth of our growing.’ Prayer in its magnitude is length without end, width without bounds, height without top, and depth without bottom. Illimitable in its breadth, exhaustless in height, fathomless in depths and infinite in extension.” --**Homer W. Hodge**

“Prayer is the Living Word in lips of faith.” --**E.W. Kenyon**

III. Prerequisite: (Born-again believer in Jesus Christ)

“We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing, and does His will, He hears him.” (**Jn. 9:31**)

IV. Patterns: (Model--The Lord’s Prayer)

“And it came about that while He was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples.’ And He said to them, ‘When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.’” (**Lk. 11:1-4**)

“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. <For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.>” (**Mt. 6:9-13**)

V. Principles:

“What satisfaction must it be to learn from God Himself with what words and in what manner, he would have us pray to Him so as not to pray in vain! We do not sufficiently consider the value of this prayer; the respect and attention which it requires; the preference to be given it; its fullness and perfection; the frequent use we should make of it; and the spirit which we should bring to it. ‘Lord, teach us how to pray.’” --**Adam Clark**

1. Start Off Your Day in Prayer

“In the morning, O LORD, Thou wilt hear my voice; In the morning I will order my prayer to Thee and eagerly watch.” (**Ps. 5:3**)

“Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?”-- **Corrie Ten Boom**

2. Pray for Spiritual Understanding as you Read the Bible

“Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Thy law.” (**Ps. 119:18**)

3. With Devotion, Alertness and Thanksgiving

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;” (**Col. 4:2**)

“The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.” (**I Pet. 4:7**)

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name.” (**Ps. 100:4**)

4. Develop Intimacy With God Through Prayer

“But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, That I may tell of all Thy works.” (**Ps. 73:28**)

“Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” (**Ps. 73:25-26**)

“I stretch out my hands to Thee; My soul longs for Thee, as a parched land. Selah.” (Ps. 143:6)

“There is not in the world a kind of life more sweet and delightful than that of a continual conversation with God.” --**Brother Lawrence**

5. Pray Seeking to Get to Know God Better

“Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face continually.” (Ps. 105:4)

“Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.” (Isa. 55:6-7)

“Those who know God the best are the richest and most powerful in prayer. Little acquaintance with God, and strangeness and coldness to Him, make prayer a rare and feeble thing.” --**E. M. Bounds**

“Some people pray just to pray and some people pray to know God.”
--**Andrew Murray**

6. Delight in the Lord

“Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.” (Ps. 37:4)

“What the wicked fears will come upon him, And the desire of the righteous will be granted.” (Pv. 10:24)

“Thou wilt make known to me the path of life; In Thy presence is fullness of joy; In Thy right hand there are pleasures forever.” (Ps. 16:11)

7. Out of Unhindered, Consistent Fellowship (“Walk”) with God

“pray without ceasing;” (I Th. 5:17)

“Pray often, for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge for Satan.” --**John Bunyan**

“When thou feelest thyself most indisposed to prayer yield not to it, but strive and endeavor to pray even when thou thinkest thou canst not pray.” --**Arthur Hildersham**

8. Obediently, and to Please God

“and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.” (I Jn. 3:22)

“When Thou didst say, “Seek My face,” my heart said to Thee, “Thy face, O LORD, I shall seek.” (Ps. 27:8)

9. Proving God’s Will and Praying Accordingly

“And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.” (I Jn. 5:14-15)

“He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.” (Pv. 28:9)

10. Asking (i.e., Do It)

“Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened. Or what man is there among you, when his son shall ask him for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he shall ask for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!” (Mt. 7:7-11)

‘Call to Me, and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’ (Jer. 33:3)

“There is a general kind of praying which fails for lack of precision. It is as if a regiment of soldiers should all fire off their guns anywhere. Possibly somebody would be killed, but the majority of the enemy would be missed.” --**Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

11. Humbly Admitting Your Needs and Cares

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,” (I Pet. 5:6)

“Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.” (Jas. 4:10)

“Cast your burden upon the LORD, and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.” (Ps. 55:22)

“But as for me, I would seek God, And I would place my cause before God;” (Job 5:8)

“I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; And I am saved from my enemies.” (II Sam. 22:4)

“Pray, and let God worry.” -- **Martin Luther**

“Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers, pray for powers equal to your task.” --**Phillips Brooks**

12. Unselfishly, to Bring Glory to God

“You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.” (Jas. 4:2-3)

“Is the Son of God praying in me, or am I dictating to Him?.... Prayer is not simply getting things from God, that is a most initial form of prayer; prayer is getting into perfect communion with God. If the Son of God is formed in us by regeneration, He will press forward in front of our common sense and change our attitude to the things about which we pray.” --**Oswald Chambers**

“Our ordinary views of prayer are not found in the New Testament. We look upon prayer as a means for getting something for ourselves; the Bible idea of prayer is that we may get to know God Himself.” --**Oswald Chambers**

13. Fervently, Sincerely and Honestly

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.” (Jas. 5:16)

14. With Expectancy

“But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me.” (Mic. 7:7)

“If God will do whatever He wishes, regardless of whether we pray or not, then we do not need to pray at all, and the Lord’s instructions on praying for the Kingdom and the Will are superfluous. But the truth is that God waits for a Remnant to rise up and to pray in agreement with His Purpose before He does anything - He will do nothing apart from the Church. Apart from HIM, we CAN do nothing; apart from US, He WILL do nothing.” –**Chip Brogden**

15. Believing and Thanking God, Waiting Patiently for the Answer

“And Jesus answered[^] saying to them, ‘Have faith in God. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it shall be granted him. Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you.’” (Mk. 11:22-24)

“Faith in a prayer-hearing God will make a prayer-loving Christian.”
--**Andrew Murray**

“One can believe intellectually in the efficacy of prayer and never do any praying.” --**Catherine Marshall**

16. With a Clean Slate in Your Relationship with God

“If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear;” (Ps. 66:18)

“We lean to our own understanding, or we bank on service and do away with prayer, and consequently by succeeding in the external we fail in the eternal, because in the eternal we succeed only by prevailing prayer.”
--**Oswald Chambers**

17. With a Clean Slate in Your Marital Relations

“You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.” (I Pet. 3:7)

18. With a Clean Slate in Your Human Relations

“For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.” (Mt. 6:14-15)

19. In Private and Consistently/Regularly/Habitually

“And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition, as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.” (Mt. 6:7)

20. Not Hastily, Anxiously or Overly-Wordy (i.e., Verbosity)

“Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few.” (Ecc. 5:2)

21. Alongside Fasting (if Led to Fast)

“So we fasted and sought our God concerning this matter, and He listened to our entreaty.” (Ezra 8:23)

22. As a Life-Long Quest

“I love the LORD, because He hears My voice and my supplications. Because He has inclined His ear to me, Therefore I shall call upon Him as long as I live.” (Ps. 116:1-2)

Priorities:

1. Pray for Peace (Phil. 4:6-7)
2. Pray for Forgiveness (I Jn. 1:9, Neh. 1:6)
3. Pray During Temptation (Mark 14:38; See also: Heb. 4:15-16)
“I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had absolutely no other place to go.” -- Abraham Lincoln
4. Pray for Endurance of God’s Discipline (Zeph. 2:3, Heb. 12:5-11)
5. Pray for Christians’ Persecutors (Mt. 5:44)
6. Pray for All Men (I Tim. 2:8)
7. Pray for All Christians (Eph. 6:18-19; See also: Jas. 5:16)
8. Pray at Meals (I Tim. 4:5)
9. Pray for Your Country (II Chron. 7:13-14; See also: Ps. 33:12)
10. Pray for Opportunities to Evangelize (Col. 4:4)
11. Pray for Others’ Spiritual Growth (Phil. 1:9-11; See also: Eph. 1:15-19)
12. Pray for the Sick (Jas. 5:14)

19. Why Be Totally Committed to Jesus Christ?

On Total Commitment

10% of American Christians are committed, according to Barna research.
—**Dr. Jack Graham** (*paraphrased*)

The world has yet to see, and... “No one can sum up all God is able to accomplish through one solitary life, wholly yielded, adjusted, and obedient to Him.” --**D.L. Moody**

“What is total dedication? It is giving, totally and wholly, of time, talent, resources and oneself to a task. Dedication is selling out to a task. The men and women who break and set world athletic records, win championships, win Olympic gold medals are not necessarily the best athletes. But, they are the best trained athletes. They spend hours, and hours, and hours training. Their secret is dedication to a goal which they have set before themselves.” --**Freddie Gage**

Contrary to popular **myth**, going to church regularly and *tithing* does not make one a committed Christian. Barna research that only 10% of American Christians are committed believers proves that—even my own childhood testimony *corroborates*—one can be at church all the time and still be a **carnal** Christian.

1. Discipleship Requirements

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it. For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and WILL THEN RECOMPENSE EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.” (**Mt. 16:24-27**)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it; and he who hates his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal.” (**Jn. 12:24-25**)

“And as they were going along the road, someone said to Him, ‘I will follow You wherever You go.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.’ And He said to another, ‘Follow Me.’ But he said, ‘Permit me first to go and bury my father.’ But He said to him, ‘Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God.’ And another also said, ‘I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home.’ But Jesus said to him, ‘No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.’” (**Lk. 9:57-62**)

“Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the Gospel’s sake, but that he shall receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.” (**Mk. 10:29-30**)

“That we ought to give ourselves to God with regard to things both temporal and spiritual, and seek our satisfaction only in the fulfilling His will, whether he lead us by suffering, or by consolation, for all would be equal to a soul truly resigned. Prayer is nothing else but a sense of God’s presence.” --**Brother Lawrence**

“The Bible parable says that while men slept, the enemy sowed tares among the wheat. A boy who rises at 4:30 to deliver papers is considered a go-getter, but to urge our young people to rise at 5:30 to pray is considered fanaticism. We must once again wear the harness of discipline. There is no other way.” --**Leonard Ravenhill**

2. The Cost of Commitment

“If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and take counsel whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks terms of peace. So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.” (**Lk. 14:26-33**)

“For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (**I Cor. 3:11**)

“He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.” (**Mt. 12:30**)

“The Christian ideal has not been found tried and found wanting, it has been found difficult and left untried.” -- **GK Chesterton**

“If you have not chosen the Kingdom of God first, it will in the end make no difference what you have chosen instead.” --**William Law**

“Until you have given up your self to Him you will not have a real self.”..
--**C.S. Lewis**

3. Spiritual Reproduction (Evangelism)

“And He said[^] to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’” (**Mt. 4:19**)

“Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.” (**Mt. 10:32-33**)

4. Humble, Sincere Obedience

“And why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” (**Lk. 6:46**)

“His mother said[^] to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.” (**Jn. 2:5**)

“saying, ‘Father, if Thou art willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Thine be done.’” (Lk. 22:42)

“So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, ‘We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.’” (Lk. 17:10)

“Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, since I know that you will do even more than what I say.” (Phm. 1:21)

“Nothing is really lost by a life of sacrifice; everything is lost by failure to obey God's call.” --**Henry P Liddon**

5. Avoid Luke-Warmness

“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,’ and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent.” (Rev. 3:15-19)

“Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned?” (Lk. 14:34)

“But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you, and will remove your lamp stand out of its place—unless you repent. (Rev. 2:4-5)

“The word ‘Enthusiasm’ is derived from two Greek words: ‘en’ meaning in and ‘theos’ meaning God. Enthusiasm is literally ‘God in us.’ The enthusiastic man is one who speaks as if he were possessed by God. This quality is the most effective, the most important, factor in getting things done.

The largest advertiser of any single product in the world—Wrigley Chewing Gum—came to Chicago with less than fifty dollars in his pocket. Wrigley now sells thirty million dollars worth of his chewing gum every year, and on the wall of his private office hang the framed words of Emerson: ‘Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.’” --**Dale Carnegie**

“Alexander McLaren wrote: ‘It was not Erasmus, the polished, learned, scintillating intellect of his time, who made Germany over; it was rough, rugged Martin Luther with a conviction and compassion as deep as life.’ It is the day of Erasmus again. God give us a Luther!” --**Paul Tan**

6. Our Exciting Inheritance/Salvation Gift

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might” (Eph. 1:18-19)

“but just as it is written, ‘THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.’” (I Cor. 2:9)

“For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.” (Eph. 3:14-19)

“When He asks for and receives our all, he gives in return that which is above price—His own presence. The price is not great when compared with what He gives in return; it is our blindness and our own unwillingness to yield that make it seem great.” --**Rosalind Goforth**

7. Stay Awake and Alert

‘Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.’ (Rev. 3:2)

“For this reason it says, ‘Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you.’” (Eph. 5:14)

(“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his garments, lest he walk about naked and men see his shame.”) (Rev. 16:15)

8. Some Sober Warnings

“Therefore, let us fear lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.” (Heb. 4:1-2)

“Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.” (Heb. 3:12)

“It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Heb. 10:31)

“For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.” (Heb. 10:26-27)

“But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.” (Heb. 10:39)

“Holiness has never been the driving force of the majority. It is, however, mandatory for anyone who wants to enter the kingdom.” --**Elisabeth Elliot**

9. Knowing that Christ is in You; Proving/Demonstrating Your Calling

“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?” (II Cor. 13:5)

“to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Col. 1:27)

“Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.” (II Pet. 1:10-11)

10. Following/Walking with Christ

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,” (Col. 2:6)

“Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?” (Rom. 6:11-12, 16, 18)

“Jesus tapped me on the shoulder and said, Bob, why are you resisting me? I said, I'm not resisting you! He said, You gonna follow me? I said, I've never thought about that before! He said, When you're not following me, you're resisting me.” --**Bob Dylan**

11. Sin's Vain Emptiness and Our Bond-Slave Obligation

“So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—” (Rom. 8:12)

“For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.” (Rom. 6:20-21)

“The famous preacher Charles Spurgeon said that whenever he looked at the portrait of Henry Martyn, these words seemed to ring in his heart: “Don't trifle!”

The reason the minister felt this way is easy to understand. Martyn had graduated from Cambridge with honors in both mathematics and the classics, and had the prospect of a brilliant academic career. But he chose to serve the Lord in India. He was almost 25 when he arrived there, and at the age of 31 he died. Yet in those 6 years he translated the New Testament into three languages—Hindustani, Arabic, and Persian.” --**Paul Tan**

12. Faith's Relation to Sanctification/Christian Works

“What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,” and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. But someone may well say, “You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?” (Jas. 2:14-20)

“But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.”
(**Jas. 1:22**)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”
(**Eph. 2:8-10**)

“The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.” (**Lk. 6:45**)

“Preaching is to much avail, but practice is far more effective. A godly life is the strongest argument you can offer the skeptic.” --**Hosea Ballou**

“One can believe in the divinity of Jesus Christ and feel no personal loyalty to Him at all - indeed, pay no attention whatever to His commandments and His will for one's life.” --**Catherine Marshall**

13. Faith's Relation to Words

“for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” (**Rom. 10:10**)

“But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE,” we also believe, therefore also we speak;” (**II Cor. 4:13**)

“For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.” (**Heb. 2:1**)

14. Sowing and Reaping

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.” (**Gal. 6:7-8**)

“For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” (**Rom. 8:5-8**)

15. Heaven is Watching You—Keep Your Eyes on Jesus

“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (**Heb. 12:1-2**)

“No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.” (**II Tim. 2:4**)

16. Grow and Mature Spiritually

“Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,” **(I Pet. 2:1-2)**

“but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.” **(II Pet. 3:18)**

“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,” **(Heb. 5:12-6:1)**

“And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?” **(I Cor. 3:1-3)**

“Maturity doesn't come with age; it comes with acceptance of responsibility.” --**Ed Cole**

“A vital requirement for growth is heat. A tree may be flooded with light but unless the temperature is about 40 degrees Fahrenheit, there will be little growth.

When trees grow at very high altitudes on mountains or on the fringe of the true Arctic zones they are dwarfed and stunted by growth... But the cedars of Lebanon have the benefit of being native to a warm and sunny climate. They enjoy a long growing season during which the weather is balmy and conducive to growth most of the year.

There are innumerable Christians with stunted, dwarfed characters like a tree at timberline. They may have been exposed to a tremendous amount of light all their lives but there has been virtually no growth. In fact, some have literally stood still, unmoving and unchanged, from the time of their beginning a new life in Christ.

However, when action and zeal are added to the light of God's revelation, the tiniest timber can grow up to fashion the mightiest temple for the Most High.” --**Paul Tan**

17. Obedience and Your Identity (i.e., Who You Are) in Christ

“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, ‘YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.’” **(I Pet. 1:14-16)**

“‘I have found,’ David Livingstone early wrote in his diary, ‘that I have no unusual endowments of intellect, but I this day resolved that I would be an uncommon Christian.’” --**David Livingstone**

18. Put off Sins and Put on Christ-Likeness (i.e., the New Self)

“But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.”

(Rom. 13:14)

“But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.” **(Eph. 4:20-24)**

“Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.” **(Col. 3:5-10)**

“Many Christians have what we might call a "cultural holiness". They adapt to the character and behavior pattern of Christians around them. As the Christian culture around them is more or less holy, so these Christians are more or less holy. But God has not called us to be like those around us. He has called us to be like himself. Holiness is nothing less than conformity to the character of God.”--**Jerry Bridges**

“Christianity does not consist in any partial amendment of our lives, any particular moral virtues, but in an entire change of our natural temper, a life wholly devoted to God. --**William Law**

19. Bear Fruit by Abiding in Christ

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you.” **(Jn. 15:1-2, 4, 7)**

“And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.” **(I Jn. 2:28)**

20. Love God with all You Are/Keep His Commandments by Faith

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” **(Jn. 14:15)**

‘AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.’ **(Mk. 12:30)**

“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.” **(I Jn. 5:3)**

“And such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.” **(II Cor. 3:4-6)**

21. Sacrifice Your Own Passing Pleasures and Do God's Will

“I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (**Rom. 12:1-2**)

“Jesus said[^] to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.’” (**Jn. 4:34**)

“And after He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, ‘I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.’ For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers, and underwent decay;” (**Ac. 13:22, 36**)

“And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.” (**I Jn. 2:17**)

“If you teach men that God is the source of their pleasure and sin is the source of their pain, they will run to God and away from sin.”

-- **Jacquelyn K. Heasley**

22. Working Together with God/Disciplining Yourself for Godliness

“So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” (**Phil. 2:12-13**)

“And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain—for He says, ‘AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU’; behold, now is ‘THE ACCEPTABLE TIME,’ behold, now is ‘THE DAY OF SALVATION’” (**II Cor. 6:1-2**)

“But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.” (**I Tim. 4:7-8**)

“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” (**Phil. 1:6**)

“Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.” (**I Th. 5:24**)

“One person with a belief is equal to a force of 99 who only have interest.” --**Paul Tan**

23. Christ Living His Life Through You

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.” (**Gal. 2:20**)

“according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” (**Phil. 1:20-21**)

“Wesley was once asked how he got the crowds. He replied, ‘I set myself on fire, and the people come to see me burn.’”

24. Consider Yourself Dead to Your Own Life

“But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the Gospel of the grace of God.” (Ac. 20:24)

“More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,” (Phil. 3:8-9)

“The decision to grow always involves a choice between risk and comfort. This means that to be a follower of Jesus you must renounce comfort as the ultimate value of your life. --John Ortberg

25. Live for God and Walk in Newness of Life

“For the death that He died, He died to sin, once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.” (Rom. 6:10)

“Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” (Rom. 6:4)

“and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.” (II Cor. 5:15)

“For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.” (Rom. 14:7-9)

“He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.” (Col. 1:18)

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?” (I Cor. 6:19)

“Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” (II Cor. 5:17)

26. Be Prompted by Prophecy

“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!” (II Pet. 3:10-12)

“But this I say, brethren, the time has been shortened, so that from now on those who have wives

should be as though they had none; and those who weep, as though they did not weep; and those who rejoice, as though they did not rejoice; and those who buy, as though they did not possess; and those who use the world, as though they did not make full use of it; for the form of this world is passing away.” (I Cor. 7:29-31)

27. Heavenly Rewards and Blessings, and Judgment of Deeds

Perspective:



(Government housing in Heaven)

Don't live in an outhouse all your (eternal) life!

“Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man shall give to you, for on Him the Father, even God, has set His seal.”

(Jn. 6:27)

“knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.” **(Eph. 6:8)**

“If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.” **(Jn. 13:17)**

“Blessed are those slaves whom the master shall find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them.” **(Lk. 12:37)**

“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’” **(Mt. 25:23)**

“Watch yourselves, that you might not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.” **(II Jn. 1:8)**

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” **(II Cor. 5:10)**

“And the nations were enraged, and Thy wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to give their reward to Thy bond-servants the prophets and to the saints and to those who fear Thy name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.” **(Rev. 11:18)**

“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.” **(Rev. 22:12)**

28. Simple, Undistracted Devotion/Commitment

“And this I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is seemly, and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.” **(I Cor. 7:35)**

“But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.” **(II Cor. 11:3)**

“yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and

one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.” (I Cor. 8:6)

“but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;” (I Pet. 3:15)

29. Spiritual Accountability and Sin’s Error

“For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish; that perhaps there may be strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances;” (II Cor. 12:20)

“For to this end also I wrote that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things.” (II Cor. 2:9)

“My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth, and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.” (Jas. 5:19-20)

“I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.” (II Cor. 7:9)

30. God on your Side/God as Friend (vs. Enemy)

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?” (Rom. 8:31)

“FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE UPON THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL.” (I Pet. 3:12)

31. Union with Christ—Faithful Fidelity

“You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: ‘He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us’?” (Jas. 4:4-5)

“For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.” (II Cor. 11:2)

“But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.” (I Cor. 6:17)

32. Eternal vs. Temporal Mindedness

“Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.” (I Jn. 2:15-17)

“For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;” (Phil. 3:18-20)

“All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.” (**Heb. 11:13-14, 16**)

“If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” (**Col. 3:1-3**)

33. Gratitude, Thankfulness and Awe over Our Inheritance

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,” (**I Pet. 1:3-4**)

“Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;” (**Heb. 12:28**)

34. Avoid Idols and “Aspire Higher” (i.e., Priorities and Values)

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (**Mt. 6:19-21**)

“Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to his life’s span? And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these. But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more do so for you, O men of little faith? Do not be anxious then, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘With what shall we clothe ourselves?’ For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.” (**Mt. 6:26-33**)

“For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.”

(**I Tim. 6:7-10**)

“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” (**Lk. 16:13**)

“Let no one imagine that he will lose anything of human dignity by this voluntary sell-out of his all to his God. He does not by this degrade himself as a man; rather he finds his right place of high honor as one

made in the image of his Creator. His deep disgrace lay in his moral derangement, his unnatural usurpation of the place of God. His honor will be proved by restoring again that stolen throne. In exalting God over all, he finds his own highest honor upheld.” --**A.W Tozer**

35. Suffering Rather Than Sinning

“Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. And in all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excess of dissipation, and they malign you; but they shall give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.” **(I Pet. 4:1-5)**

“If the dead are not raised, LET US EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE. Do not be deceived: ‘Bad company corrupts good morals.’ Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.” **(I Cor. 15:32c-34)**

“By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin;” **(Heb. 11:24-25)**

“If thou art willing to suffer no adversity, how wilt thou be the friend of Christ? --**Thomas à Kempis**

36. Run/Live Your Life with a Purpose

“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;” **(I Cor. 9:24-26)**

“Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” **(Phil. 3:12-14)**

“but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ,” **(Eph. 4:15)**

“Knowing that we are fulfilling God's purpose is the only thing that really gives rest to the restless human heart.” --**Chuck Colson**

37. Be Useful vs. Useless and Futile

“This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their

heart;” (Eph. 4:17-18)

“Therefore, if a man cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.” (II Tim. 2:21)

“Nothing disciplines the inordinate desires of the flesh like service,
and nothing transforms the desires of the flesh like serving in hiddenness.
The flesh whines against service but it screams against hidden service.
It strains and pulls for honor and recognition.” --**Richard Foster**

38. Walk in a Worthy Manner and Please the Lord

“For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;” (Col. 1:9-10)

“for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.” (Eph. 5:8-10)

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

“Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.” (II Cor. 5:9)

“For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;” (Col. 1:9-10)

“For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, ‘THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED THEE FELL UPON ME.’” (Rom. 15:13)

“There is no peace in the border lands. The halfway Christian is a torment to himself and of no benefit to others.” --**Earnest Worker**

39. Revere and Fear the Lord

“And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Mt. 10:28)

“for our God is a consuming fire.” (Heb. 12:29)

“And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each man’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay upon earth; knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.” (I Pet. 1:17-19)

“Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.” (II Cor. 5:11)

“AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.” (Lk. 1:50)

“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” (II Cor. 7:1)

40. Persevere in Doing Good--Be Steadfast to the End

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”
(II Tim. 4:7-8)

“awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (I Cor. 1:7b-8)

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.” (I Cor. 15:58).

ONE DISCLAIMER:

Though rarely *if ever* a problem in America—the opposite usually being the case—there are limits/boundaries to how seriously you should focus on ethics:

“Do not be excessively righteous, and do not be overly wise. Why should you ruin yourself? Do not be excessively wicked, and do not be a fool. Why should you die before your time?”
(Ecc. 7:16-17)

“If you are walking with Jesus, in the Spirit, you need not fear going too far. No believer has gone as far as God wants him to go.” --A.A. Allen

A religious radical is only definable by behavior. Christians are supposed to be zealous for God, but if they don't fit the norm—just tepid or culturally normal—they often get labeled as ‘religious nuts.’ Heaven will ultimately prove which people were nut cases and which were just in the spiritual minority, loving and serving the Lord with reckless abandon, or as the Bible calls it—“with all your heart,” unconcerned whether the sheep herd was following or merely following someone else off the proverbial cliff.

As my best friend in College used to say:

“An ‘extremist’ is usually someone who is more committed to Christ than you are.”
--Rev. Tom Eckman

20. The “Upsides” and Downsides of Being a Carnal Christian

Why do so many American Christians ‘ride the fence’ between God and the world?

To live carnally:

1. YOU CAN SIN MORE, though those activities are merely “*passing pleasures*” (Heb. 11:25), will be **judged**, qualify you to incur a greater risk of *premature death* as punishment.
2. YOU CAN BE MORE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, and enjoy being a sheep—better, a **goat**—and not have to risk *suffering* or *ridicule* for living as a believer rather than the hypocrite which that lifestyle produces.
3. YOU CAN LOSE OR HAVE NO REWARDS IN HEAVEN—wait, I must be confused, that’s not a positive; **sorry**.
4. YOU CAN HAVE THE ‘BEST OF BOTH WORLDS’ and ‘your cake and eat it too,’ with all the “advantages” of getting the **devil more involved in your life**, having God opposed to you (experientially), being *wishy-washy* and double-mindedly unstable, and own the eternal moniker of one who was **not pleasing** to God. (Jas. 4:6, 1:5-8, II Cor. 5:9, etc.)
5. YOU CAN REMAIN JUST AS YOU (and millions of other Christians) ARE, so **no effort** or change will have to occur, which also allows you to **continue pursuing riches more than** God, with all the blessings those assets provide, **TEMPORARILY**. (Mt. 6:24)
6. YOU CAN STILL GO TO CHURCH, dress and act holy and ignore the preached words because the music is so uplifting and the people are nice to you for those brief minutes! No need for deep relationships, biblical fellowship, or, God forbid, **real ministry** to be done by *YOU*.
7. Perhaps best of all, NONE OF YOUR FRIENDS WILL KNOW—especially the non-believers whom you never tell about Jesus. Leave those fanaticisms to extremists and the professionals—your cushy, comfy life is *just alright with you...* till you face God in judgment. Who cares? America is myopic (i.e., short-term oriented) anyway, and even though we plan for our retirements, who needs to extrapolate **BEYOND** those hoped-for ‘*golden years*?’

Enough sarcasm... You see from these words that the only reason so many Christians are carnal is either ignorance or willful rebellion—both of which result in a **life wasted**, displeasing to God, and subject not to blessings but the **disciplining** of the Lord.

IF YOU WANT REASONS TO STOP LIVING AS A “NOMINAL” CHRISTIAN, please go to the

“Why Be Totally Committed to Jesus Christ” section.

I think you’ll *enjoy* those pages more!

Consequences For Carnality

A Christian who habitually lives only for himself, or regularly lives sinfully, does NOT go unpunished. In fact, if their life looks like they’re getting away with it, they probably are not saved (Heb. 12:8). What consequences does God’s Word teach for believers who live just like everyone else?

- Displeasing the Father and immediate loss of fellowship and the Spirit's power. (Heb. 11:6; I Jn. 1:6-10)
- Shame (or sorrow), at least temporarily, in heaven. (I Jn. 2:28-29)
- Loss of rewards in heaven. (I Cor. 3:10-15, etc.)
- Loss of blessings in this life.
- More or severer trials than would otherwise be the case. (Heb. 12:1-11)
- Lack of answered prayers. (Ps. 66:18; Mt. 6:14-15)
- A bad reputation among men, thus potentially giving Christ a bad name.
- Unnecessary incidences of sickness. (I Cor. 12:29-30)
- Premature physical death. (I Cor. 12:29-30)

From the above (non-exhaustive) list you can see that from milder to severe consequences, **God does not take lightly** the sinful behavior of His redeemed people (I Pet. 1:15-16; II Tim. 2:19).

21. Quiet Time

Why Have a Quiet Time?

Because it is important for every Christian to *daily* walk with and obey God, it is *essential* that we meet with Him daily in a time of commitment and worship, commonly referred to as a “*Quiet Time*.” No one can doubt our Lord walked with and knew God, as evidenced both by His praying (Mt. 14:23, Lk. 6:12) and knowledge of Scripture (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10, 22:31-32, etc.). The believer can *hardly* expect to be vitality, spiritually sustained without proper *daily nourishment*. (Jn. 4:34, I Pet. 2:1-2, I Tim. 4:6, Jn. 6:68)

Scripture indicates that Christ often began His days in prayer, and we see many instances of His living and ending His days with God. **Spending time with Him is the best way Christians can begin our days**, and mornings appear to be preferred, unless one *cannot* meet with God until later. (Ps. 5:3, 88:13).

All men have the same number of hours in a day, so it is not that we do not have the time, but that we do not *take* or *make the time* to get to **know God**. Nothing is more important for a believer, and **one claiming to be “too busy”** for a Quiet Time is in fact **busier than God wants him to be**; otherwise stated: **SINFULLY OVER-BUSY**, and **not prioritizing God**. (Eph. 5:16, I Cor. 7:29-31).

“I have so much to do that I spend several hours in prayer before I am able to do it.”—**John Wesley**

We are not SPIRITUAL CAMELS who can be nourished and fed only one to two hours a week on the weekend, then function all week without meeting with God. To grow, we must *daily* meet with Him, spending approximately half the time in prayer and half meditating on **God’s word**. In my and many others’ opinion, a “Quality Time” or “Quiet Time” is **the KEY** to a *victorious Christian life*—at least it’s the *foundation*. Other principles exist which help ensure spiritual success, but I have found that **great joy** comes once you establish Bible reading and prayer as an enjoyable lifestyle—not just a *discipline* you are *supposed* to do. That experience should be yours, through prayer and the provision of God’s Spirit, as you repeatedly *practice* and become exposed to these two activities until the *habit* is formed.

“You may pray for an hour and still not pray. You may meet God for a moment and then be in touch with Him all day.” --**Fredrik Wisloff**

“Prayer is not so much an act as it is an attitude—an attitude of dependency, dependency upon God.” --**Arthur W. Pink**

“My prayers seem to be more of an attitude than anything else. I indulge in no lip service, but ask the great God silently, daily, and often many times a day, to permit me to speak to Him. I ask Him to give me the wisdom, understanding and bodily strength to do His will. Hence, I am asking and receiving all the time.” --**Dr. George Washington Carver**

Mere skim reading of the Bible’s contents, without meditation and memorization is almost a *waste of time* for changing one’s life and behavior. The word says, “Thy word I have laid on my heart that I might not sin against Thee” (Ps. 119:11) and the one who looks *intently*

at the word (as opposed to looking at it as in a mirror—leaving and forgetting what you learned) will be **blessed**. (Jas. 1:22-25) From the original languages, the word picture of meditation is that of a cow burping up it's cud, then **re-eating it**, and repeating this process over and over (i.e., **regurgitation**, Ps. 1:1-3), and the saying is true, 'you are what you eat,' or better, "as a man thinks in his heart, so is he." (Pv. 23:7). *Garbage in—garbage out*, and vice-versa.

“Reading the Bible without meditating on it is like trying to eat without swallowing.” --**Anonymous**

The key is to **meet God** through the Bible and prayer, and this is no mere exercise in fulfilling *intellectual curiosity*, nor rote, meaningless *recitation* of prayers—you are **speaking to the living God**—your Lord and Savior—and it is hoped that you will learn to let Him speak to you, personally (through His “*still small voice*,” as your *spiritual senses* are trained in the good Word of God).

“The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God, that they may enter into Him, that they may delight in His Presence, may taste and know the inner sweetness of the very God Himself in the core and center of their hearts.”-- **A. W. Tozer**

“The longer you read the Bible, the more you will like it; it will grow sweeter and sweeter; and the more you get into the spirit of it, the more you will get into the spirit of Christ. --**Romaine**

A “Quiet Time” consists of both an **upward** and a **downward** aspect—praying is *our* speaking to God (Ex.: an upward viewpoint), and meditating on God’s Word is *His* way to speak to us (Ex.: a downward viewpoint). **It can take as little as 10-15 minutes a day**, and its rewards and blessings far outweigh any sacrifice to our earthly schedules.

It is recommended that you begin your private worship meetings by praying Ps. 119:17, trusting God to lead you as to *which verses* (among the 5-15 you will read) He is dealing with/speaking to you about, and His *conviction* as to which to memorize and **apply**. **THIS is grace living!**

The following is a *simple format* suggested for you to get into the Quiet Time **practice**. Research indicates that a **habit** is best established after **thirty consistent days** of execution. Because God wants His Bride, the Church, to be mature, holy, loving and evangelistic, I pray that *each one of you* consistently takes on the **lifelong joy of daily meeting with God**. Your rewards in **heaven** will be great, as with your blessings down here.

QUIET TIME FORMAT

A. FACETS OF PRAYER

- 1) **Focus**—Address God by name, and humble yourself before Him. Be still and know that He is God. (Ps. 46:10)
- 2) **Praise and Adoration**—VERBALLY attribute worth to God. Tell Him how wonderful He is based on traits/attributes of His character. *Singing* can be a form of *praise*.
- 3) **Thanksgiving**—Thanking God for all His blessings, in His word and in your life.
- 4) **Confession**—Admitting your sins and asking that they be forgiven. (I Jn. 1:9)
- 5) **Intercession**—Prayer requests made for others (Bible-based, claiming *promises*).
- 6) **Supplication**—Prayer requests made for yourself (based on Bible *promises*).

It is helpful to start a **Prayer Diary** to record prayer requests, **answers** and dates, with a *brief description* of how God answered them.

“Our sanctification does not depend upon changing our works, but in doing that for God’s sake which we commonly do for our own. The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer. Prayer is nothing else but a sense of the presence of God.”

--**Brother Lawrence**

“Be sure you look to your secret duty; keep that up whatever you do. The soul cannot prosper in the neglect of it. Apostasy generally begins at the closet door. Be much in secret fellowship with God. It is secret trading that enriches the Christian.

Pray alone. Let prayer be the key of the morning and the bolt at night. The best way to fight against sin is to fight it on our knees.”

--**Philip Henry**

“We hear it said that a man will suffer in his life if he does not pray; I question it. What will suffer is the life of the Son of God within him, which is nourished not by food but by prayer...Prayer is the way the life of God is nourished.” --**Oswald Chambers**

B. **FACETS OF BIBLE STUDY AND MEDITATION**

“Understanding is the reward of obedience. Obedience is the key to every door.” --**George MacDonald**

“This book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book.” --**Anonymous**

In a notebook, *do* and *record* the results of the following steps:

- 1) **Read and Re-Read**—Read the text through, then read it again slowly, thinking of the meaning of *significant* words. Emphasize certain and different words each time you re-read. Usually you should choose between three and ten verses at a time, so as to not *bite off more* than time and *serious attention* will allow. (Ps. 119:18 sample prayer)
- 2) **Paraphrase and Title**—Summarize in your own words what you read, and create a descriptive heading for the given passages to help you *remember* their contents later on.
- 3) **Cross-Reference(s)**—Make a note of any Bible verses you are familiar with which have a similar subject or *broaden* what you learned. Remember that information which comes immediately before and after what you read gives “context” or perspective to the verses you are seeking to interpret.
- 4) **Memory Verse(s)**—Choose **one or two key verses** which were especially *meaningful* to you, to commit to memory (likely on small flash cards).
- 5) **Ask and Write Questions**—Ask *questions* about the text to broaden your understanding, and note any questions you have, for further *study* or *clarification*. Know that there are many reference books to help you with difficult interpretations.
- 6) **Personal Application**—Perhaps *most importantly*, prayerfully **ask God how He would**

have you apply what you learned today.

God cannot be contained in a building, and *doesn't want* to be in your life just 1 to 2 hours a week. And like indulgences of old, you can't outsource your ministry obligation to professionals or your obligation to spend time with God by 'tithing,' so **going to church and 'tithing' are not the whole standard for true Christianity.**

You need no human intermediary between you and God (in Christ), and having pastor sermons be your only weekly ingestion of the Bible is like having a **chaperone on your honeymoon.**

Remember, meditating on (i.e., *thinking deeply about*) God's word is **spiritual food** and sustenance, and is the *means* by which we come to **know** the revealed **God**. (Josh. 1:8, Jas. 1:25, Ps. 1:1-3). Ultimately, aspire to **daily meditate** on the *Bible* and **daily walk in prayerful attitude** toward God—it's a life-long process!

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP IN-CLASS QUIET TIME ASSIGNMENTS:

Romans 7:15-25	Romans 8:1-11	Ephesians 1:3-14	I John. 1:5-2:2
John 1:1-14	Philippians 2	John 10:7-15	John 15:1-17
John 17:13-26	Ephesians 6:10-18	Philippians 3:7-16	Colossians 1:9-20
James 1:2-15	Psalms 119:129-152	Colossians 3:1-17	Revelation 21:1-27

RECOMMENDED READING SCHEDULE FOR NEW CHRISTIANS

(or Christians new to reading the Bible)

Books:

New Testament

Stage 1A: Ephesians, Philippians, I John, Colossians, John, James, Romans, I Peter, Acts

Stage 2A: Mark, Galatians, I Thessalonians, II Timothy, I Timothy, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Luke, Titus, Matthew

Stage 3A: II John, III John, Hebrews, II Peter, II Thessalonians, Philemon, Revelation, Jude

Old Testament

Stage 1B: Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Proverbs

Stage 2B: Ruth, Jonah, Job, Isaiah, Genesis, Exodus, Daniel, Ezekiel,

Stage 3B: Joshua, Deuteronomy, Joel, Song of Solomon, Judges, I Kings, II Kings

Stage 4: I Samuel, II Samuel, Ezra, Esther, Jeremiah, Hosea, I Chronicles, II Chronicles, Nehemiah, Micah, Amos, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Obadiah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Leviticus, Lamentations, Numbers

Chapters:

Stage 1: Eph. 1, Ps. 119, Rom. 8, Pv. 3:5-7, Ps. 1, John 1, Gal. 5:16-26, Rom. 7:7-25, Phil. 3:4-21, I Jn. 1, 5:10-15, I Cor. 13:4-8a, Col. 1, II Pet. 1:3-11, Heb. 11, Eph. 6:10-20, I Cor. 15, Mt 13, Phil. 2:1-13, John 10, II Cor. 5, John Chs. 15, 17, Eph. 4, Rom. 1:15-32, I Cor. 1:18-31, 3:10-16, Jas. 3, I Jn. 3:1-11, Col. 3:1-4:6, Jas. 2:14-26, I Jn. 2:1-17, I Pet. 1:3-2:10, I Tim. 6:6-19, II Tim. 1:6-12, I Tim. 2:1-7, 20-22, Mt. 4:1-11

Stage 2: Ac. 2, 2 Cor. 8-9, Jn. 3-4, Mt. 26-28, Rom. 1, Mt. 5-7, Rom. 5, Heb. 1, I Cor. 12, Rev. Chs. 19-21, 1, 2-5, Rom. 14, I Cor. 8, Heb. 2, Heb. 12

Verses:

Please note that for verses on specific topics needed for application (Ex.: sin problems unique to the given believer), such listing of verse references can be obtained from Concordances or Topical Bibles. The following are mainly of a more *general* nature. Underlines indicate great initial verses to memorize.

22. Scripture Memory Plan

Key Memory Verses

Stage 1:

Mt. 1:21, 23, **4:**4, 19, **5:**13-14, 16, 39-42, 44, **6:**7,9-13, 19-21, 24, 26, 33, **7:**7-8, 12, **9:**37-38, **10:**16, 37-39, **11:**28-30, **12:**35, 50, **13:**57, **16:**18, **18:**11, 20, **20:**27, **22:**21, 37-39, **24:**14, 27, **26:**41, **28:**18-20;

Mk. 1:8, 11, 17, **4:**14, **6:**11, 34, **9:**23, 40, **10:**27, 29-31, 45, **11:**22-24, **12:**30-31, **13:**31, **14:**36, **16:**6, 15-16;

Lk. 2:10-11, 52, **6:**12, 27-29, 31, 38, **9:**23-25, 60, 62, **11:**13, **12:**15, **14:**11, **15:**7, **17:**10, **18:**29-30, **21:**28;

Jn. 1:1, 12, **2:**5, 3:3, 13-15, 16-17, 27, 36, **4:**14, 24, 34, 35, 36, **5:**24, **6:**27, 35, 63, **7:**38, **8:**12, 31-32, 36, 58, **9:**4, **10:**9-10, 27-29, **12:**24-26, 32, **13:**34-35, **14:**1-3, 6, 13-15, 27, **15:**4-7, 9-13, **16:**13, 24, 33, **17:**3, 17, **20:**30-31, **21:**25;

Ac. 1:8, **2:**21, **4:**12, **5:**29, **6:**4, **10:**38, 43, **12:**24, **16:**31, **20:**20, 24;

Rom. 1:3-4, 16-17, 18, **2:**29, **3:**23-24, 28, **4:**3, **5:**1, 5, 8, **6:**6, 11, 23, **7:**20, **8:**1-2, 5-6, 9, 14-15, 28, 33-34, 37-39, **10:**9-10, 13, 17, **12:**1-2, **13:**14, **14:**7-8; **15:**1-2

I Cor. 1:17-18, 30, **2:**14, **3:**6-7, **4:**5, 20, **6:**11-12, 17, 19-20, **8:**6, **9:**19, **10:**13, 23, **13:**4-8, **15:**1-4, 10, 33, 51-52, 55-58;

II Cor. 1:12, 20, **2:**11, 14, **3:**3-6, **4:**3-4, 18, **5:**7-10, 17, 20-21, **7:**1, **9:**6-7, **10:**3-5;

Gal. 1:10, **2:**16, 20-21, **4:**7, **5:**1, 5-6, 13, 16-18, 22-25, **6:**8-9, 14;

Eph. 1:3-13, **2:**8-10, **3:**12, 20-21, **4:**4-6, 23-24, 30, **5:**18-19, **6:**10-18;

Phil. 1:6, 21, **2:**3-13, **3:**7-11-14, 19-20, **4:**4, 6-8, 13, 19;

Col. 1:14-19, 28-29, **2:**6, 9-10, **3:**1-2, 14-17, 23-24, **4:**2, 5-6;

I Thes. 1:5, **2:**4, 7-8, **4:**11, 16-18, **5:**8-9, 16-19, 22-23;

II Thes. 1:11-12, **2:**16-17, **3:**3, 13, 16;

I Tim. 1:5, 15-16, **2:**3-4, **4:**8, **6:**6, 10-12;

II Tim. 1:7, 12, **2:**1-4, 15, 22, **3:**16-17, **4:**7-8;

Tit. 1:15, **2:**11-14;

Phm. 1:6, 12, (14, 19), 21

Heb. 1:3, **2:**18, **4:**12, 14-16, **5:**8-9, 14, **7:**26, **9:**14, 27-28, **10:**21-23, 35-38, **11:**1, 6, **12:**1-5, 6-7, 11, **13:**5-8;

Jas.1:2-4, 13-17, 22, 25, **2:**22, **3:**17-18, **4:**3, 7-8;

I Pet. 1:2-5, 22-23, **2:**1-2, 16, **3:**15, **4:**1-2, 7, **5:**6-10;

II Pet. 1:2-4, 20-21, **3:**9, 18;

I Jn. 1:1-2, 5-7, 9, **2:**15-17, 25, 28, **3:**1-2, 16, 22-24, **4:**4, 9-10, **5:**3-4, 11-15;

II Jn. 1:9;

III Jn. 1:2;

Jude 1:24-25;

Rev. 3:20, **5:**12b, **11:**15d, **12:**11, **21:**4, 6;

OLD TESTAMENT: **Gen.** 17:1; **Num.** 6:24-26; **Deut.** 4:29, 10:12-13, 18:22, 29:29; **Josh.** 1:8, 23:11; **Job** 13:15; **Ps.** 1:1-3, 5:3, 8:1-4, 19:1, 27:1, 37:3-6, 42:1-2, 5, 46:10, 73:25-26, 100:3, 119 (entire chapter, especially vv. 9-11), 18, 38; **Pv.** 3:1-2, 5-7, 13-15, 4:23, 9:10, 11:30, 14:12, 15:16, 16:25, 18:24, 23:4-5, 27:17; **Ecc.** 2:24-25, 7:20, 12:13; **Song** 8:7; **Is.** 1:18, 26:3, 40:8, 28-31, 53:1-12, 55:8-9, 11, 59:2, 64:6; **Jer.** 29:11-13, 31:3, 33:3; **Lam.** 3:21-23; **Dan.** 3:18; **Mic.** 6:8; **Hab.** 2:20; **Zech.** 4:6;

Homework Handout:

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

1. Unless otherwise made *obvious*, employ the **normal, natural, literal** meaning words.
2. Use *normal* rules of literary grammar.
3. Let **clear** verses interpret less-clear ones.
4. Let **doctrinal** verses interpret experiences and opinions.
5. Remember ‘there is **one** interpretation but **many** applications.’
6. Use cross-referenced verses and ask questions of verses.
7. Be firm about meanings of clear verses, and more **open** about the more *difficult* ones.
8. Let biblical **revelation** be preeminent to logic, and let **logic** rule feelings about interpretation.
9. Learn from others: Knowing the original languages can be helpful, as with history, culture, audience, book purpose, author, time-line/date, literary genre, book type, etc.
10. Try to distinguish between truths applied eternally from those uniquely “**cultural**.”
11. Major on the **majors** and minor on the minors, and learn to disagree agreeably.
12. Seek the **whole** counsel and wisdom of God (vs. “*cherry picking*”).
13. Seek more insight from having **applied** Scripture.
14. Keep your subjective leadings *consistent* with objective **interpretation**.

OLD TESTAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

It would be a *disrespectful disservice* to imply that **so great** (and thick) a portion of the Bible as the Old Testament could be “*summarized*,” and the Bible itself warns against adding to or subtracting from it. (Rev. 22:18-19). The following **event reference** is given primarily to guide those **not raised in church** an overview of several **famous events** many Christians are familiar with, for use in your own study of them:

- Adam and Eve (**Gen. 2:4-25**)
- Birthright Sold by Esau (**Gen. 25:19-34**)
- Cain and Able (**Gen. 4:1-24**)
- Calling of Abraham (**Gen. 17:1-27**)
- Christ’s Sufferings Predicted (**See: Suffering Servant**)
- Circumcision of Abraham (**See: Calling**)
- Covenant with Abraham (**See: Calling**)
- Creation (**Gen. 1:1-2:3**)
- Daniel in the Lion’s Den (**Dan. 3:1-30**)
- David and Bathsheba (**II Sam. 11:1-13**)
- David and Goliath (**I Sam. 17:1-58**)
- Enoch Never Died (**Gen. 5:21-27**)
- Esau Sells His Birthright (**See: Birthright**)
- Fall of Man (**Gen. 3:1-7**)

Flood (**See: Noah**)

40 Years of Wandering in the Wilderness (**Num. 32:13, Ex. 16:35, etc., See Also: Manna**)

400 Years of Egyptian Bondage (**Ex. 5:1-7:7**)

Giving of the Ten Commandments (**See: 10 Commandments**)

Jericho's Walls Fall Down (**See: Walls**)

Job's Lot in Life (**See: Suffering**)

Jonah and the Whale (**See: Book of Jonah**)

Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors (**Gen. 37:1-36**)

Joseph and Potiphar's Wife (**Gen. 39:1-23**)

Joseph Interprets Dreams (**Gen. 4:1-57**)

Joseph Sold into Slavery (**See: Joseph and the Coat**)

"Let My People Go" (**See: Pharaoh**)

Lintels Covered with Blood (**See: Passover Angel**)

Lot's Wife Turns to Salt (**Gen. 19:26**)

Methuselah (**Gen. 5:21-27**)

Moses' Birth (**Ex. 2:1-10**)

Moses Parts the Red Sea (**See: Parting**)

Moses Slays a Man (**Ex. 2:11-25**)

Moses' Stammering Tongue (**Ex. 4:1-17**)

Moses Strikes a Rock (**Ex. 17:5-7**)

Noah and the Flood (**Gen. 6:1-8:19**)

Oldest Man in the Bible (**See: Methuselah**)

Parting of the Red Sea (**Ex. 14:1-22**)

Passover Angel (**Ex. 12:1-36**)

Pharaoh of Egypt ("let My people go")—(**Ex. 5:1-7:7**)

Pillar of Fire Leads by Night (**Ex. 13:17-22**)

Rahab and the Spies (**Josh. 2:1-24**)

Remnant Drinking From Their Hands (**Judg. 7:1-25**)

Ruth's Gleanings (**Ruth 2:1-23**)

Samson and Delilah (**Judg. 16:1-34**)

Samson Fights the Philistines with Fox Tails (**Judg. 15:1-8**)

Satan's Fall (**Isa. 14:12-15**)

Sodom and Gomorrah (**Gen. 18:1-19:38**)

Spies in the Land of Milk and Honey (**Num. 13:1-14:45**)

Suffering of Job (**See: Book of Job**)

Suffering Servant (**Isa. 53:1-12**)

Ten Commandments (**Ex. 20:1-26, Deut. 4:44-5:33**)

Ten Plagues and the Miracles Challenge (**See: 400 Years**)

Three Men in the Fire with Daniel (**Dan. 3:1-30**)

Tower of Babel (**Gen. 11:1-9**)

Walls of Jericho Fall Down (**Josh. 6:1-27**)

An *excellent* resource for getting a mental understanding of the “**big picture**” of the **Bible books** is the following two *seminars*:

- **Walk Through the Old Testament**, and
- **Walk Through the New Testament** (Walk Thru the Bible Seminars, 61 Perimeter Park, N.E., P.O. Box 80587, Atlanta, GA 30366)

23. “Body Life” (Defined, Described and Defended)

“BODY LIFE:” LAY PARTICIPATION IN WORSHIP SERVICES BIBLICAL CHURCH IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!

(i.e., How to add *some* Spirit-led spontaneity and Lay Involvement; See also, Body Life, by Ray Stedman)

The *third highest priority* usually *omitted* by most American churches (evangelism and ‘relational discipleship’ being the top two) is personal involvement in church worship services by the laity. The existence of mega churches is not unbiblical (Ac. 2, 4), but first century mega churches had personal relationships where it was more of a family and people knew one another. They cared about one another and did not just turn around a pew for two minutes or less shaking hands with strangers they may never see again and likely never know well. This was not a **CULTURAL** tradition—this **IS** biblical love!

For the spiritual health of gathered believers, I believe churches need to allocate between 10 and 15 minutes of a church service for biblical fellowship and layperson “interaction.” Having church “*fellowships*,” where masses eat and talk together may be a great idea, but unless our Sunday School parties or other “fellowship” gatherings have spiritual thoughts and shared personal experiences and lessons from walking with and serving God, they are, at best, **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**—not spiritual koinonia or “fellowship.” Plus, all indications are this was done in the **main** worship service—not a sub-group we now call Bible Fellowship or Sunday school, especially since “Body Life” exhortations are to the group of gathered believers. “Love feasts” seem to have also been out of church social and/or fellowship gatherings.

Besides my studies in Acts and the Epistles, and reading the above-mentioned book, I have been at a church that had “body life” and it was superior to cold, detached, or even good-hearted and well-meaning but biblically uninformed churches—collections of Christian strangers watching the professionals or special lay persons sing and preach, while the majority sit by and watch!

It is also an excuse and a mistake to pawn off this ministry of the family of God to **Sunday School hour** or Adult Bible Fellowship. These groups, though smaller, are great for what they accomplish, but can become cliquish. Even so, “**body life**” involves the whole body, and all ages. We do not need MORE meetings in ever more personal settings, constituting what some call “*Churchianity*” (i.e., Christianity by church activity). With our *fast-paced* society and *multi-tasked, busy* lives people don’t need more events to feel close to their brethren—they need quality and friendly biblical **TRANSPARENCY** (i.e., friendly openness).

Lay involvement/“Body Life” should also not be reserved for the more spiritual, who choose to stay an extra hour for Sunday School. It should also not be omitted for fear that *some* in the congregation might be scared or offended by it as “**different**” or too “mature” for them. No, it should occur within the main weekend gathering/meeting of believers. Our culture has changed, **as has every other culture** since biblical times, but **loving people**, having **friendships** and **relationships**, and showing our **oneness** as Christians—not as spectators watching on the sidelines being taught and/or entertained by professionals—will **NEVER** go out of fashion—at least with God.

Although I believe certain of the more “miraculous” spiritual gifts will not likely be manifested today, the atmosphere described in certain *corporate worship* passages of the New

Testament still paints a picture of **interaction** between the parts of the body of Christ, as described in such places as I Cor. 12-14, Jas. 4, Eph. 4, Ac. 2 and 4, and *elsewhere*. There is something inescapably **appealing** and **attractive** in seeing a group—even a very large one—**meeting each other's needs**, praying for individuals, sharing victories and testimonies, and relating to people of all ages—not just those within their age bracket in Sunday School. I've seen and experienced it, as have others, and will **never accept** the lesser alternative, nor be as **committed** to or **excited** about a church which operates with **less** than this type of Christian relating between the various parts of the body. **THIS** is the best way the world will know we are Christians—when we love one another. (**Jn. 13:35**)

A sample of lay activities in worship services I have *seen*, read about or known of include the following, non-exhaustive list:

- Spiritual praise songs (perhaps even written by a church member—if the quality is good).
- Allowing lay testimonies (Ex.: an open microphone, within limits).
- Discussion groups or prayer amongst groups of three or four **during the service**.
- Individual prayer requests and *specific praying* for needs *expressed* (cautioned to avoid “TMI”/too much information or too personal of details!).
- Short teaching lessons by laymen from Quiet Time lessons they have recently learned (pastors gently *correcting* any theological errors, afterwards, if needed).
- Relating evangelism success stories (Ex.: Ac. 15:3).
- Publicly expressed answers to prayer (i.e., thanksgivings and “praise reports”).
- *Blessing* other members with a verse of Scripture God may lay on their heart for that other person (only if it will edify/bleed the group as a whole—not subjectivism or authoritatively pronouncing ‘*thus saith the Lord*’).
- Laymen singing solos or playing a song on an instrument God may have “given them” to write.
- Words of corporate encouragement or needed moral cautioning.
- Public repentance of **general** (vs. specifically identifying) sins.
- Reverse passing of the offering plate for the needy to *take what they need* (if not abused or done too often).
- **Meeting each others needs** (Ex.: I once saw an older man give his used car to a needy college student, as she expressed her prayer request for transportation—right there in the “body life” portion of Sunday morning church!).

This IS loving one another!

Representative Bible verses indicating this Manner of Relationship or “Body Life”

Ac. 4:31-37; Rom. 12:3-21, 14:13, 19, 15:7; I Cor. 12-14; II Cor. 13:11; Gal. 5:13; Eph. 2:20-22, 4:2-3, 11-16, 25, 32, 5:19-21; Phil. 2:3; Col. 3:12-17; Heb. 3:13, 10:24-25; Jas. 4:11, 5:9; I Pet. 4:9, 5:5d-g; 10; I Jn. 5:11, 13b, 15, etc.

One of the best arguments for this church lifestyle being part of the **main** gathering event—not segmented off for a select few, by age group, or to only small groups—is the *large number* of “**one another**” commands addressed to the **entire** Church of God—no less than **all**

believers *treating each other* in this way, both in the church building, and in “real life” (i.e., outside the church gathering). This is not *hippie communalism*, **old-fashioned** idealism or only for smaller, *rural* churches—**this IS biblical Christianity**, and anything else is less than the standard!

The “One Anothers” of Scripture

- Members of one another. **(Rom. 12:5)**
- Devoted to one another. **(Rom. 12:10)**
- Honor one another. **(Rom. 12:10)**
- Be of the same mind with one another. **(Rom. 15:5)**