JESUS

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Introduction

There is not a more important topic to be discussed than Jesus. In Him we can find everything we need. Jesus said this of Himself. This is found in John 14:6. “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” He is the only way that we can come to God. John 1:4 says, “In him was life; and the life was the light of men.” He is life and He is light. Matthew 7:24 says, “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock” Following His teaching will enable the house of our life to stand through the greatest storms. Ephesians 1:7 says, “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.” In Him we have redemption and forgiveness. John 10:11 says, “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.” He is our good shepherd. In this book we will talk about bunches of more things that Jesus does for us and what He is to us. 2 Peter 1:3 sums it all up nicely. “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.” Like I said. There is not a more important topic to talk about than Jesus.

Sometimes, if we aren’t careful, we won’t realize all that we can find in Jesus. It is like being a best friend to someone who is so wealthy that he could give us everything we need, but we don’t realize how rich he is so we never ask for anything. I pray that when you read this book you realize all the riches that Jesus has and how those riches can enrich your life. I pray that you will get a glimpse into His character so that you can begin to trust Him even more. I pray that you will get a glimpse into His love so that you can wrap yourself up in it and never let it go. I pray that you honor this love so much that you are willing to let go of the sin that you are caught in and you realize that He can help you be set free and to stay free. John 8:36 says, “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” I pray that you realize how your life can change just by getting to know your Savior. I have divided this book into three parts. I have called the first part Jesus In the Past. The second part is called Jesus In the Present. The third part I have called Jesus in the Future. The first part talks about the glimpses of Jesus we

see in the Old Testament. The second part talks about who He is for us today. The third part talks about who He will be. In that part, we will talk about glimpses of Jesus that we see in the book of Revelation. Through all of these sections, I pray that you will get a glimpse of His power and might, His authority, and a glimpse of His character. I pray that through this book you get to know Jesus.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

To get an idea of what I am going to talk about in this section you have to remember this. Jesus is talked about in many places in the Old Testament. The first time He shows up isn't when He was born in a manger, but He was around long before that. The first time He shows up in the Bible is in Genesis. John 1:1-5 explains this. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." Verse 9 says, "That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." We have to realize that Jesus was there in the beginning when God made everything.

I look at it this way. God knows everything. He sees the past and the future and the present all at one time. One way that I explain this is that He is so big that all of time (present, past, and future) sets inside of Him. When He created man, He knew that He would have to send His Son to die for our sins. So He had a Son ready to send from the beginning.

I have had many people ask me this question. Why did God create man if He knew that He would have to send His Son to die for us? We can find the answer to that question in John 17:22-23. This is one of the last recorded prayers that Jesus prayed before He was arrested before his crucifixion. His prayer is recorded in chapter 17. Please read this whole chapter. It will bless you. I repeat. Please read all of John 17. It will really bless you. "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." Through the Bible we see how much God loved His Son. Jesus was His only Son. In this prayer, Jesus prays that we may know that God loves us as much as God loved Him. That is why God created us. He created us to love.

How much does God love us? John 3:16 explains how much. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” You see when God created us He had His eye on eternity. He knew that forever we would walk and talk with Him. For eternity we would fellowship with Him. In the light of all of this, I want to add one thing here. We can do a lot of things for God, but the most important thing that we can do is to fellowship with Him.

So let’s carry on from here. In a chapter coming up we will talk about glimpses of Jesus that we see in the Old Testament. But first I want to talk about God.

God

We can’t talk about Jesus without first talking about God. We mentioned earlier how God knew before He created man that He would have to send His son to die on the cross for us. Still He created us. That is a picture of His love. It is my prayer that by reading this book you realize how much God loves you. (The only thing special about this book is that it is filled with scriptures. That makes it very special indeed.) When you get a glimpse of God’s love, you will be rooted and grounded in faith. When you get a picture of how much God loves you, fear will fade away as you learn that you can trust God. Ephesians 3:17-19 says “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.” The love of God and the love of Jesus pass knowledge. The love of both of them is so great that we can’t comprehend it with our small, simple, little human minds. When you begin to understand it, it will change how you think. It will change how you see yourself.

When I first came to the Lord, I was carrying a lot of spiritual and mental baggage because of the sins that I had been involved in. I had totally wrecked my life. (I just want to add a little note here. The world has been taught that God loves us so we can do anything we want to do because He will forgive us. That is some messed up thinking taught by some spoiled people

who only want their own way. God loves us so He wants to keep us away from the things that can destroy us.) I had some huge self esteem issues. That is what sin will do to you. When I began to see God's love, it unlocked me and I was able to love myself. That is what God's love can do. I will give you my full testimony coming up in a later chapter.

Let me give you a deeper picture of God's love. In my own life I see how God takes care of the details in my life to cause me to become more like Him. Even the battles the devil brings against me only turn out for my good. The worst things that I have been through (and I have been through some bad things) God has used them all to polish me and make me shine. Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (With all of that going on, how can you lose?) He sees all of my imperfections and weaknesses and works in me to make all of those things to become my strengths. He knows me better than I know myself and He loves me in spite of myself. I used to think that I had to be perfect for God to love me. Now I have begun to see that He doesn't love me because I am perfect but He loves me because He is perfect. He sees all of the details of who I am and He also sees all the details of who I will one day be. He sees all of the details of who I will be for eternity. He sees me as an individual and loves me as an individual.

What is the most awesome thing about God in my opinion, is that He loves all of His children all over the world in this same way. He sees us all as individuals and loves us all as individuals and has a plan for each one of us. He is working out His plan in all of our lives. He is doing all of this at once. He has a great love for each of us. There are no big I's and little you's in God. He sees us all the same. He loves us all the same. His plan is just as important in your life as in any of His children's lives. In my opinion that is huge. He sees us all as individuals and works in our lives all at the same time.

One of the first verses I learned is John 3:16. You probably know that verse by heart. We have already mentioned this verse, but I will repeat it many times in this book. It is that important. God's love is why Jesus came. We read in Genesis 3 how God would walk and talk with Adam

and Eve. But the devil tricked them into sinning. Then there was a huge barrier between man and God. God couldn't hang out with sinners. But He knew this would happen long before it did and He had a plan so that we could be forgiven. He sent His perfect son to die for our sins. He took our punishment so that we could go free. Now God can walk and talk with us.
I want to talk about what Jesus did for you. Jesus lived in heaven where He was King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He came down to earth and became a baby who had to have His diapers changed. He humbled Himself that much. He went through a lot of rejection. He went through a lot of pain before and during His crucifixion. He gladly did it all so that we could walk with God and so that we could walk with Him. That is how much He loves us.

Glimpses of Jesus in the Old Testament

I already explained that the first glimpse we get of Jesus, is when God created the heavens and the earth. I believe that Jesus was who God was talking to in Genesis 1:26. He said this when He was ready to create man. "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." Jesus was there when God created man.

There are several times Jesus showed up in the Old Testament. One time He showed up in a fiery furnace walking with the men that were there. He was protecting them. We read this story in Daniel 3. King Nebuchadnezzar commanded that everyone is his kingdom had to bow down to worship a golden idol. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to do that. Their punishment was that they were thrown into a fiery furnace. It was so hot that it burned the men up that had thrown them in the furnace. When they looked into the furnace, the king made this comment in verse 24-25. "Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counselors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." Sometimes people speak things and they don't realize what they are saying. I know that Nebuchadnezzar had not seen Jesus? How did he know that he saw Jesus

there? I believe that God gave him that knowledge. Jesus was there walking in the midst of them and they were not burned. (Just an added note here. When we think of this story, when we go through the fiery trials in our life, we can know that He is walking with us. When we are going through trials and battles, He will be there with us.)

We see more glimpses of Jesus in the Old Testament. We see bunches of them. I am going to concentrate on the glimpses of Jesus that we see the book of Psalms. We will talk about more glimpses in other parts of the Old Testament coming up, but for now I want to share with you glimpses of Jesus in the book of Psalms. David talked about Jesus a lot. Here are a few of those.

Psalms 2:7 and 12
"I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him." It is easy to see who the Son is.

Psalm 9:8
"And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness." One of the titles given Jesus in the Bible is a righteous judge.

Psalm 10:16
"The LORD is King for ever and ever: the heathen are perished out of his land." One of the titles given Jesus in the Bible is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He will be King forever. No one else will be able to do that.

Psalm 22:27
"All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee." We read in Revelation 11:15, "And the seventh angel

sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."

Psalm 24:9-10

"Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah."

Psalm 16:10

"For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." God didn't leave Jesus in the ground to rot, but He raised Him from the dead before that happened. Paul mentioned this verse in a sermon he preached after Jesus was resurrected. His sermon is found in Acts 13:35-36. "Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption."

Psalm 89:26-29

"He shall cry unto me, Thou art my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation. Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth. My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him. His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven." Could this be about any one else but Jesus.

Psalm 118:22

"The stone which the builders refused is become the headstone of the corner." This was quoted by Peter in 1 Peter 2:6-7, "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.
Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner."

There are also bunches of scriptures that talk about Jesus in the book of Isaiah. Here are just a few of them. In it we get a picture of what Jesus went through. We also see a picture of His nature, of what He is like. Remember this. Isaiah lived nearly 800 years before Jesus was born.

Isaiah 9:6-7

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counseller, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 11:1-5 and 10

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious." Jesus was born of the seed of Jesse. He was born in Jesse's family line.

Isaiah 42:1-4

Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking

flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law. (I think of this verse when I think of Jesus' compassion for the weak. In other words when people are weak, Jesus will protect them and not let them be broken or let their fire be put out.)

Isaiah 49:16

Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me. (This is one of my favorite verses. When you think of the palms of Jesus you think of the nail scars they made when they hung Him on the cross. When you doubt that Jesus loves you, remember you are engraved in the palms of His hands when He died for you.)

Isaiah 50:6-7

I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. (They beat Jesus back with a cat of nine tails which was nine pieces of leather with pieces of bone and metal tied on. Just a few stripes would open His back up. He was beaten 39 times with this whip. By the time they were done his bones were exposed. Isaiah 53:5 says He was beaten so we could be healed. They plucked off his beard and spit on him. He endured all of this because of His love for you.)

Isaiah 53 (I am including this whole chapter. When you read this think about all Jesus went through.)

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it

were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, (for our sins) he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." (I want to remind you again that Isaiah lived 800 years before Jesus was born.

In this scripture we read how Jesus was despised and rejected by the very people that He came to die for. If you are like me, then you once despised and rejected Him but still He had compassion on you and gave you every opportunity to come to Him. He endured a lot even before He hung on the cross. The cross was such a cruel punishment that the Romans declared that it was illegal for a Roman citizen to die that way. Yet He did this for you. In Matthew 26:53 Jesus said, "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" That would be around 60,000 angels. If He would have asked His Father, He could have sent those angels to spare Him from what He would have to go through. But He didn't. We have talked many times about why He didn't. He did this for love. So what is our part? What do we need to do in return for that great love? A love that great demands something of us. Our part is to love Him back. Our part is to give

Him all of ourselves-our hearts and minds and our life-to Him. Our part is to yield our will to him. Didn't He give us His all? Didn't He yield His will for us? I am sure that part of Him didn't want to suffer all He had to suffer. Isn't yielding to someone an outcome of love? We are to love Him back for all He did for us. We don't even have enough love to love Him in return. He will give us His love and that love will be enough to love Him with. We don't have anything to give Him. He doesn't need us. He doesn't need anything we have to give Him. He doesn't need our money. He doesn't need us to work for Him (but that is an outcome of our love). He simply desires that we love Him. And that love will change our lives.

I mentioned earlier that we would talk coming up about more places that Jesus is mentioned in the Old Testament. In the next chapter we will talk about prophecies that were mentioned about Jesus and all of them came true. Coming up.

Prophecies in the Old Testament About Jesus

A definition of prophecy is a prediction of something to come. One of the proofs that the Bible is God's Word are the prophecies that are found in it. One example of prophecies being fulfilled is that there are bunches of things that are happening in the world today that were recorded in the Bible thousands of years ago. Also, there are hundreds of prophecies that were written about Jesus and all of them came true exactly in every detail. Many of them were written hundreds of years before He was even born. I will give you a sneak peak. One of the examples of a prophecy is that soldiers would gamble for Jesus robe at the foot of the cross. When you read that account of Jesus crucifixion you see that is exactly what happened. I am sure that the soldiers didn't get out their Bible and say, "Boys, this is what we are supposed to do here." They didn't even know the scriptures but they did what that person wrote under the inspiration of God's Spirit. I want to repeat this because it is important to know. Prophesies are proof that the Bible is inspired by God.

When you read these prophecies and how they were fulfilled, it causes you to realize how important it is to God that He keeps His Word. Isaiah 55:11 says, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." You can count on God to

keep His Word. He cannot lie. What He says, He will do. So the things He promised that will come up in the future, you can trust that they will be done as He wrote them.

Here are just some of the prophecies that came true about Jesus. There were hundreds of them that were written in the Bible. As I mentioned, many of them were written hundreds of years before Jesus was born. I have written the place where the prophecy was recorded and the verse that proved the prophecy was fulfilled. When a prophecy comes true we say it has been fulfilled. Here goes. It is a long list and I only listed a few of them.

Genesis 18:18

Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

Was fulfilled in Acts 3:25-26

Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Micah 5:2

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Was fulfilled in Matthew 2:1

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem.

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Was fulfilled in Matthew 1:18

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Jeremiah 31:15

Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.

Was fulfilled in Matthew 2:16

Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.

Hosea 11:1

When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

Was fulfilled in Matthew 2:14

When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

Isaiah 11:2

And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

Was fulfilled in Luke 2:52

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

And was fulfilled in Matthew 3:16-17

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Was fulfilled in John 12:12-14

On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written, Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt.

Psalm 41:9

Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

Was fulfilled in Mark 14:10

And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them.

Zechariah 11:12

And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver.

Was fulfilled in Matthew 26:15

And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

Zechariah 11:13

And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

Was fulfilled in Matthew 27:6-8

And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.

Psalm 109:5-8

And they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love. Set thou a wicked man over him: and let Satan stand at his right hand. When he shall be judged, let him be condemned: and let his prayer become sin. Let his days be few; and let another take his office.

Was fulfilled in Ats 1:25-26

That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Psalms 27:12

Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.

Was fulfilled in Matthew 26:59-60

Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none.

Psalms 22:16

For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

Was fulfilled in John 20:27

Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side (He was telling Thomas to feel the scars that were there): and be not faithless, but believing.

Zechariah 12:10

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Was fulfilled in John 19:34

But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

Psalms 69:21

They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Was fulfilled in John 19:29

Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a spunge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.

Psalms 22:18

They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

Was fulfilled in Mark 15:24

And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take.

Psalms 34:20

He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken

Was fulfilled in John 19:33

But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

This closes this part of the book that talked about Jesus in the Old Testament. Again I want to mention this. God is very concerned that He keeps His Word. Remember there are hundreds of prophecies that were written about Jesus in the Bible. All of them came true to the very details. There are many other prophecies that foretold what would happen in countries and all of them have come to pass. All of prophecies in the Bible that foretell things coming in the future will all come true just as all of the prophecies that told about things in the past came true. We can count on God to keep His Word. Now coming up we will talk about who Jesus is to us who live today.

Jesus in the Present

Introduction

To start out this part of the book, I want to give my testimony. It is my up-close and personal view of what Jesus can do for us.

I went to college at Radford University. Up until that time I had lived a sheltered life. When I got there, I was surrounded by a lot of things to choose from. Unfortunately I chose the worst things. It didn't take long for me to ruin my soul and mind. You could say that I definitely departed from my faith. You name it, I did it. One of the worst effects this had on me was that I became an alcoholic. I became a fourth generation alcoholic. I wrecked my life so bad that I lost hope that I could get better. I tried to kill myself. I was determined to drive my vehicle over a cliff over the river. I told God, "God if you are real then help me survive. If you aren't, then I have no hope." Evidently God is real. I was speeding. I went around steep curves and didn't even squall tire. I wasn't even on the road. But I made it. Jesus reached out His hand to me in that moment. I took it and my life has never been the same.

I want to talk about what Jesus brought into my life. The most important thing that He brought into my life was forgiveness. I had done a lot of things that I couldn't face doing. I hated myself for all of the things I had done. You see, sad to say, I had been raised in church. I had a lot of scars inside my head and heart from the things that I had done because I knew better than to do them. I was forgiven and that gave me a brand new start. The old was done away with.

Because of my lifestyle and the choices I made, I was living in perpetual darkness. I had no light in my life. I had no joy in my life. I had long ago forgotten what it means to have peace. I had so long been trapped in lies that I couldn't find the truth that I needed, even though I had grown up in it. It was in shadows. Then I saw it. I saw the light that Jesus can bring. Jesus Himself spoke of that light in John 8:12. "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the

light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." His light broke through my darkness. I was like a zombie. I was one of the walking dead. John 11:25 says, "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." Jesus brought me alive. He resurrected me out of the spiritual grave I was in. He became my way, my truth, and my life. John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

It took a while but Jesus set me free from all of the things that had bound up my life. One of the first to go was my alcoholism. Down through the years, I have watched Jesus set alcoholics and drug addicts free. If you want to be set free, don't run and hide from the Lord. He sees everything and He is willing to help you if you will reach out to Him and yield it all to Him. When you do, you will find that He will set you free. You will find this to be true. John 8:36 says, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

Jesus gave me hope again. I had lost hope that I could ever change. When I saw the miracles He was working in my life just by coming into my heart, it renewed my hope. Paul wrote this in the introduction to the book of Timothy. It is found in 1 Timothy 1:1, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope." He is our hope.

I found peace again. Jesus said this of Himself in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid." When I let Jesus into my life, I found peace for real.

I mentioned earlier that most of all I found forgiveness. Because of all my sins, I had a lot of scars in my heart and mind. I couldn't forgive myself and I doubted that God would forgive me. At first I couldn't accept the love of Jesus. I couldn't open up to it. I was so afraid that He would reject me. I had shut myself up from His love. He did an amazing thing that set me free from this. I could almost see His hands reaching out to me. I could almost see them with my natural eyes. I could see the nail scars in His hands. He spoke to me and said, "I did this for

you." I knew that Jesus had died for the whole world, but in the moment it became personal. I knew that He had died for me. In that moment I was set free from the things that were binding me separating me from His love. I knew that I was forgiven. I knew that I could forgive myself because He had forgiven me. John 3:16 became real and personal. You are forgiven.

That was the beginning of my relationship with God's Son, Jesus. Through the years I have been far from perfect. It took me years to figure out that our relationship wasn't based on my perfection. He didn't love me because I was perfect. He knows I am not perfect. He knows me better than I know myself. He didn't love me because I was perfect, but He loved me because He is perfect. I learned to trust His love because He has a perfect love.

I can say that I have entered into a new phase of my relationship with Jesus. As we grow in God, we will do that. I am spending time with Him and enjoying the fellowship I have with Him. We have talked about this before. God created us to love us. He desires our fellowship. He desires our love. He wants to have a real and genuine relationship with us. He wants to love you and wants you to love Him. I am coming to that realization. That has totally changed my focus. I have made it a priority to spend time with Him. It took some life rearranging, but I have done this and it has changed my whole life. As I spend more time with Him, He is really rubbing off on me. I can feel my anointing growing. I can feel the compassion that I have for others growing. My desire to serve Him is growing.

We can read many verses that talk about Jesus' compassion. Matthew 14:14, "And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick." Matthew 15:32 says, "Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way." In Luke 7:12-13 we read, "Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not."

Then He raised her son from the dead. The definition of compassion is that you feel someone's distress deeply and you want to do something to stop their distress.

Jesus has compassion on you. In those times when the enemy is causing you to feel that Jesus doesn't care what you are going through, remember these scriptures. He knows you better than you know yourself. He knows what you are feeling. He knows what you are going through and He has compassion on you. This is just a little side note here. Jesus had gone to the mountains to pray. He sent the disciples on. They were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee and a terrible storm came up. The disciples feared for their lives. They saw Jesus walking toward them. When He came to them, the storm stopped. It was dark. It was in the middle of a huge storm. Jesus went right straight to them. He didn't have to search for them. He knew exactly where they were. He had compassion on them and stopped the storm. He knows exactly where you are. He knows the storm that you are in. He has compassion on you. In His time, He will stop your storm. Until them, you are held in His hands. You are engraved in the palm of His hands.

I want to mention something here. God doesn't promise that we will not have battles and storms. If you have been serving God for any length of time, I am sure you know that you will have those. He does promise you His strength. He promises His victory. He promises His peace of mind through the storms and battles. He promises He will make a way to escape. He promises that He will be there with you. He promises that it will turn out for your good. (Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." I know I have repeated this verse several times but it is important enough that it needs to be repeated.

What Jesus Can Be To You

John 14:6 says, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jesus is the way that was made so that we can gain access to God. Because He died and took the punishment for our sin, we could be forgiven. If He would have had any sin, He would not have been able to take the punishment for ours. We can trust that He

is perfect because of this. Because He took the punishment for our sins, we can be forgiven and we can have a relationship with God. We can walk with God. Because He died and we can be forgiven, we can have eternal life. Not only can we find eternal life in Jesus, but we can find an abundant life in Him. Jesus said in John 10:10, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Abundant means marked by great plenty. We will have a life full of good things. We will have battles. God doesn't promise that we won't have those. But when we do have those, we will walk with our Good Shepherd who will lead us through them all.

John 14:6 also says that Jesus is the truth. Jesus said this in John 8:32, "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Because He is true, if we walk in what He teaches us, we will be walking in the truth and His truth will set us free. Hey, all of the things I mentioned so far in this chapter are all found in just one verse. Wow. There are more things coming up talking about what Jesus is for us.

Jesus brought us redemption. Ephesians 1:7 says, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." Redemption means we were slaves to sin, but Jesus paid the price to set us free from slavery. Another definition of redemption says we were released from blame and changed for the better. When Jesus comes into your life, you will change for the better. If someone says they have gotten saved, but they haven't changed for the better, then you can seriously doubt that they have met the Lord.

One of my favorite scriptures tells about the change Jesus makes in us. Galatians 2:20 says, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." How can we change? How can we live the life we know that we need to live? We can't do it on our own. But you can do it by yielding to Jesus who lives in you. He will help you. That is my go to verse when I am serving God as well. I remember that I can do

whatever it is that God is asking me to do because Jesus in me will help me to do whatever God is asking me to do.

John 1:12 says, “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” Jesus gives us the power to become the sons of God if we believe on His name. We don’t have to believe in our own ability to become a son of God. We have to believe on His name. Our faith is in Jesus.

He is the foundation of our life. I Corinthians 3:11 says, “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” The second half of Ephesians 2:20 says, “… Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.” He is our chief cornerstone. A long time ago houses weren’t built on a foundation. Buildings were built on cornerstones. They were actually huge rocks. I know because our house is an older house that has been remodeled but it still has cornerstones. Believe me the rocks our house is built on won’t go anywhere. Jesus is our chief cornerstone. He won’t be shaken through the storms. Your foundation will hold when your life is built on Jesus. If we hear and do what Jesus tells us to do, then our lives will be built on a solid rock foundation and when the battles come and the storms come, we won’t be shaken.

To sum this chapter up, I want to close with a couple of verses. We have been given all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of Jesus. We read in 1 Corinthians 1:4-5, “I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge.” You are given everything you need through Jesus.

The Names of Jesus

In this section I want to talk about the names of Jesus. These are His names that are found in the Bible. You can tell how He is and what He will do for you by the names He is given. Here are only some of them.

He is the Almighty

He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end

He is the Amen

He is the Author and Finisher of our faith

He is the Beginning of the Creation of God

He is the Beloved Son

He is the Bread of Life

He is the Captain of our Salvation

He is the Chief Shepherd

He is the Chief Cornerstone

He is our Counselor

He is our Deliverer

He is the Door

He is the Faithful Witness

He is the First Begotten

He is the Good Shepherd

He is the Heir of all Things

He is the Holy One

He is the Image of God

He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

He is the Lamb That Was Slain

He is Life

He is the Light of the World

He is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah

He is Lord of All

He is Lord Our Righteousness

He is a Man of Sorrows well acquainted with grief

He is the Mediator (a mediator presents a connection between 2 parties)

He is the Messenger of the Covenant (covenant is a solemn and binding agreement or promise)

He is the Morning Star

He is the Prince of Life

He is the Prince of Peace

He is the Redeemer

He is Resurrection and Life

He is the Son of God and the Son of Man

He is the Son of Righteousness

He is the True Vine

He is Truth

He is the Word of God.

These are just some of the names that Jesus was given in the Bible. As I mentioned earlier, these names give clues of what He is, and what He can do for us.

I want to close this section of the book with several chapters that concentrate on certain areas that Jesus is for us. Jesus is our healer. He is our Good Shepherd. He is our victory. He gives us authority over the devil. These are coming up.

Jesus Is Our Healer

I want to dedicate a whole chapter to the thought that Jesus is our healer. I want to do this because so many people are sick. It seems like we have forgotten that Jesus is our healer. When we are sick, we run first to the doctors. Then when the doctors have done all they can do, we finally turn to the Lord. We need to get that turned around and we need to trust the Lord for our healing first.

Isaiah 53:5 says, “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” We have already talked about how the stripes that are mentioned talk about how the Roman soldiers beat their captives with a cat of nine tails. That was a whip made of 9 leather strips with bones and pieces of metal tied onto each one. Jesus was beaten with that whip 39 times. After being beaten that many times, his back bone was exposed. Why did He allow that to happen? He did that for our healing. I don’t understand how that worked, but I know it did. We don’t understand a lot of things that God does because we are definitely not God. We just have to receive by faith what He tells us.

I have a friend who was praying asking God to heal her. God told her to step to the back of the cross. God showed her the back of Jesus. He showed her what Jesus had suffered through for us to be healed. I ask you this one question. Will Jesus heal you after He went through what He suffered so you can be healed? Yes, He will heal you.

Here are some scriptures that mention healing. These are just a few of the scriptures about healing found in the Bible.

Psalm 91:9-10, 14-16: Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.

Psalm 103:1-5: Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy

youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalm 107:17, 19-21: Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses. He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Psalm 118:17: I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. (God has used this verse many times when I thought I was going to die. He would speak this verse to my heart and I knew that I would not die but live to declare His healing to others.)

Proverbs 4:20-24: My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Isaiah 41:10: Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. (This verse promises that we will have strength.)

Jeremiah 17:14: Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.

Jeremiah 30:17: For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord.

Matthew 15:30-31: And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.

(This scripture talks about Jesus' compassion for those around him who were sick. His compassion moved Him to heal them.)

As I mentioned earlier in this section, we need to go to Jesus first instead of last after the doctors mess us up so bad. I remember a man God had healed of cancer. He was healed after he was prayed for in a service where the Spirit of God was moving. His healing was verified by doctors. His family talked him into going through chemo and radiation treatments "just in case he wasn't healed". A doctor who didn't believe in healing recommended that he do that. Those treatments killed him. We need to be careful which voice we listen to. We need to accept God's Word that we are healed.

I know that some people say you shouldn't ever go to doctors. I am not saying this. There have been times when God led me to go to doctors. There have been times when my faith was weak because the devil was beating up on me. In those times, I needed to go to doctors. There have also been times when the process of my healing included doctors. But I have learned first to go to God for my healing.

I want to share with you some healing miracles that I have seen. All of these are verified to be true. The first I want to talk about is a wonderful story. I know this mom and have seen pictures of her son. When her son was born, his skull did not close up on the top of his head. There was a huge gap there. Doctors told her that he would probably not live long enough to go to school, and if he did live that long he wouldn't be able to learn anything. They told her that he would be severely mentally challenged.

They were in a church service where the Spirit of God was moving. The boy's grandmother started shouting. She danced in the Spirit over to where the baby was and laid hands on him. They took the baby back to the doctor. All the doctor could say was, "This is impossible. This is impossible." The babies' skull had closed up. What was impossible with man was possible with God. That baby is now a young man in his 30's. He is so smart. His mother told me that if she wants to know anything she just asks him. He knows all of the presidents in order. He knows their wives. He knows what was going on in history when they were president. That is just one example of how smart he is. By Jesus' stripes that baby was healed.

A friend of mine was jogging along a highway and was hit by a car. His arm bone was shattered. This showed up on an x-ray. Later on to see how it was healing they did another x-ray. Imagine their surprise when they found that a new arm bone had grown to replace the shattered bone.

My mother was healed of lymph cancer. This had progressed to the place that it was in her bone marrow. She called me one night and told me that God showed her that people were praying for her and He told her that she was healed. She went to the doctor and found out that she was totally cancer free.

I want to tell about the most miraculous healing I experienced, and God has healed me many times. I was in a car wreck. When the 911 workers got to me I had blood on my arms and blood on my legs. I had blood on things on my car seat. But I didn't have a scratch on me. Talk about freaking out some 911 workers. To this day, I don't know what was wrong with me. But God knew and He fixed it.

When I first became a part of the ministry that I am in now (I have been a part of it for over 40 years), Bishop Goad was doing tent crusades. We saw many people healed in those crusades. Bishop Goad saw God heal a little boy who was born with no eyeballs in his eye sockets. They prayed for him and God gave him the prettiest blue eyes. In one crusade a woman wheeled her wheelchair up to Bishop Goad's wife and asked her to walk with her. She agreed. She started walking around the tent with the woman. The woman then started running. She came back to Bishop Goad's wife and explained that she had not been able to walk for many years. We have seen God heal several people who weren't able to walk.

Our ministry has a Bible College. There are 40 extensions that function under our college in 8 different countries. One of those extensions is in Alaska. The President of the college there told me his daughter had cancer and things weren't looking good for her. One day not long ago he gave me the report that she had been healed. Her doctor was amazed. He said this type of cancer was extremely aggressive and didn't go away. What the devil meant for her harm, God turned into a testimony of His greatness.

I have a friend who had cancer and it had eaten out the inside of her ears where the hearing mechanism is. She had become deaf because of this. God healed her. I talk to her on the

phone all of the time. I don't know how He fixed it, but I know that He did. And that is the important thing to know.

One of the most amazing healing testimonies that I have heard is a truly heart rending story. I heard this from a man that knew these people that this happened to. A drug addict got pregnant. She did not want to have the baby. She paid men to beat her in the stomach so that she would miscarry. She ran into things and let them hit her in the stomach so that she would miscarry. When the baby was born, it had a lot of things wrong with it. It was a drug baby, one born addicted to drugs. Doctors could tell that the baby had a lot of issues. One issue was deafness.

God led a Christian couple to adopt that baby. Keep in mind that they adopted it even after knowing all of its issues. Because they knew all of its issues, they took it to a doctor. The doctor who examined the baby said, "There is nothing wrong with this baby. He is totally healthy." God had healed that baby.

I wanted to share these testimonies with you to encourage your faith if you are believing God for healing. Just remember. Sometimes you have to hold on to a healing. It won't always come right away. But when it comes, it will be an even greater miracle than it would be if it came right away. Hold on to the scriptures. Hold on to the testimonies of others. Don't let go. Faith is believing what you don't see until you see what you believe. The enemy will try to talk you out of believing. Don't let him do that. Hold on until your healing is complete.

Jesus is Our Good Shepherd

Jesus is our good shepherd. When I think of shepherds, I think about how different they are from cowboys. Cowboys drive the cattle. Shepherds lead the sheep. They go before them leading them to all of the good things. Jesus talked about how He is our shepherd. This is what He said. It is found in John 10:2-15. I will add comments along with the scripture.

"But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when He putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they

know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers." I have talked to shepherds. They tell me that their sheep know their voice. They follow him because they know his voice. They do what he says for them to do and this keeps them safe. Because of this he can guide them. It is so important to be able to hear the voice of our Good Shepherd. He can lead us to be in the right place at the right time, and He can keep us from being in the wrong places. I will talk more about the importance of hearing God's voice later on in this chapter.

"Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." We have an enemy, the devil, who comes to steal, kill, and destroy. But Jesus comes that we might have an abundant life. He rules over the enemy and He gives us power over Him. What Jesus says goes. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep."

We can count on our Good Shepherd to stay with us. After all, He gave His life for you. Won't He stay with you? You can count on Him to be there for you. You can count on Him to be there for you always and forever. But this is conditional. If you turn away form your Good Shepherd and you refuse to stay with Him, this is your call. If you insist on running away from Him by the life that you lead, then you take yourself away from His care. He will do everything in His power to draw you back to Him, but it is your choice whether you allow Him to do that.

I talked about the importance of hearing our Shepherd's voice. I want to talk more about that. It is such an important topic. When we hear our Shepherd's voice, we can be in the right places

at the right times. We can be in the right place at the right time to get a blessing. Also, we can be in the right place at the right time to be used by the Lord. I want to give some illustrations about how this works. I remember a time when the Lord told me to go the Dollar General Store and told me the time I was to be there. I obeyed Him. I met a person I knew who was just getting in the vehicle to leave. God had timed me to get there just when I needed to get there. They gave a sizable donation to the ministry. I was glad that I obeyed my Good Shepherd's voice.

I remember during covid our freezer broke down. This was a time when it was really hard to find a freezer. The Lord showed me where to go and when to call to put my order in. This was at a place that I didn't even know in the natural that they had freezers. I had to leave my number and they would call before they delivered it. It they didn't get you, then they wouldn't deliver it. The Lord told me to call them a few days before they were to deliver it. I am glad I listened to His voice. They had my number wrong. The lady I talked to told me that there was bad news. The bad news was that they were all gone. Then she told me the good news. I had gotten the last one that was available. Again, I was glad I listened to the Lord and obeyed Him. Sometimes if we aren't careful we are so used to doing our own thing that we hear our Shepherd's voice and don't do what He says to do.

Also, hearing our Shepherd's voice keeps us out of the wrong places at the wrong times. I remember a time when I had washed my car and had laid my floor mats out on the grass to dry. I was getting ready to leave and the Lord told me to get my floor mats in. I thought to myself why would He tell me to do that. If we aren't careful, we can think away something the Lord is telling us to do. I got into my car but the feeling was so strong that I needed to get my floor mats in that I got back out. I was standing with my floor mats in my hands and there was a loud bang that shook the ground. I lived on a narrow street and there was a curve next to my house that narrowed so that only one vehicle could go around it at a time. A vehicle had come speeding down the hill and lost control and crashed into the tree in my neighbor's yard. It would have hit me head on. It hit the tree so hard that it knocked the motor back and pinned the man in. I probably wouldn't have survived that crash. Again I was glad I listened and did what the Lord told me to do.

There are some things that you need to do to be able to hear the voice of your Good Shepherd. One thing is that you need to get to know Him. If you don't know Him, you won't hear His voice. You need to spend time with Him. You need to get a relationship with Him that is real. Another thing is that you need to let go of your own will and seek to do His will. One of the things you have to do is to put your spoiled, selfish flesh aside and you have to want to do things His way.

I remember I hadn't been saved long and I wanted to hear His voice and obey Him, but I was having a hard time doing that. This is such an important key to unlock so much that the devil doesn't want you to be able to hear God's voice. He will do everything to keep you from hearing it. I want to remind you what Jesus said in the scripture I quoted. "My sheep hear my voice." You will hear His voice. God showed me something that really helped me. It was an illustration that He gave me. In this illustration I was upstairs and someone came in downstairs. I didn't know that person. This was the first time that I heard his voice. He came back several times. Then later when he came in, I knew who it was. That is how it is with our Good Shepherd's voice. The more we hear His voice the easier it will be to recognize it. We just have to be patient to get to that place.

Jesus is Our Victory

God put it on my heart to write this chapter at a time when He had delivered me from a battle I was going through. He set me free from a bondage that the devil had put against me. Sometimes you can be bound and not even realize it. This was one of those times. I was extremely stressed out. I had allowed myself to get overworked and I was nearing burn out. I wasn't allowing my relationship with God to be my main focus and that was the main problem. The devil was putting fear and stress on me. All this was going on and I hadn't taken time to stop and see this was happening.

God had a talk with me and I realized what was going on. I went to bed overworked, overanxious, and very stressed out. I can't explain what happened in the night, but I woke up the next morning and I had been set free from all of that. The next night God told me to write this chapter in the book. He told me to title the chapter Jesus Is Our Victory. I want to start this

chapter with scripture the Lord laid on my heart found in 1 Corinthians 15:57. It says, “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

God doesn’t promise that we won’t have fiery trials. He doesn’t promise that we won’t have storms in our life. You can know if you are serving God for real that these things will come because the enemy wants to stop you. But God does promise us that there will be someone who will walk in the fiery furnace with us. Jesus will walk with us just as He walked with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace so long ago. Remember, the king looked into the furnace and said (rough translation here) Hey, we only put 3 guys in the fire, but there is a 4th one there and He looks like the Son of God. The Son of God will walk in the fires with us. He will be in our boat when the storms come, just like He was in the disciples’ boat all of those years ago. He will stand up and calm the storms. He will enable us to find victory. We can trust Him to do that because that is what He does. That is how He is.

Here are some more scriptures that talk about the victory we can find through Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:37-39 says, “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Nothing that the devil can do can separate us from the love of God which is in Jesus.

Because we can be confident that we can find victory through Jesus, we can have peace. Peace is in short supply in the world today. Everybody is stressed out to the max. If we aren’t careful we can get caught up in that. Just like I did. The devil is a master at bringing fear and stress and worry into our lives. Jesus can set us free from that. Jesus Himself said this in John 16:33, “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” He has overcome the world and He will give us the victory to do the same.

One of the things Jesus can give us victory over is our past. Philippians 3:13 says, “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” When I came to the Lord, I came with a lot of baggage. I had done a lot of things that I needed to forget. The enemy is a master at bringing up your past. When I realized that God forgave me and I no longer had to be ashamed of my past, I was able to give it to the Lord. Then the stronghold the devil had over me was no more. But even now the devil tries to bring my past against me. Not the past that I had from years ago, but he will bring up mistakes that I have made. God will help me overcome things and the enemy will say “You are not over this. You will make this mistake again. You can’t overcome this thing.” I know that he has probably done the same thing to you, because that is his nature. That is the thing he does. Just like we know Jesus’ nature, we can know the devil’s nature. He is a liar and a trickster. There is no truth in him so what he says we can know that it is a lie. God can help us discern when the devil is up to his tricks. We need to remember that God won’t bring up our past.

Jesus said this in Luke 4:18, “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.” Jesus can heal broken hearts. He gives deliverance to the captives and gives them liberty, gives them freedom. Just like I was bound and He set me free, He can do the same for you. He can give you victory.

The Authority Jesus Gives Us

I am sure that you have realized that you have an enemy. The devil is our enemy. He hates us because he hates God and he wants to destroy anything that God loves. In John 10:10 Jesus says, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” The devil will attack your mind. He will attack your finances. He will attack your health. He will attack your family. It is

important that you be able to tell what the devil is trying to pull on you. We have to discern what he is up to. We have to be able to detect what he is doing. We can't take authority over him if we don't see what he is doing. The devil is out to steal from us, to kill and destroy us. But God has given us authority over him. Jesus has pulled his teeth. We don't have to be afraid of the devil. We don't have to give him a second thought. Matter of fact, the more time we spend thinking about him, the more power we give him.

The devil shows up in the Garden of Eden. He tempted Eve and she got to Adam and they both sinned. God told them this in Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between thee (he was talking to the devil here) and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." What place would the devil have to be in for his head to be bruised and the man's heel to be bruised? It would only happen if the devil was under his feet. In Genesis, God put the devil under our feet.

There are bunches of scriptures that talk about how we are given authority over the devil. We are given authority over him by praying "in the name of Jesus". When I am binding the devil I will pray this way. The Word of God says you are under my feet. The blood of Jesus covers me. (Revelation 12:11a says, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb…") And in the name of Jesus you have to flee. (James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.")

I want to talk about your authority to tell the devil to leave that is given you by praying in the name of Jesus. I have read hundreds of times the phrase in the scriptures concerning praying in the name of Jesus and have prayed that way, but I was only repeating what I heard with no understanding of why we should do that. We will do this many times, repeating or doing what we feel like we should do without really understanding why we should. That works, but the real power to make it work in our lives comes when we do what we do in His understanding, not ours. God began to show me what it meant, "in the name of Jesus".

We know that Jesus is Lord of all. Being Lord means having absolute power, control, and

authority. I Timothy 6:14-15 tells us, "That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: which in His times He shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords." He has and will have complete control and authority. God Himself gave it to Him and He'll rule until all things are put under His feet. (I Corinthians 15:25, "For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet.") Another scripture that talks about Jesus being Lord is Philippians 2:10-11, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Jesus is Lord. That is an established fact.

Jesus also has absolute rule over the powers of hell. Satan is in submission to Him. Jesus controls not only the seen but also the unseen. We know that we are in spiritual warfare. This is a battle between satan and God. We are fought because we are close to God's heart. Because of this, satan wants to destroy us. We have to have the power to overcome. Where do we find that power? In the name of Jesus. What does that mean? We have to know our place in God. We have to come into favor with the Lord of all, so that we can go out to fight this battle that we fight daily with His power, with His authority with His riches in glory, in His name, in the name of Jesus. When we say, "In the name of Jesus, satan get out of my way, you are bound", we are telling satan he is bound from being able to work in a given situation. We are using the authority that God has given us, and the devil has to submit to that authority.

There are conditions to having the power of the name of Jesus work in your life. You have to accept God's Word and believe it when it tells us we have that authority. James 4:7 tells us, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." For the authority of God to work in your life you have to submit to Him. We have no power or name of our own. You don't have any authority, but when you submit yourself to God and go in the name of Jesus, you will have the victory. This battle we fight is His fight. Yield to Him and do what He says to do. That is important when you are fighting the devil. Obedience unlocks your authority. Remember that you aren’t on your own fighting the devil, but you are a team with Jesus. Function as a team with Him and go in His name with all the power and authority He

has. Go with him. You will not only be able to march in battle in victory, but you will overcome.

In our own selves we do not have the power to overcome, but when we go in His name, we have His power, and all that He has. How can we lose? Why do we have these things in His name? Because we are chosen, set aside, made accepted in Him when we submit to Him. Our flesh, who we are in the natural, has nothing to do with it. As long as our weaknesses and sin are under the blood, and we are walking a committed, submitted life in the Spirit. God's Word gives us authority. So does the blood of Jesus. So does the Holy Ghost who dwells in us. So does the name of Jesus. We are given authority, not in our own name, or in our own right, but we are given authority in the name of Jesus.

We have to make sure that we are not fighting this thing in the flesh. We have to make sure that we are not fighting in our own strength, but in the strength of God. We have to make sure that we are in the Spirit and not in the flesh to be able to fight a spiritual battle. If we get too cocky, if we get too proud and stuck on ourselves because we have authority over satan, God will humble us. We can count on that. When God humbles us, we will take notice of that. Spiritual pride is a stench in God's nostrils.

We need to take the authority that is given to us by God's Word. We need to take authority, not because we are who we are, but because He is Who He is and we are His children. We need to understand the authority we have in the name of Jesus and go in His name. We will overcome satan. In the name of Jesus, we can't lose.

We don't have to put up with the devil's mess. We have been given authority over him. We have a right to tell him what he can and cannot do. We have a right to tell him to get off our porch and he has to listen to us. Sometimes he is like a pesky kid. We have to tell him over and over and we have to forcefully tell him. He has to know that we mean business when we tell him to leave us alone. He has to know that we know that he has to listen to us. He will get the

message and leave us alone for a while, but he will be back. We have to continue to stand against him.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a key in being able to take authority over the devil. To find out more about this please go to my YouTube channel. To do that you search in YouTube for Sandy Haga. Go to the playlists. Click on playlist titled The Baptism of the Holy Ghost-the filling of His Spirit.

I want to close this chapter with this scripture found in Ephesians 1:17-23. I have mentioned this scripture before, but I want to repeat it here as well. I am giving comments in this scripture. I have put my comments in parenthesis. "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power. (This is my prayer for you. That through reading this book your understanding was enlightened that you know the riches of the glory of what we inherited from him as saints and what the exceeding greatness of His power to us who believe. This is according to His mighty power.) Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet (When Christ was raised from the dead God set him at his right hand in heavenly places. He put Him far above all principality-the devil is considered to be a principality. God put Jesus far above any other power and put all things under His feet), and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." He has given us this same authority because we are His body. He fills all in all and He fills us. AMEN.

The Church

You can't talk about Jesus and not mention His bride, His body, which is the church. I want to close this section talking about the body of Christ. To get a glimpse of the church you have to get a glimpse of the church as God sees us. You have to get a global world view. It isn't a little group of people in the 4 walls. It isn't even a huge group of people in a huge building. It isn't a denomination. It is all of those who are believing in God that have dedicated themselves to following Jesus. It is all those who have fallen in love with the Savior.

We read about the body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12 starting in verse 12 (I have not included every verse.) "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit…. For the body is not one member, but many. But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."

We are a part of something that is much bigger than our church or ministry. We are part of a global group of people and we are all part of the body of Christ. We need to see the church in this way. When we do, we will realize that we are part of something far greater than we can imagine. We will realize the power of the church as the body of Christ. We sometimes see the

church is not being influential. We see it as being weak. We need to step back and see the church as God sees us.

The church is a huge army all over the world. Each part of it is following orders given by the main commander which is Jesus through the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit is leading us to do what each one of us is doing. His Spirit is coordinating the efforts of His army. We are functioning as one body-as His body. In His body there are no big I's and little you's. We are all equal in Him. We are able to do whatever He leads us to do. If God tells you to do something, then you will be able to do that thing. Just like Jesus spoke to Peter and he was able to walk on the water you can do whatever He tells you to do. His Spirit, His anointing in you, will enable you to do that thing. Each one of us is obeying Him. Because we are yielded and obedient to Him we are united together in total unity. This is a picture of the body of Christ. We are His arms reaching out to others. We are His voice talking through us. We are His legs carrying us where we need to go. We are His body.

Romans 7:4 says what our purpose is. "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God." We are to bring in the last days' harvest. We are to bring the fruit in. We need to read the scriptures in Revelation that talks about the judgment that is coming on the earth. We need to picture those around us that aren't serving God going through those terrible things. We need to love the lost around us, our family and acquaintances, with the love of the Lord. We need to focus on obeying the Lord so that we can lead them to Him.

We need to get real about being part of the body of Christ. We may feel that we are an insignificant part of the body. We may think we are not a vital part. We may think we are weak and feeble. We need to realize what verse 22 says, "Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary." God will use each of us in our corner of the world. I am convinced that there are people you can lead to the Lord that no one else but you will be able to lead them to Him. We need to be about the Lord's business following Him and yielding to Him. We need to put a priority on being a part of the Body of Christ.

I want to close this chapter by giving you a glimpse of something. The body of Christ is not only God's children who live on earth now, but they include all of those who have gone to heaven from the beginning of time to now. What a huge family we have.

What Does It Mean To Be Saved

You can't talk about Jesus and not mention salvation. I have written this chapter about salvation. Most of you reading this book will say that you are saved, and you will be inclined to skip over this chapter. I caution you that you need to read this chapter anyway. So often the teaching of salvation has been perverted especially in today's world. Please read this. It will help keep your head straight about salvation and it will also give you ideas of how to teach others about salvation.

I was first saved in a church service when I was about in the fifth grade. An altar call was given and I knew that people expected me to go. You could say that the pressure was on. I went up to the altar and did what they told me to do. I prayed what they told me to pray. I confessed my salvation before the church. I really didn't know anything about what I had done. I kind of knew. But I didn't have a salvation that sticks. How do I know? Several years later I went away to college. I mentioned in my testimony what I got into there and how I totally wrecked my life. What happened to my salvation? I forgot about it for the most part. Except for those brief intervals when the Lord dealt with my heart. I never forgot what Word of God that I had been exposed to. The sin that I was doing perverted the Word though. I had so long made excuses for what I was doing that I had a weird way of looking at God's Word. I had so long self-justified myself that I had a weird version of the scripture. That is what we do when we excuse ourselves of our sin. We often "rewrite" the Bible. It didn't leave me though. Proverbs 22:6 tells us, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." I never forgot the Word of God that I had been exposed to as a child. That is one promise that my mother and mothers down through time have held close to their hearts as they watched their children take off down the wrong road.

God's Word didn't leave my heart. My salvation, though, just didn't stick. Yes, I was a son of God because of my confession as a child. But I was a disobedient son. (No, I'm not a boy, but the Bible calls us all sons.) Would I have gone to heaven if during that time in my life I had wrapped my car around a tree in one of my drunken stupors? I'm not here to argue about that. Some say yes. Some say no. I am saying that you are a fool if you gamble that way with your eternal soul, taking the chance that you can do whatever you want to after you have been saved and still make it to heaven. You have to agree with me on that. However I can say that the Bible continually says that repentance is a key to unlock heaven. Now if I turn my back on God and I choose to disobey Him, if I do not repent of my sin, and die in that sin that I have not repented of, then I walk away from my salvation and I will go to hell. Jesus Himself said in Luke 13:3, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." The Bible is full of such quotes. The definition of repent is to feel deep regret for your actions so that you turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one's life. If you repent of your sin and turn away from it, He is faithful to forgive your sin. If you say I can go ahead and sin because God will forgive me, then you have not repented.

I can say that God through His mercy kept His hand on me protecting me until the day when I turned around and stopped running. That day salvation became real to me. I met the One whose nail pierced hands reached out for me. I found that love so rich and real. I learned that He died for me as much as He died for the whole world. I got filled up and baptized with the Holy Ghost. I found the victory this brought to my life. I found salvation, and praise God this time it stuck. It is still sticking 40 years later. It will be sticking for the next 25. It won't rub off.

So what was the difference between those two times of my life? Some may argue that I really didn't get saved the first time. I believed. I confessed. That is what the Bible says to do in Romans 10:9-10 tells us, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Did I confess and believe? Yes, I did. Was my salvation real that first time? It was as real as I

knew how to make it. I walked in the light that I had, but it wasn't light enough to light up my life and heart.

Why weren't you saved before you were saved? Have you ever wondered about that? Because you didn't see what salvation was until then. When you really understood it, you hungered for it. God opened it up to you and it became real. God's Spirit began to deal with you. We can't understand salvation or any of the things of God until the Spirit of God reveals it to us. We can't see it because it is not a natural thing. It is a spiritual thing. We can't see it unless God shows us by His Spirit.

Salvation is such a wonderful experience. When I got saved the second time around, everybody saw a change in me. If you see people and they confess to have been saved, but there is no change in them, then you can doubt that they were saved at all. When Jesus comes in, there will be a change in that person. When the Spirit of God comes in, there will be a change. I have known people to change so when they were saved that their looks changed in an instant so that they were almost unrecognizable. Sin causes us to bear a huge load that destroys us. Before their salvation, they had been under a load of sin that they looked a lot older than their age. When God saved them, it was as though years rolled away off of their face.

I remember a lady that I led to the Lord. After she experienced salvation, she looked so different. I knew that the devil would try to tell her that nothing happened to her so I told her to look in the mirror to see the change God had made in her. When she looked in the mirror she said, "That is a trick mirror. How did you do that?" She had changed so much that she actually thought we had a trick mirror.

The key to finding a salvation that sticks is that you find a real and a right relationship with the one who died for you. That salvation that sticks is that relationship with God that lasts. It is the salvation that has been through the fire. You know that when the storms come, you will last through them as well. You know He's been there, so you know He'll be there to hold you through tomorrow. It isn't that your salvation will stick because everything will be perfect

from there on out. That isn't what salvation is all about. We have talked about this before. Some people teach that because we are children of God, we have a right to have a perfect life. One day in heaven that might be true. Down here though, if you are having a perfect life, I might go so far as to doubt your salvation experience. Why? Because you are a child of God, you have a ready-made enemy who hates you because he hates God. The devil is out to get God's children. You will have battles. That doesn't mean that God doesn't love you. It does mean, praise the Lord, that you will have someone to hold you and keep you through whatever this old world and the devil that is its prince brings against you. It does mean that you can find victory. Without God, all you would find would be sure defeat.

He loves you even though He has seen your ugliest. He has waited when you had your priorities all out of whack until you got it together enough to focus on Him. He has been the anchor that held you even when you sailed way off course. He loves you. He will keep you. My how He loves you. The Bible tells us in Romans 10:9-11 how to be saved. But we all know that there is much more to salvation than just confessing. One of the first things that you need to have to have salvation that sticks is the knowledge of what you have. That knowledge has to come from God's Word, not from the doctrines and traditions of man. You also have to know the depths of God's love for you. You have to personally receive His love and love Him in return. That love will change your life. Salvation is finding that personal relationship with God and wrapping yourself in His love. When you do, your salvation will stick.

Jesus-The Word

I want to talk in this section about how it is important to read God's Word. One thing that we have learned about Jesus is that He is God's Word made flesh. We have talked about this scripture earlier. John 1:14 says, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." Jesus is God's Word made flesh. We know from this that to get to know Jesus we must get to know God's Word. We have discussed many, many scriptures in this book. The Bible has power to create things in you. It will enable you to understand Jesus so that you can walk with Him. It

will build your faith. It will build your relationship with God. It will keep your head straight and stop you from negative thinking. It will keep you from being deceived with wrong thinking. It will cause you to have a right character. It will strengthen you. We have talked about earlier how the Word of God is the solid rock foundation that you can build your life on so that when the storms come your life will stand. This is just a small list of the things that God's word will do for you. Here are some verses that talk about God's Word.

II Samuel 22:31 says "As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him." The Word of God is tried. It has been proven. It has stood throughout the ages. His Word will keep those who trust in Him. Here again we see a verse that has conditions. If we don't trust Him, can His Word keep us? He is a buckler to those that trust Him. That means He will strengthen those who trust in Him.

Psalms 33:4 says that His Words are right. "For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth." We serve a God whose works are done in truth. We can trust Him. We can trust His words to be right.

Jeremiah 23:29 says that God's Word is powerful. "Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?" It can break apart any bondage that the devil puts against you.

II Timothy 2:9 says that God's Word is not bound. "Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound." We may suffer trouble because we are evildoers, imperfect in the site of a perfect God as the scripture says. But He is perfect, and His Word is perfect, and it is not bound. It can set us free when we are bound.

11 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." When you really study God's Word and how profound it is, you really have to admit that it was inspired by God. When you study the

prophecies like we have done in this book, how can you doubt that the Bible is inspired by God. God told people what to write.

Psalm 119:105 says, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (I want to add a note here. The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119. It has 176 verses in it and this whole chapter is about God’s Word.)

Isaiah 40:8 says, “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever.” The Word of God is eternal.

In Matthew 24:35 Jesus said, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”

Isaiah 55:11 says, “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” God’s Word will accomplish the things that He sends it to do. It will accomplish in your life and mind and heart what He has sent it to do.

II Corinthians 6:7 says that God’s Word is true. “By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left.” This is why we have to be careful that our interpretation of God’s Word is true. We need to be sure that what we witness, speak, preach, and sing to others is the truth according to God’s Word. How do we do that? We ask the Spirit of God to reveal to us if we are interpreting something wrong. We need to ask Him to guide us in the truth. We need to keep sin out of our life so that we won’t be tempted to misinterpret God’s Word to others to hide our sin, or make excuses for it.

Just think about all of the scriptures that we have covered in this book. I know that all these verses have impacted your life. That is what the Word of God does. So how important is it that you read the Bible regularly. In Matthew 4:4 says, “But he (Jesus) answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth

of God." We take in food. If we didn't, we would starve to death. It is just as important to feed our spirit man. The way we do that is taking in God's Word.

We have talked about how powerful God's Word is and how it can work to bring about change in our lives. There is a key to making it work for us. For God's Word to work you can't just read it. If you just read it, it won't change you. You have to read it and you have to do what it says to do. There are a lot of scriptures that are conditional. What that means is that they have conditions that are required to make them work for you. Joshua 1:8 is an example of what I am talking about. "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." The way that we have success is by meditating on God's Word and we have to do what it says to do. If we don't do it, we won't have success. Just remember this. God won't require you to do something that you can't do. He will cause you to be able to do it. He will help you to do it.

Jesus in the Future

There are a lot of glimpses of Jesus in the future that are in the Bible. Many of them Jesus talks about. Like this scripture found in Luke 17:24, "For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day." There are many such verses, but I want to concentrated on the glimpses of Jesus that we see in the book of Revelation. I want to talk about the book of Revelation first. John was on the Isle of Patmos where he was exiled for his faith. While there, God gave him a vision and told him to write it down. There are several things that point out that this was a vision from God. Number 1-God included it in His Word. Number 2-a lot of it has begun to happen. So I want to give you a good saying to go by. God said it, I believe it, and that settles it. That can apply to everything in the Bible. That can also apply to the promises that God speaks to you. God is truth. Jesus said this about His Father in John 3:31-33, "He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true." Numbers 23:19 says, "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" What God said, you can count on Him to make it good. He cannot lie. Lying is not in His nature. Matthew 5:18 says, "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." A jot and a tittle are little strokes of the pen that makes up letters.

Everything that God has promised in His Word down to the little details will come to pass. It will happen. Guaranteed. Is He able to do this? Keep this in mind. By just speaking He created the whole universe. Yes, He is able to keep His Word. God by His nature is careful to keep his word. And yes, He is able to do just that. I said all of this to say this. We can count on everything written in the book of Revelation to come about down to the details because God is a detail God. We can especially count on the things to come about that are involving Jesus. All of these things we see if we stay true to God. We have some huge things coming up. We can't

look at what we are going through here on earth now and get discouraged. We have to look at the big picture. We have mighty and glorious things ahead of us to look for. And as sure as I am sitting here writing this, they will all come to pass. We have God's Word on that. God said it, I believe it, and that settles it. AMEN.

Here are just a few of the glimpses of Jesus in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 1:5-8
And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Revelation 1:12-18
And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Revelation 2:1, 8, 12, 18

Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;

Revelation 5:5 and 9-13

And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever.

Revelation 7:9-18

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the

throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshiped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Revelation 17:14

These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Revelation 19:11-16

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 21:6

And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Revelation 21:22-23

And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof

Revelation 22:12-13 and 16 and 20-21

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

In these scriptures we see that Jesus will be victorious over all of His enemies. We also see that we will triumph as well. We see that victory will be given us. We know that God will keep His Word. He cannot lie. We know that we will see all of the things written in His Word come about in all of their details. We will see all of these things happen. We have God's Word that it will come about. God said it and that settled it.

Closing

I want to close this book with these thoughts. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and He will be the same forever. We can trust Him. It is not in His nature to lie. He is faithful by His nature. He will not let us down. He is compassionate. He loved us enough that He gave His life that we could be saved. He will stick closer to you than a brother. He will be there for you forever. He is our healer. He is our victory. He gives us power over the devil. He is the light that will light up any darkness that we are in. He can speak and calm the storms that we face. He is the way. When we follow Him, we know that we can find our way home. We know when we follow Him our destination will be heaven.

He is the truth. When we listen to Him, we know that what He says is true. He is our life. He can give us abundant life here on earth and we can count on Him to give us eternal life. He is our deliverer. When He sets us free, we are free indeed. He gives us forgiveness. He is our Good Shepherd that will lead us to good things, and He will guide us away from harm. This is just a short list of all we can find in Him. In Him, we can find all that we need. 2 Peter 1:3 sums it all up nicely. “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

Sad to say so many people have all of this knowledge in their head but they don’t have a relationship with the Lord who died so that He could walk and talk with them. They don’t know Him in their hearts. When you get to know Jesus, He will change your life. When you spend time with Him, He will rub off on you. He longs to fellowship with you. Make it a priority in your life that you spend time with Him. There is no one else that you can spend time with that will impact your life as much as He will. There is nothing else that you can do that will impact your life as great as He will impact your life. He will empower you. He will give you victory. He will set you free. All by just having conversations with you. He is that amazing.

I have said this several times but it is important enough that I want to repeat it. Sometimes we will be so busy working for the Lord that we forget the Lord of the work. As ministers and workers for the Lord, it is easy to do this. When you get on that road, that is a road that leads to being burned out. Don't let this happen to you. Take time to spend with your Savior who died to be able to spend time with you. AMEN.

I want to close with this song that the Lord gave me. It talks about everything Jesus is.

Lord I Thank You For Who You Are

Chorus
Lord I thank you for who you are. Lord I thank you for who you are.
When I look back through my life at all that you have been,
Lord I thank you for who you are.
Verse 1
In the middle of the storms, Lord you've been my sunshine.
In the battle of my mind, Lord you've been my peace
In the valley so low, you've been my mountain high.
In the bondage of this life, you've been my sweet release.
Verse 2
In the middle of my loneliness, Lord you've been my love.
In the building of my life, you've been my cornerstone.
When life was crashing in, you've been my place to hide in
When my foundations tremble, you're the rock I'm' standing on.
Chorus
Lord I thank you for who you are. Lord I thank you for who you are.
When I look back through my life at all that you have been,
Lord I thank you for who you are.

Take time to thank Him for everything that He is and for everything He has done for you. He delights in your praise.