

TEACHING

MOMENTS

BY

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Preface

On November 1, 2019 I fell down my 10 basement steps with full weight of my right foot under me and it caused a spiral break just below the knee and I had breaks on both sides of my ankle. Surgery was required that day and I spent 27 days in the hospital and after putting in stair lifts at home I could go home with no weight bearing on my right foot. This required getting around in a wheel chair and staying in the house.

Then came the Corona Virus and stay at home and keep safe. I decided to scan family pictures and put on a 32 gigabyte USB drive but also was motivated to do some writing.

While attending church at The Gathering Place 1st Presbyterian Church in Port Colborne, Ont. With Pastor Adam Bartha, Adam would explain a Teaching moment during his service. I enjoyed these moments very much and they inspired me to put some of my feelings and concerns in writing that could be related to the Bible.

While I have called them Teaching Moments I also feel they are Inspiring Moments. Each Teaching Moment I was hoping could relate to some real life situations and also be supported by scripture from the Bible.

It was my hope that my time at home in isolation could be used to do some writing that would help inspire others to read them and understand where there is supporting scripture to help them refer to the bible to verify the truth of the Word.

Thanks to my wife who is always there to support me and believe in me.
Thank you to my daughters who seem to know everything I need to know about computers and programs. They make my life somewhat much easier.
To Tara who I bother more and who has come to our house to show me the computer is actually smarter than I thought it was thanks again.

Please share theses collection of Teaching Moments by forwarding them to others.
If any of these Teaching Moments inspired you please let me know.
If you would like to receive any future collection of Teaching Moments please let me know by sending an e-mail to : larryfisher17@gmail.com

Larry Fisher

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FOCUS – Teaching Moment

Every moment Jesus was on the edge, one sin away from eternal death. One moment of weakness, just one sin, and he'd have died forever.

Imagine performing a high wire act, without a safety net, one mistake could bring death. Picture a gold medal Olympic athlete, look at the number of years of training and the number of failures on the path to master their sport. An Olympic medalist only has to be perfect for a short period of time to win that medal.

Christ had to be perfect all through his training. Christ had to be perfect every second of every day of every year, year after year for 33 ½ years.

Many rock climbers choose El Capitan in Yosemite National Park to climb it. Many have climbed it but only one man has ever tried it without any ropes. Alex Honnold decided to climb all 3,200 feet of El Capitan "FREE SOLO", no safety gear. One wrong move, one slip means death. Free soloing is so dangerous, virtually everyone who has devoted a big part of his life to it is now dead.

I feel God would not want us tempting death like that. In Matthew 4: 6-7 This is when Jesus was led into the dessert to be tempted by the devil. Jesus responded in versus 7 to the devil "IT IS ALSO WRITTEN: DO NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST."

Aspects of FREE SOLOING can help us appreciate the magnificence of Jesus Christ's achievements.

Christ's entire life was like a "FREE SOLO" one slip would have meant death.

In our spiritual ventures in a sense you and I climb with a safety rope. If we slip we have something to catch us. Jesus Christ's sacrifice, His death paid for other's sin, so we can repent, call on that sacrifice and live.

Jesus Christ had no safety rope.

Alex Honnold said when you are climbing without a rope "It's obviously a much higher consequence, much much higher level of FOCUS, you know it's a whole different experience." I think that the free soloing mentality is pretty close to warrior culture, where you give something 100 per cent FOCUS because your life depends on it" He said that FOCUS is exactly what Hebrews 5:7 describes where it says "DURING THE DAYS OF JESUS LIFE ON EARTH, HE OFFERED UP PRAYERS AND PETITIONS WITH LOUD CRIES AND TEARS TO THE ONE WHO COULD SAVE HIM FROM DEATH AND HE WAS HEARD BECAUSE OF HIS REVERENT SUBMISSION."

We must FOCUS and strive to live as though our very lives depended on our not slipping into sin. That is the example Christ set.

Christ FOCUSED all his effort at submitting to the Father's will. That is where we need to FOCUS all our effort and will power at submitting to God so he can work in us and empower us to conquer sin.

Alex Honnold prepared to climb El Capitan by FOCUSING on his preparation so he could reach his goal. This took years of training.

God is offering us to share Christ's throne for eternity. He wants us to follow in Christ's steps. We can conquer anything when we FOCUS on that blood and on Christ's example of how to avoid sin and prevail in righteousness.

Let us FOCUS our attention on CHRIST.

Let us Pray – Dear Heavenly Father give us the ability to FOCUS our life in a way that includes Jesus Christ in our life.

Help me set my mind on things above and not earthly things.

Give me insight and understanding as I FOCUS on your word.

In Jesus name we pray - AMEN

THE STORY OF THE CROW AND THE PEACOCK – Teaching Moment

A crow lived in the forest and was completely satisfied

One day he saw a swan. The swan is so white he thought & I am so black this swan must be the happiest bird in the world.

He expressed his thoughts to the swan. Actually the swan replied I was feeling that I was the happiest bird all around until I saw a parrot.

I now think the parrot is the happiest bird in all creation.

The crow approached the parrot the parrot explained I lived a very happy life till I saw a peacock. I only have two colors but the peacock has multiple colors.

The crow then says to the peacock in the zoo hundreds of people gather to see you.

Dear peacock the crow said you are so beautiful, hundreds of people come to see you every day.

When people see me they immediately shoo me away.

I think you are the happiest bird on the planet.

The peacock replied. I always thought that I was the most happiest & beautiful bird on the planet because of my beauty, but I am trapped in this zoo.

I examined this zoo very carefully and I observed the crow is the only bird that is not trapped in the zoo.

So for the past few days I was thinking that if I were a crow I could have freedom and happily roam wherever I wanted to.

This often is our problem to.

Sometimes we like to compare ourselves to others instead of accepting what God has given us.

This all leads to the vicious cycle of unhappiness.

In Freedom Learn to be happy with what you have instead of looking at what we don't have.

The person who is satisfied with what God has given them can be one of the happiest persons in the world.

What Does the Bible Say About Loving Yourself?

The Bible indicates that it is proper, even necessary, to love yourself to a reasonable degree. Such love includes caring for yourself, respecting yourself, and having a sense of self-worth.

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Galatians 5:26 (NLT) 26 Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

Do you often find that you're comparing yourself to others?

Children discover very quickly that not everyone lives the same life or has the same opportunity as them. They see how some friends have more toys or better clothes, or live in nicer houses. As these children grow older and become teenagers, the comparing doesn't stop.

2 Corinthians 10:12 (NLT) 12 Oh, don't worry; we wouldn't dare say that we are as wonderful as these other men who tell you how important they are! But they are only comparing themselves with each other, using themselves as the standard of measurement. How ignorant!

Comparing yourself to others only makes your life difficult and brings you misery and pain and robs you of Joy.

You were given special gifts and talents to share with the world.
The crow, the swan, the parrot and the peacock were all made special by God, just like God Made Each of Us Unique.

Let us recognize today that God made each of us unique, and we are wonderfully made.
Let us love each other just as we are. AMEN

THE GREATEST SACRIFICE EVER MADE – TEACHING MOMENT

What does sacrifice mean?

A sacrifice is a loss or something you give up, usually for the sake of a better cause. Parents sacrifice time and sleep to take care of their children.

Baseball players are sometimes called upon to make what we call a sacrifice bunt, to advance a base runner while the batter is put out.

In the interest of science sometimes animals are sacrificed as part of a scientific experiment.

When Karen Watson felt God's call to go to Iraq, she responded by resigning her job, selling her car, house, and other possessions. When she left, everything she owned was contained in a duffle bag. Today, her duffle bag has become a reminder of the work she did in telling people in Iraq about Jesus Christ.

In addition to her duffle bag, Watson left a letter with her pastor that was to be opened only upon her death. When the letter was opened after she and three other workers were murdered in Iraq, Watson made it clear she had counted the cost of going. In handwritten capital letters she wrote, "THERE ARE NO REGRETS."

Karen Watson's duffel bag a symbol of the sacrifice she made.

John 15:13 (NIV)

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Giving up a kidney for someone is a great sacrifice.

Sharon was scheduled soon for heart surgery, when her husband suddenly had a need for heart surgery. Sharon assessed her husband had a more urgent need. Sharon made a sacrifice for her husband and he took her surgery date.

Let us not forget all the people who sacrificed their lives to fight for our freedom in the World Wars.

Around 1939 Franciszek a Polish army sergeant married with 2 children was captured and sent to a concentration camp and sentenced for hard labour. When a prisoner appeared to escape, the deputy commandant ordered 10 other prisoners to die by starvation. At the roll call Franciszek the Polish army sergeant was one of the 10 prisoners ordered to die by starvation. He cried out in agony over the fate of his family.

Kolbe a priest heard the cries of agony and offered himself instead. What a beautiful sacrifice he made as he died to save someone else. The Polish army sergeant lived to be united with his family and was invited to the Vatican to tell his story how the priest had sacrificed himself so he could live.

But of all the examples of great personal courage and sacrifice in all history, one stands immeasurably far above all the rest. It stands alone because it was the greatest sacrifice ever, the greatest of all time.

It stands alone because it involves One who gave the most to those who benefited from that sacrifice.

I'm referring to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

God is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of His son and forgave our sins.

Jesus Christ freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.

Had Jesus not died for us, we would all die guilty of our sins, forever cut off from God and any hope of life beyond this one.

And for this Jesus Christ made the **GREATEST SACRIFICE EVER**.

Heavenly Father let us remember love lives through the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for us all. Thank you Jesus for your sacrifice so that I may be reconciled to God and set free from the bondage of sin. Thank you for enduring so much suffering on my behalf.

In Jesus name we pray AMEN

LIFE INTERRUPTIONS – TEACHING MOMENT

We all get distracted. We all get annoyed when a productive moment is interrupted. We all get fed up when scheduled events don't go as planned.

Is your day planned out for you? Do you plan for distractions and interruptions?

How do you react to interruptions?

Who hasn't experienced a flight delay? A mechanical problem? A cancelled flight? Or, a traffic jam? Or, having to wait in the checkout lane?

How about a snow storm and you cannot get to work? How about a flat tire when you have to be somewhere?

Interruptions can come from someone who physically grabs your attention or something around you rings, beeps, pings, vibrates or notifies you in some other way that your focus is needed.

How many interruptions can you handle in one day?

How did the Corona Virus (COVED -19) interrupt your life? It affected almost every one.

Life surely has been interrupted by this deadly disease. We have all had to change the way we did things. In fact we can't do most things we want as we are told to stay home.

Businesses closed up, layoffs were everywhere. Grocery stores were running out of supplies and our Life was full of interruptions.

We are told to adapt as people started panic buying and hoarding supplies.

Our Sunday's were interrupted as we were told to stay home from church. These interruptions are making us adapt and have a message brought to you in your own living rooms.

Many of us think interruptions get in the way of "real life." That's why we don't like them. They remind us we're not in control.

God is in control and maybe as the world starts to work together some good might come out of our interruptions.

Jesus had to adapt.

Jesus life was full of being interrupted. I think Jesus discovered that interruption's was a way of life for him.

In Matthew 19, the disciples were a little out of sorts when people kept bringing children to Jesus. Jesus' answer to this interruption? "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

In Matthew 5 Jesus was up on the mountainside teaching the Beatitude's then in Matthew 8 When Jesus came down from the mountainside we see a number of ways Jesus was interrupted.

He healed a man with Leprosy. A centurion who had faith interrupted Jesus to heal a servant who was paralyzed. Jesus went into Peter's house and healed Peter's mother in law. When evening came Jesus healed many who were demon-possessed and drove out the spirits, he also healed all the sick. When Jesus saw the crowd around him he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake but then a Teacher of law interrupted and wanted to follow Jesus wherever he went.

While taking the boat across the lake the disciples interrupted Jesus sleep and he calmed the storm. When Jesus arrived at the other side two demon possessed men begged Jesus saying "If you drive us out send us into the herd of pigs" and he did and was asked to leave this town.

Jesus had one more lake crossing and was asked to heal a paralytic man.
Jesus as he went on he saw and asked Matthew to follow him.
All this in the day, the life and times of Jesus Christ.

All of these interruptions Jesus had presented themselves as opportunities. Each interruption offered something new and an opportunity to do God's work. We can even learn from our interruptions.

Open your eyes as God is in every moment, in every experience, and even in every interruption that we face.

Let us Pray

Heavenly Father when our life has interruptions we need to learn how to have patience, love and understanding as Jesus showed throughout his life. We need to look how interruptions can be turned into something positive.

With all the interruptions we face locally, regionally and globally let us take time to pray to you Lord for healing, to keep us safe, to watch over us and let us be brought closer to you Lord.

In Jesus name we Pray AMEN

Will Your Anchor Hold You - Teaching Moment

When you hear the word anchor what does it mean to you?

I remember as a young boy of 10 years of age and we packed up the car and filled the roof top carrier and headed 32 miles north of North Bay to go on a fishing vacation at a place called Beaverland Camp on the Martin River. The first year was learning the ropes and asking questions and realizing fisherman keep their favourite fishing spots a secret. The second year my dad took some advice and hired a guide. We soon learned to go to Lake Wickstead and the guide showed us some good fishing holes.

We also learned that when you found the good fishing hole you put down your anchor or you soon drifted away from the good fishing hole and the fish were not biting. I soon learned that a good anchor kept you where you needed to be.

The anchor besides being a heavy object attached to a rope or chain and used to moor a vessel to the sea bottom has other meanings

- : A quarterback who has been the anchor of the team's offense
- : A nut and bolt cable anchor is something that serves to hold an object firmly.
- : An anchorman or anchorwoman a TV news anchor
- : A member of a team like a relay team that competes last
- : A fixed object like a tree, to which a climber's rope is secured

I remember in High School competing in our school district Track and Field competition and after competing in the mile race I was asked to anchor the mile relay race for our school. I was asked to go last in this anchor position because nobody else on the team thought we would do well and didn't want to be seen as losing the race. I am sure God did not see me as a loser in that race, but a person who tried his best.

Hebrews 6:19 (NLT)

19 This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary.

Psalms 119:61 (NLT)

Evil people try to drag me into sin, but I am firmly anchored to your instructions.

The anchor holds men against drifting away.

Noah anchored deep and built an Ark.

John anchored his soul and became the disciple of love.

Daniel anchored and walked out of the lion's den.

-Another purpose of the anchor is to give rest to the soul.

Matthew 11:28 -- Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

The anchor is a very early Christian symbol that has been found in ancient catacombs. It brings together the cross and nautical Christian symbolism, and it symbolizes the Christian hope in Christ amid a turbulent world.

The anchor gives us a sense of safety which relates to the feeling of hope.

The anchor of Jesus Christ is of such quality that no matter how strong the storm is, the heavier the strain that comes upon it, the hold grows deeper and firmer. The storm, no matter how great, does not drive men from the Savior it merely anchors their soul deeper in the Rock of Ages.

Nothing that God does is without purpose. -Yet, God who has determined the purpose for our lives directs that the anchors remain down in the depths.

When you are anchored in Christ, He will be able to still the storm in your life. While sometimes God allows us to go through trials to grow us, He can also take away the trials in our lives if we seek Him. When the storm clouds begin to roll in, we should immediately seek His will in the matter. Whether God's will is for you to endure the trial or for it to be removed, anchoring yourself in Christ and seeking His will is always the best plan of action.

Everyone will face storms in their life. To realize the worth of an anchor we need to feel the storm. Will your anchor hold you?

Let us pray

Gracious Father we ask that you help us lift our anchors when they get heavy, let our anchors stop us from drifting too far away from you. Let our anchors keep us where we need to be. Lord the anchors of Jesus Christ help us through any storm and let them grow deeper and firmer in us.

In Jesus name we pray. AMEN

FREE GIFTS, BUT ARE THEY FREE – TEACHING MOMENT

How many of you have received a phone call claiming you have won a prize or a free gift. To activate your free gift the activation fee is only \$39 and we will need a credit card for this. Are you being scammed?

Is there a cost in getting a FREE gift? Have you ever been offered something for free if you met certain conditions?

I remember when I was growing up and the excitement I had of going to a birthday party. Those were fun times. WOW pizza, chips, pop, ice cream and cake. It was customary that you took a birthday gift to give to the birthday boy or girl.

As children we did not see all the time and costs involved to be so happy to go to these birthday party's you were invited to. Usually it was my mother who went shopping to buy the gift. Wrap the gift. Drive me to the party and come back later and pick me up. God bless our parents.

How about the pressure we put on our parents to have our own party and invite everyone to come so I can receive many gifts. As a child we don't see all the costs, time and work involved to put on a birthday party and then as some do send each child home with a bag of goodies.

Sometimes free gifts come at a cost to you. How about those phone calls claiming that you will receive a free gift when we let a salesman give us a demonstration?

I remember being on vacation with another couple and if you went to listen to a talk you would receive a free gift. They had a number of FREE gifts to choose from and they tell you there is no obligation to buy. I refused to invest my time on vacation to be subjected to the pressure of buying time shares. Our friends went and they heard the presentation and then were guided into a room to be pressured into buying into this time share. When they said no then that salesperson left and another more experienced high pressured sales person went at them and they said No No, but they sent another person who tried to put them in the pressure cooker and turn up the pressure. They said NO, NO, NO and we want our free gift you offered us. They picked a phone for their free gift, which they said was the cheapest phone they ever seen and it did not last long at all.

I wonder how many people left after being pressured without a free gift just to get away from them.

When you give someone a gift that is wrapped up they have to unwrap the gift to receive it. If you leave the gift wrapped up you have you received the gift? The gift is not a benefit to you until you unwrap the gift and make use of it.
If you give the gift back you have not accepted it.

How many gifts have you been offered but did not receive them or accept them?

Our free gift from God has to be received to enjoy it.

The Gift of God's Son is the greatest gift of all! The gift of Salvation
God is a giver of gifts and wants you to receive them.
2 Corinthians 9:15 Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!

Proverbs 20:12 - Ears to hear and eyes to see— both are gifts from the Lord.
(God was the giver and you were the receiver) Did you thank him for these gifts?

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ
Jesus our Lord.

If we remain faithful, we will be able to spend eternity with Christ! We certainly don't deserve
this awesome gift...but Christ gives us this gift nonetheless!

Here are some of the gifts you can receive

The Gift of God's Son

The Gift of God's Watchful Care

The Gift of God's Grace

The Gift of Enjoying Eternity With Him

Imagine living in a world for eternity with no more phone calls from scammers wanting us to
turn on our computers so they can scam us.
I pray you will receive the GIFTS from God.

Let us pray

Dear Heavenly Father please place within us the courage the power and wisdom to turn to you
and to receive your Free gifts.

Let us share this information with all our family and friends. Let us tell our neighbours about
these free gifts that can be available to them.

Please pour out your blessings and let us receive them.

In Jesus name we pray AMEN

HOW DO YOU ACCEPT CORRECTION – TEACHING MOMENT

Growing up I learned that if you did not follow instructions from my parents there would be consequences. I was raised by Christian parents who were fair and loving but expected us to conform to their wishes.

If I got the strap at school I would be disciplined at home, the disciplined was if you deserved the strap at school then you got it at home.

Across from our house in Fenwick our neighbours had a pond. This pond provided close access to go skating and play hockey in the winter times. I was about 12-13 years of age when there was an issue at the pond and the one of the owner s came and was expressing to whom she thought was a problem. I spoke up and told her she got it wrong. My parents were called as they knew everybody around us.

I was given a choice go and apologize or I would not be allowed to use the pond. WOW this was not fair.

I pleaded my case to my parents that she didn't see everything and she acted only to the person who did not start the problem. I went and knocked on her door and I apologized and would hope that I would be allowed to use her pond. She agreed I could.

I was oh so nervous and scared as I confronted her. I cried all the way home because in my mind I did not do anything wrong.

My parents explained to me that it was not that the owner did get the wrong person she acted on what she saw It was that I disrespected an elder. It took some thinking about that and my parents were teaching me about correction and learning not to disrespect my elders was a lesson my parents wanted to teach me.

I also learned at a young age that should I cause a problem with other kids or did something wrong and if my parents got a call my dad would tell me to get in the car and we drove to meet with the other child and one or both of their parents. I had to explain what happened in front of their parents.

I used to think this was cruel and terrible punishment. I made sure this didn't happen often.

We have correctional facilities that our criminal justice system uses to detain offenders. Some correctional facilities are intended to reform or otherwise prepare offenders for a successful reintegration into society, while others simply detain criminals until they can be released. Types of correctional facilities include jails, prisons, and juvenile detention centers.

In Canada we have the Corrections and Conditional Release Act
An Act respecting corrections and the conditional release and detention of offenders and to establish the office of Correctional Investigator

The purpose of the federal correctional system is to contribute to the maintenance of a just, peaceful and safe society by

- (a) carrying out sentences imposed by courts through the safe and humane custody and supervision of offenders; and
- (b) assisting the rehabilitation of offenders and their reintegration into the community as law-abiding citizens through the provision of programs in penitentiaries and in the community.

The protection of society is the paramount consideration for the Service in the corrections process.

Why Is Discipline Important in the Workplace?

Discipline is important in the workplace because it helps supervisory personnel ensure that employees adhere to established company rules and policies. It allows them to correct unacceptable behavior and maintain good conduct in the company.

Discipline ensures individuals behave in an acceptable way at the workplace and also adhere to the rules and regulations of the organization. Misbehaving at the workplace spoils the entire work culture.

What does the Bible teach us about correction and discipline?

Hebrews 12:6 (NLT) - For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.”

Job 5:17 (NLT) “But consider the joy of those corrected by God! Do not despise the discipline of the Almighty when you sin.

Proverbs 29:17 (NLT) Discipline your children, and they will give you peace of mind and will make your heart glad.

We often complain about our circumstances without realizing that they are the consequences of our own sin and are a part of the Lord’s loving and gracious discipline for that sin. This can contribute to the formation of repeated sin in a believer’s life, incurring even greater discipline.

The Lord’s discipline is a response of His love for us and His desire for each of us to be holy. The Lord’s discipline works for our own good, that He might be glorified with our lives. He wants us to exhibit lives of holiness, lives that reflect the new nature that God has given us.

Let us Pray

Dear Heavenly Father we reach out to you and ask that you show us patience, understanding and love. We all have sinned and we understand that at times we might need discipline and correction to remind us that we have done wrong. Lord we thank you for Jesus who lived a sinless life but took on the world’s sin. We give you praise, honor and glory.

In Jesus name we pray AMEN

THE GREATEST LOVE STORY – TEACHING MOMENT

How many here have heard about Harlequin Romance books?

Richard Bonnycastle, a former Arctic explorer with the Hudson Bay Company, launched Harlequin books in Winnipeg in 1948.

Harlequin publishes more than 100 titles a month, in both print and digital formats, in 17 countries and 16 languages.

Harlequin in 1971, revolutionized romance publishing by distributing Harlequin romances to supermarkets and department stores, where they would be right at the fingertips of Canadian and American homemakers. The company often gave away one book as a free gift with the purchase of household items such as kitchen cleaners or napkins, hoping that shoppers would become hooked and buy the rest of the series.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, Harlequin employees gave away more than 720,000 books at border checkpoints across the Eastern Bloc. Just two years later, Harlequin had sold seven million romance novels in Hungary alone.

How many books do you think Harlequin has sold?

To date they have sold over 6.8 billion books. My mother in law has approx.. 12,000 Harlequin Romance books. She estimated she has read over 1,000 of them.

Love stories are very popular and is big business. Countless books, movies, articles and songs have been created about love stories.

And now for the GREATEST LOVE STORY OF ALL TIMES we must turn to the Bible. The Bible reveals to us

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”. What a wonderful message.

The Bible reveals to us that God is love. We look at 1 John 4:7-8 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love God, does not know God because God is love.

On the evening before his arrest and execution, Jesus Christ expressed to his disciples His motivation for what He was doing and he said “.There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (John 15:13)

And that is exactly what Jesus did he laid down His life for all mankind throughout all time.

The Greatest Love Story ever told is the love shown to you and me in the Bible, The word of God is truth and the truth shall set you free.

Let us pray

Heavenly Father thank you for the gift of love. Thank you for the love shown to us by Jesus Christ. You lead us to enjoy the beauty in creation, to engage each day with love in our hearts. You teach us to live lives brimming with your love and goodness. We are so blessed to live in your care.

AMEN

THE GREATEST INVITATION EVER GIVEN – TEACHING MOMENT

An invitation is a request, a solicitation, or an attempt to get another person to join you at a specific event.

When you ask people to attend a party, or witness a marriage, you invite them. An invitation can be delivered as a verbal request, or a beautifully engraved card. Usually wedding invitations have a reply card and a request to reply by a certain date.

Families planning weddings can start planning years in advance. Reception halls are booked, tables are set for only a certain number of invited guests.

Nerves and stress starts to form the week of the wedding and peaks the day of the wedding.

Like every invitation it contains three parts: the invited, the inviter, and the invitation itself. What about the people who try to attend that were not invited. Have you ever attended something that you were not invited to?

My brother would tell me stories of himself and two or three others who would attend weddings without being invited when the dances started and the bar were open.

These uninvited guests were only looking to see how many free drinks they could get before being found out and asked to leave. OOPS wrong wedding they would say and leave.

There are number of invitations you can receive as you grow up like birthday parties, baby showers, school graduations, invited to dinners.

I was invited once to attend Queens Park for the swearing in ceremonies of a new parliament. You were expected to take your invitation to show to get in. Without this invitation we were told we may not be allowed in.

There is one invitation that is considered “THE GREATEST INVITATION EVER GIVEN” This invitation will be better than any wedding invitation, any birthday party invitation or any other invitation you have ever received.

The greatest invitation is given by our Lord and Saviour when he invites you to receive the Lord’s salvation.

Let’s look at Isaiah 55 this is an invitation to the Lord’s Salvation.

Isaiah 55: 1- 3 “Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink— even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk— it’s all free! Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength? Why pay for food that does you no good? Listen to me, and you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the finest food. “Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life. I will make an everlasting covenant with you. I will give you all the unfailing love I promised to David. “

God offers us free nourishment that feeds our soul. God's salvation is freely offered, but to nourish our souls we must eagerly receive it. We will starve spiritually without this food as surely as we will starve physically without our daily bread.

The Bible is full of invitations for you and me like the following:

Invited to "take up the cross & follow me" Mark 10:21

We are invited to follow Jesus John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me"

Invited to read the bible

Invited to work for God

Invited to warn people of what is in the bible

Invited to fight & resist Satan (the god of this world)

Invited to understand we are in a battle with the devil & we can win the battle on our knees.
(praying)

Invited to not let Satan influence your thoughts.

Invited to seek the Kingdom of God.

Invited to have faith. This only a partial list of God's invitations

Whatever your baggage or your burdens, no matter how many times you've felt that people or maybe even churches didn't have time for you, I am here to tell you Jesus offers you an invitation, "Come to me."

God's planning a party and you're invited. "THE GREATEST INVITATION EVER GIVEN"

The invitations have gone out. It's an offer you won't want to miss. The inviter doesn't get any better. Best of all—you are invited.

invitations are valuable only if they are accepted!

Let us Pray

Dear Heavenly Father I thank you for the invitation to come to you to join you to do good work.

The invitation to warn people what is in the Bible, the invitation to fight and resist Satan.

Gracious Father I accept your invitation and ask that you nourish my Soul, give me strength and guidance.

In Jesus name we pray. AMEN

HOW PREPARED ARE YOU? – Teaching Moment

Olympic athletes spend an enormous amount of time preparing by training in order to reach their peak physical condition.

To get a chance at the gold medal, these elite competitors may have to prepare training schedules that doesn't stop in the years between Olympic Games.

Olympic athletes have to prepare smartly and develop healthy habits to avoid overtraining or burning out.

You've got your holiday booked so now there's just the small matter of what to pack and fit it all into your suitcase! This will require some planning to be prepared to be ready to go. Before departure, are you prepared to know about disease prevention, the culture of the country you are travelling to, and about travel safety? Proper preparing can ensure you have the proper insurance coverage, received proper vaccinations, did you prepare and reserve your car rental.

Being prepared can avoid having a bad vacation time and bad memories.

You are hosting your family reunion this year and you want to make sure everything goes alright.

How do you pull this off because in past years some things have been forgotten? The best way to be prepared is to plan in advance. Sometimes a checklist will keep this reunion on track to be a success.

People prepare themselves to get a job by going to college or University.

If you are looking for a job you need to prepare for an interview. The better you are prepared the better your chances are of getting a job.

Survival is all about being prepared. What you do today, could save your life tomorrow.

The Corona Virus showed us How Unprepared We was.

The problem is that we don't prepare to defend against infectious diseases the way we do other threats to national security. Would we consider going to war and then ordering everything we need for weapons for this fight? Yet that is how we often deal with vaccines and drug treatments for diseases of epidemic potential. We are underprepared because of a lack of investment and public will. If we are serious about protecting ourselves, governments of the world must make long-term, proactive investments in pharmaceutical agents, medical equipment, supplies and basic research.

Many lives will be lost due to the Corona Virus outbreak. How prepared are you?

Have you made all your end of life planning arrangements? Do you have your Power of Attorney?

Do you have your Will made out? Do you have a cemetery plot picked out?

Healthcare workers will sometimes hear about the problems families run into when a loved one dies. They hear families in the rooms and hallways trying to figure out what Mom or Dad might have wanted.

Are you prepared? Have you prepared for what can happen to your children should you die?
Have you prepared to meet your maker?
Have you read the Bible? Do you understand what happens?

The Bible explains what you need to do to be saved. The Bible explains that you must be ready. Look at Matthew 24:44 "So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

Luke 21:36 "But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."
What are all these things that are about to take place? Be prepared by reading the Bible.

No one wants to face death, yet no one can escape it. As for me I want to spend eternity with Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:9-10 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is LORD," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

The unprepared will meet with God just as certainly as the prepared will. The scriptures teach that an interview with God is inevitable. 2 Corinthians 5:10 (NLT) says " For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body."

Jesus said in John 14:2 (NLT) " There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you."

Let us Pray

Dear Heavenly Father It is essential that we are prepared to meet God. The alternative is simply too horrible to contemplate.

What a shock for anyone going unprepared when they finally stand before the Living God for judgment, without the covering of Jesus' blood and the assurance of Eternal Life! A ticket of 'Good Works' is worthless without the Salvation of God that is given us through Jesus Christ alone. Give us strength and let us learn how to be prepared.

In Jesus name we pray. AMEN

NEVER GIVE UP – TEACHING MOMENT

Do you get inspired by reading stories of entrepreneurs, inventors and leaders and how they overcame many failures and rejections, and never gave up?

Have you ever had a teacher tell you that you were stupid or you would never amount to anything?

In Thomas Edison's early years even his teachers told him that he's "too dumb to learn anything and there's no hope for him." One day Thomas Edison came home and gave a paper to his mother. His mother's eyes were tearful as she read the letter out loud to her child. Your son is a genius. This school is too small for him and doesn't have enough good teachers for training him. Please teach him yourself.

Many years, after Edison's mother died and he was one of the greatest inventors of the century, one day looking through old family things, suddenly he saw a folded paper in the corner of a drawer in a desk. On the paper was written: "Your son is addled (meaning mentally ill). We won't let him come to school anymore.

Edison cried for hours and then wrote in his diary: "Thomas Alvin Edison was an addled child that, by a hero mother, became the genius of the century."

Thomas Edison had many failures in his lifetime but he never gave up. He had obtained over 1,000 patents during his lifetime.

It's never too late for success. A great example of this would be, Colonel Sanders, the founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken. Colonel Harland Sanders started his dream at 65 years old, he believed that restaurant owners would love his original fried chicken recipe and he'd get a small percentage once the sales increase. He drove around Kentucky, knocking on every door, sleeping inside his car. Many times people ignored his offer and said, "NO" but that didn't stop him until he got a "Yes!" He never gave up.

Don't let your failures bring you down. Don't be a quitter, persistence is the key! And that's what Abraham Lincoln did.

If you're not aware, this great man encountered a lot of failures. Failure after failure. In fact, it even seemed like it was endless! He could've quit many times, but he chose not to. The results of him never giving up, he became one of the greatest United States presidents of all time.

Failure isn't that bad. In fact, you could even learn from it. Therefore, it is something that we should embrace. Even Henry Ford failed- he failed a lot, but he utilized what he learned from these failures and built a successful company that's still going strong even today.

This man viewed failure as an opportunity to begin and try again, only more intelligently this time. He even managed to overcome significant setbacks. He faced several failures before his first Model T was ever made. Through persistence and determination and never giving up, he became one of the richest entrepreneurs globally.

All the trials you go through in life are making you stronger. You will see God working in your life if you're a Christian. You won't remain in those trials. Don't give up. You will go through trials and get out and then go back in them, but always remember the mighty hand of God is at work.

2 Chronicles 15:7 7But as for you be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded."

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

James 1:2-4 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

There may have been many times where you might say I just want to quit. "God it's not going to work. God what am I going to do? God what good can come from this? Lord you said you would help me. Lord I can't do it without you."

That is right you should not have to do it without God. God will help us in our trials.

Matthew 19:26 Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible."

Oxford University asked Prime Minister Churchill to address its commencement exercises. Standing confidently before this crowd of great admirers that included some of the most noted scholars in the world and with an authoritative tone in his voice he began with three words: "Never give up!" Several seconds passed without him saying another word. Finally he repeated those same three words again, "Never give up!" There was a deafening silence as Churchill reached for his hat and cigar, steadied himself with his cane and left the platform. His commencement address was finished. NEVER GIVE UP.

Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. Please read Luke 18: 1-8

Let us Pray

Dear Gracious Father as we go through our trials please walk with us and keep us strong. Please give us the strength to NEVER GIVE UP. Help us overcome our fears and our struggles. Our struggles are only momentary compared to the Glory that is to come. Those troubles even help to prepare us for that glory all the more. Thank You Lord for all you do for us.

In Jesus name we pray. AMEN

A Book Made In Heaven - Teaching Moment

Many people will not see their names written in a book or be an author of a book.

We read about authors of books but sometimes we do not associate the author with another person.

We find out some authors use a Pen Name which is an assumed named used by a writer instead of using their real name.

I read that Richard Bachman is a pen name for Stephen King and Robert Galbraith is the pen name for J.K. Rowling who is a British author and screenwriter best known for her seven-book Harry Potter children's book series. The series has sold more than 500 million copies and was adapted into a blockbuster film franchise. Rowling was born Joanne Rowling

A pen name becomes a sort of shield, allowing the author to conceal his or her identity. Authors might decide that a book could do better if a male wrote it or they might decide a female name would be better for sales.

The Bible speaks of a book in heaven that lists the names of all the people who will inherit eternal life. Will your name be included in the Book of Life?

The book of life is the heavenly record and Christ determines whether the names that are recorded in the book of life remain in that record and are supported by ones confession that they belong to Him at the Day of Judgment.

To have one's name written in this book means that one is considered righteous before God and will inherit eternal life provided he or she remains faithful to the end (Revelation 3:5). To have one's name blotted out of this book signifies a fate of eternal death (Revelation 3:5; 20:15).

Revelation 3:5 (NLT)

5 All who are victorious will be clothed in white. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, but I will announce before my Father and his angels that they are mine.

Revelation 20:15 (NLT)

15 And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

We learn that the only criteria for someone to be thrown into the lake of fire is that their name is not in the Book of Life.

The first mention of this Book of Life is when Moses offered to have his name erased from it. Speaking to God, Moses said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of your book which you have written" (Exodus 32:31-32).

God replied to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book” (verse 33). As noble as Moses’ intentions may have been to protect his fellow Israelites from God’s wrath, God will not negotiate with people’s salvation in this way.

Who is currently in the Book of Life?

The Book of Life contains the names of those who have been spiritually converted and who have dedicated their lives to the service of God.

Is YOUR name written in the Book of Life? If you arrive in the afterlife without a proper “reservation”, you won’t have a place in Heaven. It will be too late. There is nothing you can do about it at all. Your name CAN be written in the Book of Life if you trust Jesus as your Savior. You can’t write your name yourself by doing good things; only God can write your name there.

The Bible speaks of a book in heaven that lists the names of all the people who will inherit eternal life. Will your name be included in the Book of Life?

Through the prophet Ezekiel, God says, “Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die” (Ezekiel 18:27-28). When a wicked man repents of his sins, “none of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him” (verse 22).

While here on earth, Jesus also said, “I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned” (Matthew 12:36-37).

You are invited to have your name written in the “BOOK OF LIFE”

Let us pray

Dear Heavenly Father please guide me and show me the way that I may have my name written in your BOOK OF LIFE. Give me strength to turn to Jesus Christ and learn how I may live a life that will get my name in Heavens BOOK OF LIFE.

In Jesus name we pray. AMEN

The Greatest Book Ever Written On Earth - Teaching Moment

When I typed into the computer to search the greatest books ever written I got novel titles like Anna Karenina., To Kill a Mockingbird., The Great Gatsby., One Hundred Years of Solitude. A Passage to India. Invisible Man., Don Quixote., Beloved., Mrs. Dalloway., Things Fall Apart. I never heard of some of these books.

I then typed in The Greatest Books of All Time and got the following:
Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy. Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert, War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy, Lolita by Vladimir Nabokov, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain. Hamlet by William Shakespeare, The Great Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald, In Search of Lost Time by Marcel Proust and The Stories of Anton Chekhov by Anton Chekhov.

What do you think is the greatest book ever written on earth?

I then typed in: "Was the bible the greatest book ever written?" The Bible is the greatest book in the world. A most important criterion for determining the success of a book is sales and distributions. Throughout history, there have been over 6 Billion Bible's sold and distributed.

What do we know about the Bible?

The Bible inspires, teaches and corrects us.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT) - All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

The Bible gives us Hope and Encouragement.

Romans 15:4 (NLT) - Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.

It is a guide. Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

It is all truth. John 17:17 (NLT) - Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.

The Bible is given to give us direction in life. Do you want to know where you came from and why you were created? Do you want to know how to find your purpose in life? Do you want to find meaning in life? Do you want to get prepared for eternity? Look to God's Guide book - the Bible. Only in God's Word do you find how to live a life of victory over sin and Satan.

In Creation we know there is a Divine Creator. In nature we have General revelation of God. The Bible is God's special revelation to guide us into truth.

1 John 5:13 (NLT) - I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.

The Bible reveals who God is and his will for mankind. The Bible is a history book and documents the prophecies about, the arrival and ministry of Jesus.

The Bible is divided into the Old and New Testaments that conveys the account of God's work from the beginning of creation in Genesis to the end of the world in Revelation.

The history of the Bible is the background that supports and testifies to who Jesus is and what he did.

God sent his own perfect Son, Jesus, to live in obedience to all of God's commands, and to suffer the punishment for our wrongs against God's commands by his death on the cross.

The Old Testament is the account of God working through the chosen nation, Israel, through whom the Messiah would be born. The New Testament is the account of God, in Christ, bringing redemption through his sacrifice on the cross. Therefore, Jesus is the culmination of history and the promise of God to work through Israel and bring light to a fallen world.

Yes in my opinion the Bible is The Greatest Book Ever Written On Earth. I have heard it said that the Bible stands for the following: Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth. (BIBLE)

The Bible was written to be read so please take the time to read the Bible on a regular basis.

Let us Pray

Heavenly Father your bible is a book of instruction for us to read. Let the Bible inspire us, let us read about the truth, let us have the knowledge that Jesus Christ was sent to take away our sins. The Bible gives us hope and encouragement. Let the Bible teach us and correct us.

In Jesus name we pray. AMEN

What Do You Mean By Your Promises? – Teaching Moment

How many times have you made a promise but never kept it?

What is a promise? It is a declaration or assurance that one will do a particular thing or that a particular thing will happen.

A promise assures someone that one will definitely do, give, or arrange something; undertake or declare that something will happen.

I remember as a Boy Scout the Scout movement required you to agree to a scout promise.

The Scout Promise was:

On my honour, I promise that I will do my best, to do my duty to God and the Queen, to help other people at all times, and to carry out the spirit of the Scout Law.

The Scout movement taught me to respect our elders and help those in need.

When we don't keep a promise to someone, it communicates to that person that we don't value him or her. We have chosen to put something else ahead of our commitment. Even when we break small promises, others learn that they cannot count on us.

We are not only communicating all of this to others, we are telling ourselves that we don't value our own word. We think it is okay to let someone down, to say something we don't mean, or to fail to follow through on something we said we would do. Not keeping a promise is the same as disrespecting yourself. Ultimately it can harm our self-image, self-esteem, and our life.

Your words should mean something. Don't make promises you cannot keep.

This even applies in marriage or in parenting a child. False promises with no follow through are not good for any relationship. You're only hurting yourself, as well as others, by making false promises to be at your child's sporting events, school performance or school graduation if you aren't able to be there.

When it comes to disciplining children. If I tell them not do something for example not to throw something or they'll have to go to time out or you might say "I promise you won't be able to watch a TV program" then you have made a commitment. If your child decides to throw it anyways then I have to deliver on the punishment I have already set in place. If I don't, they lose fear and respect for me and it only gets worse, because they would know they can get away with whatever they want.

Don't set expectations you can't meet.

One of the best ways to avoid over-committing is setting proper expectations in the earliest conversation.

Understanding how to set proper expectations is one of the biggest tools to being a successful business owner, and leader. If you learn how to set proper expectations, then people will know they can trust in what you're saying.

Wedding vows are a favourite part of the Wedding Ceremony. It's when you get to tell your love story. It's when you get to decide what your marriage looks like. It's the promises you are making to your partner for a lifetime.

We can look at the 50% divorce rate and see that many are not keeping their promises. That word "promise" has become "a disappointment" in many people's vocabulary.

The Bible encourages and expects that we will keep our promises we make.

James 5:12 (NLT) - But most of all, my brothers and sisters, never take an oath, by heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no, so that you will not sin and be condemned.

When you break a promise does this mean you lied?

Proverbs 19:5 (NLT) - A false witness will not go unpunished, nor will a liar escape.

Proverbs 19:5 (NLT) - A false witness will not go unpunished, nor will a liar escape.

Under Israelite law, parents could overrule their children's vows. This helped young people avoid the consequences of making foolish promises or costly commitments

Numbers 30:2 (NLT) - A man who makes a vow to the Lord or makes a pledge under oath must never break it. He must do exactly what he said he would do.

You need to learn to promise only what you actually are able to deliver.

Admit your mistake up front when you make a mistake. Take responsibility for your mistakes and broken promises.

Apologize for your misunderstandings, and broken promises

For married couples recognize and validate your partner's right to feel betrayed. Don't argue, invalidate, or erase his or her feelings.

When you next make a promise or agree to a commitment, write it down with your partner, and put it where both of you can see it.

-Jesus says in Matthew 12:36, "I tell you that men will have to give an account on the Day of Judgment for every careless word they have uttered. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words, you will be condemned."

Let us Pray

Most gracious Father we should be looking to your Bible for instruction and education to help us learn how to live according to your word. To learn that it is important not to break a promise. Lord give us strength to guide us in your way and keep us on your path. We know Father that you treasure Truthful people and you have given us the gift of verbal communication please help me keep my promises

One of the gifts God has given us is verbal communication. Let's ask Him to help us use it the way He intended.

In Jesus name we Pray. AMEN

God's Promises – Teaching Moment

If your parents made you a promise to leave you an inheritance but there was a condition would you comply with the condition or would you say no, never mind I do not want the inheritance.

I guess it would depend on the condition right. What if the condition was you had to read a book and in that book it described how you would get your inheritance? Now would you read the book? Or would you say it depends on what my inheritance is.

Maybe you knew that your parents did not have too much to leave you and you didn't want to read the book because just maybe you would not think it was worth your effort.

Now what if a stranger made you a promise that you could have an inheritance but the same condition applied you had to read a book. What if it was the Bible you were asked to read to understand how to get your inheritance? Would it still matter to you to know what your inheritance was before you agreed to read the Bible?

If GOD made you a promise that you would receive an inheritance being the "Salvation of Life and live in eternity with him would that be of interest to you, but God wants you to read the Bible to know all about the promises he makes for you. Would you want this inheritance and would you read the Bible?

Your parents might have made a Last Will and Testament leaving you an inheritance or part of their inheritance. Sometimes families end up in court to determine how they can fight or oppose the Will.

The Bible contains God's will and testament to you. It lists your inheritance the blessings and gifts you are entitled to as God's child. Some of God's promises have conditions that must be met before they are granted.

God makes many promises in the Bible if you are a believer please claim them as your own and receive them into your life.

Psalm 18:30 (NLT) - God's way is perfect. All the Lord's promises prove true.
He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.

Psalm 89:33-34 (NLT) - But I will never stop loving him nor fail to keep my promise to him.
No, I will not break my covenant; I will not take back a single word I said.

God hears prayers - Psalm 34:17 (NLT) - The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles.

God answers Prayers - Mark 11:24 (NLT) - I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours.

God promises spiritual blessings - Romans 10:9-10 (NLT) - If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

God offers a new life - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) - This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

God offers Freedom - 2 Corinthians 3:17 (NLT) - For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

God offers Forgiveness - Psalm 32:1-2 (NLT) - Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty!

God offers Righteousness - Romans 5:17 (NLT) - For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.

God offers His Word - Matthew 4:4 (NLT) - But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

God Will Deliver you From Evil - 2 Timothy 4:18 (NLT) - Yes, and the Lord will deliver me from every evil attack and will bring me safely into his heavenly Kingdom. All glory to God forever and ever! Amen.

God offers Life After Death - 1 Corinthians 15:52-53 (NLT) - It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

There is an old hymn that is in our hymnal called Standing On The Promises Of God. The chorus goes like this.

. Standing, standing, standing on the promises of Christ my Savior, standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

Let us Pray

Dear Heavenly Father we seek your will and testament we want to accept all the promises you have to offer. We accept that you offer us a new life, freedom, forgiveness, and righteousness. We accept your word that you will deliver us from evil and offer us life after death. Father you offer us the greatest inheritance we could ever have. We give you thanks.

In Jesus name we Pray - AMEN

Are You Judged By Your Appearance And What You Wear?

How many times do we look at someone and judge them based on their appearance or what they wear?

How many times have you been asked for money from someone on the street and you walked right past them? How do you know that the person asking for money actually needed it?

Being a panhandler is often associated with being homeless and unemployed. Some people cannot find in their wardrobe the right clothing to wear so their appearance needs to be changed to look the part of a beggar, so they find the right clothing to look the part of a beggar.

A man who pretends to be mentally and physically handicapped he goes around the streets begging and claims he makes up to \$100,000 a year from his panhandling. He was from Texas but is in Lexington Kentucky the newspaper article from 2013 reported.

Not only can this person use his arms properly, but he has a degree in speech pathology that allowed him to mimic a mentally disabled person. He has been charged twice and pleaded guilty but does not plan to stop.

I remember those days of new school clothes. When it was time to start school after the summer holidays you started with new running shoes and a couple of new sets of clothes. WOW you felt good. I wonder if other kids judged me by my appearance, maybe they had better clothes.

Some Schools require dress codes to promote uniformity of student dress, minimize distraction, promote discipline and prevent inappropriate or vulgar items of clothing from becoming a distraction for students.

How about the brides in their wedding dresses? Do people not judge the brides by their dresses? Do we not hear comments like WOW that must have cost a fortune for one day? Do people judge brides by their appearance and what they wear and how much money they spent on a wedding dress?

I remember when I used to put on my scout uniform when I was young. It made me feel part of a special group. Older boys judged us by what we wore and our appearance and laughed at us and called us names sometimes.

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. —Three days after receiving news in April of his appointment as pastor of Sango United Methodist Church, a dream woke up the Rev. Willie Lyle at 2 a.m.

In this dream, God told Lyle to do something very specific, and God promised Lyle if he would do this, then He would provide for Lyle and protect him.

God told Lyle that he needed to live on the streets of Clarksville, as a homeless and hungry person for five days. The Lord challenged Lyle to experience firsthand just what it was like to have nothing — no home, no money, no friends, no food on even a semi-regular basis, no nothing.

Essentially, what God was saying to Lyle was, "I hear you preach the word of God and share the message of Christ. Now, I want you to actually live it. And I want to hear how you liked having nothing and being treated with disrespect and disdain by almost everybody. I'm not finished. I want you to tell your new congregation about your experience and challenge them to make a difference in the world, beginning right here in Clarksville."

Willie Lyle learned from firsthand experience just how many people who are fortunate in life look down upon and ignore the homeless, the hungry and the poor. Throughout the week, Willie Lyle kept a small journal of what he was experiencing. These notes became the foundation for the sermon he delivered June 23 at Sango United Methodist Church, a sermon that caught the congregation off guard. Only four people at the church knew what their new pastor was doing. Early in the morning June 23, Willie Lyle lay under a tree on the church lawn covered in a big overcoat. He still had not shaved or combed his hair.

While he preached, his daughter-in-law cut his hair and his daughter helped shave off his scruffy beard. He changed shoes, and beneath the overcoat, he was wearing his Sunday clothes. He put on a tie and his suit coat, all the while continuing to preach his message. Before the 200 people gathered that morning, he went from looking like a homeless person to the new pastor of the congregation. At the end of the sermon, Willie Lyle issued his challenge. Part of that challenge called for the congregation to "do our mission," and service to others is going to be a major part of that. "Willie Lyle said. "You see, we look at the outside of others and make judgments. God looks inside at our heart and sees the truth." "Too many of us only want to serve God one hour each week. That doesn't cut it. That is not God's plan."

God does not judge us by our appearance or what we wear. He looks at our hearts. Isaiah 11:3 (NLT) He will delight in obeying the Lord. He will not judge by appearance nor make a decision based on hearsay.

Colossians 3:12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tender-hearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

1 Samuel 16:7 (NLT) But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Let us Pray - Dear Most gracious Father in Heaven You do not judge us by our appearance or what we wear. You look into our hearts. We are often too quick to judge others without hearing their story. Please give us strength, wisdom and our courage to step forward and help others in need.

In Jesus name we pray AMEN

Have You Discovered Your Purpose In Life?

Have you ever thought about what is your purpose in life?

When did you know what you wanted to do with your life?

Did you end up with a job you wanted?

Did you know in school what kind of a job you eventually would have?

I remember in public school getting recommended from grade 3 into grade 4 (this meant you didn't do so well but let's move him on maybe he will do better.) I got recommended from grade 4 into grade 5. I failed and repeated grade 5, I failed and repeated grade 6, passed grade 7 and failed grade 8, BUT the principal moved me forward to high school because I was already two years behind.

High school grade 9 was great I played basketball and was involved in Track & Field. I ran the one mile and two mile race, cross country running and I threw the discus and javelin.

Sport's was great but schooling, oh well I passed one exam in all three sets. Yes I failed grade 9. When I started school the next year I was told I could not play sports until I passed my first set of exams. I went home and told my parents and said it is not an education that I needed right now, I need to play sports.

With a few phone calls from my mother I started school the next week at another school with the understanding that I would be allowed to play sports. Life was great.

At Pelham High School in Fenwick I started the 5 year Arts & Science course.

At E.L. Crossley High School I entered the 4 years Business & Commerce course.

At Pelham High School I thought I wanted to be a physical education instructor. I soon realized that the courses needed did not suit me. I refused to learn French and algebra and refused to dissect a frog in science and my mind did not focus on school work.

At E. L. Crossley High School I passed grade 9 and 10 and over half way through grade 11 I quit to join the working class.

I had realized love would overtake me so I needed to start working to move towards getting a job and getting married. It was after my fourth job when we married. We soon moved to Nova Scotia to start my fifth job in sales. After 2 ¼ years we moved back to Ontario with the sales company and when I felt they were making changes that would jeopardize my financial income I quit.

After about 7 months being unemployed I started work at Maple Leafs Flour Mill in Port Colborne. I did take courses and completed my grade 12. After being involved with the union I felt I had something to offer and that was to help other people.

I enrolled in night school courses at Niagara College and took labour education courses. I remember changing shifts so I could work afternoon shifts and I would go almost every day to Niagara College and had every labour video played to view them and started reading the legal books and then would go right to work.

This led to a full time opportunity with our union and I was working out of the Hamilton office. I ended up organizing, negotiating collective agreements, teaching our members union courses and I eventually learned how to represent our members in arbitration.

I felt I had a purpose in life now and continually was being educated. With a merger into a larger local I was offered the Director of the legal department position. I had become motivated to continue to help people and admit in school I had not discovered my purpose in life. Since retiring in 2004 and after taking some time to golf my purpose has changed to serving God and helping people. My education now is ongoing in my study of the Bible and the word of God. With coming up 49 years of marriage and two wonderful children and five lovely grandchildren I have purpose in my life. Please find your purpose and work towards your goals. In my opinion the sooner you place God in your life and study the word you will find a joy, happiness and peace within you.

Learn how to discover your life purpose, find the true meaning of life and discover your personal mission. Your life purpose might have a lot in common with activities that motivate, inspire and fulfill you, which could be your career or a vision that is not related to your professional life.

So many people look for meaning in “things” - the car they drive, the neighborhood they live in, the memberships they hold, the offices they fill. But none of these bring meaning or purpose to life.

James 4:14 (NLT) - How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it’s here a little while, then it’s gone.

In Isaiah 55, God invites his people to come to him.

Solomon learned all he could - probably was one of the wisest men who ever lived - but he realized his learning gave him no purpose in life. Next Solomon turned to Pleasure. Solomon had every pleasure imaginable available to him at his wish. But he realized it didn’t satisfy. Solomon turned to Things - Wealth, power, riches, projects, jobs, looking for a sense of accomplishment - but nothing satisfied.

Solomon teaches us is to be prepared for tomorrow. No man knows when his hour will come. No amount of wealth, or good deeds, or moral living can spare you from death. We need to be prepared to face death. Hebrews 9 reminds us, “Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.”

Let us Pray - Dear Heavenly Father please help us define our purpose in life. When we struggle to understand our purpose let us take time to pray and seek your guidance Lord. We should all seek to have a life of meaningful purpose so please invite us to come into your life.

In Jesus name we Pray - AMEN

What does the Bible say about Life's purpose?

True purpose in life can be about understanding your own gifts and using them to the best of your ability. Do you have gifts of singing or playing music? How about being an artist? Your purpose in life can determine how you make decisions, shape your goals and give you a sense of direction.

The Bible is very clear as to what our purpose in life should be. Men in both the Old and New Testaments sought for and discovered life's purpose. Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, discovered the futility of life when it is lived only for this world. He gives these concluding remarks in the book of Ecclesiastes: "Here is the conclusion of the matter: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (NLT) - That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty. God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad. Part of our purpose in life is to fear God and obey Him.

Let's remember why God created the earth and everything in it. Revelation 4:11 (NLT) - "You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased."

God desired to make man and the Bible tells us that He had very specific purposes in doing so. Many a famous person has reached the top of his or her field and declared the success to be meaningless. There is a deeper need that success just doesn't seem to fill.

Genesis 1:26-28 (NLT) - Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground." So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

Isaiah 43:7 (NLT) - Bring all who claim me as their God, for I have made them for my glory. It was I who created them."

Revelation 4:11 (NLT) - "You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased."

Our purpose in life is to please God by living in a way that honors and glorifies Him, by being His steward and His ambassador on earth, and by living in right relationship with Him. We need to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.

Genesis 1:29 (NLT) - Then God said, "Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food.

Genesis 2:16-17 (NLT) - But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."

Why did God create man knowing he would sin?"

Because God had a purpose and plan, from eternity past, to manifest and magnify His great mercy by forgiving man's sin and His amazing grace by sending Jesus to restore fallen man's relationship with Him. In doing so, God demonstrated His unconditional, unfailing love for His creation. A love that He offers to all people at all times.

Isaiah 45:23-24 (NLT) - I have sworn by my own name; I have spoken the truth, and I will never go back on my word: Every knee will bend to me, and every tongue will declare allegiance to me. The people will declare, "The Lord is the source of all my righteousness and strength." And all who were angry with him will come to him and be ashamed.

Mark 16:15 (NLT) - And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.

God wants us to tell everyone about the Good News. This should be part of your purpose in life.

Jesus never promises that our lives on earth will be easy, but He promises that He will be with us throughout our earthly life, giving us meaning as we begin to understand Him through His Word, as we talk to Him in prayer,

John 16:33 (NLT) I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

Let us Pray - Dear Heavenly Father we seek you and your purpose for us. Give us time and wisdom to read your word in the Bible so we may understand your purpose. Lord let us seek joy and happiness in our lives. Let us live with purpose.

In Jesus name we pray AMEN

What Does Bible Prophecy Teach Us?

How many prophecies are in the Bible? In Old Testament some report 1,239 and 578 prophecies in the New Testament.

A prophecy is a message inspired by God, a divine revelation. The Bible says that prophets spoke from God as they were moved by Holy Spirit. Bible prophecies are promises from God.

2 Peter 1:20-21 (NLT) - Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.

How did prophets receive information from God?

God used several methods to transmit his thoughts to his prophets:

God used writing in at least one case by directly supplying to Moses the Ten Commandments in written form.

Exodus 31:18 (NLT) - When the Lord finished speaking with Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant, written by the finger of God.

God used oral communications through angels to instruct Moses about the message he was to deliver to Pharaoh of Egypt.

Exodus 3:2-4 (NLT) - There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it." When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!" - "Here I am!" Moses replied.

Exodus 3:10 (NLT) - "Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."

When precise wording was crucial, God directed angels to dictate his message, as he did when he told Moses: "Write down these words, because in accordance with these words, I am making a covenant with you and with Israel."—

Exodus 34:27 New Living Translation (NLT)

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write down all these instructions, for they represent the terms of the covenant I am making with you and with Israel."

Visions were sometimes given while the prophet was awake and fully conscious.

Read Isaiah 1:1, you can also look at Habakkuk 1:1.

God also transmitted his message by dreams while the prophet slept.

Daniel 7:1 (NLT) - Earlier, during the first year of King Belshazzar's reign in Babylon, Daniel had a dream and saw visions as he lay in his bed. He wrote down the dream, and this is what he saw. (also Acts 16:9-10.)

God's prophets repeatedly warned the ancient Israelites about their evil ways. Those warnings described the future blessings if the people would heed the warning, as well as the future calamity if they refused. (Jeremiah 25:4-6) The actual outcome depended on the course that the Israelites chose to follow.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (NLT) - "Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the Lord, you will live long in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

Sometimes it's difficult to understand all the religions in our world today. We can choose from the following: 1. Follow God. 2. Follow the world's system.

Every prophecy God has made so far has come true, exactly as God has said it would. In the same way, God's prophecy of the downfall of Babylon, this world's system, will also come true.

The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, and its histories are true.

Read it to be wise, believe it to be saved, and practice it to be holy.

Fulfilled prophecy gives us confidence that God is real and that He will fulfill what He has said about the future. Since prophecies of world-ruling empires and even the name of a specific ruler long before his birth have all come to pass, we know the rest of the Bible's prophecies will likewise come to pass.

Prophecy motivates us to have faith in God that is demonstrated by obedience to His laws. Because so many judgments are coming upon peoples and nations because of disobedience to God's law, we discover that a proper understanding of God's grace will inspire us to live godly lives.

2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT) - All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

Let us Pray – Dear Heavenly Father we thank you for the Bible the inspired words of God. We thank you for giving us prophecies to help us understand how you are guiding us and leading us to Jesus Christ and to be saved. Father you make it clear, how we should make the right choices. Father please inspire others to read the Bible so they will know how to seek salvation and spend eternity with Jesus Christ.

In Jesus name we pray – AMEN

Why Do we Judge People Before Knowing Them?

On two occasions while watching Britain's Got Talent I observed Simon Cowell form an opinion of the contestants before he heard them sing. I believe his opinion at first was based on the appearance and ages of these contestants. Susan Boyle was 47 years old and I felt Simon Cowell's questions was like saying if you haven't made it yet what makes you think you can win this now. Susan Boyle replied I have not tried before. When Susan Boyle started to sing her voice was beyond what anybody had expected. In my opinion Susan was judged based on her physical appearance, the clothes she wore and her age.

When Jonathan age 17 and Charlotte age 16 came on stage, Simon Cowell leaned over to a judge and said "just when you think it couldn't get any worse". Now Simon maybe didn't think this was picked up but everybody on TV heard what Simon said. In my opinion again based on appearance and age Simon judged these two contestants. What Simon, the judges and the crowd after pre-judging them didn't realize they were all wrong? When the nervous Jonathan started to sing opera the audience was blown away and his amazing voice.

Do we not judge beggars on the street who are begging?

Are people not judged sometimes by the colour of their skin?

How many times do you talk to someone on the phone and you have a mental picture of what they look like but you are surprised when you meet them in person?

Was it not Martin Luther King that said he had a dream that his children would not be judged by the color of their skin but, by the content of their character?

Does the law not say you are innocent until proven guilty? But how many times have you judged a person guilty before they had their day in court.

We judge others, even before knowing who they are. People judge others because of their appearance, the way they dress and their weight.

Lack of education on the disabilities that affect behavior also makes people judge others.

People should try to know others before judging them.

It is human nature to judge people the first time we meet them. We do it whether or not we even realize it.

The first thing that we notice about someone is how they look. It is the quickest trait that we can evaluate. If two people are standing side by side and one is dressed in a business suit while the other is wearing dirty t-shirt, our first impressions are going to be quite different. Even if those two people are from similar backgrounds and social standing, we might automatically assume that one is rich and one is poor.

A clean and tidy appearance is the best way to give a good impression. Is your hair out of your eyes and off of your face? If you are a man, is your facial hair trimmed or shaven? If you are a woman, is your makeup appropriate for the occasion?

People might judge one if they have rings in the nose and rings the ears.

A warm and inviting smile goes a long way. It is a quick and easy way to let people know that you are friendly. Smiles welcome people.

When it comes to first impressions, Body language speaks much louder in those crucial first few seconds.

What does the Bible tell us about judging people?

God warns us not to criticize and judge others.

James 4:11 (NLT) -

11 Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you.

What did Jesus mean when he told us not to judge?

Matthew 7:1-2 (NLT) - "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.

In the mid 80's TV evangelist Jim Bakker was exposed for sexual sin and fraud, Ted Koppel on Nightline interviewed TV evangelist Jimmy Swaggert. Swaggert was asked to give his opinion about Jim Bakker and Swaggert came off as very judgmental. In fact, he called Bakker a cancer to the Christian community. Then just a short while later Swaggert was exposed as being guilty of some of the same kinds of sins.

God is the Judge. Our laying into people and being condemning and harsh with them as if we know their motives and as if we are set so far above them is assuming the throne of judgment that only God can assume. We have no right to this. And our acting like this assumes that we are high and righteous ourselves above all others and worthy to make such harsh judgments on others' lives. BE CAREFUL.

1 Samuel 16:7 (NLT) But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

How many of us truly are ready to stand before God and say judge me as I have judged my fellow man? .

Remember you will be judged by the same standards you use to judge others.

Remember that each of us is accountable to God and only God is able to judge fairly and justly.

Remember how much God has forgiven you and offered you mercy.

Let us Pray - Dear Heavenly Father I pray that you will give us strength to not criticize and judge others. Let us not hurt people by saying harmful words that cut like a sword. Let us understand others around us and be helpful and let our heart show our love for our fellow brothers and sisters.

In Jesus name we Pray. AMEN

When God Is With You Nothing Can Stop You

What would you do to honour your spouse who passed away trying to bring you your lunch. Where there is a will, there is a way. This saying has been proved right by Dashrath Manjhi,

Dashrath Manjhi was born in 1934 into a poor labourer's family in Gehlaur village near Gaya in Bihar which is in North East India. Being illiterate, there seemed little option left for him but to spend his life working in the fields. He started working in the fields near a hill which rose on one side of his village. To cross the mountain, one had to traverse a narrow and treacherous pass.

In Gehlaur village for thousands of years if you wanted to travel to Gaya you had to walk 32 miles around mountainous terrain or take your chances climbing over it.

In the early 1960s Falguni Devi needed to bring some food to her husband Dashrath Manjhi who was working on the other side of the hills. Going up the hills would save much time. She stepped on some loose rocks and fell. She slide a long way and was hurt.

Many people from the village suffered injuries climbing this mountain trying to save time from walking 32 miles around it. The villagers of Gehlaur had learned to live with this mountain size fact of life.

For many of them, the day's main meal still comprises roots, snails or rats, from which the community's name is derived.

Falguni needed medical attention so her husband Dashrath Manjhi stayed with his wife and a doctor was sent for. There were no doctors in Gehlaur village so one was summoned from the village of Gaya.

Early the next morning the doctor arrived, but it was too late as Falguni died because of a lack of timely medical treatment.

All the doctors lived in Gaya and there was this mountain in the way so some villagers were going to die from lack of timely treatment.

We often complain about our health system because we go to the hospital and wait 3, 4, 5, 6 hours or more for treatment.

How would you respond losing your loved one because of lack of medical attention.

Dashrath wanted to subdue the mountain that had destroyed his wife. He also wanted to prevent others from suffering the same fate his family had.

The day after his wife's death he sold his three goats. He bought a large hammer and chisel and that very day he started chipping away at the rocky hills.

Dashrath was on that hill at 4 am every day, hammering away at the rocks till 8 am. He would leave for his job as a farm labourer and as soon as he finished his job at 1 pm working in the fields he would have a quick meal and head back working on moving this mountain. Dashrath would hammer and chisel away till dark. Dashrath would do this day after day, week after week and month after month.

News spread throughout the village that he had lost his sanity. Many thought he was devoting his time to an impossible goal, so they ridiculed him.

Dashrath continued to get up every morning and battle the hillside and after about four years some of the villagers had stopped ridiculing him because he was winning as part of the hill was gone. Some of the villagers started to help him buy his tools and some gave his family food. Five years passed then 10 then 20 then after 22 years of hardly missing a day he had finished moving the mountain.

Dashrath Manjhi had singlehandedly carved a broad canyon through the rocky spine of the Gehlaur Hills. The passage he carved out was 360 feet long, 30 feet wide, and as much as 25 feet high. Now anyone can safely walk, even drive through the Gehlaur hills.

Gehlaur village to Gaya is about 8 miles instead of 32 miles around the hill.

In 1982 Dashrath was recognized by the Indian government. Local authorities named his manmade road after him. The media nicknamed him "Mountain Man"

Dashrath died in 2007 at age 73. He was given a state funeral by the Government of Bihar.

Dashrath had a vision it was the love for his wife that was the initial spark that ignited him but it was his desire to see thousands of villagers crossing the hill with ease whenever they wanted that kept him hammering and chiseling year after year.

The work from any one day seemed hardly noticeable but his work after 8,000 days is an absolute mountain moving marvel and it inspires us all to know that if you work at something every day your mountain can be moved. Is this not the faith that the bible refers to when it says if you have faith you can move the mountain.

Matthew 17:20 - "You don't have enough faith," Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."

In Manjhi's own words, "What I did is there for everyone to see. When God is with you, nothing can stop you,"

Let us Pray – Gracious loving Father you inspire us and motivate us to do great things when we need to show our love for our family members. It is so easy to give up when we feel we have a mountain in front of us, give us strength to have faith so we can move those mountains out of our way. We all need to know that when God is with us nothing can stop you.

In Jesus name we pray. AMEN

What Kind Of Rewards Are You Collecting?

For years airline companies have had reward programs for frequent flyers. I read that American Airlines had over 67 million members in their frequent flyer program in 2011.

Frequent flyers were rewarded for their loyalty.

Today customers are accustomed to seeing rewards in all kinds of different businesses.

Today some banks and credit card companies, have cash back programs. WOW the more money you spend the more money you get back. Don't forget to keep enough money to pay your bill when it comes in.

Canadians love their rewards credit cards and loyalty programs. Canadians participate in a number of different programs at the same time.

It is estimated there are \$16 billion worth of points left unredeemed by members in Canada. Don't forget to redeem your points or maybe donate them to a worthwhile charity, or food bank.

Gas companies, department stores, drug stores, restaurants, and coffee shops and many others probably feel they have to offer these kinds of programs to stay competitive.

Some companies have rewards for a referral program. A bank we dealt with in Florida would credit your account with \$25.00 should you refer someone to that bank and they opened an account and the people who you referred also got \$25.00 credited to their new account.

I am sure most of us have tried to save money when grocery shopping by clipping out coupons for our next grocery shopping trip. I watched an American program on extreme couponing one time and watched people spend hours a week preparing for their next trip to the grocery store. They had over \$1,000 worth of merchandise but only had to pay about \$100.

Loyalty programs are not used just to keep patrons happy they can be used to gather important purchasing information on the buying habits of the customer base that can help stores shape their business strategy.

How much time do you spend on learning the ins and outs of loyalty and reward programs? Did you read the fine print? Do you read the rules and regulations?

Learn about reward points programs and your rights under the Consumer Protection Act.

As of January 1, 2018 new rules in Ontario affecting loyalty reward points are in effect. Here's what you need to know.

Before you sign up, make sure you read the agreement and understand:

What you need to do to earn points, what you can use them for, any limits or conditions – for example, some programs have blackout periods when you cannot use your points or require you to stay active in the program. Check the government website for new rules effective Jan.1 2018.

Be careful on losing your rewards due to an expiry date!

Are there any rewards we get when we expire? (meaning pass away and yes meaning our death).

For those who know and have read the Bible it talks about rewards waiting for us. Some might call this God's loyalty program.

God longs to bless and reward his people, but it is essential that they be willing to turn to him and repent of their unfaithfulness and disobedience.

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

People are motivated by rewards. God has placed in the Bible promises of amazing rewards. He makes these promises to keep us from giving up hope, to inspire us to persist in the face of trouble and persecution.

The Scriptures consistently present God as the lover of our souls who delights in rewarding us with his joy.

Matthew 5:12 (NLT) - Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

2 John 8 (NLT) - Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward.

Those of you out there who are serving Christ with your whole heart, If you are serving for the right reasons you are definitely in line for rewards that are so huge, you cannot begin to fathom them now!

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT) - That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."

Some people might say they don't care about the rewards God will give. Maybe it is because they cannot see those rewards. Some of the same people will no doubt rejoice if they get a pay raise at work, or if they snag a great new client in their business. We tend to put value on the things we can see and touch. Jesus Christ is encouraging us to see the eternal rewards with the eye of faith so that we will put some serious effort into obtaining them.

Let us Pray - Dear Heavenly Father let us believe in God and believe in Jesus Christ so we can believe in the rewards that are promised and let them motivate us to do our very best to glorify Jesus Christ and help strengthen His Kingdom in whatever way we can.

In Jesus name we pray. AMEN

Overcoming Obstacles In Our Life

How do you deal with those obstacles that come into your path and you have to face all the time? If you have set yourself a goal you do not want some obstacle holding you back.

The last thing you want or need is something standing in your way.

If you are leaving on a vacation with the family you don't want to run into roadblocks, road closures and detours. When you run into road closures and detours how do you handle these? Do you get anxious, frustrated and become angry and yell the children?

How about losing a loved one who passes away? Are you overcome with guilt, emotion, fear, being lonely and stressed out?

How about not being able to go to college or university to get the degree you so wanted? Did you run out of money? Did you run into a roadblock by getting a girl pregnant?

Maybe you see your supervisor as an obstacle in your path from getting ahead or getting a raise at work. Maybe your supervisor does not like you and takes delight in giving you a hard time.

Maybe your obstacles that come in your path led you to taking drugs or you start drinking alcohol too much. Maybe it was the drugs or too much drinking that was your obstacle in your life.

Has your spouse left you? Did your girlfriend or boyfriend break up with you?

A big obstacle we face at times is being competitive and trying to be in a comparative state all the time. We look at others salary, spouse, home, education, the vehicle they drive and you want to be like someone else.

Sometimes the 'obstacles' in life are due to actual experiences, like when someone close to you dies. Death will likely make you question life in a way you've never done before.

We may find Obstacles in our life difficult to deal with. Each obstacle we experience can challenge us to grow and mature. We have to accept that obstacles will happen in our life. Sometimes we need to accept where we are and deal with it.

Let's say you were caught in some quicksand. The quicker you accept this and control your emotions the sooner you can understand that to struggle only pulls you down.

God gave the people of Israel a promise of the Promised land flowing with milk and honey. The people were tested in the wilderness. They faced many obstacles like the Red Sea, desert (no water, food and Jordan River. Then there were other physical obstacles like enemies and giants living in Canaan.

We face all kinds of obstacles in life. With God, we can take life obstacles as challenges and overcome them in His strength. They become stepping stones for us, opportunities where we experience God's power and develop strong faith in God.

God provided all that the people needed through their journey. Just as God can provide all we need for our journey through life and overcome your obstacles.

God has His promise, but man must do his part which is to obey the Word of the Lord.

If you want to have success then you need to listen to God and follow his ways.

Deuteronomy 13:4 (NLT) - Serve only the Lord your God and fear him alone. Obey his commands, listen to his voice, and cling to him.

God told us that we would suffer and face trials as Christians.

1 Peter 4:12 (NLT) - Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.

Sometimes the greatest enemy left to conquer is ourselves. We need to stop worshipping ourselves by crediting our successes and victories back to our self. Acknowledge GOD today in everything, even your successes and victories.

Sometimes obstacles are in our way because of sinful or carnal choices that we are making. Because of the cross, believers are no longer chained to living in sin, we are free to walk away from sin by the power of God. It's our choice to remain in sins because we find short-lived pleasure in them; however, we can't expect obstacles to dissipate until we confess and repent of our sinfulness.

Many people will spend a lot of time trying to think and maneuver their way around obstacles in their own strength. Perhaps they are blessed with high intelligence or wealth that can open many doors. Yet for certain obstacles, our futile attempts to deal with them in our own strength renders us powerless. We must depend on God for the strength and wisdom to overcome. We must stand firm in the faith that God is who He says He is—the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. Nothing is too difficult for our God to help us overcome.

Jeremiah 32:27 (NLT) - "I am the Lord, the God of all the peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me?"

Let us Pray - Heavenly Father as we face obstacles in our life, roadblocks and detours that slow us down or make us go ways we don't think we have time for, please be with us and help us deal with trials we face. Give us patience and understanding help lead us back on the right path, let us have faith and follow the way you are trying to teach us.

In Jesus name we pray - AMEN

God's Timing Not Ours

We live in a world that is time sensitive. We are expected to report for work on time. In fact you should be at work before your time so you are ready for work when the payroll clock clicks to the start of your shift.

Should you be late for work you could be disciplined. Be late enough times and you could be terminated.

If you want to plan to go to a professional sports game you order and pay for tickets ahead of time. You make your plans to attend and patiently wait for the day to arrive. You go over in your mind how much travel time it takes to get there. You plan to stop and fill up the gas tank. You are on your way when traffic backs up. Time is quickly going by. You become more frustrated as traffic is now stop and go, stop and go. You start to get nervous as you know it will be close. Finally you get to the parking lot the one close to the stadium because time is short. Yes you know it will cost more for parking but you should be on time then. Suddenly the attendant says this lot is closed it is all filled up. You yell to the attendant where else can I park, the guy behind is blowing his horn at you. Now you know you are going to be late. You finally park your vehicle and hurry into the stadium. Not bad only 15 minutes late. The game does not wait for you it started on time.

This is a fast paced world we live in. Go to a hospital be patient it could require a 5 hour wait or more to see a doctor. School might start at 9 am. Medical appointments are set don't be late but also be prepared to wait and wait for them.

Want to play a round of golf you are better to book a tee off time or you might not get on the course.

You see timing is not always on our time or when we want. The system makes us wait.

Sometimes we pray for things to happen. We might pray for someone to be healed. Things we pray for it sometimes seems like God does not answer our prayers.

Often our schedule and God's might seem not to match up. He acts earlier than we had expected, or later than we had hoped. The result is that sometimes we are impatient with God.

None of us know how long we will live. But God does.

The first thing we need to understand about God's timing is that it is perfect, just as all of God's ways are perfect.

Psalm 18:30 (NLT) - God's way is perfect. All the Lord's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection.

God's timing is never early, and it's never been late. In fact, from before our birth until the moment we take our last earthly breath, our sovereign God is accomplishing His divine purposes in our lifetimes. He is in complete control of everything and everyone from everlasting to everlasting. Our human nature can make waiting for God's perfect timing a difficult thing to do.

Galatians 5:22 (NLT) - But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.

How can one person seem to escape death and others are taken as some like to say “before there time”. Is it up to us to know the timing of our death or is only known to God?

When my wife Dana had cancer cells in her uterus, or when she had a lump on her breast or the time she had a blood clot we immediately feared the worse. She was treated for the cancer cells and on the other two occasions Dana requested the elders of the church have laying on of hands while the pastor prayed over Dana.

Both doctors could not believe there was no longer a lump or a blood clot in Dana’s body and after Dana explained of the laying on of hands and praying both doctors responded “it does not happen like that”. Neither doctor had any answers. I witnessed this power of praying miracle. God was not done with Dana.

In the 9/11 event of 2001 the devastating event that happened at the New York Trade center where thousands of lives were lost due to terrorists forcing planes to crash into it. There were a number of stories of people who were to be at work on time but something happened for them to be late. The head of a company had to take his son to kindergarten. Someone stopped to get donuts. Someone’s alarm clock did not go off. Someone got stuck in traffic because of an accident. Someone missed the bus. Someone spilled food on their clothes and had to take time to change. Someone could not get a taxi. Someone had a new shoe cause a blister on their foot and they stopped at a drug store to get band aids. There were other examples. WHY did on this day were these people late for work and they are alive.

Remember it is God’s timing not ours. We need to wait on the Lord and be patient.

Psalms 27:14 (NLT) - Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 (NLT) -

- 1 For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.
- 2 A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest.
- 3 A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up.
- 4 A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance.
- 5 A time to scatter stones & a time to gather stones. A time to embrace & a time to turn away.
- 6 A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time to keep and a time to throw away.
- 7 A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak.
- 8 A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace.

Let us Pray - Dear Heavenly Father give us love, patience and understanding to know that everything is done with your perfect timing. We trust you will keep your eternal schedule. Let us meditate on your word so God’s timing will also become clear to us. Let us understand that everything happens in God’s timing not ours.

In Jesus name we pray AMEN

Making The Best In A Time Of Isolation - Teaching Moment

Who could have predicted the world would be in a Corona Virus lock down. Staying at home in isolation. Keep 6 feet away from others. Stay away from your grandchildren, stay away from your mother in the nursing home. No hugs no kisses.

WHY the hoarding of toilet paper? I have not understood this.

What a shift from being our normal to our country thrown in disruption.

Most never saw the coronavirus pandemic coming. Who imagined the swift exit from normalcy to things not being normal? The stay at home and self-quarantine mandates forced us to make changes with the time we had at home.

Some times when we are isolated we need to focus on how we turn our time into something productive.

On November 1, 2019 I fell 10 steps down the basement steps. My right foot ended under me and my full weight caused a spiral break in right foot below the knee and right ankle broke in two places. I had to have surgery that day and I spent 27 days in hospital care.

My stay in the hospital was put to good use. I read and researched the Bible to put together two articles that I thought could be helpful to people. 1. How to be saved. 2. Heaven or Hell – You have a choice.

With stair lifts in place I was allowed to go home. I was released with no weight bearing on my right foot. I was now spending most of my days in a wheel chair in isolation at home.

I took this opportunity to take my father's 10 large family binders of pictures and scanned over 2,000 pictures and put them on a 32 gigabyte USB stic to save them. My father had typed an outline beside each picture and it took me 57 typed pages to explain who was in the pictures.

When I completed this task I started working on our own family pictures. Currently I have scanned over 5,000 pictures and have 160 different folders. Had it not been for this period of isolation at home because of my fall I do not see that this project would have started and progressed to this point. I have given my sister 4 copies on USB memory stic for her family and for my daughters and their families to enjoy.

During the fall of 2019 we started attending church at The Gathering Place 1st Presbyterian Church in Port Colborne. Under the pastor of Adam Bartha I had enjoyed his Teaching Moments which consisted of a short story that helped us to learn something. I became inspired and felt the urge to prepare some articles as Teaching Moments or one could call them Inspired Moments.

This home isolation was giving me the time and inspiration to write a number of Teaching Moments.

I also became inspired to put together a collection of these Teaching Moments that I would share with others who also might be inspired to read them.

I realize why some people like to write. Some make a living doing this. Some make big money. My motivation for writing my Teaching Moments is not to make money but hope that you become inspired by these stories to learn more yourself and about the Bible. Should you find a Teaching Moment that helps turn your life around or it inspires you to go to church or has made you feel like you want to help other people may I suggest you make a donation to a local food bank. It makes me feel good to write these Teaching Moments please be inspired to help other people in need.

The Bible's wisdom can help you to deal with problems that are caused by isolation. Psalm 46:1 NLT - God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

It seems God often set aside a leader from his normal life for a greater purpose. For some it was jail time like the apostle Paul. Paul wrote many of his epistles when he was imprisoned.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NLT) - All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

Did you make the most of your time while isolated at home with the Corona Virus outbreak? Did you set yourself a goal to get something done or start a project you have been putting off because you never had the time or never took the time?

Jesus spent forty days isolated in the desert as preparation for his adult ministry by himself and without food and then was tempted by Satan.

John Bunyan was imprisoned twelve years for preaching the Gospel. What came from his time in prison was one of Christianity's greatest classics, Pilgrim's Progress.

Nelson Mandela would be imprisoned for 27 years for his anti-apartheid, revolutionary political activities in South Africa. He would move from the jail cell to the presidential palace for five years as president of South Africa from 1994-1999.

Isaiah 45:15 (NLT) - Truly, O God of Israel, our Savior, you work in mysterious ways.

Luke 21:11 (NLT) There will be great earthquakes, and there will be famines and plagues in many lands, and there will be terrifying things and great miraculous signs from heaven.

Let us Pray – Dear Heavenly Father in times of trials and events in this world like viruses, please keep our families safe and let these viruses pass over our homes and not touch us. Let us take times of isolation and make the best of our time and accomplish great things with our families. We are all in this together.

In Jesus name we Pray AMEN

What Can Happen If We Sin?

Our parents usually teach us right from wrong. Parents usually set rules that children must or should follow. If parents follow through and insist their children follow these rules then they usually have some form of discipline if they are not followed.

Children learn about the laws in our country, our province and rules and regulations they must follow in their community.

We have certain responsibilities to obey the laws even if we do not agree with them.

The government of Canada makes laws to control crime, the provincial governments have powers to pass laws in matters concerning civil affairs and property. The local Municipalities powers include areas such as: property tax, zoning, business licenses, and an array of municipal bylaws.

The governments make the laws. Judges do not make new laws. Judges apply Canada's laws when they make decisions in court.

What are the punishments for breaking the law?

If you are convicted of a crime, there are a wide range of punishments you could face. You could face a combination of punishments, including doing jail time, probation, and fines.

The above information is called MAN'S LAW

What about GOD'S LAW?

Everything created points to a creator. The existence of God is evidenced through his creation. God has created his laws by publishing them in the Holy Bible.

2 Timothy 3: 16 (NLT) - All scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

God in the Bible gave us the Ten Commandments as guidelines that we should follow and live by.

There is a principle that is understood that "Ignorance is no excuse of the law". This means to go to court and face a judge and say "I was not aware of that law", this is no excuse that the judge will accept. If you have broken the law then you will be given some kind of penalty.

How will this excuse work with God when you sin?

God says it is wrong to sin.

1 John 3:4 (NLT) - Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God.

What is sin? God's definition is "sin is the transgression of the law" read 1 John 3:4 above again. Transgression is an act that goes against a law, or rule, this applies to God's Laws.

God says it is a sin not to believe in him. John 16:9 (NLT) - "The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me."

What is the penalty for being a sinner? The penalty under God's law is death.

Romans 5:12 "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned."

How can one be saved?

John 3:16 (NLT) - "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

Only Jesus Christ can become sin for you so that you will be seen by God as having Jesus' own righteous because He will become sin for you. Jesus is the only one who can save you because you sinned.

2 Corinthians (NLT) " For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ"

What do you have to do to be saved? You need to repent and confess your sins and then trust in Christ?

Romans 10: 9-10 (NLT) " If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved."

The Bible is absolutely clear that, ultimately, there are only two options for where you go when you die: heaven or hell. The Bible also makes it abundantly clear that you can determine where you go when you die

Our sin separates us from God, and, if left unresolved, our sin will result in us being eternally separated from God read Matthew 25:46 & Romans 6:23.

This eternal separation from God is hell, described in the Bible as an eternal lake of fire.

Revelation 20:14-15 (NLT) – "Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire."

Let us Pray – Dear Heavenly Father let us learn about how we sin and how God hates sin. Let us know that by breaking laws we pay a penalty and when we break God's Law the penalty is death. Please teach us how to be saved through believing in Jesus Christ who died on the cross to save sinners like us. Let us repent and turn Jesus to be saved.

In Jesus name we pray AMEN

How to be Saved?

How can I be saved?

This question is the most important question that you can ask.

This deals with where we will spend eternity after our lives in this world are over. There is no more important issue than our eternal destiny. The Bible is clear on how a person can be saved. Acts 16: 31 says "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved".

Romans 10:9-10 says, "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved".

Why do I need to be saved?

We are all infected with sin. Romans 3:23 says "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard".

We all personally choose to sin Ecclesiastes 7:20 says, "Not a single person on earth is always good and never sins".

1 John 1:8 says "If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth".

Sin is what makes us unsaved. Sin is what separates us from God. Sin is what has us on the path to eternal destruction.

Saved from what?

Because of our sin, we all deserve death Romans 6:23 says "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord".

The just penalty for our sin is also eternal and infinite. What we need to be saved from is eternal destruction. Matthew 25:46 says, "And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life"

Revelation 20:15 says, "and anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire".

How did God provide salvation?

Because the just penalty for sin is infinite and eternal, only God could pay the penalty, because only He is infinite and eternal. But God, in His divine nature, could not die. So God became a human being in the person of Jesus Christ. God took on human flesh, lived among us, and taught us. When the people rejected Him and His message, and sought to kill Him, He willingly sacrificed Himself for us, allowing Himself to be crucified.

John 10:15 says, "just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep."

Because Jesus Christ was human, He could die; and because Jesus Christ was God, His death had an eternal and infinite value. Jesus' death on the cross was the perfect and complete payment for our sin

1 John 2:2 says, "He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world".

He took the consequences we deserved. Jesus' resurrection from the dead demonstrated that His death was indeed the perfectly sufficient sacrifice for sin.

What do I need to do?

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" says Acts 16:31.

Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it".

God has already done all of the work. All you must do is receive, in faith, the salvation God offers.

Fully trust in Jesus alone as the payment for your sins. Believe in Him, and you will not perish.

John 3:16 says, "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life".

God is offering you salvation as a gift. All you have to do is accept it. Jesus is the way of salvation.

John 14:6 says,

"Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me".

The Bible may not be of interest to you to read BUT within the bible it tells you how you can have a CHOICE of receiving ETERNAL LIFE or ETERNAL DEATH in the Lake of Fire.

You cannot be saved by thinking you are a nice person and you help some family, friends and neighbors out now and then.

I want to help my family, friends and neighbors out but like an insurance policy, I want to protect myself and my choice to have ETERNAL LIFE, I believe in the Bible and Acts 16: 31 "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved".

HEAVEN OR HELL – YOU HAVE A CHOICE

What is to become of me after I die?" "Is death the end?" "Will I go to heaven?" "Will I go to hell?"

At the end of this life, there are only two possible places to go, namely heaven or hell. The Bible describes hell as a place of torment, as a lake of fire, and as a place "prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41). Hell is not a place that God wants people to go. But He will not save those that are not willing to grab a hold of the lifeline.

God has a place in heaven for those who believe, while Hell is a place for nonbelievers. In heaven, the dead attain eternity, while in hell the dead suffer for all their sins committed while on earth.

Jesus taught in his parable of the last judgment that some would go to eternal punishment, some to eternal life, Matthew 25:46. In other words, hell will be as real and lasting as heaven.

The most frightening thing about hell is that it is spiritual separation from God. Hell is total separation from the love, joy, and peace that come from God.

There is a hope within us that death does not end all existence—that somehow, the life now begun will have a continuation. We often have unanswered questions like, "Where is my departed loved one?" "Do good people go to heaven and bad people to hell?" Many hard questions need to be answered to assure us that God truly is love and that He has a wonderful plan of salvation for all.

Jesus also warned!

The Bible does not only speak about heaven, but also about hell. Therefore, it was also part of Jesus' message to warn us. Here's an example of what He said: "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28). Here, Jesus is saying that we need to have a serious respect for God.

John 3:36 New Living Translation (NLT)

36 And anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God's angry judgment."

John 14:6 New Living Translation (NLT)

6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

John 5:24 New Living Translation (NLT)

24 “I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

Where are you going? Which will you choose?

You must decide where you will spend eternity. Jesus Christ has paid the full penalty for your sins on the cross. “Christ also suffered once for sins . . . that he might bring us to God
Romans 6:23 New Living Translation (NLT)

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Timothy 2:3-6 New Living Translation (NLT)

3 This is good and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. 5 For, There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. 6 He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1. John 1:9).

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him” (John 3:36).

Matthew 13:41-42 New Living Translation (NLT)

41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. 42 And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

” (1 Peter 3:18). Now you must come to him just as you are—a guilty sinner unable to save yourself.

IT IS YOUR CHOICE. HEAVEN OR HELL. DO NOT BLAME GOD FOR A BAD CHOICE YOU MAKE

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL HUMANS 2020

The earth whispered but you did not hear. The earth spoke but you did not listen
The earth screamed but you turned her off. And so I was born...

I was not born to punish you.. I was born to awaken you.. The earth cried out for help...
Massive flooding. But you didn't listen. Burning fires. But you didn't listen. Strong hurricanes.
But you didn't listen. Terrifying Tornadoes. But you didn't listen.

You still don't listen to the earth when. Ocean animals are dying due to pollutants in the waters.
Glaciers melting at an alarming rate. Severe drought.

You didn't listen to how much negativity the earth is receiving.
Non-stop wars. Non-stop greed. You just kept going on with your life.. No matter how much
hate there was.. No matter how many killings daily.. It was more important to get that latest
iPhone than worry about what the earth was trying to tell you..

But now I am here. And I've made the world stop on its tracks. I've made YOU finally listen. I've
made you take refuge. I've made you stop thinking about materialistic things..

Now you are like the earth... You are only worried about YOUR survival. How does that feel?

I give you fever.. as the fires burn on earth. I give you respiratory issues.. has pollution fill the
earth air. I give you weakness as the earth weakens every day.

I took away your comforts. Your outings. The things you would use to forget about the planet &
its pain.

And I made the world stop... And now... China has better air quality.. Skys are clear blue
because factories are not spewing pollution unto the earth's air.

The water in Venice is clean and dolphins are being seen. Because the gondola boats that
pollute the water are not being used.

YOU are having to take time to reflect on what is important in your life.
Again I am not here to punish you.. I am here to Awaken you...
When all this is over and I am gone... Please remember these moments..

Listen to the earth. Listen to your soul. Stop Polluting the earth. Stop Fighting among each
other. Stop caring about materialistic things. And start loving your neighbors.
Start caring about the earth and all its creatures.

Because next time I may come back even stronger....

Signed,
Coronavirus