

The following Bible passages show some of what Jesus and his disciples taught.

If you want to read full Bible books (this is a good idea; in Acts 17:11, the citizens of Berea are praised because "They listened to the message with great eagerness, and every day they studied the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was really true."), a good starting place may be the Gospels of Mark and John, or Colossians.

Or read these chapters: John 1, Luke 1-8 and 22-24; Psalms 8, 19, 23, 86, 93, 100, 103-104, 130, 145-146; John 1-3 & 11-17, Acts 1-14, Ephesians & Philippians & Colossians, and Romans 5-8.

Bible quotes are from the New International Version or Today's English Version: the source is shown by "." or "," after the verse references, respectively. *My comments are italicized*, or are in [ ]'s. The words of Jesus are in bold print.

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To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody 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 up and prayed about himself: "God, I thank you that I am not like all other men — 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 everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. (Luke 18:9-14.)

For it is not the man who commends himself who is approved, but the man whom the Lord commends. (II Corinthians 10:18.)

It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. (Luke 5:31-32.)

*What is sin? God created us to enjoy a loving, full relationship with Him. If we choose to disobey, through either apathy or rebellion, the "greatest commandment" of Jesus (do you know what it is?), the spiritual foundation is missing from our lives. A weak relationship with God can, because each of us needs God's help to function properly, manifest itself in a variety of ways in our everyday lives, producing an inability to live up to the moral standards God has written in our hearts and in the Bible.*

The person who does not do the good he knows he should do is guilty of sin. (James 4:17.) / **Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.** (Luke 6:27-28.) / In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you. (Matthew 7:12.) / Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ... Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:29 & 31-32.) / **Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.** This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:37-40.)

*Have you ever fallen short of total success, in either action or attitudes, in any of these areas? Then you are a sinner, in need of God's grace.*

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:22-25.)

**SIN (THE CAUSE OF DEATH) IS THE VIOLATION OF GOD'S LAW. SO THE LAW, WHICH IS GOD'S SUMMARY OF JUSTICE AND GOODNESS, HAS BECOME MAN'S DOWNFALL, BECAUSE NO ONE KEEPS IT PERFECTLY - ALL HAVE SINNED, AND ALL ARE WORTHY OF DEATH. THE LAW OF GOD THUS BECAME SATAN'S INSTRUMENT BY WHICH HE COULD ACCUSE US BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD!**

**BEFORE THE CROSS**  
JOB 1:9-11 / ZECH. 3:1

**Y'SEE! EVERY RULE IN THE BOOK! BROKEN!**

**THE LIFE, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS SOLVED THIS PROBLEM! AS OUR REPRESENTATIVE, HE LIVED A**

**LIFE OF FLAWLESS OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S LAW, AND THIS RIGHTEOUSNESS IS CREDITED TO US THROUGH OUR FAITH IN HIM (GALATIANS 3:6-9). FURTHER, AS OUR SUBSTITUTE, HE DIED TO PAY THE JUST PENALTY FOR OUR CRIMES AGAINST GOD'S LAW, THUS ROBBING THE LAW OF ITS POWER TO CONDEMN US AND STRIPPING DEATH AND THE DEVIL OF THEIR ONLY CLAIM TO OUR SOULS. THE CROSS OF JESUS SPELLS THE OVERTHROW AND DEFEAT OF SATAN'S ARMIES! "HAVING DRAWN THE STING OF ALL THE POWERS & AUTHORITIES RANGED AGAINST US. HE EXPOSED THEM SHATTERED, EMPTY AND DEFEATED, IN HIS OWN TRIUMPHANT VICTORY!"**

**AFTER THE CROSS**  
REV. 12:10 / JOHN 12:31

**COLLOSSIANS 2:14-15**  
(PHILLIP'S TRANSLATION)

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There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, "Father, give me my share of the estate. So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men." So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate. (Luke 15:10-24.)

He does not punish us as we deserve or repay us for our sins and wrongs. As high as the sky is above the earth, so great is his love for those who have reverence for him. As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our sins from us. As kind as a father is to his children, so kind is the Lord to those who honor him. (Psalm 102:10-13,)

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## BORN AGAIN: What does it mean?

The Good News was promised long ago by God through his prophets, and written in the Holy Scriptures. It is about his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: as to his humanity, he was born a descendant of David; as to his divine holiness, he was shown with great power to be the Son of God by being raised from death. (Romans 1:2-4,)

To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he [Jesus] gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural

descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. (John 1:12-13.)

I am telling you the truth, replied Jesus, that no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. A person is born physically of human parents, but he is born spiritually of the Spirit. (John 3:5-6,) / By our baptism, then, we were buried with him and shared his death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life. For if we became one with him in dying as he did, in the same way we shall be one with him by being raised to life as he was. And we know this: our old being has been put to death with Christ on his cross, in order that the power of the sinful self might be destroyed, so that we should no longer be the slaves of sin. (Romans 6:4-6)

Christ himself carried our sins in his body to the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. It is by his wounds that you have been healed. You were like sheep that had lost their way, but now you have been brought back to follow the Shepherd and Keeper of your souls. (1 Peter 2:24-25)

Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants of you, in your life in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18,) / I have come in order that you might have life — life in all its fullness. (John 10:10,)

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You have put off the old self with its habits and have put on the new self. This is the new being which God, its Creator, is constantly renewing in his own image, in order to bring you to a full knowledge of himself. (Colossians 3:9-10,)

... my deep feeling for you all comes from the heart of Christ Jesus himself. I pray that your love will keep on growing more and more, together with true knowledge and perfect judgment, so that you will be able to choose what is best. Then you will be free from all impurity and blame on the Day of Christ. Your lives will be filled with the truly good qualities which only Jesus Christ can produce, for the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:8-11,)

*What are some of these "good qualities"?*

Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Colossians 3:12-14.) / Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be brave, be strong. Do all your work in love. (1 Corinthians 16:13-14,)

To act with compassion, kindness, courage,... is partly a matter of choice; just decide to do it. But why does Paul say that these are "qualities which only Jesus Christ can produce"?

A true (put-into-action for living) faith in Jesus establishes the proper relationship between the believer and God, so God can supply what is needed for life: love, courage, wisdom,...

Here is a beautiful analogy for God's "supply":

I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener. ... Remain united to me, and I will remain united to you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it can do so only if it remains in the vine. In the same way you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me. (John 15:1 & 4.)

Since you have accepted Christ Jesus as Lord, live in union with him. Keep your roots deep in him, build your lives on him, and become stronger in your faith, as you were taught. And be filled with thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6-7.)

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23.) / May God, the source of hope, fill you with all joy and peace by means of your faith in him, so that your hope will continue to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13.) / Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. (1 Peter 1:22.)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8.)

Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God — what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect. (Romans 12:1-2.)

The weak link in my own supply chain (and probably for most other Christians) is a lack of cooperation; I don't want what I need, and am not totally willing to "let God transform me".

To work effectively in our lives, God needs true repentance, defined in the Amplified Bible as to "change your views, and purpose to accept the will of God in your inner self instead of rejecting it". Jesus describes a good attitude: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. (Matthew 5:6.)



THAT WHICH YOU SHARE IN COMMON WITH ANIMALS IS A MORTAL BODY THAT HAS NATURAL CRAVINGS & TENDENCIES. THE FLESH ONLY SEEKS GRATIFICATION OF THESE CRAVINGS. IT SEEMS TO DOMINATE YOUR LIFE! ROMANS 8:13 EPHESIANS 2:3



YOUR CENTER OF THOUGHT, EMOTION, AND CHOICE IS THE REAL COCKPIT OF YOUR LIFE. IT IS CONSTANTLY BEING COURTED BY THE FLESH AND THE SPIRIT, WHICH BOTH EXERT STRONG INFLUENCE. GALATIANS 5:16-17



BY CONTRAST TO THE FLESH, YOUR SPIRIT, WHICH CAME TO LIFE IN YOU BY THE OPERATION OF GOD'S SPIRIT AT YOUR REBIRTH, CRAVES INTIMACY WITH GOD AND IS AT WAR AGAINST THE FLESH FOR CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE. ROMANS 8:4

THIS SHOULD BEEN DONE LONG AGO! YOU HAVE ALLOWED YOUR FLESH TO RULE YOUR LIFE FOR TOO LONG! THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST DECLARES THAT ALL AUTHORITY NOW BELONGS TO CHRIST AND THE RIGHT OF YOUR FLESH TO DOMINATE HAS BEEN TERMINATED - OR CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST. NOW THE WORK OF THE CROSS IN YOUR LIFE (I.E. THE SUFFERINGS YOU ENDOURE FOR JESUS' SAKE) IS AT WORK TO SLAY WHATEVER REMNANT OF INFLUENCE THE FLESH WRONGLY SEEKS TO EXERT. DO NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY THE FLESH'S PRETENDED AUTHORITY! YOU OWE IT NOTHING! GALATIANS 2:20/5:24 ROMANS 6:6-14 / 8:13 / GALATIANS 6:14

OF COURSE, THIS MEANS WAR! THE FLESH DOES NOT EASILY RELEASE ITS ERSTWHILE SLAVE - THAT IS, YOUR MIND! ALTHOUGH THE FLESH HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED, IT HAS ENGRAVED MANY PATTERNS OF LIFE UPON YOUR MIND, WHICH REMAIN TO BE RE-ROUTED! YOU ARE SUCH A CREATURE OF HABIT THAT RECONDITIONING YOUR LIFE TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT CAN BE A REAL STRUGGLE, AT TIMES! BUT DON'T GIVE IN! FIGHT LIKE A MAN! SEE: ROMANS 7:21-23 / 12:2 I PETER 1:14-15 / I COR. 16:13

FIRST LESSON: Who Are You? THERE'S MORE TO YOU THAN MEETS THE EYE. LIKE AN ICEBERG, MOST OF YOU IS BELOW THE SURFACE. IN FACT, TWO-THIRDS OF YOU IS INVISIBLE! TO IGNORE SPIRITUAL REALITY IS TO EMBRACE IGNORANCE, BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE MORE THAN MERE PHYSICAL BEINGS! LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO YOU... I THESSALONIANS 5:23

*Unrepentant attitudes will cause "hypocrisy".* I [Paul] preached that they must repent of their sins and turn to God and do the things that would show they had repented. (Acts 26:20.) / Why do you call me "Lord, Lord," and yet don't do what I tell you? / If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples; you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. / Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Luke 6:46, John 8:31, Matthew 5:16.) / Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. (James 3:17.)

*God wants us to always do what is right, but he is understanding and merciful:* If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (I John 1:5-9.)

*God asks his children to accept his forgiveness, to fully forgive themselves, to relax and enjoy life.*

*Christianity is not following a set of "do this, don't do that" rules. It is a personal relationship with a powerful, loving God.*

*Some selections from John 14-15 help explain the relationships within the one God [Father, Son, Holy Spirit] and between God and a believer:*

Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say "Show us the Father?" Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. / If you love me, you will obey my commandments. I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever. He is the Spirit, who reveals the truth about God. / Whoever accepts my commandments and obeys them is the one who loves me; I too will love him and reveal myself to him. ... My Father will love him, and my Father and I will come to him and live with him. / I am the real vine and my Father is the gardener. ... Remain united to me, and I will remain united to you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it can do so only if it remains in the vine. In the same way you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me. / As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

*This God-to-believer spiritual connection was predicted in a prophecy written at about 600 B.C.:* "The time is coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel... I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. (Jeremiah 31:31-34.)

In union with Christ and through our faith in him we have the boldness to go into God's presence with all confidence. ... I ask God from the wealth of his glory to give you power through his Spirit to be strong in your inner selves, and I pray that Christ will make his home in your hearts through faith. I pray that you may have your roots and foundation in love, so that you, together with all God's people, may have the power to understand how broad and long, how high and deep, is Christ's love. (Ephesians 3:12,16-18.)

*The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them.* (John 15:13.)

*The crucifixion of Jesus (Luke 22 & 23) was not an accident; it was an important part of Jesus's ministry on Earth, and is the basis for God's plan of salvation (see Colossians 1:13-23 & 2:8-15, II Corinthians 5:15-21, and many Old Testament passages).* ... I am willing to give up my life, in order that I may receive it back again. No one takes my life away from me. I give it up of my own free will. ... This is what my Father has commanded me to do. (John 10:17-18.)

*The resurrection of Jesus (Luke 24:36-43) is the foundation of Christian faith:* If Christ has not been raised, then your faith is a delusion and you are still lost in your sins. (I Corinthians 15:14.)

*Compare the disciples' actions before and after The Resurrection. Before:* The time is coming, and is already here, when all of you will be scattered, each one to his own home, and I will be left all alone. / *It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities.* (John 16:32 & 20:19-21.) *After:* So they [Jerusalem's ruling council] called them back in and told them that under no condition were they to speak or to teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, "You yourselves judge which is right in God's sight, to obey you or to obey God. For we cannot stop speaking of what we ourselves have seen and heard." [Another confrontation is in Acts 5:12-42.] *What caused this radical change, from cowardice to courage? What did they see and hear?*

"God has raised this very Jesus from death, and we are all witnesses to this fact." *Did Peter & John & the other disciples live and die (all but one were eventually executed for their beliefs) for what they knew was a lie? Or did they really see the risen Jesus?* (Acts 4:18-20, 2:32.)

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us ... Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away [Why? Read II Corinthians 1:3-11 & 4:1-12], yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. For we know that when this tent we live in - our body here on earth - is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home he himself made, which will last forever. (II Corinthians 4:14-18. 5:1.)

### FAITH IN ACTION

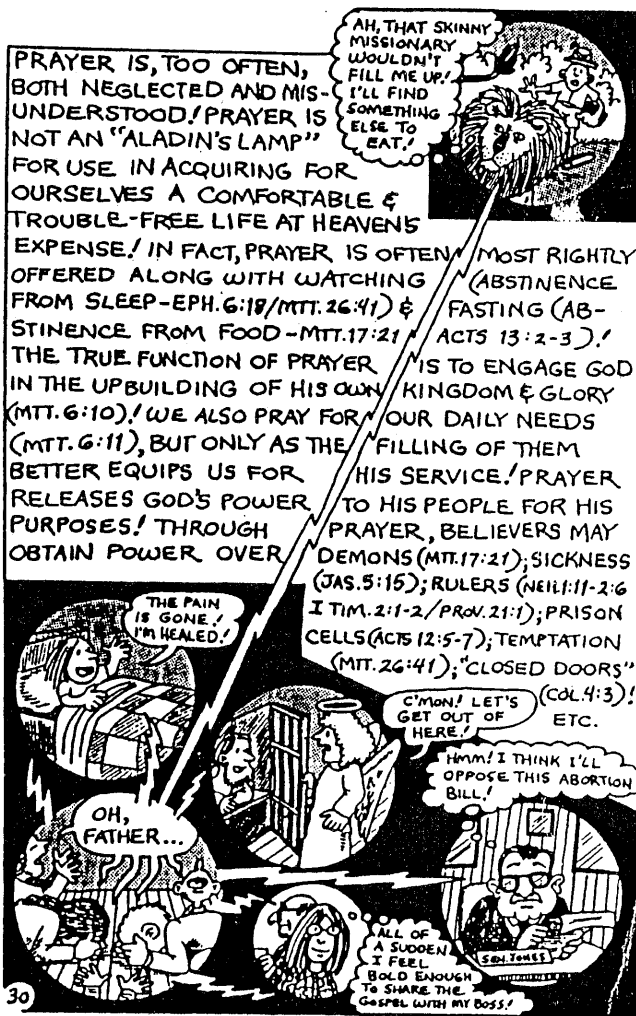
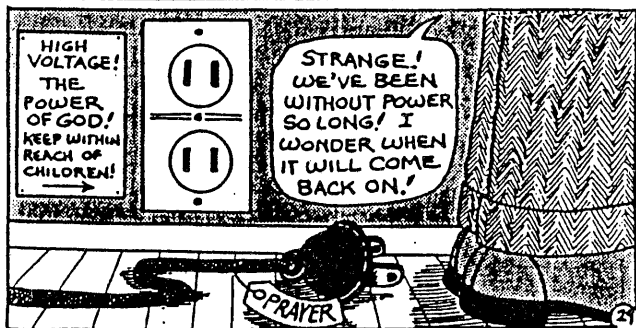
And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6.)

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it. My Father's glory is shown by your bearing much fruit; and in this way you become my disciples. / This is the assurance we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him. (John 15:7-8, I John 5:14-15.)

In Exodus 17, Moses prayed on a hill above the field where Joshua was defending Israel against attack: As long as Moses held up his hands [to ask for and receive God's power and blessing for Joshua's action], the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. (Exodus 17:11.)

Eventually, the combination of faithful prayer (by Moses) and faithful action (by Joshua) brought victory. This illustrates an important principle: God wants us to pray as if everything depended on him, and to take responsible action (in line with his commandments) as if everything depended on us.

GOD HAS GIVEN MANKIND THE CHARGE OF THIS PLANET (PS. 8:6/PS.115:16) AND GENERALLY DOES NOT GREATLY INTERFERE TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES UNTIL HE IS INVITED THROUGH PRAYERS OF EARTHLINGS! PRAYING PEOPLE, THEREFORE, ARE PEOPLE WHO MOVE THE HAND OF GOD TO ACT IN HIS OWN INTERESTS (ISA.45:11)! GREAT RESPONSIBILITY RESTS UPON US IN THIS MATTER! THE LACK OF FAITH ON THE PART OF THOSE WHO SHOULD BE PRAYING HAS OFTEN LIMITED GOD'S ABILITY TO BRING ABOUT HIS DESIGNS (MK.6:5-6/PS. 78:41)!



NOTE: WE PRAY IN THE SPIRIT (JUDE 20) & IN JESUS' NAME (JN. 16:23)

God's supernatural action can "transform you inwardly" (Romans 12:1, as discussed earlier), change outward circumstances (Exodus 17), or give physical healing (Matthew 15:29-31).

The Bible contains many "miracles", including the design & creation of the universe (Genesis 1:1, John 1:1-3,14, Hebrews 1:2-3) / Jesus has control over food (John 2:1-12, Matthew 14:13-21 & 15:29-39), fish (Luke 5:1-11, Matthew 17:24-27, John 21:1-14), the wind and sea (Matthew 8:23-27 & 14:13-33), disease (the gospels are packed with healing and deliverance, including action-at-a-distance as in Matthew 8:5-13), death (Luke 7:11-17 & 8:40-56, John 11:1-57, Luke 23:26 to 24:53), and everything else (Matthew 28:18, Luke 10:22, John 5:16-30, Colossians 1:15-20 & 2:10, Ephesians 1:2-23, I Peter 3:22).

Jesus gave his disciples authority to act "in his name": John 14:9-14, Acts 2:43, 3:1-16, 5:12-16, 6:8, 8:5-8, 14:8-15, 15:12, 19:11-20, 28:1-10; plus jailbreaks (Acts 5:17-26, 12:1-19, 16:16-34) and more, including present-day miracles.

The Old Testament reports many miraculous events (especially during Israel's deliverance: read Exodus 1-17 & Joshua 1-8), including two resuscitations (I Kings 17:1-24, II Kings 4:1-44).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ... The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1: 1-4, 14.) And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. ... you loved me before the creation of the world. (John 17:5.24.)

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. (Psalm 19:1.)

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. (Revelation 4:11.)

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. (Hebrews 1:2-4.)

Jesus Christ ... has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand — with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. (I Peter 3:22.) All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. / All things have been committed to me by my Father. (Matthew 28:18. / Luke 10:22.)

*Is the Creator-and-Ruler of the universe a solid foundation on which to build your life? Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. (Matthew 7:24-27.)*

*Notice that the storm comes against both, but the rock-solid foundation of one house allows it to survive without permanent harm. Does God guarantee that a Christian's life will be free of trouble? In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. (John 16:33.) / I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:12-13.)*

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28.)

You can buy two sparrows for a penny; yet not a single one of them falls to the ground without your Father's consent. As for you, even the hairs of your head have all been counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth much more than many sparrows! (Matthew 10:29-31.) / Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe, in union with Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7.)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. (II Corinthians 1:3-4.)

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. (Romans 12:15-16.)

... as often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone, and especially to those who belong to our family in the faith. (Galatians 6:10.)

Paul, in his letter to the church of Galatia: You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were united with Christ in baptism have been clothed with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:26-28.) / God wants people within his body (see Ephesians 1:17-23 & 2:11-22 & 4:1-16) to cooperate, to support and encourage each other: Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (Hebrews 10:23-24.)

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Colossians 3:23-24.)

Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. (John 6:27.) Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:20-21.)

Because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer. (Romans 12:1.) ... offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life, and surrender your whole being to him to be used for righteous purposes. (Romans 6:13)

Let us rid ourselves of everything that gets in the way, and of the sin which holds on to us so tightly, and let us run with determination the race that lies before us. (Hebrews 12:1,)

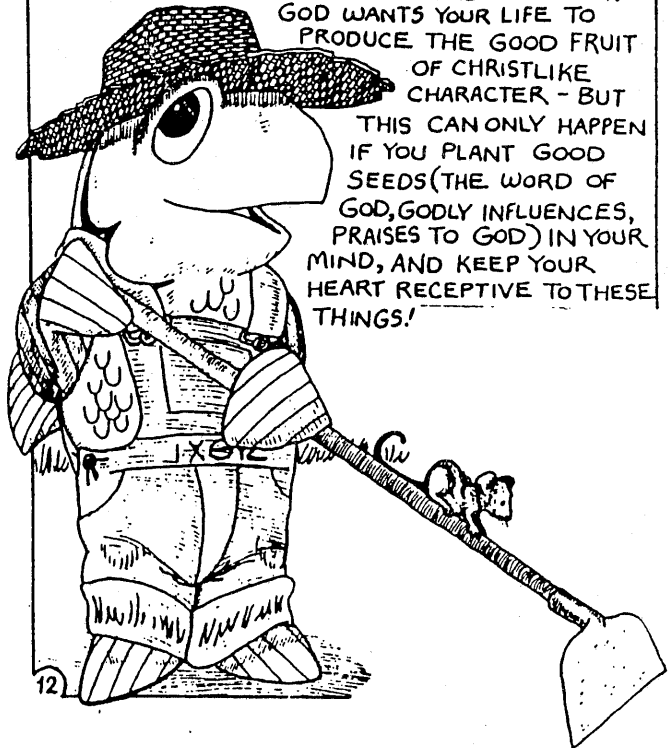
[Paul, just before his death] The time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day - and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. (II Timothy 4:6-8.)

After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ... The man with the two talents also came. "Master," he said, "you have entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more." His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25:19,22-23.)

The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. (Matthew 13:45-46.)



YOU'D THINK A FARMER PRETTY DUMB WHO WANTED TO HARVEST CORN, BUT WHO PLANTED ONLY WHEAT! YET MANY PEOPLE MAKE A SIMILAR MISTAKE IN THEIR SPIRITUAL LIVES. YOUR SOUL IS LIKE A FIELD, WHICH WILL BEAR SOME KIND OF "FRUIT."



IT'S TOO EASY TO LET THE WORLD FILL YOUR HEAD WITH ITS SPIRIT-QUENCHING PHILOSOPHY. YOU MUST AVOID AND COUNTERACT SUCH INFLUENCES BY SINGING AND PRESENTING YOU HEART TO GOD CONTINUALLY. (PHIL 4:8)

## SALVATION & JUDGEMENT

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." (John 11:25-27.)

Just as the Father is himself the source of life, in the same way he has made his Son to be the source of life. And he has given the Son the right to judge, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be surprised at this; the time is coming when all the dead will hear his voice and come out of their graves: those who have done good will rise and live, and those who have done evil will rise and be condemned. (John 5:19-23/26-29.)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. (John 3:16-18.)

God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:11-12.) / "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me." (John 14:1-3.) / If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. (Luke 9:26.) / Salvation is found in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12.)

### Is being a "nice person" what God requires?

For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it. (Ephesians 2:8-9.)

For no one is put right in God's sight by doing what the Law requires ["the Law" was a set of rules God asked Old Testament believers to obey]; what the Law does is to make man know that he has sinned. But now God's way of putting people right with himself has been revealed. It has nothing to do with law, even though the Law of Moses and the prophets gave their witness to it. God puts men right through their faith in Jesus Christ. God does this to all who believe in Christ, because there is no difference at all: everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. But by the free gift of God's grace all are put right with him through Christ Jesus,

who sets them free. God offered him, so that by his sacrificial death he should become the means by which people's sins are forgiven through their faith in him. (Romans 3:20-25.)

What about people who have never heard of Jesus? The Gentiles do not have the Law; but whenever of their own free will they do what the Law commands, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the Law. Their conduct shows that what the Law commands is written in their hearts. Their consciences also show that this is true, since their thoughts sometimes accuse them and sometimes defend them. And so, according to the Good News I preach, this is how it will be on that Day when God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the secret thoughts of men. (Romans 2:14-16.)

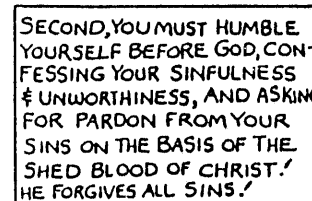
For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. (Luke 8:17.) / Do not deceive yourselves; no one makes a fool of God. A person will reap exactly what he plants. If he plants in the field of his natural desires, from it he will gather the harvest of death; if he plants in the field of the Spirit, from the Spirit he will gather the harvest of eternal life. So let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest. (Galatians 6:7-9.) // For sin pays its wage - death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23.)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

You can come to know God through his son Jesus Christ, and be born again by the Spirit of God! Here's how:



FIRST, YOU MUST BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS THAT ① JESUS DIED TO MAKE PAYMENT FOR YOUR SINS WITH HIS OWN BLOOD! ② THAT HE AROSE ALIVE AGAIN 3 DAYS LATER AND LIVES FOREVER AS KING OF KINGS & LORD OF LORDS



SECOND, YOU MUST HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE GOD, CONFESSING YOUR SINFULNESS & UNWORTHINESS, AND ASKING FOR PARDON FROM YOUR SINS ON THE BASIS OF THE SHED BLOOD OF CHRIST. HE FORGIVES ALL SINS!



FINALLY, TURN FROM YOUR SINS AND GIVE JESUS FULL REIGN OVER YOUR EVERY THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED. HE WILL SEND HIS SPIRIT TO LIVE IN YOU AND MAKE YOU A NEW CREATURE WITH ALL THE PAST FORGOTTEN!