

# Are you a mature Christian? Or, are you a babe in Christ?

What does that even mean? Does it matter?



## Scriptures referenced on Cover

**John 3:16-21 GNB** For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. (17) For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its savior. (18) Those who believe in the Son are not judged; but those who do not believe have already been judged, because they have not believed in God's only Son. (19) **This is how the judgment works: the light has come into the world, but people love the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds are evil.** (20) Those who do evil things hate the light and will not come to the light, because they do not want their evil deeds to be shown up. (21) But **those who do what is true come to the light** in order that the light may show that what they did was in obedience to God.

**Revelation 4:2-5:10 GNB** At once the Spirit took control of me. There in heaven was a throne with someone sitting on it. (3) His face gleamed like such precious stones as jasper and carnelian, and all around the throne there was a rainbow the color of an emerald. (4) In a circle around the throne were twenty-four other thrones, on which were seated twenty-four elders dressed in white and wearing crowns of gold. (5) From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings, and peals of thunder. In front of the throne seven lighted torches were burning, which are the seven spirits of God. (6) Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. Surrounding the throne on each of its sides, were four living creatures covered with eyes in front and behind. (7) The first one looked like a lion; the second looked like a bull; the third had a face like a human face; and the fourth looked like an eagle in flight. (8) Each one of the four living creatures had six wings, and they were covered with eyes, inside and out. Day and night they never stop singing: "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come." (9) The four living creatures sing songs of glory and honor and thanks to the one who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever. When they do so, (10) the twenty-four elders fall down before the one who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives forever and ever. They throw their crowns down in front of the throne and say, (11) "Our Lord and God! You are worthy to receive glory, honor, and power. For you created all things, and by your will they were given existence and life." All these heavenly creatures don't give that praise because they are forced. They desire to do so because our God is good. Know him yourself!~

**Revelation 5:1-9 GNB** I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who sits on the throne; it was covered with writing on both sides and was sealed with seven seals. (2) And I saw a mighty angel, who announced in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" (3) But there was no one in heaven or on earth or in the world below who could open the scroll and look inside it. (4) I cried bitterly because no one could be found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside it. (5) Then one of the elders said to me, **"Don't cry. Look! The Lion from Judah's tribe, the great descendant of David, has won the victory, and he can break the seven seals and open the scroll."** (6) Then I saw a Lamb standing in the center of the throne, surrounded by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb appeared to have been killed. It had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God that have been sent through the whole earth. (7) **The Lamb went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who sits on the throne.** (8) As he did so, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. **Each had a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God's people.** (9) **They sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to break open its seals. For you were killed, and by your sacrificial death you bought for God people from every tribe, language, nation, and race.**

**Revelation 6:1-2 Douay-Rheims** (1) And I saw that the Lamb had opened one of the seven seals: and I heard one of the four living creatures, as it were the voice of thunder, saying: Come and see. (2) And I saw: and behold a white horse, and he that sat on him had a bow, and there was a crown given him, and he went forth conquering that he might conquer (or, might go subduing in the midst of his enemies). White horse. . .He that sitteth on the white horse is Christ, going forth to subdue the world by his gospel (words). The other horses that follow represent the judgments and punishment that were to fall on the enemies of Christ and his church (followers). The red horse signifies war; the black horse, famine; and the pale horse (which has Death for its rider), plagues or pestilence.

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# Table of Contents

Scriptures referenced on Cover.....Inside Front Cover - 2

Press on to Christian maturity! ..... 2

Be mature in the way you deal with others! ..... 5

Abandon the doctrines of men and express faith in Christ!.....23

Preservation of life through the destruction of the wicked. ....30

What is the purpose of this booklet? .....35

Hide yourself and gain your life!.....41

## Press on to Christian maturity!

Our question about maturity stems from something Paul said in his writings to the Hebrew Christians. Let us begin with saying we *do not* raise this question looking down our nose, in a self-righteous belief we are mature and you need our counsel on the matter. This is our best effort to make a record of our own personal Bible study, as we examine our-own-selves in the light of the scriptures. We believe we all have the exact same need: A maturity centered on the light shining from the teachings of God's son (as recorded in the Gospels). Our desire is to see ourselves as we actually are;<sup>A</sup> in an open consideration of our own maturity!

Paul wrote: **(Hebrews 5:11-6:3 MWT)** <sup>11</sup> Concerning Jesus we have much to say and hard to be explained, since you have become dull in your hearing. <sup>12</sup> For, indeed, although you ought to be teachers in view of the time, you again need someone to teach you from the beginning the elementary things of the sacred pronouncements of God; and you have become such as need milk, not solid food. <sup>13</sup> For everyone that partakes of milk is unfamiliar with the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

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<sup>A</sup> **(James 1:19-27)** <sup>19</sup> Know this, my beloved brothers. Every man must be swift about hearing, slow about speaking, slow about wrath; <sup>20</sup> for man's wrath does not work out God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup> Hence put away all filthiness and that superfluous thing, badness, and accept with mildness the implanting of the word which is able to save your souls. <sup>22</sup> However, become doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves with false reasoning. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a [*forgetful*] hearer of the word, and not a doer, this one is like a man looking at his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself, and off he goes and immediately forgets what sort of man he is. <sup>25</sup> But he who peers into the perfect law (The perfect law is the teachings of Jesus - see John 8:31-32 on pg 8.) **that belongs to freedom and who persists in [it], this [man], because he has become, not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, will be happy in his doing [it].** <sup>26</sup> If any man seems to himself to be a formal worshiper and yet does not bridle his tongue, but goes on deceiving his own heart, this man's form of worship is futile. <sup>27</sup> The form of worship that is clean and undefiled from the standpoint of our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their tribulation, and to keep oneself without spot from the world.

<sup>14</sup> But solid food belongs to mature people, to those who through use have their perceptive powers trained to distinguish both right and wrong. **6** For this reason, now that we have left the primary doctrine about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying a foundation again, namely, repentance from dead works, and faith toward God, <sup>2</sup> the teaching on baptisms and the laying on of the hands, the resurrection of the dead and everlasting judgment. <sup>3</sup> And so, we will press on to maturity, if God indeed permits.

Paul also wrote the Christians in the cities of Corinth and Ephesus:

**(1 Corinthians 13:11)** When I was a babe, I used to speak as a babe, to think as a babe, to reason as a babe; but **now that I have become a man, I have done away with the [traits] of a babe.**

**(1 Corinthians 14:20)** Brothers, do not become young children in powers of understanding; remain babes as to badness, yet **become full-grown in powers of understanding.**

**(Ephesians 4:13)** until we all attain to the oneness in the faith and **in the accurate knowledge of the Son of God, to a full-grown man**, to the measure of stature that belongs to the fullness of the Christ;

It seems clear Paul believed we need to become mature Christians. How can we do so? How did Paul feel about even his own maturity? As he admonished us to maturity, he admitted about himself:

**1 Corinthians 4:1-5 GNB** (1) You should think of us as Christ's servants, who have been put in charge of God's secret truths. (2) The one thing required of such servants is that they be faithful to their master. (3) Now, I am not at all concerned about (I consider it a trivial matter that I am) being judged by you or by any human standard; **I don't even pass judgment on myself.** (4) **My conscience is clear, but that does not prove that I am really innocent. The Lord is the one who passes judgment on me.** (5) So you should not pass judgment on anyone before the right time comes. **Final judgment must wait until the Lord comes [or returns]; he will** (by a reawakening of mankind to the value of Christ's teachings) **bring to light the dark secrets and expose the hidden purposes of people's minds.** And then all will receive from God the praise they deserve.

Paul said he knew he was a caretaker for the sacred pronouncements of God, and yet, he didn't feel himself above others or even judge himself righteous. He did his best to follow Christ and felt good in his conscience about his efforts, but also recognized that didn't mean he had authority to judge even himself. He seemed to understand his growing to maturity to be an ongoing process. He was a faithful follower of Christ Jesus but he also recognized his maturity revolved around getting better, every day of his life, at directing others to the teachings of his lord. He felt, as did John, that our very life comes from sharing knowledge of what Jesus taught:

**1 John 1:1-7 ALT** What was from *[the]* beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon and our hands handled, concerning the Word of the life— (2) and the life was revealed, and we have seen and testify and declare to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was revealed to us— (3) what we have seen and have heard we declare to you, so that you also shall be having fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship *[is]* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. (4) **And these things we write to you, so that (y)our joy shall have been made full.** (5) And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light *[or, is as to His essence light]*, and in Him *[there]* is no darkness at all. (6) If we say, "We have fellowship with Him," and are walking about *[fig., conducting ourselves]* in the darkness, we are lying and are not doing the truth. (7) But if we are walking about in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses *[or, purges]* us from all sin.

The apostles believed we are rendering judgment over ourselves by whether we express faith in Christ.<sup>B</sup> Walking in light amounts

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<sup>B</sup> **(John 5:20-24)** <sup>20</sup> For the Father has affection for the Son and shows him all the things he himself does, and he will show him works greater than these, in order that you may marvel. <sup>21</sup> For just as the Father raises the dead up and makes them alive, so the Son also makes those alive whom he wants to. <sup>22</sup> **For the Father judges no one at all, but he has committed all the judging to the Son,** <sup>23</sup> in order that all may honor the

to expressing faith in God's son. Understanding that is a part or even the basis of growing to Christian maturity.

Be mature in the way you deal with others!

One reason we examine this matter of maturity is because of a common practice among many self-proclaimed Christian Churches. We note they often use peer pressure to encourage or even coerce people to confess faith in Christ. If there are sincere people in the midst of some group of asserted Christians, when they are "preaching" the need to express faith by "coming to the altar," some sincere persons may do so without any real understanding of who Christ is or of what they are doing. While we understand the intent is good: They desire to introduce the person to their personal need for Christ to forgive their sins, what is the end result? The person may not even know who Christ

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Son just as they honor the Father. He that does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. <sup>24</sup> Most truly I say to you, He that hears my word and believes him that sent me has everlasting life, and he does not come into judgment but has passed over from death to life.~ **(John 12:44a & 46-48)** <sup>44</sup> However, Jesus cried out and said:... <sup>46</sup> I have come as a light into the world, in order that everyone putting faith in me may not remain in the darkness. <sup>47</sup> But if anyone hears my sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for **I came, not to judge the world, but to save the world.** <sup>48</sup> **He that disregards me and does not receive my sayings has one to judge him. The word that I have spoken is what will judge him in the last day;~** **(Matthew 12:33-37)** <sup>33</sup> "Either you people make the tree fine and its fruit fine or make the tree rotten and its fruit rotten; for by its fruit the tree is known. <sup>34</sup> Offspring of vipers, how can you speak good things, when you are wicked? **For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.** <sup>35</sup> The good man out of his good treasure sends out good things, whereas the wicked man out of his wicked treasure sends out wicked things. <sup>36</sup> I tell you that every unprofitable saying that men speak, they will render an account concerning it on Judgment Day; <sup>37</sup> **for by your words you will be declared righteous, and by your words you will be condemned.**"~ **(Luke 19:22)** <sup>22</sup> He said to him, 'Out of your own mouth I judge you, wicked slave. . . .



really is, or why they should have faith in him. If those inciting such an expression of faith don't give the person they coerce to the alter anything more, that person may soon learn those people who pressured them are all just imperfect people, just like the confessor. With no additional encouragement (or understanding) of their need to sit at Jesus's feet by reading the Gospels to learn what he taught, the person may revert to their old life style but now with a conscience seared by the experience. The experience could make them hesitant to listen a second time. Often, people who are trying to help other people by encouraging them to "come to the alter" just don't understand what they should be teaching. We all must teach that "coming to," or, "dedicating our lives to Christ," means first reading and learning what he said. Coming to Christ means building a life around faith in his teachings. People should first be encouraged to learn who Jesus is and what he taught; before they are encouraged to devote their lives to him. Only with knowledge and understanding can we express true faith in what is real. Without knowledge and understanding, we might ignorantly be worshipping ~~the wrong~~ *a false God.*<sup>c</sup>

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<sup>c</sup> [Isaiah 44:14-20 CEV](#) Either cedar, cypress, oak, or any tree from the forest may be chosen. Or even a pine tree planted by the woodcarver and watered by the rain. (15) Some of the wood is used to make a fire for heating or for cooking. One piece is made into an idol, then the woodcarver bows down and worships it. (16) He enjoys the warm fire and the meat that was roasted over the burning coals. (17) Afterwards, he bows down to worship the wooden idol. (An obvious question that arises is: How does he know he didn't burn the wrong end?) "Protect me!" he says. "You are my god." (18) Those who worship idols are stupid and blind! (19) They don't have enough sense to say to themselves, "I made a fire with half of the wood and cooked my bread and meat on it. Then I made something worthless with the other half. Why worship a block of wood?" (20) How can anyone be stupid enough to trust something that can be burned to ashes? No one

Some people will now proclaim encouraging that first expression of faith in Christ is the only necessary thing. They believe that act of “coming to the altar” and “being saved” is all that really matters. There is a phrase coined to express that belief: “Once saved always saved.” That expression is not found in the Bible! If such a hope was validated by the words of Christ, why did the disciples speak so much about “pressing on to maturity”? Even more importantly, what about Jesus’s personal warning:

**(Matthew 7:21-23)** <sup>21</sup> “Not everyone saying to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but **the one doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens will.** <sup>22</sup> **Many will say to me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many powerful works in your name?’** <sup>23</sup> **And yet then I will confess to them: I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness.**

Jesus said people would come to him (at his second coming) saying they had expelled demons in his name. They would be expecting his favorable judgment. Instead, he said he would tell them to get away because they had remained “workers of lawlessness.” How could that be? How could they think they were serving Christ while they were really “workers of lawlessness”? Possibly; they had failed to gain maturity.

Luke recorded that Jesus also said:

**(Luke 13:24-27)** <sup>24</sup> “Exert yourselves vigorously to get in through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will seek to get in but will not be able, <sup>25</sup> when once the householder has got up and locked the door, and you start to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Sir, open to us.’ But in answer he will say to you, ‘I do not know where you are from.’ <sup>26</sup> **Then you will start saying, ‘We ate and drank in front of you, and you taught in our broad ways.’** <sup>27</sup> **But he will speak and say to you, ‘I do not know where you are from. Get away from me, all you workers of unrighteousness!’**

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can save themselves like that. Don't they realize that the idols they hold in their hands are not really gods?

In these verses, Jesus said many people would be claiming they ate and drank with him while he taught them. In both the above cases, people who approached Jesus imagined they were his followers were expecting his help. They all thought they were friends of Christ and many had likely “come down and confessed their sins at the altar.” They were all rebuked by Christ, however, because they had, in his own words, *remained “workers of lawlessness” or “workers of unrighteousness.”* Their confession of faith in Christ had no meaning because they hadn’t bothered to actually learn and follow what he taught.<sup>(BB)</sup> Learning what is recorded in the Bible as having come from Jesus’s own lips is the only thing that can change us [you] from remaining workers of lawlessness and practicers of unrighteousness. Again, we ask so as to emphasize the point: How could these people be rejected by Jesus when they imagined they were his friends? The answer is simple. Jesus gave it to us there in Mat. 7:21: **Those who were his true followers were those doing the will of his Father.** That means they first had to *learn the will of God*. How do we do that? By learning what Jesus was sent by his father to teach.<sup>D</sup> As Jesus himself told ~~them~~ us:

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<sup>D</sup> **John 20:31 ALT** But these have been written so that you shall believe [*or, be convinced*] that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and so that believing you shall be having life in His name.~

**John 7:28-29 ALT** Then Jesus cried out in the temple, teaching and saying, "You both know Me and you know from where I am. And of Myself I have not come, but the One having sent Me is true [*or, dependable*], whom you do not know. (29) "I know Him because I am from Him, and that One sent Me."~

**John 8:24 MWT** That is why I told you that you will die in your sins. And you will die in your sins if you do not believe that I am sent by God.~

**John 8:25-32 CEV** "Who are you?" they asked Jesus. Jesus answered, "I am exactly who I told you at the beginning. (26) There is a lot more I could say to condemn you. But the one who sent me is truthful, and I tell the people of this world only what I have heard from him." (27) No one understood that Jesus was

**John 8:31-32 ESV** So Jesus said to the Jews [*people*] who had believed in him, "**If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,** (32) and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Jesus said we had to abide or remain in his word to be his disciples. Does that sound like a one-time expression of faith motivated by peer pressure? Doesn't it sound more like we need to build the maturity Paul spoke about?

While Paul and the other disciples wouldn't judge that they themselves were mature,<sup>(1 Cor 4:4 on pg 3)</sup> or that they were special in any way,<sup>E</sup> they did know to give more to people than just encouraging them to express blind faith (and then imagine they

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talking to them about the Father. (28) Jesus went on to say, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, you will know who I am. You will also know that I don't do anything on my own. I say only what my Father taught me. (29) The one who sent me is with me. I always do what pleases him, and he will never leave me." (30) After Jesus said this, many of the people put their faith in him. (31) Jesus told the people who had faith in him, "If you keep on obeying what I have said, you truly are my disciples. (32) You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."~

**John 7:15-18 GW** The Jews were surprised and asked, "How can this man be so educated when he hasn't gone to school?" (16) Jesus responded to them, "What I teach doesn't come from me but from the one who sent me. (17) Those who want to follow the will of God will know if what I teach is from God or if I teach my own thoughts. (18) Those who speak their own thoughts are looking for their own glory. But the man who wants to bring glory to the one who sent him is a true teacher and doesn't have dishonest motives.

<sup>E</sup> **Luke 22:24-27 GNB** An argument broke out among the disciples as to which one of them should be thought of as the greatest. (25) Jesus said to them, "The kings of the pagans have power over their people, and the rulers claim the title 'Friends of the People.' (26) But this is not the way it is with you; rather, the greatest one among you must be like the youngest, and the leader must be like the servant. (27) Who is greater, the one who sits down to eat or the one who serves? The one who sits down, of course. But I am among you as one who serves.

were saved): They directed people to actually read and learn what Jesus taught.<sup>F</sup> Your need to learn from Jesus (by becoming familiar with what he said) is what you were just taught by the above scriptures. The choice to follow through and actually examine what Jesus said is what starts to define your own Christian maturity.<sup>(A)</sup> Acknowledging our need for Christ is only the baby step beginning of the transformation that must take place. All who would follow Christ must change who they are in heart and mind.<sup>G</sup> As Paul said above,<sup>(1 Cor. 14:20 on page 3)</sup> we must become

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<sup>F</sup> **Acts 8:32-35 CEV** The man was reading the passage (from Isaiah 53:7) that said, "He was led like a sheep on its way to be killed. He was silent as a lamb whose wool is being cut off, and he did not say a word. (33) He was treated like a nobody and did not receive a fair trial. How can he have children, if his life is snatched away?" (34) The official said to Philip, "Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or about someone else?" (35) **So Philip began at this place in the Scriptures and explained the good news about Jesus.**~

**Acts 18:24-26 CEV** A Jewish man named Apollos came to Ephesus. Apollos had been born in the city of Alexandria. He was a very good speaker and knew a lot about the Scriptures. (25) He also knew much about the Lord's Way, and he spoke about it with great excitement. What he taught about Jesus was right, but all he knew was John's message about baptism. (26) Apollos started speaking bravely in the Jewish meeting place. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him to their home and helped him understand God's Way even better.~Today, we are able to help people understand God's way more clearly by directing them to read Jesus's words recorded in the Gospels.

<sup>G</sup> **Ephesians 4:17-32 GW** So I tell you and encourage you in the Lord's name not to live any longer like other people in the world. Their minds are set on worthless things. (18) They can't understand because they are in the dark. They are excluded from the life that God approves of because of their ignorance and stubbornness. (19) Since they no longer have any sense of shame, they have become promiscuous. They practice every kind of sexual perversion with a constant desire for more. (20) But that is not what you learned from Christ's teachings. (21) You have certainly heard his message and have been taught his ways. The truth is in

mature in our understanding of God's word. If we are to be happy and gain life, we must become new in the force actuating our mind.<sup>h</sup> Having love means, as well as learning the truth for

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Jesus. (22) You were taught to change the way you were living. The person you used to be will ruin you through desires that deceive you. (23) However, you were taught to have a new attitude. (24) You were also taught to become a new person created to be like God, truly righteous and holy. (25) **So then, get rid of lies. Speak the truth to each other**, because we are all members of the same body. (26) Be angry without sinning. Don't go to bed angry. (27) Don't give the devil any opportunity to work. (28) Thieves must quit stealing and, instead, they must work hard. They should do something good with their hands so that they'll have something to share with those in need. (29) Don't say anything that would hurt another person. Instead, speak only what is good so that you can give help wherever it is needed. That way, what you say will help those who hear you. (30) Don't give God's Holy Spirit any reason to be upset with you. He has put his seal on you for the day you will be set free from the world of sin. (31) Get rid of your bitterness, hot tempers, anger, loud quarreling, cursing, and hatred. (32) Be kind to each other, sympathetic, forgiving each other as God has forgiven you through Christ.

<sup>h</sup> **Ephesians 4:17-32 CEV** As a follower of the Lord, I order you to stop living like stupid, godless people. (18) Their minds are in the dark, and they are stubborn and ignorant and have missed out on the life that comes from God. They no longer have any feelings about what is right, (19) and they are so greedy that they do all kinds of indecent things. (20) But that isn't what you were taught about Jesus Christ. He is the truth, and you heard about him and learned about him. (21) *[Get rid of your old self, which made you live as you used to live – the old self that was being destroyed by its deceitful desires.] (SEE 4:20)* (22) You were told that your foolish desires will destroy you and that you must give up your old way of life with all its bad habits. (23) Let the Spirit change your way of thinking *[be made new in the force actuating your mind]* (24) and make you into a new person. You were created to be like God, and so you must please him and be truly holy. (25) We are part of the same body. Stop lying and start telling each other the truth. (26) Don't get so angry that you sin. Don't go to bed angry (27) and don't give the devil a chance. (28) If you are a thief, quit

ourselves, we need to understand the importance of directing everyone to sit at Jesus's feet (by reading what he said as recorded in the Gospels). That's what Paul meant when he said he ~~didn't~~ *couldn't* judge himself<sup>(1 Cor 4:3 & 4 on pg 3)</sup> to be righteous, but he kept on doing his best to follow Christ and then to direct others to do the same. He went on to express that he did know Christ, and that he continued to look only to him for his salvation and preservation (and for his continuing enlightenment).

We don't just one day make the decision to be mature Christians and then we are. It takes time to build, and then be able to express, a true and enduring faith in God and in his Christ ("Christ" is from the Greek "Khristos" and means "anointed one"). In contemplating our own personal need for a mature Christian faith, a faith that can help and protect us, let's consider a teaching example Jesus gave during his time on earth. It is the account where a Jewish woman sought him out for help with a terrible health problem she had suffered for twelve years. Before we read about her, however, let's consider some Bible background surrounding her life. That should help gain some maturity which will, in turn, help us more fully understand what Jesus was teaching when he drew special attention to her situation.

To better understand the woman who approached Jesus, and even why she would do so, let's consider a very brief overview of the purpose and intent of the Bible.<sup>1</sup> Obviously, the more we can

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stealing. Be honest and work hard, so you will have something to give to people in need. (29) Stop all your dirty talk. Say the right thing at the right time and help others by what you say. (30) Don't make God's Spirit sad. The Spirit makes you sure that someday you will be free from your sins. (31) Stop being bitter and angry and mad at others. Don't yell at one another or curse each other or ever be rude. (32) Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ.

<sup>1</sup> For a more thorough consideration of the Bible's theme, please visit: [justbibletruth.com/BibleTheme.html](http://justbibletruth.com/BibleTheme.html) using a computer, or

learn and know about the Bible's theme, the better we will be able to understand everything it teaches!

Consider that the Bible states the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) exist as a tutor leading to Christ.<sup>J</sup> Why is that so? Well, those seeking God were protected for a time by the Law Code given by him to his ancient nation (of Israel), during the time they awaited the faith that was to be revealed in the promised Christ. That Law Code, and what led up to it, is really what the Old Testament amounts to. Why the Old Testament (and Law Code)? God stated in Genesis 3:15<sup>K</sup> (right after Adam and Eve sinned) He would raise up a seed of the woman (Eve) who would crush Satan's head. Later, He expanded that Edenic promise of salvation by telling his friend Abraham (the patriarch of the Jewish nation) that all nations of the earth would be blessed by means of Abraham's seed.<sup>L</sup> Jesus Christ is both the seed of the woman (a

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<sup>J</sup> **(Galatians 3:23-25)** <sup>23</sup> However, before the faith arrived, we were being guarded under law, being delivered up together into custody, looking to the faith that was destined to be revealed. <sup>24</sup> Consequently the Law has become our tutor leading to Christ, that we might be declared righteous due to faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that the faith has arrived, we are no longer under a tutor.

<sup>K</sup> **Genesis 3:15 CEV** You [*Satan*] and this woman [*Eve*] will hate each other; your descendants and hers will always be enemies. One of hers [*Christ Jesus*] will strike you on the [*crush your*] head, and you will strike him on the heel."

<sup>L</sup> **Genesis 22:15-18 MKJV** And the Angel of Jehovah called to Abraham out of the heavens the second time, (16) and said, I have sworn by Myself, says Jehovah; because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only one; (17) that in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your seed like the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is upon the seashore. And your Seed shall possess the gate of His enemies. (18) **And in [*by means of*] your Seed [*Christ Jesus*] shall**



descendent of Eve), and the seed of Abraham.<sup>M</sup> And, all the nations of the earth are being blessed by their faith in him.<sup>N</sup> The Law Code was used to isolate and protect the nation being used by God to produce his promised deliverer. Jesus came to fulfill the Law Code's purpose.<sup>O</sup> Do you see how that actually makes Jesus the theme or purpose of the Bible?<sup>(J)</sup> Do you also see why that makes Jesus's teachings so important? Not all the individual citizens of the nations God said would be blessed by the seed of Abraham are choosing to express faith in Christ, of course, but hope in Jesus is equally and freely available to all who will accept and take advantage of it.

That brings us to another point we should consider: How can faith in Christ actually help you – you personally?<sup>P</sup> What can it really do

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**all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.**

<sup>M</sup> **Matthew 1:1 MKJV** The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, *the son of David, the son of Abraham.*

<sup>N</sup> **Acts 4:9-12 CEV** You are questioning us today about a kind deed in which a crippled man was healed. (10) But there is something we must tell you and everyone else in Israel. This man is standing here completely well because of the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth. You put Jesus to death on a cross, but God raised him to life. (11) He is the stone that you builders thought was worthless, and now he is the most important stone of all. (12) Only Jesus has the power to save! His name is the only one in all the world that can save anyone.

<sup>O</sup> **Matthew 5:17 CEV** Don't suppose that I came to do away with the Law and the Prophets. I did not come to do away with them, but to give them their full meaning.~

**Matthew 5:17 GNB** "Do not think that I have come to do away with the Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets. I have not come to do away with them, but to make their teachings come true.~

**Matthew 5:17 GW** "Don't ever think that I came to set aside Moses' Teachings or the Prophets. I didn't come to set them aside but to make them come true.

<sup>P</sup> Visit: [justbibletruth.com/HowCanFaithHelp.pdf](http://justbibletruth.com/HowCanFaithHelp.pdf)

for you? Paul said he was one of those entrusted with the secrets of God,<sup>(1 Cor 4:1 on pg 3)</sup> and he was busy in the preaching work of sharing those secrets. That was Paul's work assignment from God, based on when he lived in mankind's history. Think, though, about how Noah's work was different from Paul's. Noah worked to express his faith in *a very specific salvation* of himself and his household (and probably any others who would listen). In faith, Noah built an Ark according to God's directions. His expression of faith very literally saved his life. Jesus said, when speaking about the time of his return: "As in the days of Noah, so will the coming of man be." Could it be that we, who are alive in our day in time, need to be doing the works of both Paul and Noah? Rather, or more accurately, can we say we are *favored to be able* to be doing the works of *both* Paul and Noah? We are teaching people to express faith in Christ (like Paul), and, at the same time, we are constructing the means of our own preservation (like Noah); that is, we are constructing our faith?

The Jewish nation had been looking for the appearance of their promised Messiah for hundreds of years. Both their Bible (what we today know as the Old Testament) and John the Baptist announced Jesus.<sup>Q</sup> Jesus also *presented himself* as the son of God

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<sup>Q</sup> **(Mark 1:6-11)** <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather girdle around his loins, and was eating insect locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And he would preach, saying: "After me someone stronger than I am is coming; I am not fit to stoop and untie the laces of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with holy spirit." <sup>9</sup> In the course of those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. <sup>10</sup> And immediately on coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being parted, and, like a dove, the spirit coming down upon him; <sup>11</sup> and a voice came out of the heavens: "You are my Son, the beloved; I have approved you."~

**(John 1:32-34)** <sup>32</sup> John also bore witness, saying: "I viewed the spirit coming down as a dove out of heaven, and it remained upon him.

<sup>33</sup> Even I did not know him, but the very One who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'Whoever it is upon whom you see the spirit coming down and remaining, this is the one that baptizes in holy spirit.' <sup>34</sup> And I

and as their promised savior.<sup>(W)</sup> The Jewish nation had worshipped Jehovah<sup>(R)</sup> for hundreds of years, recognizing him as the God of their Bible: They knew him as the God of Creation<sup>R</sup> and as their national protector and deliverer. They knew Jehovah<sup>(R)</sup> as the God who split the Red Sea to preserve them alive when He led them out of slavery in Egypt.

Now, with some Bible background about the Jewish nation, let us return to our consideration of the Jewish woman who approached Jesus with her health problem of many years. As Mark recorded her account:

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have seen [it], and I have borne witness that this one is the Son of God.”~

**(John 5:45-47)** <sup>45</sup> Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father; there is one that accuses you, Moses, in whom you have put your hope. <sup>46</sup> In fact, if you believed Moses you would believe me, for that one wrote about me. <sup>47</sup> But if you do not believe the writings of that one, how will you believe my sayings?”

<sup>R</sup> God inspired his name to be recorded in the Old Testament over 6000 times. That is not a misprint. God’s divine name is יהוה in Hebrew, most commonly pronounced Jehovah in English, and he inspired that personal name to be used over 6000 times in the most ancient copies of the Hebrew text. You can check if that is true using any good concordance. Please see insert or visit:

[justbibletruth.com/Graphics/Display\\_JehovahsNameStrongsGood\\_bmp.html](http://justbibletruth.com/Graphics/Display_JehovahsNameStrongsGood_bmp.html) ~

Jehovah’s name was used in many well-regarded English translations of the Bible: Exodus 6:3 KJV And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by *the name of God* Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.~ Psalms 83:18 KJV That *men* may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.~ Isaiah 26:4 YLT Trust ye in Jehovah for ever, For in Jah Jehovah is a rock of ages,~

Isaiah 12:2 Darby Behold, \*God is my salvation: I will trust, and not be afraid; for Jah, Jehovah, is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation.

**(Mark 5:25-34 MWT)** <sup>25</sup> Now there was a woman subject to a flow of blood twelve years, <sup>26</sup> and she had been put to many pains by many physicians and had spent all her resources and had not been benefited but, rather, had got worse. <sup>27</sup> When she heard the things about Jesus, she came behind in the crowd and touched his outer garment; <sup>28</sup> for she kept saying: “If I touch just his outer garments I shall get well.” <sup>29</sup> And immediately her fountain of blood dried up, and she sensed in her body that she had been healed of the grievous sickness. <sup>30</sup> Immediately, also, Jesus recognized in himself that power had gone out of him, and he turned about in the crowd and began to say: “Who touched my outer garments?” <sup>31</sup> But his disciples began to say to him: “You see the crowd pressing in upon you, and do you say, ‘Who touched me?’” <sup>32</sup> However, he was looking around to see her that had done this. <sup>33</sup> But the woman, frightened and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup> He said to her: “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be in good health from your grievous sickness.”

So then, this Jewish woman (who approached Jesus for help) would have known Jehovah.<sup>(R)</sup> She was aware of his Bible promises to produce one from their nation who would deliver not only her, but all among mankind who looked toward God with faith. She and her nation looked for one to continue the righteous kingdom of David forever.<sup>(X)</sup> She had faith in all those promises by Jehovah, and she had heard what Jesus was doing. So, she formed a plan: She believed if she could just touch the hem of Jesus’s outer garment, she would be healed. Remember too: Her flow of blood made her unclean in the eyes of her Jewish religious leaders. As one unclean, she was to remain secluded. She put herself in danger of being stoned to death for coming out in public to even see Jesus, let alone touch him. Still, she had faith Jehovah<sup>(R)</sup> would help her if she could just touch his promised Messiah (Messiah [*Mashiach in Hebrew*] meaning “anointed one”). The Bible teaches Jesus was unaware of the woman until he felt his Father’s spirit pass through him. Then, he asked who touched him. His disciples were amazed he would concern himself with one person having touched him in the middle of a large crowd. Jesus explained he felt spirit go out of him when the

woman was healed. So... The woman came trembling to him and confessed what she had done. She had no doubt been threatened and treated so badly by her religious leaders she was afraid of what Christ's response might be. He kindly commended her as he told her (and all of us as well) it was *her faith* that made her well. After he did so, her faith became a pattern imitated by many others.<sup>5</sup> What about you? Jesus often told people it was their own faith that worked the miracles in their life. The Bible also explains Jesus couldn't work miracles where people had no faith.<sup>†</sup> Jesus

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<sup>5</sup> **Matthew 14:35-36 BBE** And when the men of that place had news of him, they sent into all the country round about, and took to him all who were ill, (36) With the request **that they might only put their hands on the edge of his robe:** and all those who did so were made well.~

**Mark 6:53-56 CEV** Jesus and his disciples crossed the lake and brought the boat to shore near the town of Gennesaret. (54) As soon as they got out of the boat, the people recognized Jesus. (55) So they ran all over that part of the country to bring their sick people to him on mats. They brought them each time they heard where he was. (56) In every village or farm or marketplace where Jesus went, the people brought their sick to him. **They begged him to let them just touch his clothes, and everyone who did was healed.**~

**Matthew 15:29-31 ALT** And Jesus having departed from there, went along the Sea of Galilee; and having gone up into the mountain, He was sitting there. (30) And large crowds came to Him, having with them [*the*] lame, blind, mute, crippled, and many others, and they put them down at the feet of Jesus, and He healed them; (31) with the result that the crowds marveled [*or, were amazed*], seeing mute ones speaking, crippled [*ones made*] whole, [*the*] lame [*ones*] walking and [*the*] blind [*ones*] seeing, and they glorified the God of Israel.

<sup>†</sup> **(Mark 6:1-6) 6** And he departed from there and came into his home territory, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup> When it became sabbath, he started teaching in the synagogue; and the greater number of those listening were astounded and said: "Where did this man get these things? And why should this wisdom have been given this man, and such powerful works be performed through his hands? <sup>3</sup> This is the carpenter the son of Mary and the brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon, is it not? And his sisters are here with us, are they not?" So they

could calm the raging sea<sup>U</sup> and raise the dead to life.<sup>V</sup> Clearly, a lack of faith among those he wanted to help could not prevent him from doing whatever he wanted. What his Father wanted, however, was for him to help only those who expressed faith.

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began to stumble at him. <sup>4</sup> But Jesus went on to say to them: "A prophet is not unhonored except in his home territory and among his relatives and in his own house." <sup>5</sup> **So he was able to do no powerful work there except to lay his hands upon a few sickly ones and cure them.**

<sup>6</sup> **Indeed, he wondered at their lack of faith.** And he went round about to the villages in a circuit, teaching.

<sup>U</sup> **Mark 4:35-41 GW** That evening, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side." (36) Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus along in a boat just as he was. Other boats were with him. (37) A violent windstorm came up. The waves were breaking into the boat so that it was quickly filling up. (38) But he was sleeping on a cushion in the back of the boat. So they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to die?" (39) Then he got up, ordered the wind to stop, and said to the sea, "Be still, absolutely still!" The wind stopped blowing, and the sea became very calm. (40) He asked them, "Why are you such cowards? Don't you have any faith yet?" (41) They were overcome with fear and asked each other, "Who is this man? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"

<sup>V</sup> **Luke 8:41-42 ESV** And there came a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue. And falling at Jesus' feet, he implored him to come to his house, (42) for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As Jesus went, the people pressed around him.~

**Luke 8:49-56 ESV** While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." (50) But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well." (51) And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. (52) And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said, "Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping." (53) And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. (54) But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." (55) And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be given her to eat. (56) And her parents were amazed...

That was God's arrangement and so that is what Jesus did. The display of a lack of faith in God's son cost people greatly. It left them to die with the illnesses of their sinful nature. And, their lack of faith often seemed to be sort of a mob mentality. Groups of people would sometimes be in his presence with their whole group expressing no faith. One example was the people who made up Jesus's home town. They knew him when he was growing up and that led them to doubt what God was doing in their midst by means of Jesus.<sup>(T)</sup> In their mind, how could this man they had known all their life be God's son? Group religion produces group mentality... Be very careful! Jesus said his true followers would worship his Father individually by means of spirit and truth, not by group membership.<sup>W</sup> Jesus cautioned over and

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<sup>W</sup> [John 4:7-34 MWT](#) A Samaritan woman went to get some water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink of water." (8) (His disciples had gone into the city to buy some food.) (9) The Samaritan woman asked him, "How can a Jewish man like you ask a Samaritan woman like me for a drink of water?" (Jews, of course, don't associate with Samaritans. They are segregated by each having their own religious doctrine.) (10) Jesus replied to her, "If you only knew what God's gift is and who is asking you for a drink, you would have asked him for a drink. He would have given you living water." (11) The woman said to him, "Sir, you don't have anything to use to get water, and the well is deep. So where are you going to get this living water? (12) You're not more important than our ancestor Jacob, are you? He gave us this well. He and his sons and his animals drank water from it." (13) Jesus answered her, "Everyone who drinks this water will become thirsty again. (14) But those who drink the water that I will give them will never become thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give them will become in them a spring that gushes up to eternal life." (15) The woman told Jesus, "Sir, give me this water! Then I won't get thirsty or have to come here to get water." (16) Jesus told her, "Go to your husband, and bring him here." (17) The woman replied, "I don't have a husband." Jesus told her, "You're right when you say that you don't have a husband. (18) You've had five husbands, and the man you have now isn't your husband. You've told the truth." (19) The woman said to Jesus, "I see that you're a

over about the danger of groups of religionists.<sup>(NN)</sup> & <sup>(OO)</sup> To receive God's blessing, you must become *an individual* loved by God. The only way you can do that is by listening to what He sent his son to teach.<sup>(RR – John 6:44)</sup> The way you can actually listen to Jesus is by reading for yourself what God inspired recorded in the Gospels by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. What can we learn then, about the faith Jesus encouraged us to have when he used the example of the Jewish woman suffering from the flow of blood? We consider her as part of our effort to understand: What can our faith really do for us in our day in time?<sup>(P)</sup>

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prophet! (20) Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain. But you Jews say that people must worship in Jerusalem." (21) Jesus told her, "Believe me. A time is coming when neither on this mountain or in Jerusalem will you worship God. (22) You don't know what you're worshipping. We Jews know what we're worshipping, because salvation begins with the Jews. (23) Indeed, the time is coming, and it is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. The Father is looking for people like that to worship him. (24) God is a spirit. Those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth (or, in truth at the direction of God's spirit)." (25) **The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming. When he comes, he will tell us everything." (Messiah is the one called Christ.)** (26) **Jesus told her, "I am he (the promised Messiah), and I am speaking to you now."** (27) At that time his disciples returned. They were surprised that he was talking to a woman. But none of them asked him, "What do you want from her?" or "Why are you talking to her?" (28) Then the woman left her water jar and went back into the city. She told the people, (29) "Come with me, and meet a man who told me everything I've ever done. Could he be the Messiah?" (30) The people left the city and went to meet Jesus. (31) Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, have something to eat." (32) Jesus told them, "I have food to eat that you don't know about." (33) The disciples asked each other, "Did someone bring him something to eat?" (34) Jesus told them, "My food is to do what the one who sent me wants me to do and to finish the work he has given me."



Please take note: People all over the world talk endlessly about the need for faith in Christ; but, it doesn't seem any of them are aware what having faith really means, or certainly, what such faith can do.<sup>(P)</sup> The simple and beautiful thing we believe the Bible teaches faith can do is *save our life*. Many people say they believe that, and they look forward to life at some future date and place. Most don't seem to comprehend that, because we are alive at the time of Jesus's second coming, Jesus was talking about living forever right now and right here on earth. That's what had been promised the Jews for their future, and Jesus came as their promised Jewish Messiah. He came to fulfill the promises God made to them. Those promises to the Jews were actually to all of mankind, because Jesus came to be savior of the whole world (not just of the Jews). Those who express faith in Jesus are adopted as sons and daughters of Abraham.<sup>(RR)</sup> Faith in Christ puts all believers in line to receive the promises made to Abraham and to his seed.

So then... Are you a mature Christian who understands such things and who has a faith based on that knowledge? Have you built a real faith, a faith that is established on your own personal knowledge of Jesus's teachings? Like the sick Jewish woman of Jesus example: Does your faith let you form a plan to save your life? Can you see your own preservation of life resulting from that plan?

As a basis for her faith, the Jewish woman who approached Jesus knew what God was doing in her day in time. She grew up as a Jew being taught the Jewish (Old Testament) Writings. She understood God was in the process of producing the Messiah from among her nation.<sup>X</sup> So... While her Jewish religious leaders

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<sup>X</sup> [Luke 1:31-35 ESV](#) And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. (32) He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, (33) and he

made fun of Jesus and ridiculed his teachings, she saw Jehovah's<sup>(R)</sup> hand evident in what Jesus was doing. So, based on her knowledge of God's promises to provide a savior from among her nation, along with the witness she saw in Jesus's works (the miracles and teachings she had heard about), she framed a plan based on the truth she had been favored by Jehovah<sup>(R)</sup> to know: She decided within her-own-self that if she could just touch the outer garment of Jehovah's son, she would be made well. She risked not only ridicule by her religious leaders, and being expelled from their group,<sup>(QQ)</sup> but even her very life by putting her plan into action. Jesus commended her and told her it was her faith that made her well. How wonderful!

### Abandon the doctrines of men and express faith in Christ!

What then, about us who are alive today? What can we know Jesus promised, and thereby what we can accomplish by means of God's spirit? Before you think about (build faith in) that, however, you should be warned: If you have let religionists throw up doctrinal roadblocks in your mind, you must get rid of them. If you join in debates about such things as whether Jesus died on a cross or on stake, for example, or whether the Old Testament God of the Jews (and of all mankind) is named Jehovah or Yahweh, you are in danger.<sup>(R)</sup> Gain maturity to sort what is important from what is not.<sup>(Heb 5:14 on pg 2)</sup> Please don't let yourself be led along by those who desire to debate and worry about things that have no real impact on faith.<sup>Y</sup> Some will drone on and on about even the

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will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." (34) And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" (35) And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy--the Son of God.

<sup>Y</sup> Acts 17:21 Douay-Rheims (21) (Now all the Athenians and strangers that were there employed themselves in nothing else, but

tense of certain words in a scripture. Please... Some of them will ask: Is Holy Spirit a person, or is it the active force of God? Holy Spirit is something we strive to understand in our human mind about a spiritual world we can't really comprehend. Will we spend time arguing about explaining the details to define Holy Spirit in terms of our own human perceptions? Note from the scriptures what Jesus said holy spirit would do, and refuse to join in debates about precisely what it is. Build faith in Jesus's words! Just imagine, for example, that your child went to a foreign land to sacrifice time and effort to help the citizens of that land. Finally, some of those people killed your child with a handgun. Some of them make the claim they are sorry. They assert they want to join together to learn about and praise your child, for all the good they accomplished. Then, when they get together, rather than share the good your child did for them, they argue about whether he or she was killed with a revolver or with an automatic pistol. Would you be pleased with those who happened to be on the side of their argument that was technically correct? Might they all deserve to die for missing the importance of the gift provided them by your child's sacrifice? The import of the Bible is that God sent his son to sacrifice himself in our behalf. Clear your mind of

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either in telling or in hearing some new thing.)~

**1 Timothy 2:8 CEV** I want everyone everywhere to lift innocent hands toward heaven and pray, without being angry or arguing with each other.~

**1 Timothy 6:2b-6 CEV** ...These (what Jesus said) are the things you must teach and tell the people to do. (3) Anyone who teaches something different disagrees with the correct and godly teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ. (4) Those people who disagree are proud of themselves, but they don't really know a thing. Their minds are sick, and they like to argue over words. They cause jealousy, disagreements, unkind words, evil suspicions, (5) and nasty quarrels. They have wicked minds and have missed out on the truth. These people think religion is supposed to make you rich. (6) And religion does make your life rich, by making you content with what you have.

doctrinal misdirections of men,<sup>(OO)</sup> so you can focus on simply reading your Bible so as to learn what Jesus came to teach<sup>(W - John 7:34)</sup> (which teachings God inspired to be recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). Recognize religion to be a destroyer<sup>z</sup> that is distinct and different from Christianity. Men create sects based on divisive doctrines, which they imagine identify and separate their particular group as special. Their desire is to make clear to everyone why they are better, and why it is they we should follow.<sup>AA</sup> Christians, however, are comprised of

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<sup>z</sup> **Mark 13:14 & 19-23 ALT** "Now when you see the abomination of the desolation [*or, the detestable thing that causes desecration*], the one having been spoken [*of*] by Daniel the prophet, having stood where it should not be, (the one reading, let him be understanding [*or, be paying attention*]), then the [*ones*] in Judea must be fleeing into the mountains. [*Dan 8:13; 9:27; 12:11*] ~ The detestable thing causing desolation is comprised of all those sects who pretend to be Christian when they are teaching their own doctrine.<sup>(OO)</sup> The faithful should flee to God's holy mountain of truth personified in Christ Jesus. Sectarian religions are destroyers of men by means of their false doctrines, as Jesus went on to explain.~

**Mark 13:19-23 ALT** "For [*in*] those days [*there*] will be tribulation [*or, affliction*], such as [*there*] has not been like from [*the*] beginning of [*the*] creation which God created, until now, and never at all shall be. (20) "And if [*the*] Lord did not cut the days short, no flesh would be saved; but because of the chosen [*or, the elect*], whom He Himself chose, He cut the days short. (21) "{And, then, if anyone says to you, 'Look! Here [*is*] the Christ,' or, 'Look there!' stop believing [*him*]. (22) "For false christs and false prophets will be raised up, and they will give signs and wonders in order to be leading astray [*fig., deceiving*], if possible, even the chosen [*or, the elect*]. (23) "But you, be watching out! Listen! I have told you all [*things*] in advance.

<sup>AA</sup> **Matthew 23:1-13 CEV** Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: (2) The Pharisees and the teachers of the Law are experts in the Law of Moses. (3) So obey everything they teach you, but don't do as they do. After all, they say one thing and do something else. (4) They pile heavy burdens on people's shoulders and won't lift a finger to help. (5) Everything they do is

This insert is our effort to be certain you know, and then to help you feel comfortable using, the divine name of our Grand Creator. God's name is יהוה in the Hebrew language of what we know as the Old Testament. It is sometimes referred to as the Tetragrammaton. According to the Bible, it is the one and only name for our Creator and it refers solely to him.<sup>1</sup> The reverse side contains the same Bible verses from the original Hebrew text and from three translations. The most common English translation of the Jewish name "יהוה" is "Jehovah." One important and often unrealized thing about the divine name is God had it recorded over 6000 times in the Old Testament. These facts are not hidden in a corner. You can verify them at any public library. (That research is what we display.) Because of a superstition that arose from a scriptural warning against misusing the divine name,<sup>2</sup> Jehovah's name fell into disuse among many religious sects. That seems consistent with the warning by Jesus and his followers about the apostasy that would set in after Jesus joined his Father in heaven.<sup>3</sup> This insert, again, is to help you feel comfortable when using the Divine name to identify our Creator, and to help you avoid feeling that use associates you with sectarian groups who misuse it. Visit: [justbibletruth.com](http://justbibletruth.com)©

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<sup>1</sup> **Exodus 6:3 YLT** and I appear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, as God Almighty; as to My name Jehovah, I have not been known to them;

**Psalms 83:18 YLT** And they know that Thou--(Thy name is Jehovah--by Thyself,) *Art* the Most High over all the earth!

**Isaiah 12:2 Darby** Behold, \*God is my salvation: I will trust, and not be afraid; for Jah, Jehovah, is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation.

**Isaiah 26:4 LITV** Trust in Jehovah forever, for in Jah Jehovah *is* everlasting strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Exodus 20:7 LITV** You shall not take the name of Jehovah your God in vain; for Jehovah will not leave unpunished the *one* who takes His name in vain.

<sup>3</sup> **(2 Thessalonians 2:3-5)** <sup>3</sup> Let no one seduce YOU in any manner, because it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness gets revealed, the son of destruction. <sup>4</sup> He is set in opposition and lifts himself up over everyone who is called "god" or an object of reverence, so that he sits down in the temple of The God, publicly showing himself to be a god. <sup>5</sup> Do YOU not remember that, while I was yet with YOU, I used to tell YOU these things?

Exodus 6:1-3 from 4 different Bibles (translations) showing the translation and use of God's proper name.

4 Bibles

Hebrew text w/Strong's #'s God's name was in the original text.

יְהוָה 589 אֱלֹהֵי מֹשֶׁה 4872 אֵל 413 מֹשֶׁה 3066 דְּהָרָה 3066

וַיֹּאמֶר 3027 כִּי 3588 אֲנֹכִי 834 אֱלֹהֵי 7200

מֶלֶךְ 1644 יְהוָה 2389 וְהָקָה 3027 וַיֹּבֵד 7971 יְהוָה 1644 כְּתִיבִי:

Ex 6:1

And **Jehovah** said unto Moses, Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for by a strong hand shall he let them go, and by a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land.

וַיֹּאמֶר 559 אֱלֹהִים 430 אֵל 413 מֹשֶׁה 4872 וַיֹּאמֶר 559

Ex 6:2

אֵלָיו 413 אֲנִי 589 דְּהָרָה 3066

וַיֹּאמֶר 413 אֱלֹהִים 85 אֱלֹהֵי 7200 וַיֹּאמֶר 413

לֹא 3808 יִשְׁקָב 8034 וַיֹּאמֶר 7706 וַיֹּבֵד 410

יְהוָה 3045

Ex 6:3

and I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, as God Almighty; but by my name **Jehovah** I was not known to them.

\* King James Version w/Strong's #'s 1769: God's personal name removed except a few times.

Then the **LORD**<sup>3066</sup> said<sup>559</sup> unto<sup>413</sup> Moses,<sup>4872</sup>

Now<sup>6258</sup> shalt thou see<sup>7200</sup> what<sup>834</sup> I will do<sup>6213</sup> to

Pharaoh:<sup>6547</sup> with a strong<sup>2389</sup> hand<sup>3027</sup> shall

he let them go,<sup>7971</sup> and with a strong<sup>2389</sup> hand<sup>3027</sup>

shall he drive them out<sup>1644</sup> of his land.<sup>4486, 776</sup>

And God<sup>430</sup> spoke<sup>1696</sup> unto<sup>413</sup> Moses,<sup>4872</sup> and said<sup>559</sup>

unto<sup>413</sup> him, I<sup>589</sup> am the **LORD**:<sup>3066</sup>

Ex 6:2

And God spake vnto Moyses, and said vnto him: I am **Iehouah**.

Bishop's Bible Translation 1568: Removal of God's name started: removed from verse 6:1 but not 6:2:

Then the **Lorde** sayde vnto Moyses: Nowe shalt thou see what I wyll do vnto Pharaο: for in a mightie hande shal he let them go, and in a mightie hande shall he dryue them out of his lande.

And God spake vnto Moyses, and said vnto him: I am **Iehouah**.

And I appeared<sup>7200</sup> unto<sup>413</sup> Abraham,<sup>85</sup> unto<sup>413</sup> Isaac,<sup>3327</sup> and unto<sup>413</sup> Jacob,<sup>3290</sup> by the name of God<sup>410</sup> Almighty,<sup>7706</sup> but by my name<sup>8034</sup> JEHOVAH<sup>3068</sup> \* was I not<sup>3008</sup> known<sup>3045</sup> to them.

I appeared vnto Abraham, Isahac, and Iacob as an almighty God: but in my name Iehouah was I not knowen vnto them.

**JEHOVAH:** In 1890 James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D., assigned a number to each significant Hebrew or Greek word in creating his now well accepted Strong's exhaustive concordance. 3068 was assigned to God's personal name. Please note the same Strong's number for both LORD and Jehovah indicate it was the same word in the original Hebrew text. Below is the Strong's definition for that Jewish word; for God's personal name.

**יהוה** *Y@hovah* (yeh-ho-vaw') or Jehovah - 3068

**King James Concordance:** Jehovah = "the existing One"

1. The proper name of the one true God.

just bible truth.com

"A Gathering of Eagles" ©

Luke 17:37

#### KJV Word Usage and Count

LORD #3068 6510

GOD #3068 4

JEHOVAH #3068 4

variant 1

\* This King James concordance illustrates how the King James translators substituted LORD for Jehovah over six thousand times. They also translated it 4 times as Jehovah, 4 times as GOD, and once as something else. Many of the old King James Bibles include a preface stating they substituted "LORD" (all caps) for Jehovah and used "Lord" where lord was the original word meaning. Simply stated, they translated both lord and Jehovah as lord (LORD and Lord). Where the original Hebrew text was "Lord Jehovah" they used "Sovereign LORD."

What group of men have you chosen to worship? That question may seem shocking to some. Please consider: God inspired that the followers of Jesus call themselves Christians: **Acts 11:26 YLT ...the disciples also were divinely called first in Antioch Christians.** There is no ambiguity about what the followers of Christ should call themselves. When men join and pick some other scripture to use in naming their sect, it is always for the same reason: They want to show why their sectarian doctrinal teachings are better than those of others. We encourage: Read your Gospels and follow Christ! Sectarian names are part of their effort to convince you to follow them and not some other sect. When people note John the Baptist came to announce the Messiah, for example, they think they should be Baptists. (Mark 1:1-11) When another group sees Jesus would be called a Nazarene (Matthew 2:19-23), they want to be Nazarenes. When others see the true God Jehovah refer to the ancient Jewish nation as his witnesses (in the Old Testament), they think they should call themselves Jehovah's Witnesses. (Isaiah 43:10-13) The ancient Jews were God's witnesses while mankind was waiting for the faith that was to be revealed in Jesus Christ.<sup>IV</sup> Now that Jesus has arrived, he is our one and only instructor and teacher, and Jehovah's one true witness.<sup>V</sup> All who follow *him* should call themselves Christian. Acts 11:26 remains as the only scriptural directives as to what the followers of Christ should call themselves. Make no mistake: Who you put your faith in to explain what the Bible means, and how you should live your life, is who you have chosen to worship. Jesus is Jehovah's spokesman and must be our one and only teacher and Lord. Jesus is our only approach to his Father. Who we look to as God's spokesman is who we worship. The only direction any man can give is to direct others to the Gospel recordings of what Jesus said. Jehovah told Moses he made him God to Pharaoh.<sup>VI</sup> Moses was the only contact Pharaoh had with God. Pharaoh needed to obey Moses just as he would God because Moses was God's spokesman to him. Jesus is our only connection to God. If a group of men and women are trying to interpret and explain the Bible for you, they are trying to replace Christ in your life. It does seem, if you name yourself after the sectarian directives of some sect, you may be following them instead of Christ.

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<sup>IV</sup> (**Galatians 3:23-26**)<sup>23</sup> However, before the faith arrived, we were being guarded under law, being delivered up together into custody, looking to the faith that was destined to be revealed.<sup>24</sup> Consequently the Law has become our tutor leading to Christ, that we might be declared righteous due to faith.<sup>25</sup> But now that the faith has arrived, we are no longer under a tutor.<sup>26</sup> YOU are all, in fact, sons of God through YOUR faith in Christ Jesus.

<sup>V</sup> **Revelation 3:14 ALT** "And to the angel of the assembly in Laodicea write: 'These [*things*] says the Amen, **the Faithful and True Witness**, the Beginning [*or, Origin; or, Ruler*] of the creation of God:

<sup>VI</sup> **Exodus 7:1 Darby** And Jehovah said to Moses, See, I have made thee God to Pharaoh; and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.

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people joining the group Jesus started all those years ago:  
Christians are those individuals who are simply trying to follow

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just to show off in front of others. They even make a big show of wearing Scripture verses on their foreheads and arms, and they wear big tassels for everyone to see.\*<sup>1</sup> (6) They love the best seats at banquets and the front seats in the meeting places. (7) And when they are in the market, they like to have people greet them as their teachers. (8) But none of you should be called a teacher. You have only one teacher, and all of you are like brothers and sisters. (9) Don't call anyone on earth your father. All of you have the same Father in heaven. (10) None of you should be called the leader. The Messiah is your only leader. (11) Whoever is the greatest should be the servant of the others. (12) If you put yourself above others, you will be put down. But if you humble yourself, you will be honored. (13) You Pharisees and teachers of the Law of Moses are in for trouble! You're nothing but show-offs. You lock people out of the kingdom of heaven. You won't go in yourselves, and you keep others from going in.~

\*<sup>1</sup> The self-righteous and sanctimonious Jewish religious leaders misapplied Deuteronomy 6:1-8 and constructed small leather boxes into which they inserted scriptures and then wore them on their forehead between their eyes and/or inner upper arms near their heart. ~

**Deuteronomy 6:1-8 LITV** And this is the commandment, the statute and the judgments which Jehovah your God commanded to teach you, to do them in the land to which you are crossing over, to possess it, (2) that you might fear Jehovah your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you; you, and your son, and your son's son, all the days of your life; and that your days may be prolonged. (3) Hear, then, O Israel, and take heed to do *it*, that it may be well with you, that you may increase greatly, as Jehovah the God of your fathers has promised you, in the land flowing with milk and honey. (4) Hear, O Israel, Jehovah our God is one Jehovah. (5) And you shall love Jehovah your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. (6) And these Words which I am commanding you today shall be on your heart. (7) And you shall teach them to your sons, and shall speak of them as you sit in your house, and as you walk in the way, and as you are lying down, and as you are rising up. (8) And *you* shall bind them for a sign on your hand; and they shall be for frontlets between your eyes.

Christ. Like Paul, they refuse to judge themselves righteous<sup>(1 Cor 4:1 - 4 on pg 3)</sup> or others wicked. They just direct everyone they can to read and follow what Jesus said. They certainly refuse to brag about how much better they are because of the act of promoting their own doctrine.<sup>(00)</sup> Become one of *Christ's* followers! It is choosing sides and debating the sectarian doctrines of men that cause the mental confusion all religious people suffer. If you simply read the Gospels, Jesus's words will first enlighten you, and then, they will come true for you. It is just as John recorded that Jesus said:<sup>BB</sup>

**John 14:12-18 ALT** "Most positively, I say to you, the one believing [*or, trusting*] in Me, the works which I do that one also will do, and greater [*things*] than these he will do, because I am going to My Father. (13) "And whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, so that the Father is glorified in the Son. (14) "If you ask {Me} anything in My name I will do [*it*]. (15) "If you are loving Me, keep My commandments. (16) "And I will ask the Father, and another Counselor [*or, Helper*] He will give to you, so that He shall dwell with you into the age [*fig., forever*]. (17) "The Spirit of the truth, whom the world is not able to receive, because it does not look upon [*or, watch [for]*] Him, nor knows Him. But you know Him, because He dwells with you and will be in you. (18) "I will not leave you bereaved; I am coming to you.

Jesus said if we ask him for anything, he will give it to us. He also said we will do greater works than he did. How could that be? Because we are the generation favored to be able to help a portion of the population of the earth understand the second coming of Christ and what that means. Teaching a new generation of mankind they can live forever (without having to die) is doing greater works than men and women saw Jesus do at his first coming. It is, of course, Jesus who is doing these works as well. As

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<sup>BB</sup> **John 8:31-32 CEV** Jesus told the people who had faith in him, "**If you keep on obeying what I have said [*or if you remain in my teachings*], you truly are my disciples. (32) You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**

he said, then, we are joined to him in doing his greater works than he was seen to do at his first coming. Before we can expect to receive what we ask for, though, we must be certain what we ask is in harmony with what Jesus's Father is doing.<sup>CC</sup> That is to say: You must begin with a plan to help yourself. How could you ask God for anything without bothering to learn from his son what is pleasing to him? How could you be sure what you ask is consistent with what God is in the process of doing? If you ask for something opposing what God is doing, even if you know and use Jesus's name, would that make you a follower of Christ or "a worker of lawlessness"?<sup>(Mat 7:21 – 23 on pg 7)</sup> Just like the woman with the flow of blood, make a plan for yourself that you are certain God will want to bless. Then, just like her, you can know you will have what you ask. She knew by means of her faith she would be healed by touching the outer garment of God's son. Her faith then provided her reward! What is your plan? And, do you truly believe it is as good as done? That's what Jesus taught we should do. He said we should ask the Father in his name and then accept it good as done.<sup>DD</sup> Jesus also said he would leave the spirit of truth to help

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<sup>CC</sup> **1 John 5:9-15 ESV** If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. (10) Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. (11) And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (12) Whoever has (faith in) the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. (13) I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (14) And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that **if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.** (15) And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

<sup>DD</sup> **John 16:22-27 ESV** So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your

us understand and call to mind what he taught. Learn what he said!

If you believe God will heal you, like he did the woman with the flow of blood, will you know when it is happening? Maybe... God taught us in his word that she knew! She was unique though. She knew she was healed, but no one else would have. The man healed after being born lamb from his mother's womb would have been obvious to everyone.<sup>EE</sup> Does the fact that she alone knew she was healed have meaning for modern Christians? Maybe... Jesus said some people followed him only because of the benefits of being fed and helped by him.<sup>FF</sup> Those who are being

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joy from you. (23) In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, **I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. (24) Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.** (25) "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. (26) In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; (27) for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.

<sup>EE</sup> **Matthew 15:29-31 ALT** And Jesus having departed from there, went along the Sea of Galilee; and having gone up into the mountain, He was sitting there. (30) And large crowds came to Him, having with them [*the*] lame, blind, mute, crippled, and many others, and they put them down at the feet of Jesus, and He healed them; (31) with the result that the crowds marveled [*or, were amazed*], seeing mute ones speaking, crippled [*ones made*] whole, [*the*] lame [*ones*] walking and [*the*] blind [*ones*] seeing, and they glorified the God of Israel.

<sup>FF</sup> **John 6:26-29 GNB** Jesus answered, "I am telling you the truth: you are looking for me because you ate the bread and had all you wanted, not because you understood my miracles. (27) Do not work for food that spoils; instead, work for the food that lasts for eternal life. This is the food which the Son of Man will give you, because God, the Father, has put his mark of approval on him." (28) So they asked him, "What can we do in order to do what God

preserved alive into the coming paradise must come to Christ because it is the right and good thing to do, not just because they are seeking a reward. There is, of course, the greatest reward in serving Christ. Love, however, must be the primary reason for service, not the reward. So... If those being protected by God to survive into the new world can sense they are being healed, that realization would likely be for them alone. If people could see miracles being performed, many would flock to Christians for the benefit with no love for good. We do not, of course, assert Christians will or will not know when their healing starts. As with many things, that is for your own faith to tell you. Be careful. Then, *if the faith you express is based in the truth of Christ's words*, it will become your reality!

### Preservation of life through the destruction of the wicked.

Jesus taught us: "As in the days of Noah, so will the coming of son of man be."<sup>GG</sup> Peter added that few, that is eight souls, were carried safely through the water at that time.<sup>HH</sup> Like Noah, does your plan include salvation through the destruction of our wicked world? It should. Do you understand what the kingdom of Christ is doing? The kingdom has been established in heaven. Christ is providing salvation to all persons who will see what is real by

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wants us to do?" (29) Jesus answered, "What God wants you to do is to believe in the one he sent."

<sup>GG</sup> [Matthew 24:36-39 GNB](#) "No one knows, however, when that day and hour will come---neither the angels in heaven nor the Son; the Father alone knows. (37) The coming of the Son of Man will be like what happened in the time of Noah. (38) In the days before the flood people ate and drank, men and women married, up to the very day Noah went into the boat; (39) yet they did not realize what was happening until the flood came and swept them all away. That is how it will be when the Son of Man comes.

<sup>HH</sup> [1 Peter 3:20b ALT](#) ... when the patience of God kept eagerly waiting in [*the*] days of Noah, while an ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water;

using their eyes of faith, and who then live a life that is an expression of their faith." Jesus is in the process of returning the worship of all the faithful and obedient creation to his Father."<sup>J</sup>

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<sup>J</sup> **Isaiah 11:1-12 Darby** And there shall come forth a shoot out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots shall be fruitful; (2) and the Spirit of Jehovah shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Jehovah. (3) And his delight will be in the fear of Jehovah; and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears; (4) but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. (5) And righteousness shall be the girdle of his reins, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins. (6) The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatted beast together, and a little child shall lead them. (7) And the cow and the she-bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. (8) And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the adder, and the weaned child shall put forth its hand to the viper's den. (9) They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea.

(10) And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, standing as a banner of the peoples: the nations shall seek it; and his resting-place shall be glory. (11) And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to acquire the remnant of his people which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. (12) And he shall lift up a banner to the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

<sup>J</sup> **1 Corinthians 15:21-28 GNB** (21) For just as death came by means of a man, in the same way the rising from death comes by means of a man. (22) For just as all people die because of their union with Adam, in the same way all will be raised to life because of their union with Christ. (23) But each one will be raised in proper order: Christ, first of all; then, at the time of his coming, those who belong to him. (24) Then the end will come; Christ will

Understanding those simple Bible truths should help you in formulating a plan of life. Knowing God is in the process of restoring paradise<sup>KK</sup> can certainly encourage you to ask him to help you be a part of that. God promised we could one day return to our youth and health.<sup>LL</sup> Do those promises by God make up a

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overcome all spiritual rulers, authorities, and powers, and will hand over the Kingdom to God the Father. (25) For Christ must rule until God defeats all enemies and puts them under his feet. (26) The last enemy to be defeated will be death. (27) For the scripture says, "God put *all* things under his feet." It is clear, of course, that the words "all things" do not include God himself, who puts all things under Christ. (28) But when all things have been placed under Christ's rule, then he himself, the Son, will place himself under God, who placed all things under him; and God will rule completely over all.

<sup>KK</sup> (**Psalm 37:27-34 MWT**) <sup>27</sup> Turn away from what is bad and do what is good, And so reside to time indefinite. <sup>28</sup> For Jehovah is a lover of justice, And he will not leave his loyal ones. To time indefinite they will certainly be guarded; But as for the offspring of the wicked ones, they will indeed be cut off. <sup>29</sup> **The righteous themselves will possess the earth, And they will reside forever upon it.** <sup>30</sup> The mouth of the righteous is the one that utters wisdom in an undertone, And his is the tongue that speaks justly. <sup>31</sup> The law of his God is in his heart; His steps will not wobble. <sup>32</sup> The wicked one is keeping on the watch for the righteous And is seeking to put him to death. <sup>33</sup> As for Jehovah, he will not leave him to the hand of that one, And he will not pronounce him wicked when he is being judged. <sup>34</sup> Hope in Jehovah and keep his way, And he will exalt you to take possession of the earth. When the wicked ones are cut off, you will see [it].

<sup>LL</sup> **Job 33:16-30 LITV** then He opens the ear of men and seals their instruction (the teachings of Christ), (17) that He may turn man *from his* deed; that He might conceal pride from man (turn them from pride). (18) He holds back his soul from the Pit, and his life from passing by the sword. (19) He is also chastened with pain on his bed, and enduring strife *in* his bones; (20) so that his life loathes bread, and his soul desirable food. (21) His flesh wastes away from *his* sight; and his bones laid bare, they *that* were not seen. (22) Yea, his soul draws near to the Pit, and his life to those causing dying. (23) If there is a messenger for him, a mediator, one among a thousand, to declare for man his uprightness, (24) then let Him be gracious to him and say, Deliver him from going

part of your prayers to him? Those scriptures should be part of your plan to help yourself. You should never, however, trust what any man tells you. That does include us. After you read this booklet, including all the scriptures as footnotes, please go back and read any one of the Gospels. See if this isn't exactly what Jesus taught. Then, read another of the Gospels. Sit at Jesus's feet and build faith in his promises. Let those promises become your prayers, and then, your reality. Have faith your prayers will come true. Consistent with the scriptures we have considered about living forever, Jesus told Martha those alive at the time of his second coming, and who expressed faith, would never die at all.<sup>MM</sup> He then asked her: "Do you believe that?" Well... *Do you?*

We hear people talk all the time about the need for faith in Christ. We don't hear any of them saying, however, they can continue alive forever by means of that faith.

So then, to be blatantly clear, we are saying the Bible promises you can live forever. We say it over and over because we don't

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down to the Pit, for I have found a ransom! (25) His flesh shall be fresher than in vigor; let him return to the days of his youth. (26) He will pray to God, and He will accept him, and he will see His face with exultation; for He will restore to man his righteousness. (27) He will observe to men and say, I have sinned, and I have perverted uprightness; and it was not equally repaid to me; (28) He has redeemed my soul from passing over into the Pit, and my life shall see the light. (29) Lo, all these God does two or three times with a man, (30) to bring back his soul from the Pit, to be illuminated with the light of the living.

<sup>MM</sup> **(John 11:24-27)** <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him: "I know he will rise in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her: "I am the resurrection and the life. He that exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life; <sup>26</sup> and everyone that is living (on the last day Martha spoke about) and exercises faith in me will never die at all. Do you believe this?"

<sup>27</sup> She said to him: "Yes, Lord; I have believed that you are the Christ the Son of God (Martha was a Jew who worshipped Jehovah and knew Christ to be his son), the One (promised by the Hebrew Scriptures to be) coming into the world."



understand why everyone isn't screaming it from the rooftops! People have rightly been claiming they believe they could do that, by means of the resurrection, for 2000 years; since Christ's first visit. Now that we are witness to the tribulation Jesus warned was coming,<sup>NN</sup> we are encouraging you to realize the Bible also teaches those alive today can live forever without having to die.<sup>(LL)</sup>

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<sup>NN</sup> **Matthew 24:3-28 MWT** As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, his disciples came to him privately and said, **"Tell us, when will this happen? What will be the sign that you are coming again, and when will the world come to an end** (in the same sense that the world came to an end in Noah's day)?" (4) Jesus answered them, **"Be careful not to let anyone deceive you.** *[The only way we can avoid being deceived is to study and meditate on the Gospels for ourselves.]* (5) Many will come using my name. They will say, 'I am the Messiah,' and they will deceive many people. (6) "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. Don't be alarmed! These things must happen, but they don't mean that the end has come. (7) Nation will fight against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. (8) All of these are only the beginning pains *[or signs]* of the end. (9) "Then they will hand you over to those who will torture and kill you. All nations will hate you because you are committed to me. (10) Then many will lose faith. They will betray and hate each other. (11) Many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. (12) And because there will be more and more lawlessness, most people's love will grow cold. (13) But the person who endures to the end will be saved. (14) "This Good News about the kingdom will be spread throughout the world as a testimony to all nations. Then the end will come. (15) "The prophet Daniel said that the disgusting thing that will cause destruction will stand in the holy place. *[The disgusting thing that causes desolation is the composite beast comprised of all those claiming to represent the Christ of God, while they are really teaching their own doctrine.]*<sup>(OO)</sup> When you see this disgusting thing, let the reader take note, (16) those of you in Judea should flee to the mountains. (17) Those who are on the roof should not come down to get anything out of their houses. (18) Those who are in the field should not turn back to get their coats. *[When you recognize Jesus's warning is being fulfilled, nothing should be*

## What is the purpose of this booklet?

The intent at the start of this study was to understand the details of how to build and have a lifesaving faith for ourselves. Any benefit it can be to others is good too. We attempt to help ourselves so by examining one of the Bible characters who actually displayed such faith. What we believe, dear reader, is understanding how to build faith for life is precisely what Jesus came to teach. And, that makes it necessary for ~~you~~ *each of us* to personally discern what he taught from a study of his words. At the same time, we must carefully and strenuously avoid the teachings of men.<sup>00</sup> The woman with the flow of blood had a

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*more important than fleeing to his words.]* (19) "How horrible it will be for the women who are pregnant or who are nursing babies in those days. (20) Pray that it will not be winter or a day of worship when you flee. (21) There will be a lot of misery at that time, a kind of misery that has not happened from the beginning of the world until now and will certainly never happen again. (22) If God does not reduce the number of those days [*bring an end of the tribulation*], no one will be saved. But those days will be reduced because of those whom God has chosen [*to survive*]. (23) "At that time don't believe anyone who tells you, 'Here is the Messiah!' or 'There he is!' (24) False messiahs and false prophets will appear.<sup>(00)</sup> They will work spectacular, miraculous signs and do wonderful things to deceive, if possible, even those whom God has chosen. (25) Listen! I've told you this before it happens. (26) So if someone tells you, 'He's in the desert!' don't go out looking for him. And don't believe anyone who says, 'He's in a secret place!' (27) The Son of Man will come again just as lightning flashes from east to west. **(28) The eagles will be gathered wherever there is a dead body.** [*The remains or the body of Christ are the recordings of his teachings penned by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They are available to everyone, like lightening that is shining from east to west.*]

<sup>00</sup> **Matthew 15:7-9 LITV** Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy concerning you, saying: (8) "This people draws near to Me with their mouth, and with *their* lips honor Me; but their heart holds far off from Me. (9) But in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines *the precepts of men.*" *Isa. 29:13~*

sound faith in Jehovah's<sup>(R)</sup> word. As a Jew, she well knew their Jewish God. She would thus have been familiar with God's promises to provide a deliverer. She knew Jesus was fulfilling those Jewish prophecies. She faced opposition, however, from her own religious leaders and fellow worshipers. Her church told her Jesus was a fraud and even that he had a demon.<sup>PP</sup> She was in danger of being disfellowshipped or expelled and condemned by the sect (church) of her claimed spiritual brothers and sisters, for simply displaying faith in Jesus Christ above them.<sup>QQ</sup> She was also in danger of being stoned to death by her religious leaders for disobeying their rules of behavior. Still, based on her knowledge of God's promises, she disregarded them completely<sup>(1 Cor 4:3 on pg 3)</sup> as she expressed faith in what she had learned from the Bible. Our lord then told her it was her faith in God's word, and in Jesus as the Messiah promised in that word, that saved and healed her. Do you believe that?<sup>(MM)</sup> Do you believe the same thing can happen for you? God's word says it can. Have faith like that Jewish woman. Read the Gospels and form your own plan of how you can be saved through the destruction of this wicked world, just like Noah was.<sup>(GG)</sup> By our day in time, you should be able to discern our old world system is being destroyed under the weight of its own abuse and badness. Just like Noah and Lot, there is

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**Mark 7:7-8 GNB** It is no use for them to worship me, because they teach human rules as though they were my laws!" (8) "You put aside God's command and obey human teachings."

<sup>PP</sup> **John 8:47-51 GNB** He who comes from God listens to God's words. You, however, are not from God, and that is why you will not listen." (48) They asked Jesus, "Were we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon in you?" (49) "I have no demon," Jesus answered. "I honor my Father, but you dishonor me. (50) I am not seeking honor for myself. But there is one who is seeking it and who judges in my favor. (51) I am telling you the truth: whoever obeys my teaching will never die."

<sup>QQ</sup> **John 9:22b GNB** ... the Jewish authorities ... had already agreed that anyone who said he believed that Jesus was the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue.

nothing you can do to save or even help the *wicked* who are being destroyed. That was, and/or is, their choice to make. The only thing you can do is save your own life by having your own faith. Your mature expression of faith may also help others who are not wicked, but are still ignorant and looking for God.

Jesus said the good news of the kingdom would be preached throughout the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations, and then the end would come.<sup>(NN – Mat 24:14)</sup> That good news is what you are hearing right now. You are being drawn to God by the cords of love displayed in the teachings of Christ. You must have faith in Jesus to be drawn and bound to God.<sup>RR</sup> Express faith in

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<sup>RR</sup> **Hosea 11:1-4 MWT** When Israel (the nation descended from Abraham) was a child he was dear to me; and I took my son out of Egypt. (2) When I sent for them, then they went away from me; they made offerings to the Baals, burning perfumes to images. (3) But I was guiding Ephraim's footsteps; I took them up in my arms, but they were not conscious that I was ready to make them well. (4) **I drew them to me with the ropes of man, with cords of love;** I was to them as one who lifted the yoke from off their mouths, putting meat before them.~

Jesus is the cord of love by which Jehovah draws us to him:~

**John 6:44a ALT** "No one is able to come to Me unless the Father having sent Me draws [*or drags*] him...~

The prophet Hosea there expresses God's great love for Israel and Ephraim as Abraham's descendants. We are all adopted as sons and daughters of Abraham through our faith in Jesus Christ:~

**Galatians 3:6-9 ALT** Just as "Abraham believed [*or, trusted*] God and it was accounted to him for righteousness." [*Gen 15:6*] (7)

Consequently, be knowing that the [*ones justified*] by faith, these are sons [*and daughters*] of Abraham. (8) Now the Scripture having foreseen that God justifies [*or, declares righteous*] the nations by faith, proclaimed the Gospel beforehand to Abraham,

[*saying*], "All the nations will be blessed in you." [*Gen 12:3*] (9)

Therefore, the [*ones justified*] by faith are blessed with the faithful [*or, believing*] Abraham.~

**Romans 4:16 CEV** Everything depends on having faith in God, so that God's promise is assured by his great kindness. This promise isn't only for Abraham's descendants who have the Law. It is for all

God's promises. Build faith that allows you to see yourself living forever!<sup>(LL)</sup> Then... Live forever!

We close warning each of us need to be making the same self-examination we are trying to make of ourselves: First question, though, do we even know what Jesus taught? Knowledge is necessary to be among those who have faith in truth and light. Even if we have made the effort to know what Jesus taught, do we actually believe his words to be truth? Or, do we just hope they are? Do you think the woman Jesus brought to our attention<sup>(Mark 5:25 – 34 on pg 17)</sup> risked her life by going out in public to touch his garment because she *hoped* he was Jehovah's<sup>(R)</sup> Messiah? She truly believed! Please make no mistake: You are making the choice as to whether you will survive, by how you react to the teachings of God's son.<sup>(B – John 12:48)</sup> If you think you can refuse to consider or make that choice, that is just one of the bad choices you can make. If you think it is a fairy tale or a joke, you are not the first to have similar feelings.<sup>SS</sup> The pain and suffering

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who are Abraham's descendants because they have faith, just as he did. Abraham is the ancestor of us all.~

**Galatians 3:24-29 GNB** And so the Law was in charge of us until Christ came, in order that we might then be put right with God through faith. (25) Now that the time for faith is here, the Law is no longer in charge of us. (26) It is through faith that all of you are God's children in union with Christ Jesus. (27) You were baptized into union with Christ, and now you are clothed, so to speak, with the life of Christ himself. (28) So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free people, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus. (29) If you belong to Christ, then you are the descendants of Abraham and will receive what God has promised.

<sup>SS</sup> **Genesis 19:12-14 LITV** And the men said to Lot, Who still is here to you? Bring out of this place your sons and your sons-in-law and your daughters, and whoever *belongs* to you in the city. (13) For we are about to destroy this place, for the cry of them is great before Jehovah, and Jehovah has sent us to destroy it. (14) And Lot went out to speak to his sons-in-law, those taking his

brought upon so many people by the tribulation of our time makes us all inexcusable.<sup>TT</sup> God is looking for and marking those *who are sighing and groaning over the suffering* brought by the

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daughters. And he said, Rise up, go out from this place, for Jehovah is about to destroy the city. And he seemed as one joking to his sons-in-law.

<sup>TT</sup> **Romans 1:18-32 CEV** From heaven God shows how angry he is with all the wicked and evil things that sinful people do to crush the truth. (19) They know everything that can be known about God, because God has shown it all to them. (20) God's eternal power and character cannot be seen. But from the beginning of creation, God has shown what these are like by all he has made. That's why those people don't have any excuse. (21) They know about God, but they don't honor him or even thank him. Their thoughts are useless, and their stupid minds are in the dark. (22) They claim to be wise, but they are fools. (23) They don't worship the glorious and eternal God. Instead, they worship idols that are made to look like humans who cannot live forever, and like birds, animals, and reptiles. (24) So God let these people go their own way. They did what they wanted to do, and their filthy thoughts made them do shameful things with their bodies. (25) They gave up the truth about God for a lie, and they worshiped God's creation instead of God, who will be praised forever. Amen. (26) God let them follow their own evil desires. Women no longer wanted to have sex in a natural way, and they did things with each other that were not natural. (27) Men behaved in the same way. They stopped wanting to have sex with women and had strong desires for sex with other men. They did shameful things with each other, and what has happened to them is punishment for their foolish deeds. (28) Since these people refused even to think about God, he let their useless minds rule over them. That's why they do all sorts of indecent things. (29) They are evil, wicked, and greedy, as well as mean in every possible way. They want what others have, and they murder, argue, cheat, and are hard to get along with. They gossip, (30) say cruel things about others, and hate God. They are proud, conceited, and boastful, always thinking up new ways to do evil. These people don't respect their parents. (31) They are stupid, unreliable, and don't have any love or pity for others. (32) They know God has said that anyone who acts this way deserves to die. But they keep on doing evil things, and they even encourage others to do them.

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badness of our modern day world.<sup>UU</sup> If you are a sincere hearted person, it means you are one looking for God. If so, you are being preserved alive by your expression of faith in his son. Otherwise,

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<sup>UU</sup> **(Ezekiel 8:17-9:7 MWT)** <sup>17</sup> And he went on to say to me: “Have you seen [this], O son of man? Is it such a light thing to the house of Judah (Judah was representative of Jehovah’s nation of Jews, as descendants of his friend Abraham. Jerusalem, with its temple and God’s spirit presence therein, represented his connection with mankind. Faith in Christ adopts us all as sons and daughters of Abraham.<sup>(RR)</sup> Jesus thus expanded God’s connection to include all the faithful throughout all the earth. The judgment of ancient Jerusalem in Ezekiel’s day thus prefigured God’s judgment of all mankind during Christ’s return.) to do the detestable things that they have done here, that they have to fill the land with violence and that they should offend me again, and here they are thrusting out the shoot to my nose? <sup>18</sup> And I myself also shall act in rage. My eye will not feel sorry, neither shall I feel compassion. And they will certainly call out in my ears with a loud voice, but I shall not hear them.” **9** And he proceeded to call out in my ears with a loud voice, saying: “**HAVE** those giving their attention to the city come near, each one with his weapon in his hand for bringing ruin!” <sup>2</sup> And, look! there were six men coming from the direction of the upper gate that faces to the north, each one with his weapon for smashing in his hand; and there was one man in among them clothed with linen, with a secretary’s inkhorn at his hips, and they proceeded to come in and stand beside the copper altar. <sup>3</sup> And as regards the glory of the God of Israel, it was taken up from over the cherubs (on the cover of the Ark) over which it happened to be to the threshold of the house, and he began calling out to the man that was clothed with the linen, at whose hips there was the secretary’s inkhorn. <sup>4</sup> And Jehovah went on to say to him: “Pass through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and **you must put a mark on the foreheads of the men that are sighing and groaning over all the detestable things that are being done** in the midst of it.” <sup>5</sup> And to these [others] he said in my ears: “**Pass through the city after him and strike.** Let not your eye feel sorry, and do not feel any compassion. <sup>6</sup> Old man, young man and virgin and little child and women **YOU** should kill off—to a ruination. **But to any man upon whom there is the mark do not go near, and from my sanctuary YOU should start.**” So they started with the old men that were before the house. <sup>7</sup> And he said further to them: “Defile the house and fill the courtyards with the slain ones. Go forth!” And they went forth and struck in the city.

you are being left to die in your sins.<sup>(D – John 9:24)</sup> That’s all the choice there is. Choose wisely and live forever.<sup>VV</sup>

We hope you perceive: This is not an effort to establish yet another sectarian doctrine and group among men for you to join yourself to. It is an effort to help you become a member of the group Jesus started about 2000 years ago. Become a footstep follower of Christ Jesus. Become part of the nation of people he is returning to the worship of his Father.<sup>(JJ)</sup> Become a member of the creation of mankind God intended when he put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It is perfect!

Hide yourself and gain your life!

Are you aware God promised you can save yourself by hiding in your interior rooms? God told his people they should hide themselves in their interior rooms *while “the denunciation” passes over.*<sup>WW</sup> About 1500 years before Christ, the Jewish slaves

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<sup>VV</sup> **(Deuteronomy 30:15-20)** <sup>15</sup> “See, I do put before you today life and good, and death and bad. <sup>16</sup> [If you will listen to the commandments of Jehovah your God,] which I am commanding you today, so as to love Jehovah your God, to walk in his ways and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judicial decisions, then you will be bound to keep alive and to multiply, and Jehovah your God must bless you in the land to which you are going to take possession of it. (Jehovah’s commandments and his statutes and his judicial decisions are available to us in the Gospel recordings of the teachings of his son.) <sup>17</sup> “But if your heart turns away and you do not listen, and you are actually seduced and bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I do tell you today that you will positively perish. You will not lengthen your days on the ground to which you are crossing the Jordan to go to take possession of it. <sup>19</sup> I do take the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you today, that I have put life and death before you, the blessing and the malediction; and you must choose life in order that you may keep alive, you and your offspring, <sup>20</sup> by loving Jehovah your God, by listening to his voice and by sticking to him; for he is your life and the length of your days, that you may dwell upon the ground that Jehovah swore to your forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to give to them.”

<sup>WW</sup> **Isaiah 26:20-21 LITV** Come, My people, go in your rooms and shut your doors behind you. Hide *for* a little moment, until the



of Egypt entered their homes as they spread the blood of a fresh killed lamb on their doorposts. The angel of Jehovah then passed through Egypt during the night and struck dead all the firstborn sons in the homes where there was no blood. (Exodus chapters 11-15) That Bible drama prefigured the blood of Christ being shed to save the lives of us all. As we near the end of the tribulation, and Christ rides to destroy the wicked,<sup>(Revelation 6:1 & 2 inside front cover)</sup> we will once again need to hide ourselves in our interior rooms... But how? It seems it might be within your own faith! When you are in your home (or where ever you are able to be) reading the Gospels, pretend you are there among those Jesus was speaking to, sitting at his feet. Even better, pretend Jesus is there in your home talking to you, saying the same things he said to those people 2000 years ago. *That is what is actually happening.* It is mostly what the Gospel records are for. As you listen to Jesus speak, know he is speaking to you personally. Let God's spirit flow over you with (or as or in) Christ's words. Then, at that point, you are hidden in your interior rooms. You can be sheltered by Jehovah's<sup>(R)</sup> hand as the destruction of this wicked world continues apace. You can be healed and protected in that hiding place, and finally, returned to your youthful strength and health.<sup>(LL)</sup> It is not mystical or magic: It is Jehovah's arrangement for you to be blessed by means of your faith in his son. As you read and listen to the words of Jesus, you must be building a faith like the woman of Jesus's illustration.<sup>(Mark 5:25 – 34 on pg 17)</sup> Like that woman, believe your preservation of life will be by means of your plan. Heal yourself through your own faith. You don't have to understand everything. You just need to have faith in the words of Christ. Also realize, Jesus said things are going to get worse for the people who have refused to accept his Father's direction they

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fury passes [*the denunciation passes over*]. (21) For, behold, Jehovah comes out of His place to visit his iniquity on *those dwelling on the earth. The earth shall also reveal her blood, and shall no more cover over her slain ones.*

should listen to God's son.<sup>(NN & Z)</sup> As you see the tribulation of mankind getting worse, as you see the suffering of this world increase, let that knowledge only increase your faith in salvation by Christ's promises.

Do you comprehend how personal and precious what Jesus taught really is? God has granted you opportunity to sit personally at the feet of his faithful son; doing so by simply reading the words Jesus was sent to speak.<sup>(D-John 7:16)</sup> As you run your mind over those Gospels, you have the gift of being able to know you can receive what Jesus promises you. All that is required is faith.<sup>(DD)</sup> As you begin reading in Mark, for example, do you recognize Jesus is reaching through time to speak personally to you when you read his words in Mark 1:17?<sup>XX</sup> Do you hear him telling you, if you will follow him, he will make you a "fisher of men?" Do you understand that to be your personal ~~invitation~~ *calling*? If so, it just means you should do your best to direct others to read the Gospels. When you read Jesus's warning about the danger of the leaven of the Pharisees, and the leaven of Herod, do you understand what that warning means, and do you know it is for you?<sup>YY</sup> What Jesus taught must change your life. It

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<sup>XX</sup> [Mark 1:14-20 ESV](#) Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, (15) and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (16) Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. (17) And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." (18) And immediately they left their nets and followed him. (19) And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. (20) And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

<sup>YY</sup> [Mark 8:15 ALT](#) And He began giving orders to them, saying, "Be watching out! Continually beware of the leaven [*or, yeast*] of the Pharisees (religious leaders) and of the leaven of Herod (political leaders)."~

must become who you are. Everything about the change you make to yourself, however, is good and will make you happy.<sup>(1 John 1:4 on pg 4)</sup> When you read about the woman who was healed by just touching the hem of his outer garment, do you imagine you are touching it, or try and think how you can do so. Or, are you more like the humble army officer who didn't feel the need to touch Jesus at all. The officer loved his servant who was about to die, so he sent men to ask Jesus to heal him. While Jesus was on his way to the man's house, the officer sent friends to tell Jesus he was not worthy of a personal visit by the son of God, and that Jesus should just say the word and his servant would be healed.<sup>ZZ</sup> Some pious and arrogant religious leaders among the

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**Matthew 16:6-12 CEV** Jesus then warned them, "Watch out! Guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." (7) The disciples talked this over and said to each other, "He must be saying this because we didn't bring along any bread." (8) Jesus knew what they were thinking and said: You surely don't have much faith! Why are you talking about not having any bread? (9) Don't you understand?... (11) Don't you know by now that I am not talking to you about bread? Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees! (12) Finally, the disciples understood that Jesus wasn't talking about the yeast used to make bread, but about the (false) teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.~

**Luke 12:1-3 CEV** As thousands of people crowded around Jesus and were stepping on each other, he told his disciples: Be sure to guard against the (leaven) dishonest teaching of the Pharisees! It is their way of fooling people. (2) Everything that is hidden will be found out, and every secret will be known. (3) Whatever you say in the dark will be heard when it is day. Whatever you whisper in a closed room will be shouted from the housetops.

<sup>ZZ</sup> **Luke 7:1-10 CEV** After Jesus had finished teaching the people, he went to Capernaum. (2) In that town an army officer's servant was sick and about to die. The officer liked this servant very much. (3) And when he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish leaders to ask him to come and heal the servant. (4) The leaders went to Jesus and begged him to do something. They said, "This man deserves your help! (5) He loves our nation and even built us a meeting place." (6) So Jesus went with them. When Jesus wasn't

sects of men would likely have gotten angry at the army officer for having and expressing his own faith. That Gentile man actually suggested a change in what the Jewish born son of God was about to do. The point is this: The army officer was doing his best to help Jesus based on his personal faith. He wasn't being argumentative or challenging Christ, like the religious leaders did.<sup>(PP)</sup> What he suggested was helpful and good because it was consistent with what Christ was doing. It was an outward manifestation of the army officers faith. So... Jesus commended his great faith and showed that he appreciated what the man's faith led him to ask. Is his faith the kind you have? When you hear (while reading or hearing the words of our lord) a sick person say to Jesus, "if you just want to, you can make me clean," do you see their request as if it were your own? Do you sense Jesus's reply, "I want to, be made clean," as being directed to you as well?<sup>AAA</sup> My faith is Jesus is teaching we should expect his help, and then, that our faith will make it become so. What is yours? Do you understand your faith is really who you are? It defines what you expect from life. And remember this: God is listening to what you expect from life. That makes it very important! You can study the Bible with other

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far from the house, the officer sent some friends to tell him, "Lord, don't go to any trouble for me! I am not good enough for you to come into my house. (7) And I am certainly not worthy to come to you. Just say the word, and my servant will get well. (8) I have officers who give orders to me, and I have soldiers who take orders from me. I can say to one of them, 'Go!' and he goes. I can say to another, 'Come!' and he comes. I can say to my servant, 'Do this!' and he will do it." (9) When Jesus heard this, he was so surprised that he turned and said to the crowd following him, "In all of Israel I've never found anyone with this much faith!" (10) The officer's friends returned and found the servant well.

<sup>AAA</sup> [Matthew 8:2-3 MWT](#) And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you just want to, you can make me clean." (3) And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I want to, be made clean." And immediately his leprosy was healed.

people, but you should be careful about group worship. As Paul said he couldn't even judge what was in his own heart,<sup>(1 Corinthians 4:4 on pg 3)</sup> we certainly can't know what is in the heart of other men and women. If we join in worship with people who do not know God, even after he sent his son to warn us against doing so,<sup>(Z - Mark 13:22 & 23)</sup> where will that leave us in God's eyes? While you should express your faith in Christ to everyone you know, your worship of Jehovah through your faith in his son might need to be a personal matter. Your faith must be yours alone, of course, and your worship must be based in *your* knowledge of what Jesus taught. It really is that simple! Read your Gospels (over and over) and have an absolute and unwavering faith in what Jesus Christ said.

Please recognize one thing unique to Jesus Christ: A young man approached him asking what he needed to do in order to gain life. Jesus said he needed to keep the basics of the Law Code (because those commands explained how to manifest love for others).<sup>BBB</sup> The man said he had kept the commands Jesus mentioned (Jesus cited a small portion of the Law to him) from his youth on. *Jesus felt love for the young man* and told him there was one thing lacking about him. He needed to sell what he had and give to the poor, and to become Jesus's follower. The Bible tells us the young man went away grieved by Jesus's counsel, because he was very rich.<sup>CCC</sup> Jesus could see precisely and specifically what that young

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<sup>BBB</sup> **James 2:8 CEV** You will do all right, if you obey the most important law in the Scriptures [*the royal law*]. It is the law that commands us to love others as much as we love ourselves.

<sup>CCC</sup> **Mark 10:17-24 BBE** And while he was going out into the way, a man came running to him, and went down on his knees, saying, Good Master, what have I to do so that I may have eternal life? (18) And Jesus said to him, Why do you say I am good? no one is good but one, and that is God. (19) You have knowledge of what is said in the law, Do not put any one to death, Do not be untrue in married life, Do not take what is not yours, Do not give false witness, Do not get money by deceit, Give honour to your father

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man needed. He loved him and so he told him how to be happy and to gain life. Jesus can see what you are lacking as well. He is the only one who can. We all (unless you have become a perfect person) have weaknesses in our faith. We can fool other people, and even ourselves, about who we are in the secret person of our heart. We can never, however, for one second fool Christ Jesus. If you desire to be righteous, like the young rich man believed he was being by keeping the Law Code, Jesus loves you the same as he did him. He wants to help you. You put yourself in a position for him to do so, as he tells you what your personal weaknesses are, when you welcome him into your presence by reading the Gospels. Lots of people claim to love the Bible, but few seem able to get the real sense of it: The act of reading the Gospels puts Jesus in your presence. Listen to everything he said as having application to you personally. It does you know... In those cases where you are already doing what he directs, take pride in your obedience! Where you are not, make changes. The Bible tells us the young rich man went away grieved. He rejected a personal invitation to follow Christ because of his love for money. Maybe the fact he was grieved means he later came to his senses and returned to follow Christ. The Bible doesn't say so we don't know. The Bible doesn't tell us everything. It does tell us, however, what we need to know to gain life. What the Bible makes very clear is

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and mother. (20) And he said to him, Master, all these laws I have kept from the time when I was young. (21) And Jesus, looking on him and loving him, said, There is one thing needed: go, get money for your goods, and give it to the poor, and you will have wealth in heaven: and come with me. (22) But his face became sad at the saying, and he went away sorrowing: for he was one who had much property. (23) And Jesus, looking round about, said to his disciples, How hard it is for those who have wealth to come into the kingdom of God! (24) And the disciples were full of wonder at his words. But Jesus said to them again, Children, how hard it is for those who put faith in wealth to come into the kingdom of God!

this: Jesus is God's spokesman sent to instruct us.<sup>(J)</sup> & (D – John 7:16)

What a wonderful thing our God has given in the teachings of his son. The remains of Jesus's earthly life (his body as it were) are his teachings. Gather yourself to his remains by feeding on Jesus's words: Doing so means your life!<sup>(NN – Mat 24:28)</sup>

What a wondrous day to be alive in the history of mankind. May you have peace!<sup>DDD</sup> May God grant us all peace, by speeding up the doing his will<sup>EEE & (Z)</sup> on earth as it already is in heaven.<sup>FFF</sup> Some are freely following the directions of Jehovah<sup>(R)</sup> by listening to his son. Other men and women (in spite of the clear witness given by the tribulation brought upon mankind by our having disregarded God's counsel for 6000 years since Adam) still refuse to

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<sup>DDD</sup> **Luke 10:5-6 ALT** "But into whatever house you shall be entering, first be saying, 'Peace to this house.' (6) "And if a son [*fig., person*] of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return upon you.

<sup>EEE</sup> **Isaiah 60:18-22 MKJV** Violence will no more be heard in your land, wasting nor ruin within your borders; but you will call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise. (19) The sun will no more be [*what you consider*] your light by day; nor the brightness of the moon give light to you; but Jehovah will be to you for everlasting light, and your God your glory. (20) Your sun will no more go down, nor your moon withdraw; for Jehovah will be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning will be ended. (21) Your people also *will all be* righteous; they will inherit the land forever, the branch of My planting, the work of My hands, so that I may be glorified. (22) A little one will become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: **I Jehovah will hasten it [*speed it up*] in its time.**~

**Habakkuk 2:3 GNB** Put it [*the vision*] in writing, because it is not yet time for it to come true. But the time is coming quickly, and what I show you will come true. It may seem slow in coming, but wait for it; it will certainly take place, and it will not be delayed.

<sup>FFF</sup> **Matthew 6:9-10 CEV** You should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, help us to honor your name. (10) Come and set up your kingdom,<sup>(JJ)</sup> so that everyone on earth will obey you, as you are obeyed in heaven.

acknowledge our need to follow our Creator. While the righteous are being preserved alive by their faith in Christ,<sup>GGG</sup> those who refuse God's provision of life will continue on to die in their sins.<sup>(D – John 8:24)</sup>

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<sup>GGG</sup> **Psalm 37:7-29 LITV** Rest in Jehovah<sup>(R)</sup> and wait patiently for Him; inflame not yourself with him who prospers *in* his way, with the man practicing evil wiles. (8) Abstain from anger and cease from fury; also do not inflame yourself to do evil. (9) For evildoers shall be cut off; and the ones waiting on Jehovah, they shall inherit the earth. (10) *It is* but a little *while* and the wicked shall not be; yea, you shall consider his place, and he is not. (11) But the meek shall inherit the earth; yea, *they* shall delight themselves in abundant peace. (12) The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes on him with his teeth; (13) the Lord laughs at him, for He sees that his day is coming. (14) The wicked have drawn out the sword and they have trodden their bow, to cause the poor and needy to fall, to kill those who walk uprightly. (15) Their sword shall enter into their heart, and their bows shall be broken. (16) A little to the righteous *is* better than the abundance of many wicked. (17) For the arms of the wicked shall be broken; but Jehovah upholds the righteous. (18) Jehovah knows the days of the upright; yea, their inheritance shall be forever. (19) They shall not be ashamed in an evil time; and they shall be full in days of famine. (20) But the wicked shall perish; yea, the enemies of Jehovah *shall be* like the beauty of pastures; they are consumed; like smoke, they vanish. (21) The wicked borrows and never repays, but the righteous is gracious and giving. (22) For His blessed ones inherit the earth; and those cursed by Him shall be cut off. (23) The steps of a *good* man are established from Jehovah; and He will delight in his way. (24) Though he falls, he is not cast down; for Jehovah upholds his hand. (25) I have been young and am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, or his seed begging bread. (26) All the day he *is* gracious and lends; and his seed *is* for a blessing. (27) Turn away from evil and do good and live forever. (28) For Jehovah loves judgment and does not forsake His saints; they are preserved forever; but the wicked's seed shall be cut off. (29) The righteous shall inherit the earth and live on it forever.







The following translations may have been quoted in this document:

ALT - Analytical Literal Translation (1999-2001 by Gary F. Zeolla)

ASV - American Standard Version (by the American revision committee in 1897).

Coverdale – 1535 James Coverdale

Darby - 1884, 1889 Darby Bible (John Nelson Darby)

DRB - 1899 Douay-Rheims Bible

BBE - 1949, 1964 Bible in Basic English (Cambridge Press)

LITV - Literal Translation of the Holy Bible (1976-2000 by J. P. Green)

KJV - King James Version (1611)

MKJV - Modern King James Version (1962-1998 by J. P. Green Sr.)

Murdock – James Murdock (1851)

MWT - Modern World Translation

Webster - 1833 Webster Bible (Noah Webster)

RV - Revised Version (King James Revised Version - 1769)

YLT - Young's Literal Translation (1862, 1898)

Any scripture not identified by one of the above abbreviations is from the Modern World Translation.

**Psalms 110:1-6 Darby Psalm of David.** Jehovah<sup>(R)</sup> said unto my Lord (Christ is also King David's Lord), Sit at my right hand, until I put thine enemies *as* footstool of thy feet. (2) Jehovah shall send the sceptre of thy might out of Zion: rule in the midst of thine enemies. (3) Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in holy splendour: from the womb of the morning *shall come* to thee the dew of thy youth [your young people will offer themselves willingly]. (4) Jehovah hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art priest for ever after the order of Melchisedek. (5) The Lord at thy right hand will smite through kings in the day of his anger. (6) He shall judge among the nations; he shall fill *all places* with dead bodies [of the wicked]...(KK)



This booklet is different from any before. It is an effort to define or understand faith for its writer. It is an attempt to have material that can be read over and over to keep fresh in mind what faith in Christ really is, and how it can help. As such, it will probably update regularly as it is discussed with others. If you are reading it, you should download a fresh copy from the website at: [justbibletruth.com/MatureChristianOrBabe.pdf](http://justbibletruth.com/MatureChristianOrBabe.pdf)

Truth is truth, so... It is unlikely this material will need to be corrected. There is nothing wrong with the version you have. It may, however, be refreshed with additional scriptures.

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