

Who do YOU Say That I Am?

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How can Anyone Ignore JESUS?

In the recent months, I've been meditating on the impact that Jesus has had on the world and wondering, "Why would anybody want to ignore Him? Or worse yet, deny Him?"

The answer to the latter can be obvious in many cases, if and where religion was the platform used to introduce Jesus. It is true that religion overall has given a bad name to Jesus. The rituals, the doctrinal differences, the false practices and the assortment of sects and denominations have caused many to distance themselves from anything having to do with Christ. And I concur with this stance--been there, done that.

But let's go to Jesus alone. Let's take an objective look at who He claimed to be; His life, His message, and the effects of His words on the landscape of the history of the world. I've read from many authors about Him and considered their take on His history, and particularly His claims to deity, and so, I've compiled a number of facts about Him to bring out the undeniable evidence about His 'Messiahship'. This is gonna blow your mind!

How could someone in history have borne such a weight and you not know anything, or very little about Him? He is not Steve Jobs or Bill Gates. Nor is He Elon Musk, Einstein, or Gandhi. This is not Confucius, Buddha, or Mohammed we're speaking of. Yet, you've heard of most of not all of those names and you say you don't know Jesus?

To use His name as a 'swear' or 'cuss' word is so commonplace in every circle of society! Muhammad or Buddha's names are not used as 'swear' words. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus Christ. That name comes up everywhere, whether for good or for bad. Why should

anyone, anywhere in the world, use His name above all names to swear by? What's in that name? Why is He so famous or infamous?

Without writing a single line, He has set more pens in motion and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise than a whole army of great men of ancient

and modern times. Jesus of Nazareth, without money and without military 'arms', has conquered more people than Alexander, Caesar, and Napoleon. Without learning and without science, He has shed more light on things (human and divine) than all philosophers and scholars combined. How can anyone ignore Him, except they be ignorant, on purpose, of who He is.

No scientist, physicist, psychologist or philosopher has dictated and set in motion as many universal laws as He has, and all of them stand true to this day. His teachings were simple, yet more powerful than Socrates, Aristotle, Plato and all other philosophers before or since.

Jesus: the one person in history whom more is written about and spoken of, than any other, ever. All the books about every aspect of His life could not be gathered into one building, regardless of its size. His name alone is side-by-side with God's name.

No one possesses as many titles and attributes as Jesus does: the Door, the Gate, the Truth, the Light of the world, the Living Water, the Way, the Bread of Life, the True Vine, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection, the King of all kings, the Savior of the world!...Who is this man?

You may say that there's no proof of His existence, but that holds no water. Historians all agree that not only Jesus did exist, but that there are more accounts in history (even outside of the Bible), of His existence than there are of Julius Caesar, the Emperor of Rome. Not only He did exist, but His coming was the greatest awaiting of all mankind. So much so, that His birth redefined time, from before His birth to after His death (BC/AD). The whole world is forever different because of Jesus. Not only His existence is historically sound, but the writings of the Bible have been heard

throughout the whole world, even outside of the Bible. The story of Noah and the flood, for instance, are spoken of in every major culture of the world, whether in fact, or in legends, but nevertheless, they are recorded.

The one man in Whom there was no sin... The One Who raised the dead, healed people and cast out demons to set people free. Who else could claim:

--All power is given unto Me.

--All judgement is given unto Me.

--My blood is the new contract between man and God.

--My Words will never pass away.

--Before Abraham was, I Am. The 'I Am' Who was from the beginning.

--I am the Way, the Truth and the Life and no man comes to the Father but through Me.

WHO else can claim such things?

The great philosopher skeptic, CS Lewis, (later to become a born again believer), wrote the following: "The Jesus of the Bible is either a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord that He claimed to be."

There are 333 prophecies speaking of and confirming the person of Christ; prophecies that tell us that we can identify who the Messiah is. It should not be an issue of debate, regarding the facts. The facts are clearly stated. And of those 333 prophecies about Him, there are 150 fulfilled in one hour at the cross. Thirty-three miracles are recorded, along with this astonishing statement: "As many as touched Him were made perfectly whole!"... Thousands upon thousands of people healed. People would simply touch Him and be totally healed. What is that energy? And how can it be ignored? How can anyone speak evil of Him without knowing Him?

Their only answer has to be, "My mind is made up, don't confuse me with the facts."

You can't MISS Him—He's Everywhere!

As we consider the Jesus of the Bible, everyone has their own opinion. Some will say that He's a prophet. Others will say that He was a spiritual guru. But, Jesus Christ Himself said that He's none other than THE Lord HIMSELF, the Messiah, the One announced and prophesied centuries before His birth.

Some say that He was just another teacher. --Another philosopher? Sorry, but you can't land Him there. He's either the center of God's program or He is not. He divides opinions. In fact, He sometimes divides once-close friends.

People say "He was just a carpenter". Or was He? If so, why were people so desperate as to open the roof of a house to get to Him for their crippled friend to be healed.

- He's the One Who said that your sins are forgiven. Did anyone else say that? Ever? (Mark 2:5) • He's the One Who said to the lame man, "Rise up and walk." And people were astonished by His miracles. (Mark 2:5) • He's the One of Whom they said, "No one has ever spoken like this man before." (John 7:46) • He's the One Who says, "What you do with Me will define your eternity." (Romans 10:9, 10) • He's the One Who said, "I am the embodiment of truth." (John 14:6) • He's the One Who proclaimed outlandish things about Himself and He backed them all up with miracles, signs and wonders. (Matthew 4:23-25) • He's the One Who said that He would resurrect. And He did. That alone stands alone. (Mark 9:31) • He's the One Who changed the world by caring for the poor, forgiving the drunks, prostitutes and tax collectors. (Luke 5:32) • He's the One Who explained that happiness does not come from the things of this world, but that you must lay up treasures in Heaven and not on the Earth. (Matthew 6:19-21)
- He's the One to Whom the winds and the sea obeyed. (Matthew 8:27)
- He's the one who could feed 5,000 people with a few fish and a few pieces of bread. Twice.

Who is this man? No other philosophers or kings died in ransom for the sins of their people...none. He prophesied events in the future (Mark 9:31). He was a teacher, a healer, and the Messiah.--The very image of God, the firstborn of all creation, and that all things were created by Him (John 1:3). Actually, He said of Himself, "I'm not just a rabbi (teacher) or a philosopher. But I am God's Son in the flesh, sent by God, and through Me, the only way to reach God." (John 13:13; John 10:36; John 14:6-7).

He's the One Who could claim, "I am the Lord, the High Priest, and the King of kings (Revelation 19:16). He is omnipresent, He is everywhere, and He knows everything (John 21:17; Hebrews 4:12, 13). He is eternal (Hebrews 13:8), and He is divine and human at the same time (Titus 2:13, 14). --And He is sinless (Hebrews 4:15).

Who else could have so much faith as to claim that many attributes about Himself, and be able to fulfill them all and prove them, and to have so much wisdom in His teachings? So much so, that even the doctors of the law stopped challenging Him with their questions. Actually, He compared Himself to the wisest man who'd ever lived, and He said of Himself, "A greater than Solomon is here" (Luke 11:32).

Why can't we avoid Him? Is He a god or is He a devil? Why have so many writers, philosophers, historians and orators talked about Him so much? Why so many poems, so much art, so much music was written about Him?

He lifted man's ethics to the highest claim, and in turn, He expects for us to live by that standard. Self-sacrifice has become the new law and the new definition of true love. He brought immortality to all men. He spoke the truth even when it hurt, and never apologized for it. He made no mistake. He never rectified anything He said. He never asked for advice from anyone. He was His own credentials. He carried His own highest morality through His conduct.

He was killed by the Pharisees on three charges:

- He was a friend of sinners. • He healed people on the Sabbath Day.
- He claimed to be the Son of God.

And when He actually died, there was an earthquake! The sun darkened for three hours! And the thickest and largest curtain ever made for the temple was torn in half from the top, down (Matthew 27). The veil in the Holy of Holies that divided man from God, ripped open. A veil which was hung so high that no man could reach the top of it, was ripped from the top, down!

This man was crucified so cruelly, and still while hanging on the cross, He asked His Father to forgive His executors and prosecutors (Luke 23:34).

To this day, people around the world walk into water to be baptized and renewed and say, "I'm in!" People will follow Him to their death because He's the way back to God. And there are countless testimonies of people meeting Him in the afterlife and even in this life!--not Buddha, not Mohamed, not Confucius, but Jesus! The greatest controversy about Him is that He did not come to establish a religion, but a government. All prophecies about Him

were about a new government, a kingdom. So if that is the case, we must take Him out of the religious arena and set Him in a government arena. What is His government? What does He govern? What are the laws of His government? He said, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36).

He repeatedly said that He came to preach "the good news of the kingdom of God". He kept telling people that the kingdom of God is here (Matthew 12:28). And all His miracles backed that up. Everywhere He encountered the 'works of the devil', He rectified those with the power of God. From healing the sick, correcting the lies of the religious leaders, to appeasing the storm; He proved by the way He lived that the kingdom of God was here.

He exemplified so much impact, so much truth, so much wisdom and so much power... yet, so much humility. You can't remain on the fence. He calls for a decision. There's no "ho hum" anywhere in all that! He came to impact man's mode of living. He came to set up a new government: The kingdom of God.

There's No "HO HUM" about Jesus

The claims of Jesus in the Bible, from a carnal view, are absolutely outlandish and preposterous! If these are false, He would be the greatest deceiver that the world has ever seen!--Or He'd be the greatest lunatic that has ever stepped onto this earth. However, since Jesus fulfilled all claims about Himself, that changes EVERYTHING.

Jesus, as it turns out, never came to introduce a religion, never intended church buildings, never purposed anything but the restoration of the kingdom of God, back in the hands of man. Man, at creation had lost the 'rulership' over the earth which had been given

him by God. The kingdom of God was intended to be on earth as it is in heaven. But Adam relinquished it to the devil (Genesis 3:12). Adam lost his rights in the garden. He was now separated from the intimacy that he had enjoyed with God (Genesis

3:8). He was on his own, having to work the ground at the sweat of his brow (Genesis 3:22-24), and consequently, all his prodigy was affected by his fall.

But God made a way for man to regain control on earth. And that's why He sent His Son, Jesus, to be that very One to pay the price for the redemption of the kingdom of God...not just the redemption of man. He paid a price that we could not pay; a sacrifice too great for us to pay.

The end purpose was so that man could have a spiritual rebirth, and that we could regain 'rulership' of the earth. And so that God's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. This is the reason why after His resurrection, Jesus breathed the Spirit of God into His followers, that they may be empowered with the same Holy Spirit as He was.

The ultimate reason and purpose for Jesus coming to earth was so that we could be re-born, born of the spirit, and filled with the Spirit of God and thereby enabled to live just as Jesus lived while here (John 17). He told all of the disciples before He ascended back to heaven, to wait for the "promise of the Father" and that promise was a promise of power.

He said, "Don't go anywhere. don't do anything, until you be filled with the Spirit of God" (Luke 24:49). The Word also says, "They were endued with POWER after that, the Spirit of God came upon them" (Acts 1:8). --That power, the same power that Jesus operated by.

His Revolutionary Message

Let's take a look at some of the things that Jesus proposed to the world. Remember, He was living with the Jewish people in a time when the law of Moses was primordial. His message, for the most part, was presented in parables. He taught in short allegorical stories easily understood, called parables. Jesus wanted to bypass

the teachers of the law and take His message straight to the people, which means He had to communicate in a way that would resonate with them. Parables allowed the common people to connect abstract spiritual ideas with patterns that were meaningful to them. When we were kids, we were taught spiritual principles with flannelgraph stories to help us visualize and grasp those spiritual principles. He used terms that people could easily relate to, like comparing God's kingdom to fishing, cooking, farming, agriculture, and shepherding. It is fascinating how He used these earthly stories to convey heavenly meanings. "He did not say anything to them without using a parable" (Mark 4:34a). The reason for that was so that those who have ears to receive, would understand (Matthew 11:15). Jesus' parables were accessible to everyone. The Pharisees likely dismissed them as simplistic and irrelevant. This fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy that people would be, "Hearing, but never understanding; ever seeing, but never perceiving" (Isaiah 6:9b).

Jesus said: "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables: Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand" (Matthew 13:11-13).

Nearly all of His parables were addressed to the Jews to contrast religion versus grace and mercy. He said, "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse" (Matthew 9:16). Jesus was telling the Jews that He was bringing something that wouldn't fit into the religious traditions of the time.

Let's start with the parable of the self-righteous Pharisee, and the tax collector: "To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people-robbers,

evildoers, adulterers-or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted" (Luke 18:9-14)

Now, let's go to the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. Lazarus was very poor on earth and was hoping to eat the crumbs from the rich man's table, but the rich man wouldn't give him anything. Once Lazarus died, he went straight to Abraham's bosom but when the rich man died he went to hell. Then the rich man pleaded with Abraham to send Lazarus to give him but a drop of water because the fire was so hot. But Abraham explained that because he didn't give to Lazarus when he was on earth, he's getting his just punishment. When the rich man pleaded with Abraham to at least send someone to his brothers to warn them, Abraham replied:

"They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' 'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' " (Luke 16: 30, 31) Jesus was talking about Himself. Some people will not care to hear the message and will not be changed even though Jesus comes back from the dead.

Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst" (Luke 17: 20, 21).

In the parable of the pearl, the searcher who finds a pearl of a great price and sells everything to buy the field relates to how the kingdom of heaven might cost us everything: relationships, jobs, security, and maybe even our lives. For us to truly be under Jesus' rule, we will constantly make sacrifices. Every day we're faced with

opportunities for obedience. Sometimes that means being willing to surrender perfectly good things out of love for the Lord.

The Parable of Sower and Four Types of Soil:

Everyone receives the seed, which is the word of God, but not everyone will yield to produce a fruitful life. The four types of soil mentioned are hard, rocky, thorny, and good soil (Matthew 13:23).

Jesus explains that the seed represents the word of God, which is sown into the hearts of people. The different types of soil represent different ways in which people receive and respond to the message. The hard path represents those who do not understand the message and allow Satan to steal it away. The rocky soil represents those who receive the message with joy, but quickly fall away when faced with persecution or hardship. The thorny soil represents those who hear the gospel but do not allow the message to take root. Finally, the good soil represents those who hear and understand the message and receive Jesus as the Lord and Savior.

The Parable of the Sower is significant for several reasons. First, it highlights the importance of hearing and understanding God's word. It reminds us that simply hearing the message is not enough; we must allow it to take root in our hearts and bear fruit in our lives. Second, it challenges us to examine our own response to the message. Are we like the hard path, rocky soil, or thorny ground, rejecting the only sacrifice for our sins? Or are we like the good soil, allowing the message to take root and rescue us?

The Parable of the Sower is a timeless reminder of the importance of hearing and understanding God's word, and the various ways in which people respond to it. It challenges us to examine our own hearts and response to the message, and to cultivate an openness and receptivity to God's truth. Ultimately, it encourages us to seek the good soil and allow the word of God to bear abundant fruit in our lives.

The One Day that

Changed the History of the World

Jesus gave His disciples predictions about His death and the events that followed: “So that when it does take place you may believe” (John 14:29). In fact, all throughout His ministry, He not only told people that He was the Son of God, but that He would die and rise again. He predicted His resurrection three times: (Mark 8:31-33; 9:30-32; 10:32-34).

Why did Jesus predict His resurrection? Why did He make such outrageous claims? Because He would later prove that He was telling the truth. He claimed to be the Son of God and the only way to heaven. Jesus was the only one who proved to be God. He told people that His sacrifice, His bloodshed for our sins, was going to establish a new covenant, a new contract between God and man (Matthew 26:28). And that’s exactly what He did.

Remember, Jesus intentionally came to earth to die in our stead, and eradicate our sin-nature. Contrary to most religious teachings, it's not all our little sins that separate man from God. Those are only the consequent repercussions of the original rebellion of man that took place in the garden with Adam. That rebellion caused a major glitch in man's programming. He was now living selfishly. Man became self-willed, self-centered and proud.

Jesus’ death and resurrection was the ultimate purpose of His ministry, because that was the only way to redeem man to his original purpose and assignment. Remember, He came to restore the kingdom of God to man. The resurrection of Jesus was the dawn of a whole new era for humanity; a New Testament was now established between God and man.

The resurrection of Jesus is the most important event in all of history. It is far from being a myth; even historians recognize it as

one of the most documented facts in history. He became the most important figure in all world history! Because through His victory over death and the devil, God gave all authority to Jesus. (Matthew 28:18;

John 3:35; John 5:26, 27; Philippians 2:9-11). The resurrection means that Christ is truly the King and Victor, seated “far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked” (Ephesians 1:21). The new covenant between God and man is no small thing. It governs all of life on earth and in heaven.

Jesus prophesied that, from hereon, the law of Moses would be done with, and man could be redeemed by faith alone. He said that those who believe in Him would have eternal life and be reconciled to God (John 11:25, 26; 1Corinthians 4:15, 12-20; John 3:1; John 3:1-21).

The faith of all believers revolves around the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If Jesus did not die and rise again after three days, then the entire hope of the believer is based upon nothing but lies and falsities. In short, mankind's sinful nature would not be forgiven and changed (Romans 4:25). If it wasn't for the resurrection we would have to continue living as the Jews of old and offering animal sacrifices to God for the redemption of our sins.

The meaning of the resurrection symbolizes the complete verification of all that Jesus preached and taught during His three year ministry. It was the final proof of His proclamations. If He had not risen from the dead, He would have been considered just another teacher or Rabbi. However, His resurrection changed all that and gave final and irrefutable proof that He was really the Son of God and that He had conquered death once and for all.

The resurrection means that love is stronger than death. It was for love that God gave His only Son (John 3:16); it was for love that Jesus died on the cross (John 15:13). It is for love that the risen Lord interceded and keeps interceding for us (Romans 8:34). The resurrection is fraught with love. He proved “greater love”. "Greater love hath no man than this than a man lay down His life for his friends" (John 15:13).

Jesus said, “Because I live, you also will live” (John 104:19). 'How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation" (Hebrews 2:3).

The POWER of His Resurrection

“That I may know Him, and the POWER of His resurrection” (Philippians 3:10).

I have been meditating on what Paul calls "the power of His resurrection" and I came across something that Spurgeon wrote on that topic.

Remember Paul was what you'd call "the cream of the crop" as far as the Jewish law was concerned, and he had deliberately set aside his own personal credentials and his own righteousness that he'd worked so hard to attain as a Jewish Pharisee, and he said, “But what things (credentials) were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things" (Philippians 3:7). He said, “There's only one thing that counts to me now, that I may know Jesus and the POWER of His resurrection.”

Everywhere Paul went, he butted against the religious Jews and their mosaic law, which was the main religion of the day. Not only he butted against their "law-filled" doctrines, but his main mission was to convince them to move on and realize that the old law was now over. Can you just imagine the challenge? No wonder he got persecuted and even stoned just about everywhere he went.

If ever you feel frustrated in trying to convince people that Jesus is more than church attendance, you can encourage yourself in the challenges that Paul faced. Not only he had to convince the Jews that the gentiles could now be accepted just as much as the Jews, but he had to also convince them and the Gentiles as well, that from hereon, it was all by faith alone in the resurrection-power of Christ. --This carpenter from Nazareth who went everywhere doing

good, the one who had been crucified (by the Jews) and now lives again, is the Messiah, the Christ!

And because Paul was so convinced and empowered with conviction, so compelled by his love for Christ, he went on to change the world's greatest religious authorities to faith alone in "the power of Jesus'

resurrection". That " power" that brings eternal life and true meaning to life.

Paul said, "If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14). That's how important that one point of the message was. --There's power in Christ's resurrection!

He even said that the apostles would have been found false witnesses, "because," he says, "we have testified of God that He raised up Christ: whom He raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17).

The resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of faith. If you take the resurrection away, the whole thing is degraded to nothing but a philosophy and a religion and what Paul calls a "cunningly devised fable" (2 Peter 1:16-21). Jesus' life would have been simply a perfect example of conduct, but it could not have become our righteousness if His burial had been the end of all. It was essential for the confirmation of His life-teaching, that He should be raised from the dead. He conquered death! It says, "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). In other words, the payback for the sin-nature, the rebellion of man, was death. And Jesus paid that price of death that we may all live.

The power of His resurrection is an infallible proof of the authority, power and glory of Jesus as the Son of God. This proof had such power about it to the minds of the early apostles that they preached it with outstanding boldness to the point of martyrdom.

Jesus said, "I AM the resurrection and the life, he who believes in Me shall never die" (John 11:25, 26).

Christ has an ongoing life in us, and He makes His life flow into every part of His spiritual body, according to His own word, "Because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:19). We possess, as believers, that same life which is in Christ for we are His body of which He is the head.

The power of His resurrection gives us the ability to be in the world, but not of the world. 'Believers' can live independent from the world's system, renewed, transformed and translated into His glorious light, scarcely touched by the world. That POWER of His resurrection gives

us the identity of another world-- a new citizenship, a new passport!-- that of the kingdom of God.

When we believe in Jesus, we receive a new life, and we rise to a higher state. Our spiritual life has the DNA of Christ, we are "re-fashioned" after the image of God. We are re-empowered as an ambassador and a viceroy on earth. The old life remains, but becomes to us a kind of death: the new life which God gives is the true life, which connects us to the divine and the eternal.

The risen Christ gives us an eternal life of righteousness. "But as many as received Him, to them gave He POWER to become the sons of God, even to those that believe on His name" (John 1:12) .

The righteousness in which we are accepted is finished and complete, and therefore we find rest in Him. He's become our Sabbath rest... it is finished!

The resurrection power of Christ is the operating system that powers all who hear and believe His words. The same as the sun in springtime brings warmth and life to the frozen ground, and reboots, quickens and produces life through its light beams, the resurrection of Christ quickens us into new life and brings the springtime of a new life to those who believe. This is the power with which the missionary goes forth to sow; this is the power in which the witnesser continues to scatter seeds. This is the power that compelled the apostle Paul to change the world

and this is the power that energizes us to shine a light that comes from within.

In Paul's day, to be a believer was a costly matter. Imprisonment was the lightest of their trials: stripes and tortures of every kind were their portion. "Christians to the lions!" was the cry heard in the amphitheater; and nothing pleased the people better than to see believers smeared with pitch from head to toe and set on fire to light up the streets at night.

Today, there are many technical Christians, who know the clichés of godliness, but know not the POWER thereof. There are ritualistic Christians, who shine the outward of Christianity, but know not the

power given to man through His resurrection. They are moral religionists who deny the power of the gospel. They adhere to a conventional, regulated religiosity that doesn't manifest the power of the resurrection. They're not enthusiasts, fanatics, nor even compelled, much less propelled. Such Christianity goes by the name of Christ, yet it is dead. They have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof (2 Timothy 3:5). The truth of the gospel has a force in it, a power: --A redemption power!

He is risen. He's alive. He's the Victor. "All power is given onto Him, in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). That power of the resurrection is what gives us the power to heal, to cast out demons, to enforce the victory of Christ on earth as it is in heaven, and to destroy the works of the devil. That power is what energizes believers to be the light of the world. That power is the aura of light that you can see in the eyes of those who truly believe.

If It's TRUE, then WHAT??? Suppose it's true that God is the God of the universe!--And that He is the Creator of the world, and He did send Jesus to redeem mankind so that we can regain our God-given authority on earth. If Jesus said that if you obey His commandment you will find true freedom (John 8:32), then there are consequent decisions to make. If and when we take a stand to believe in God and accept Jesus' sacrifice in our stead, we must then yield our will. It's no longer you who's got the best plan, it's God. And that takes humility.

But when we believe a lie, we build up our own scaffolding of illusions to hold that belief in place (2 Thessalonians 2:11). King David said, "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God'" (Psalms 14:1). Ironically those who don't want to believe in the true God may have a statue of Buddha or some other idol on their desk. Truth is, it's difficult not to acknowledge that there is a greater power, but some folks will not want to bow down to the One true God. The proof is that throughout history, man has always indulged in idolatry, either in worshiping various gods or in making idols that represent some of those gods. Why? Because man was originally created to worship.

There are just too many laws set in motion by God to ignore Him, but when we do, we must try to come up with our own philosophical

structure to prop up our existential purpose; it's a form of pride. "The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, doqqaes not seek Him. All his thoughts are, "There is no God" (Psalms 10:4). However if it's true...all true, then, we can't just lead our life half-heartedly, haphazardly, without direction, and without purpose.

Actually, we don't have to go that far to find proof. The miracle power of seed alone disproves the big bang, and clearly manifests a plan and a design; hence, a designer and creator.

If you're driving a car knowing that you must put gasoline in it, but you refuse to and you get upset because it won't go and yet, you still won't read the owner's manual. There's an element of foolishness there that cannot be overlooked. "Proud,' 'Haughty,' 'Scoffer,' are his names, who acts with insolent pride" (Proverbs 21:24).

Yes, life has to have definition and purpose. As a matter of fact, that's what people are searching for their entire lives. But they will refuse to believe that there is only one definition: creation. Because creation undermines a creator. Architecture undermines an architect. Somebody greater created the lesser. And the lesser is therefore subject to the greater. The discovery of DNA alone has put the last nail in the coffin of the theory of evolution, and yet there

are those who persist and insist on denying facts. "My mind is made up, don't confuse me with the facts."

Truth be told, every creation and innovation comes with an instruction manual written by the innovator on how to operate the item. And it's the same with God. He gave His manual to all men, but if they refuse to read it and wonder why the "device" is not operating properly. The same thing is wrong with this picture! Either the device, the creator, or perhaps the operator? Remember, the Creator provided the manual. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Proverbs 1:7).

There are too many laws in our universe that cannot be overlooked. Laws that cannot be explained by the Big Bang theory. There are laws of physics, laws of mathematics, laws of chemistry, natural laws, spiritual laws, not invented by man, but discovered (observed) by man. And they all work, all the time. Take gravity for instance. It doesn't

only happen in winter or in Australia or with a certain ethnic group. It works for everybody all the time, always.

And God has also set spiritual laws in motion for us to live our lives by. And they all work both for the just and the unjust. It rains on the righteous and on the unrighteous (Matthew 5:45). In schools, they teach the physical laws of physics, mathematics and chemistry, etc., but they will not teach the spiritual laws. What's wrong with this picture?

Here's one spiritual law of God that should be taught in schools: "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6). Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, but humility goes before honor" (Proverbs 18:12). Take Daniel the prophet who lived under a very proud King and Emperor, the most powerful in the world at the time, Nebuchadnezzar, and his pride turned to arrogance and defiance. Here is what Daniel said, "But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne and his glory was taken away from him." Nebuchadnezzar was humbled and had to eat grass for seven years. He then came back and said, "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and

honor the King of heaven, for all His works are right and His ways are just; and those who walk in pride He is able to humble" (Daniel 4:37).

The End Purpose:

The Holy Spirit of God, Back into Man

Let's recap: Jesus paid the ransom for the contaminated and rebellious nature of man. Man, through rebellion against God, had lost his immediate and personal relationship with God. Man was now merely a mortal creature, and no longer in direct communication with His Creator. But Jesus came to regain control over the earth and return the rulership to man and to empower man

with the Spirit of God living in man, so that man could again have dominion on earth.

This is why Jesus is the center figure in history. This is why He's not just a man. This is why He can't be "framed" in history with all religions. It's a kingdom that He reinstated, not a religion. It's the original kingdom and dominion that was given by God to man on earth, on the outset of the creation. This is why He was so upset with the religious leaders who tried to box God's plan in a set of rituals and condemnatory constraints.

So it's vital that we understand what Jesus offers to man as the opportunity to be reunited with God and fulfill His original purpose. He said that He came to preach the gospel of the kingdom. The kingdom of God is here and available to all through faith alone, without any good works or self effort. The dominion or rulership that was originally given to man is now restored back to man through belief in Jesus as the redeemer. His victory over the treason of the devil is permanent and irrevocable. "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18). And He said that unless you believe and receive His victory, you cannot find your way back to the Father. That's why He said, "I'm the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but by Me" (John 14:6, 7). And without Him, you cannot have the greatest healing of all, the healing of the Adamic nature of man.

If you've ever truly loved someone, you know that one of the great dynamics of that relationship has to be forgiveness and reconciliation. 'Making up' is an integral part of a relationship, and God extends forgiveness and reconciliation to us through Jesus. God's Word says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son" (John 3:16), to redeem mankind's relationship with God.

That's why Jesus is the most powerful figure in history. He changed the world's governing powers. He reinstated the kingdom of God on earth in man's heart. That's why to be a believer, we must accept the presence of Jesus (and His Holy Spirit) at the steering wheel of our life. Jesus asked His followers, "Who do you say that I am?" This is a life-or-death challenge to all of us, because it matters for

all eternity. The ramifications of the claims of Jesus Christ will hold eternal significance for you. Man can continue to go around as it were in circles, trying to recreate or redefine who God is and who Jesus is.

Or he can receive the free gift of redemption to restore him to a life empowered by the Spirit of God in Him. Wow! It all makes sense now.

Jesus Christ is the lone Savior. He's the one true God, the redeemer and the forgiver of the sinful nature of man. And He's the One who extends to us re-birth and eternal life. He's the One who says, "I'll give you a new life" and "he that comes to Me will never die." The Spirit of God in you will empower your life.

What will you do with Jesus? You can't ignore Him. You can ask anybody their opinion of Jesus and they're going to have one. No one is ever silent about Jesus, but the issue for you personally is, what do you say about Jesus and what is your understanding of who Jesus Christ is.

That's why being offended by religious doctrines, churchy rituals and doctrinal arguments doesn't hold enough excuse or justification. Jesus doesn't and never will offer religion. He's the cornerstone upon which man's life must be rebuilt. He's the One through Whom we can find true meaning and true freedom. It's not only about heaven and hell. It's about living your life as a victor now, rather than as a powerless victim. That victory is made available to everyone for free, through His redemptive sacrifice!! That oughta be a deal of a lifetime.

To claim ignorance won't work--not in this world, nor in the world to come. You can't tell the policeman when you're pulled over, "I didn't know the law." Also, you shouldn't let your search for knowledge lead you away from knowing Jesus. In the case of your eternal destiny, it's not what you know, it's Who you know that's important.

There are only TWO Religions

One man used to spend much of his time witnessing about Jesus on the streets of a California city and tells of having this question posed to him time and again: "How can you say that you have 'the truth'? There are hundreds of religions in the world, and all of them think that theirs is the only right one. How can I possibly know which of them is the right one?"

The man would answer: "Hundreds of religions, you say? Why, that's strange! I talk to so many different people every day, from different parts of the world, and I've heard of only two!" His listeners would retort, "Oh, but you must know that there are many more than that!" To which he would reply, "Not at all. I will admit that within these two different religions, there are many different sects and differences of opinion. But there are, after all, only two.

"The one religion consists of all those different faiths that believe that they can earn their own righteousness by doing good deeds, by being "good enough" and by keeping different kinds of religious laws and commandments. Some try to meditate their way to goodness, others try to achieve holiness through piety, yet others try to abide by a set of strict guidelines and disciplines to obtain

sanctity, and yet others pray to many deities so as to be in good favor with them all. This, as you must realise, comprises most of the faiths of the world.

"But the other consists of those who know that they are incapable of obtaining righteousness on their own, and look to Jesus alone to save them! So you see, the whole question is really very simple! Do you think you can save yourself, or somehow earn your salvation by being 'good?--Or do you realize that you need a Savior to rescue you from your sin-nature and mistakes?"

"For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. Not of [good] works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9). "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us" (Titus 3:5).

People make things very complicated when they refuse the truth. The grace of God is all around us. But if you reject God's simple plan of grace through faith, you then have to come up with your own philosophy or some kind of religion to "yin and yang" your way through life. It's pretty easy to draw a sharp distinction between believers, those who worship the Creator, and those who worship paganism, the creation, including 'self'.

All false religions are alike. They all say: "Something in my hand I bring." The only difference between them all, is in that 'something'.

But the true faith says: "Nothing in my hand I bring." The one covers all who expect righteousness by doing; the other knows he has been made righteous by something already done.

Jesus told a graphic story to best explain the two religions in the parable of the Pharisee and the publican. The first is the doer, the man with "something" in his hand which he offers God, hoping to buy a seat in heaven. Note his prayer: "God, I thank Thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess" (Luke 18:11). He is a representative man in the great "Church of the self-righteous". What a handful he brings!—his

character, his fasts, and his tithes. The publican's prayer in this same parable was different! He had no righteousness to plead. And his character, he is ashamed to bring up. "Me, the sinner," he cries, and beats upon his breast. He cannot boast of fasting and tithes. He comes empty-handed before God. His only hope is that divine mercy may find a way for a guilty wretch to be saved instead of damned. He admits that he doesn't deserve grace. He does not try to hide his pitiful condition.

God has not only imprinted His love and kindness all throughout His creation, but He's also set in motion simple rules to live by and once anyone accepts His simple plan, it takes all the stress of trying to figure out life. He paid a VERY BIG price for you to be at peace forever. He gave His only Son as the One and ONLY sacrifice to redeem all of us and to put us back in charge of our true destiny through the empowerment of His Spirit in us.

Paul, the apostle, once a Pharisee himself, emptied himself of all his fancied goodness, counted all but dung. And he tells us how. "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this Man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: and by Him all that believe are justified from all things from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses" (Acts 13:38,39).

Here, he explains that no one can do even what the law of Moses demands. He tries and struggles, but all in vain. To wash out the stain of one sin is, all together, impossible.

So refuse to come up with your own interpretation and your own understanding of life, and accept the Creator's answer. Then and only then, it will all make sense. "To him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness" (Romans 4:5).

The Kingdom of God is HERE

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus preached the "kingdom of God". He spoke 43 parables. Of these, 13 were about the kingdom of heaven. Paradoxically, Jesus refers to the church only twice. Notice also that it was not Jesus who called His followers, Christians. Rather He referred to us as friends and then sons: Sons of God, born into the Kingdom of God.

When Jesus first started His ministry, He said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:14,15). "Repent, the kingdom is here." What did Jesus mean by "the kingdom of God is here"? It means that the fulfillment of God's government and His will has now been re-established on earth.

Even to Nicodemus, a ruler of the synagogue, Jesus preached the kingdom... "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit" (John 3:3). He was telling him that being born again gives you citizenship of the kingdom of God; the legal right to become a son of God. (John 1:12). To be "born again" is a legal thing. You enter the kingdom legally.

Jesus gave multiple examples and parables about how the kingdom of God operates. He said:

"The kingdom of God is as a man traveling" (Matthew 25:14).

"The kingdom of God is a mustard seed" (Mark 4:26-33).

"The kingdom of God is as yeast" (Matthew 13:33).

"The kingdom of God is a pearl of great price" (Matthew 13:45-46).

13 of His parables are about the kingdom and how it operates. Why is there so much said about its operations? Because He wanted to teach us how to manage the kingdom. That's why the parable of the "talents"

(Matthew 25:14-30). We're to be rulers and managers of His kingdom on earth.

A big change of government took place when Jesus came. Not only were we delivered from the kingdom of darkness, but we were brought into the kingdom of God (Colosians 1:13). A kingdom that operates entirely differently. That means we now go by a new set of laws.

The Word tells us that we're:

1. redeemed from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13),
2. redeemed from the enemy (Psalm 107:2-8),
3. redeemed from our sin-nature (Colossians 3:10),
4. redeemed from every lawless deed (Titus 2:14) and
5. redeemed from death (Hosea 13:14).

Adam had lost dominion and rulership. He was originally made to be a manager or a ruler over the earth, to colonize the earth just like in Heaven. But he lost the kingdom (dominion of the King) over the earth. But look at what the apostle Paul says:

"For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of the Son He loves, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Colosians 1:13-14).

"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God" (Galatians 4:5).

This is BIG. It's a major shift in how the world operates for us. Actually, how we operate in the world, because of the fact that we can apply the laws of the Spirit to work for us. That's why Jesus said, "They're in the world, but not of the world." In a kingdom, the word of

the King becomes law (Ecclesiastes 8:4). That's why we can overrule circumstances using the Word of our King.

We are no longer foreigners and strangers, but sons of God and also heirs of Jesus' inheritance. We're now co-heirs with Christ. We're children of the King of the universe.

In the world, we're taught, "You gotta work to make a living," and so it is. In fact, we're identified by what we do, not by who we are. People ask us who we are and we reply by what we do. I'm a plumber, an electrician, a dentist, etc. In the kingdom of God, we're identified by who we are. We're sons, not servants. Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom," and "take no thought for your life." Why? He said, "For after all these things do the Gentiles seek: for your Heavenly Father knoweth that you have need of all these things" (Matthew 6:25-34).

Jesus shifted life's priorities: "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:21). And He said, "Life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment...Do not be afraid, little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). He said, "The kingdom of God is now here, the sweating is over." Adoption as sons means we're back in the kingdom of God now, as the kingdom was intended before the fall.

For us who believe and are doers, because of our full redemption paid for by Jesus, the promises of God are not seated in hope, nor hidden behind conditions, but they are ours as rights. Why? Because we are sons. We're already incorporated into the kingdom. We go by our civil rights from the word of the King. The promises of

the King are for us, "YES", and "so be it", they are not conditional. The King's reputation is linked directly to His word and His promises (laws) and to the welfare of His people.

So we can now live on earth authoritatively enforcing the laws of the King. Plus, He's given us His Spirit to teach us how to "operate" the kingdom. "But when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will teach you all truth" (John 16:13). Actually, Jesus even said to His followers who'd seen Him operate every day for three solid years, "Don't do anything, but wait till the Father sends you the Spirit, which will give you the

power" (Acts 1:4). --"That the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:17).

Paul said, "God's kingdom is not just talk, it is power" (1 Corinthians 4:20). Meaning, not in talking about it, but in manifesting its power. Jesus manifested the power of the Kingdom with tangible miracles, signs, healings, and deliverances. Each time He announced the good news of the kingdom, sin, sickness, demons, poverty, and death could not remain.

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink but of righteousness (sonship), peace (with God) and joy in (through) the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17).

With the Spirit's power, the Word of God is life; it not only changes you, but energizes you and it does what is impossible to humans. Without the power, the kingdom of God cannot be revealed through miracles, signs and wonders with delivering humanity from bondages.

Without accepting the power, no matter how much you read the Bible, you will neither understand it nor can it change your life. Jesus was saying, seek first to get back to the citizenship of God's government (your new identity, your righteousness with God), and to operate on earth according to the King's Word, which are His laws, and all the provisions that you seek after will be taken care of by the King. Your righteousness is your rightful relationship with your King (Matthew 6:33; Matthew 6:10; Philippians 4:19; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

Take no thought (Matthew 6:25=33). Come unto Me. I'll give you rest - the Sabbath rest! done (Matthew 11:28-30) Take a hold of the blessings of God without stress, without sweat with it (Proverbs 10:22). The blessing of the Lord is God's original plan for man. Contrary to religious belief, God doesn't want you sick, broke and lonely. He wants to bless you in every area of life - your health, finances, relationships, and more.

If you are righteous, you're in the right position to demand the King to hold to His promises. That's why there's no begging in the kingdom. "He that cometh to God must believe that He is (the King), and that He is a rewarder (holds true to His laws) for them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Jesus, when rebuked by the Pharisees for healing a woman in the temple who'd been bent over for 18 years, said, "Is she not a daughter of Abraham? (She has a contract.) Ought not she be healed? (Doesn't she have a right?)" (Luke 13:16). Religion said that it was the wrong day. "And when He had said these things, all His adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him" (Luke 13:17). The kingdom of God comes with rights and with power to manifest those rights.

If you're a son of the King, "ought you not?" Do you not have a right to be healthy, a right to be provided for? Once you're born into the kingdom you have rights. You qualify. Once righteous, you're a threat to the devil. All of the angels are looking after you. You hold God to His Word. Why? Because God promised, "the righteous can demand his rights. You can tell cancer "it's illegal for it to be in here". Everything you do, everywhere you go, you're blessed, as a child of God. Even the place where you work is blessed because of you. (See the story of Joseph and Potiphar in Genesis 39:7-20.)

Stand in faith. Live on earth with the authority of heaven and manifest God's power by destroying the works of the devil wherever you go.

No Longer Under the Curse

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us" (Galatians 3:13).

When Paul says that we are redeemed from the curse of the law, he means that we no longer will receive the judgment of God because of the way we fall short of His holy standards. Jesus died in our place so that we wouldn't have to experience the wrath of God. "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

What I want to highlight is not only the fact that we now get the full blessing of Abraham, but there's more. "So that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith" (Galatians 3:14).

Because we believe in Jesus, it takes the "if" out of the blessings of Abraham, meaning that Jesus fulfilled all the conditions, all curses were put on Him and we get the full inheritance (co-heirs). Plus we get empowered with the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead. All this is part and parcel of the Born again inheritance .

To be redeemed from the curse of the law means to be set free from its rules, stipulations and regulations. In other words, those who are redeemed from the curse of the law are no longer required to observe the law's commands as the Israelites were. So then why did Jesus say that He didn't come to abolish the law but rather to fulfill it? "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them" (Matthew 5:17). In other words, He came to fulfill all of the prophecies about Himself, and to prove God's Word was truth all along.

Throughout the whole New Testament, there are many instances where it says; "This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet" (Matthew 13:35). In other words, because so many of the prophecies of the Old Testament pointed to Jesus, one of His main assignments was to fulfill those prophecies. And He did.

However, it also says, "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes" (Romans 10:4). Christ is the end of the law but only for those who believe. The law still exists for those who don't believe. Jesus established righteousness, by faith for those who believe in and accept the ransom price that He paid for our freedom from the law. But those who don't believe are still under the law that condemns them.

So, check this out: Not only we, as believers, are no longer under the Mosaic law, we're also no longer under the earth-cursed law which Adam was under after the fall. "To Adam he said, 'Cursed is

the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken'" (Genesis 3: 17-19).

The ground is still cursed but we've entered back into the rest of God whereby all provisions are taken care of by God as it was before the fall.

“There remains, then, a (Sabbath) rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from His. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of unbelief” (Hebrews 4:9–11).

We're given the full authority of Jesus on Earth, along with the same Spirit that He was filled with when He was on Earth. Neither of these Adam had, nor the prophets. In fact, Jesus even said, “For verily I say unto you, that many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them, and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them” (Mathew 13:17).

When Jesus came He recovered the entire inheritance that Adam lost. The full dominion, the full authority and the full communion with the Father which opens the door to mercy and grace. In other words, because, "It is the Father's good pleasure to give us a kingdom" (Luke 12:32), we are constantly in the favor of God. Why? Because of the robe of righteousness which Jesus has provided for all those who believe. As far as the Father is concerned, we're all as pure and as righteous as Jesus. There is no middle of the road.

Jesus is at the right hand of the Father. Why? Because He's entered in the rest of God. It's all done. And, it's all done for us too. This is quite the revelation because if you re-read the blessings of Abraham in Deuteronomy 28, you can take out the "if", since we have already accepted Christ. We are living fully in the “rest” of God.

Meaning that everything is done, everything is provided for, all authority is given to us, we have all dominion and authority on Earth to destroy the works of the devil, we are empowered to heal the sick and cast out demons, we are to look to the Father for our needs since God is our source and provider (Matthew 6:26-34) and we have all the promises of God which in effect, are ALL yes, yes, yes. YES and AMEN. Jesus even told the Jews that He is the Sabbath REST.

Once we get a hold of all this, and fully renew our mind to that revelation of how much is included in our new identity, it changes everything. It changes the way we live our life for sure, because it takes all of the perspiration out, and it definitely totally changes our relationship with the Father.

I think this is what the writer of Hebrews was trying to tell us when he said, "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same exmple of unbelief" (Hebrews 4:11). You must enter into that rest that God has provided for all those who believe. Don't miss out, get all of it. (Hebrews 4:11)

Remember God told the Jews in the wilderness that they're not going to enter into His rest. God had already provided that land which flows with milk and honey, grape clusters so large that required two men to carry, just blessings, provisions, protection, peace, abundance, and so much more.

But the Jews kept rebelling, doubting, murmuring, and simply questioning God after all that He had already done for them by delivering them from the many plagues of Egypt, then crossing the Red Sea on dry ground, miracle after miracle after miracle, and yet they would not believe and He said "As I swore in My wrath, "They shall not enter My rest"" (Hebrews 3:11). So what that means is that God wanted to give them the Sabbath rest every day.

And the writer of Hebrews begs his readers not to make the same mistake by rejecting God's Sabbath rest in Jesus Christ. "There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did

from His" (Hebrews 4:9-11). Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fail by following their example of unbelief. The Sabbath rest is Jesus.

What's the TRUE Gospel?

What was Jesus' main assignment on earth? What was the main reason He came to earth? What was it that He came to preach?

Was it so that man could be born again? Was it to redeem mankind of its sin-nature? Was it to destroy the works of the devil? Was it to be a witness of the truth as He told Pilate? Was it to die on the cross or to resurrect from the dead?

All these are correct answers! But the Word of God says that He came to redeem that which was lost. As soon as Jesus started to preach, He said, "Repent, for the kingdom of God is here" (Matthew 4:19). The "fall of man" was actually the loss of the dominion of man on earth. Man was no longer a representative of the kingdom of God. So the promise of redemption was to restore the kingdom to Man.

God's will is not only for man to be in Heaven. "Father, do not take them out of the world, but keep them from the evil" (John 17:15). But to be equipped here and now to defeat the devil, that's why He gave us the power to overcome evil through sending His Holy Spirit as our helper. God's intention (or will) was for man to rule on Earth, as it is in heaven, with His authority and power. So the program of salvation was not only for us to have eternal life in Heaven, but to reinstate the kingdom of God on Earth and the rulership to man. All the other reasons for Christ's coming to earth were essential parts

of the main program but not the main goal. Calvary was only a part of the program, but not the ending.

Remember what Jesus said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent" (Luke 4:43). That's why Jesus came, to regain that which was lost. The government of God. To return it to man. When you realize you're a governor, your attitude changes. You can walk in peace. Because you know everything is covered by God, in the government of God.

Check out this prophecy in Isaiah 9:6-11: "For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of His government and peace, there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over His Kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness

from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this."

God's taken back the power for you to overcome all your problems and to destroy the works of the devil as Jesus demonstrated. You've not only been made righteous, a son of God, but God's promises are His children's rights. Whatever your needs are. "And all these things (needs) will be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

The Kingdom is in POWER

"For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power" (1 Corinthians 4:20)

The scripture above means that the Word of God, without the power of His Spirit has no effect on you. Jesus said so. (Mark 7:13). Paradoxically, the Word of God with the Holy Spirit power is alive and can do the impossible.

Jesus explained to the Pharisees that He couldn't do the miracles He was performing without the power of the kingdom of God. "But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you" (Matthew 12:28). He was saying that in the kingdom of God there are no diseases, disabled, insane, addicts, and people in bondages. And to reveal the kingdom of God to humanity, the Gospel must have the POWER to set humanity free from all these bondages.

After His resurrection, Jesus gave instruction to the disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit before they went out to witness, so that they would have the POWER. He said, "Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you: but tarry you in the city of Jerusalem, until you be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49).

The kingdom of God is not revealed in word but in power: miracles, signs and wonders reveal God's kingdom. When Jesus gave His disciples power, they were able to heal all manner of diseases and cast out demons.

And when Jesus sent them out to preach the kingdom of God, He said, "And as you go, preach, saying, the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:7-8). Jesus did not send His disciples to preach a powerless Gospel which has no miracles, signs and wonders. To the contrary, all of the early disciples operated in power. They did not just preach a gospel of mere words without miracles, signs and wonders. The Holy Spirit was sent from the Father for miraculous power.

"For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as you know what manner of men we were among you for your sake" (1

Thessalonians 1:5). "And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power." (1

Corinthians 2:4). "For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath

not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed, through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit

of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ" (Romans 15:18-19).

The gospel of Jesus Christ has power; the true gospel is powerful; it is not mere words without power. It demonstrates the power of the kingdom of God. So the ultimate purpose of Jesus' mission on earth was to bring us the Holy Spirit to empower us to demonstrate the same signs and wonders that He did while with us.

So in reality, the power of the kingdom is synonymous to the Holy Spirit. He comes in no other way. He's a demonstration of the power of God. He comes to activate Jesus Christ's gifts in us. These gifts include wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, speaking tongues and interpretation of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:8-10). Each person has those gifts of the Holy Spirit and they will each be manifest as we practice them.

Every true disciple preaching the Gospel of the kingdom of God is followed by miracles, signs and wonders. Sick people do not want to be preached to first, but healed. People who are possessed by demons do not want to be preached at first, but set free from those demons. The disabled do not want to be preached to first, but told to rise up and walk. This is manifesting the kingdom of God.

The kingdom of God is not dead but living and powerful. Thus the Word with the power of the kingdom of God is able to do wonders. Without accepting the miraculous power, no matter how much you read the Bible, you will neither understand it nor will it change your life. For many have accepted the Bible as the Word of God, and taken a form of godliness through reading it, but denied the power which changes a person.

Today's preaching in many churches is powerless, except perhaps in words. But how do you preach to the sick, to the disabled, to captives? They need deliverance first, not preaching. How can the Gospel we preach not heal even one person? What's the difference then? If the greatest of these is LOVE, do we love enough to push our faith through to a breakthrough for those in need?

Most preachers claim that the signs of the kingdom of God are such as becoming earthly millionaires, living in large houses, driving big cars, and being successful. That is maybe a sign of God's favor but it doesn't differ much from the message of the power-preachers promoting self-sufficiency and self-success. The gospel of prosperity and abundance wouldn't have to be wrong, but only if walking as Jesus walked were part and parcel of that message: "THESE signs shall follow them that believe. In My name they shall cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover"(Mark 16:17,18).

The Holy Spirit was sent to us to perform the miraculous. Worldly success does not mean that a person is manifesting the kingdom of God; that a person is living the kingdom of God. Jesus said that the kingdom of God should come FIRST in priority. "But seek first the

[manifestations of the] Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

You can't expect the supernatural when people walk in piously on Sunday morning, but the rest of the time, they are drunkards, live in sexual immoralities, in adultery, boasting and showing off, money lovers, proud etc., because they have denied the power yet try to project a form of Godliness.

"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of Godliness, but denying the [Holy Spirit] power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Timothy 3:2-7).

The Holy Spirit Demonstrates the Kingdom

The Holy Spirit is often the most neglected person or the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is the energy with which God demonstrates His power. It is the power of God...the "dunamis". It is that spiritual energy in us to show the power of God and it is the privilege of every believer.

After Jesus was raised from the dead, He met with His disciples and basically told them, "I'll leave you responsible to reconcile the whole world to God." "As My Father sent Me, so do I send you" (John 20:21) The plan of salvation for the world is left to us and He told His disciples how to do it. "As you go preach saying: the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8, 9). He said "Wait before you go, wait for the promise of the Father. Wait, you'll need the power to demonstrate the kingdom." He said, "John baptized with water but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit and you'll be witnesses unto Me, (not, you'll go out witnessing) you'll be a witness of the power of God" (Acts 1:5).

All along, I was under the impression that the Holy Spirit will give you the power to witness, the boldness to stand up. Well, that's one aspect, but even more, He's the power to demonstrate, to do the signs and

wonders. The word used in Greek here for power is the "dunamis" of God, meaning the "power of enablement". The power to do it. Not just to go out "witnessing", but to be the witness, the proof. It's the demonstration that matters. Jesus said, "If you don't believe the Words that I say, believe Me for the works that I do" (John 10:38). In other words, I'm proving what I'm saying. "If I cast out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God is come upon you" (Luke 11:20). There can't be preaching without

demonstration. It's unscriptural. It's "hearing, without doing". It doesn't demonstrate the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Nowadays there is so much talk, and no demonstration of power. The Holy Spirit is the One who does the works. Power is imperative, not an option. You can't do the work of God without the power of God. "As many as believe and be baptised of the (Holy Spirit) these signs shall follow them." It is so sad that we should be baptized in the Holy Spirit and we don't do anything with it. We either misuse it or abuse it. Or else refuse it.

Let's face it, the biggest objection to Christianity is "I don't believe because it doesn't work." People don't see the WORKing of the Word. So they refuse to believe. There is no proof.

Remember how Jesus' disciples all saw Him heal the sick constantly. They themselves had information but not the revelation yet; until Jesus gave them the power. He sent 70 of His disciples out and He didn't just send them to preach. He gave them the power of the Holy Spirit to heal the sick, etc. And when they came back, they said, "You won't believe what happened, everyone we laid hands on got healed, demons obeyed us, the blind could see, it was AWESOME." --Here's the actual account, "And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name" (Luke 10:17). It was unanimous, they all performed signs and wonders.

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit could not come in to the prophets, but rather came upon people. That's why they'd say, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me..." However, in the New Testament, the fullness of the Spirit God was in Jesus, in full measure, the Holy Spirit operated fully in and through Jesus. John 3:34,35 says, "For He whom

God has sent utters the Words of God, for He gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand.”

So this is why Jesus had to tell His disciples, "Wait till I go up and fulfill the New Testament with the Father and you'll receive the

"promise of the Father". --The Holy Spirit will not only be with you, but in you (John 14:17).

So by sending the Holy Spirit in each one of us, it completed the mission of Christ; to send the Spirit into man so we could be fully empowered to represent God and bring the will of God on earth as it is in heaven. The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to give us the power of doing the "works" of God, the power to demonstrate that the kingdom of God is here, now.

Jesus told His disciples "I'm giving you the same responsibility My Father gave me. I'm giving you the same job. "As My Father sent Me, so do I send you" (John 20:21). So what was that responsibility? "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised (Luke 4:18).

None of this resembles religious services, nor a one-hour-a-week acknowledging what we believe. The Holy Spirit is the bottom line of the Christian faith. You believe, you demonstrate. Less talk and more show. Less hearing, more doing, demonstrating! We have the charisma of God in us. The Holy Spirit is the energy of God that brings into reality what God says. Charismatic means filled with the charisma of God; the SPIRIT of God acting out God's will through us.

Let's demonstrate the gospel of the kingdom of God. Hallelujah for the Holy Spirit.

Why Prayer Works

By conquering death, Jesus conquered the final victory over the devil. Man no longer has to live fatally condemned to sickness and death, depression, addiction and all destruction. That's why He said, "I am

the resurrection and the life, all possibilities are alive in Me" (John 11:25). It sounds so cool when you hear it, but it's even cooler when you do it and see it. Last weekend, I had to sell my RV (recreational vehicle). I had it for sale for a little over 2 months, and because some of my cash flow was frozen in this asset, I had to somehow find a buyer. I had so many ads up, and was even paying for marketing and it just wasn't moving. So, I went to lay my hands on the RV. I first turned on my camera to video to send my wife the video so she could agree with me, and I spoke to the RV, not to God, but to the problem, and I told it that I wanted it sold. I actually thanked the RV (ha!) for the blessing that it had been to us, but now I wanted it to GO and be a blessing to someone else, and that by the power invested in me, I was ordering it, commanding it with my words, with my out loud voice to be SOLD. It's our WORDS that have atomic power, not our thoughts.

So, as soon as I sent that video to Linda, she agreed with me. "When two or three AGREE together as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done." (Another law of the kingdom.) Both she and I consider it SOLD.

Now listen to this... an hour before, I had downloaded an app called "Telegram" to be in touch with a missionary in Nicaragua. It wasn't even an hour after my talking out loud to the RV and laying hands on it that I get a message via Telegram from somebody who told me, "Listen, about two months ago I communicated with you about this RV you have for sale, and at the time I wasn't quite ready to buy, but now I am. And I'd like to purchase it. I've looked at the pictures you had sent me then, and it's just what I need. I trust it's a good vehicle and that all amenities work like you said they do, so I'm going to send you the money and I'll come and pick it up next

week". WOW...As it turns out, the vehicle is being picked up as we speak. Glory, Glory, Glory. Soooo cool. The power of spoken words mixed with authoritative faith!

So here's how it works. --We must VISUALIZE the victory, not the problem, but the desired ANSWER, and then using your VOICE, you speak to the problem with authority. You don't deny it as a fact, but

you impose a greater truth on it and you visualize the outcome and believe.

Here the actual law, as told by Jesus.... "For verily I say unto you, that whosoever (anyone) shall SAY unto this mountain (problem), be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall NOT DOUBT in his heart, but shall BELIEVE that those things which he SAITH shall come to pass; he shall HAVE whatsoever he SAITH. --Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, WHEN ye pray, BELIEVE that ye receive them, and ye shall HAVE them " (Mark 11:23). You believe when you pray, not when you see the end result.

Words are seeds. When you put a seed into the ground, you are releasing its POWER. And it'll do its work. --You can go to bed. It will bring out its harvest in due season. You don't have to blow on it, talk to it or encourage it. You can consider it DONE. Same with prayer. Consider it done and prepare for the harvest. Start praising now, as big and as loud as when you'll actually see it. That's how faith operates.

There lies the power of prayer. Prayer is not begging God, not "bombarding heaven", it's utilizing the AUTHORITY that He has given us and employing the power of His Word to back up our request. Prayer is a legal procedure whereby you present your case, using God's law as your constitution, the Father hears your case and grants your request in accordance with His own law book.

His Word is an incorruptible seed. Unless a seed is planted, it remains unfruitful. Jesus as good as said, "All that I'm telling you is not going to work.... all Christianity's preaching won't work unless you work it. It's in the DOING, in taking the authority, in the

STANDING in faith, that makes it work. If you're only a "Sunday hearer", you might as well forget it. You're building your house on the sand. Every wind of doctrine, philosophy, psychology, big pharma, news media, and every other doubt and fear will make it crash. But if you do it, then your house stands on a ROCK (Matthew 7:24). Why? Because you see it work. And it'll stand against anything, because you've got the proof that it works.

There are as many deviations and interpretations of God's Word in the Christian world as there are denominations. When people don't see it

work, they come up with an interpretation that suits their justification. And religion is packed-full of doctrines, so much so that Jesus ended up telling the religious Pharisees, "You've made the Word of God of NONE effect because of your own doctrines and your traditions of man" (Mark 7:13). Jesus constantly made a distinction between the false and the real, by exposing the fake against the true. Not just with prayer (Mat 6:7), but with giving (Lk 18:9-14), condemning others (Jn 8:1-11), helping the destitute (Lk 10:25:37), and in virtually every religious behavior (Mat 23).

The Word of God does work, but only if and when you put it to the test. Faith is like gold, it has to be tested to know it's real. Faith is the only currency that works in prayer. "Without faith, you cannot please God." And faith works it by believing that the Word of God is more powerful than the circumstances. "Faith without works is dead" (James 2:26). That's why Jesus said that you can't be only a hearer. It won't work. You've got to stand on faith. A believer is one who acts on what he believes. James said, "You say you believe, but the devil also believes" (James 2:19).

That's why all impossibilities, all seeming defeats, all battles that were won against all odds in the Bible, were won when people put their trust in only God. God demonstrated His power by winning battles in the weirdest ways, such as with the sound of trumpets or the sound of pots and pans, or by dwindling the numbers in the army, to prove that it's not by our might, nor by numbers, but by faith, and by His Spirit. The Old Testament was the work of God,

the New Testament was the work of Jesus. --The present days, the work of the Holy Spirit.

And in your heart, when He asks you softly "Who do YOU say that I am?" it is my sincerest wish you will answer with great joy as Peter did, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16).

About the Author

The Jesus Boot Camp is a three-month discipleship course created to call believers into a deeper, bolder, and more practical walk with Jesus Christ. It is not presented as just another Bible study or a once-a-week spiritual routine, but as an invitation to live out the faith daily, wholeheartedly, and with purpose. At its core, The Jesus Boot Camp is built on the conviction that discipleship is more than church attendance or occasional Scripture reading. It is an everyday calling. It is about being always ready for Jesus in real life — serving others, sharing the Gospel, praying for those in need, and reflecting the love and truth of Christ wherever one goes. This course is designed to help believers become not only hearers of the Word, but doers also. Its purpose is to provide biblical and practical training for those who want to follow Jesus faithfully and also help others do the same. It emphasizes obedience, transformation, and the daily application of God's Word, showing that true freedom is found not merely in knowing truth, but in living it. The Jesus Boot Camp also carries a strong vision for multiplication through disciple-making. It encourages believers to take seriously the command of Christ to make disciples, beginning right where they are. The course is structured to be accessible, impactful, and practical, making it possible for ordinary believers to be equipped for ministry without stepping away from their daily responsibilities. More than a program, The Jesus Boot Camp is a call to wholehearted Christianity. It is a call to obedience over passivity, action over mere information, and spiritual maturity over lukewarmness. Its aim is to help raise followers of Jesus who will live the Gospel, disciple others, and shine as lights in a world that desperately needs truth, hope, and the life of Christ.