

Tips for navigating this crazy world of ours!

BOLD AND BELIEVING

**Reflections on Life and the
World We're Living In**

Gary Britton

A Sponsors of Hope Publication

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"For a kinder world."

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Believe in the life changing power
of love. Love for your mate, for your
family, for yourself.

Be bold. If you can believe,
anything is possible!

INTRODUCTION

In our usual format of bite size “reflections”, *Bold and Believing* is the sequel to our wildly popular *Be Bold. Believe!*

As with our other publications it doesn’t have to be read in any particular order, and is handy to have available when the need arises for a short little burst of inspiration.



JUST START

Would you like to be successful? Would you like to have more friends? Would you like to find love, personal pleasure and satisfaction in everything you do?

Would you like to rise above your present situation? You can create a better life for yourself, for your family, for everyone who comes into your life.

You can stand out from the crowd and excel in everything you do. And you can have your every need met.

Just start putting other people's happiness above your own. Start being more loving, and see for yourself how all these things can become true...

For YOU!



ONLY WE CAN

Life's tough. Let's face it. None of us really have it easy.

In spite of how well off others may seem, each one has their problems, their fears and personal tragedies.

In short, life can be discourteous to us all.

We either go through life blaming others, or we take charge of our lives.

We come to grips with our present reality and plan a course of action toward creating something better. A better place, a place where we feel better with ourselves.

We are indeed at the helm of our lives.

Only *we* can make the difference we desire.

Affirmation:

I am going to make a conscious, ongoing effort to change my life and create the life I want.

- - -

“Walk worthy of God, who has called you unto His kingdom and glory.” (1 Thessalonians 2:12)



BEING THERE

Everything is moving fast these days, and people are so busy. Most everyone is caught up in a spirit of “busyness”.

Let’s take time to enjoy life more, take time for loved ones and the little things.

I think it’s a real blessing to be able to find contentment, exactly where we are, right at the moment we are there, in present tense.

And feel good with ourselves for being there!

Affirmation:

I stopped controlling, and am learning to live in the present.

- - -

“It is good for one to eat, drink, and enjoy the good of his labor. This is the gift of God.” (Ecclesiastes 5:18,19)



THE KEY TO HAPPY

You know we can all be happier.

We could have a happier world. We could all feel better with each other and with ourselves, on every level, in our homes, and in our communities, and in our world, as nations, as neighbors, and as family.

Laugh, and the world with laugh with you.
Cry, and you'll cry alone.

We can all together, make a happier world.
It's easy.

The key is, as someone so wisely once said,
“If you want to be happy... BE!”

It's that simple!

“He has put a new song in my mouth, even praise to our God.” (Psalms 40:3)



ALL GOD NEEDS

You don't need more money.
You don't need a big new car.
You don't need a fancy education.

You don't need to be famous.
You don't need to be sophisticated.
You don't need to have all the answers.

God doesn't need any of these things to use you. All He needs is your HEART.

Affirmation:

I give you my heart Lord. Make my life a blessing.

“Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to think anything as of ourselves, but our sufficiency is of God; Who also has made us able laborers.” (2 Corinthians 3:5,6)



TREATED UNFAIRLY?

We have all been treated unfairly by others. But by not forgiving them it will only hurt ourselves. The bitterness will eat away at us. And we will be the only ones to suffer.

Forgiving someone who has mistreated us is a liberation and a release.

We are to forgive, leave it in the past...

And don't look back. Ever.

“Forgive, if you have anything against any: that your Father in Heaven may forgive you your trespasses.” (Mark 11:25)



WHAT GOD ASKS

It seems like people everywhere are trying to make a sale these days.

Some people are high energy. They really work themselves up. They pressure you, they intimidate you. You can't avoid them when trying to buy a new car.

Time shares, politics, or religion, they are all trying to sell you something. Their tricks are all the same. Their world is full of fast talkers.

God is not a fast talker. He speaks slowly, softly. His spirit soothes, comforts and heals. God gives.

The only thing he asks in return, is your trust.

"I love the Lord because He has heard my voice and my supplications. Return unto your rest, O my soul; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you." (Psalms 116:1,7)



GREAT THINGS!

If we want to see God move in powerful ways, we have to stay out of *God's* way. And how do we do that?

We do that by seeking His help in everything. We do that by praying for His guidance in every little thing we do. We do that by looking to Him before every word we speak.

We get in God's way when we rush around in our own strength. We keep Him from working, by doing things in our own nervous energy and making decisions with our spontaneous natural reasoning.

It's when we get out of the way, that God does great things in our lives!

Affirmation:

The more I get out of God's way, the more positive things come into my life.

- - -

"When you are weak, then I am strong says the Lord. My strength is made perfect in your weakness."

(2 Corinthians 12:9-10)



STRESS FREE

“Eliminate stress in your life.” We are told to do that.

We know we should do it. We know deep inside that we *have* to eliminate stress from our lives. But boy that’s something that’s easier said than done!

Especially with all the demands we face on every side, being surrounded by other stressful people, and just living in this fast-paced world that we ourselves have created.

It takes a constant and continued effort to reprogram ourselves and our way of thinking toward a calmer, more peaceful, and stress free life.

“My peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you.”
(John 14:27)



OPEN OR CLOSED?

When we make excuses and blame others we are only defending ourselves. And the more we defend ourselves, the more we paint ourselves into a corner.

In our efforts to protect ourselves we only drive others further and further away.

We alienate ourselves because we don't want to be hurt. Yet we end up being the one who gets hurt the most. How ironic.

So we are either closing ourselves to others, or we are opening up our lives to them, and by so doing encouraging others to do the same.

This is a choice each of us has to make.



ALWAYS IN FASHION

“Love.”

What a beautiful word. What a beautiful concept. But at the same time, what a worn out one.

All of our lives we have heard the word “love” used in so many different contexts. In everything from the good, to the bad, to the ugly, the word “love” just doesn’t have much power over us anymore.

Some people have even equated love with weakness. That’s how far off track we have gone.

Ultimately the only thing that can truly satisfy us all will be love.

The love we give, and the love we share.



OLD FRIENDS

(From “We Are All Family”)

A lot of people are living in the past when it comes to relationships. They think they know someone that maybe they haven't even seen for years. We sometimes visit a family member or friend who we haven't seen for some time and we hold on to our old opinion of them.

But times change, and we all change over the years. We form new opinions, discover new things, and forget some others. Our tastes change, we see things differently as we experience new things, and grow older, wiser.

So, the next time you run into an old friend, someone that was once dear to you, be open to rediscovering that friend, getting to know them again.

You may be surprised to see that things you didn't like about them in the past, are no longer reality. You may be wonderfully surprised to see how they have changed...

And you may discover that *you* have changed a little bit yourself also along the way!



HOW EASY

We don't have to try so hard to do the right thing, and make such a grand effort to try to please God or to be close to Him. Trying so hard to please Him actually separates us from Him.

The basis of all false religion is that you have to DO something to please God. When really in a way, you have to do nothing, other than receive Him, open your heart to Him, and receive the sun and light of His Word.

We're here to learn how not to be stressed, to learn to lean on Him. He gives us perfect peace of mind when we trust in Him.

That's all God asks. That's how easy it is to please Him!

“My soul shall be satisfied and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips, when I remember You and meditate on You. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.” (Psalms 63:6,7)



OUR PART

“Self help.”

These two words say it all. But the question we should ask is, what are we actually doing to help ourselves?

There are so many resources available on the Internet, so many things we have available, that there is absolutely no reason we can't find an abundance of things to help ourselves overcome any obstacle, overcome our counterproductive habits, change our way of thinking, and become victors!

Changing a negative mindset requires a proactive attitude. Then, as they say, by doing what we can do, God will do what we can't.

But it all starts with us. We first have to do our part!



GROWING IN REAL KNOWLEDGE

People study to learn all kinds of things.

Some spend many years learning deep, vast, and complicated subjects, theories and disciplines.

A lot of this knowledge has been used for the good of mankind. A lot hasn't. None of us are in any position to really judge anyone.

When we come to the end of our lives and stand before the Lord, we will be glad for the time we spent growing in the knowledge of God and getting to know His ways.

There, we will receive the praise of God, as well as of man.

Affirmation:

I am investing in my future, in things that will outlast this present world.

- - -

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding.” (Proverbs 9:10)



LEARNING TO FLOW

Controlling creates tension. As we try to control things we merely create more stress.

Many things go wrong in life. People let us down. Surprises are not always pleasant. Life is a continual conflict and we simply cannot iron out all of our problems in our own strength and nervous energy.

Nothing will get us down quicker and can even put us in the hospital, because stress is a killer!

The solution is to stop trying to control your life.

And start learning to flow with it.

“Cast your burden upon the Lord and He shall sustain you.”
(Psalms 55:22)



BROUGHT LOW

Arrogance and pride are not of God.

Whether it be in an individual or an entire nation, God's Word says that sooner or later the proud will be brought low. They will be humbled.

God resists the proud but is almost always with the humble in spirit.

Many people have forgotten that, and it will only be to their detriment. And they will have nobody to blame but themselves.

May we never let it be said of us.

“Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by Him actions are weighed.” (1 Samuel 2:3)



LOVE HAPPENS

The reason so many people are lonely is because they are looking for love. But they're going about it wrong. They are looking for someone to love them.

The reason they don't find love is because they're looking to receive instead of to give.

But the very nature of love is *giving*.

We find love when we give love. If we give love, then love actually does seek us out and find us!

When two GIVING people get together...
That's when love can happen!



SINCERELY REACH

People make time for everything it seems these days, except God.

That's not surprising, as the church's image of God is too boring for the average person... and the Internet offers so many more fun and exciting things to do than go to church.

This also explains why for so many people this life is a dry and dusty land. It's sad that they miss out on the beauty of the depth and riches of having a friend so near, so dear.

God does exist. He's there. If you sincerely reach out to Him...

You will find Him.



DUMB

Many people think they know better than God. Their attitude is, “If I were God I wouldn’t allow such suffering.” And, “If I were God there wouldn’t be so much injustice in the world.”

I think it’s good that all of us as human beings walk a little bit more humbly upon this earth.

That’s wise, realistic, and has only favorable health benefits.



STOP TRYING

(From “Prayer Like Pizza”)

It seems like one of the main lessons in life is learning who to help, how to help, and more importantly sometimes, when not to try to help!

We have all felt the frustration of wanting to help someone, of trying to help them, but not being able. We feel we possess useful knowledge or wisdom from our experience in some particular area but are not able to impart it to them because of their lack of receptivity or openness. This is one of the sad things in life.

At times like these, often the only thing we can do for them is pray.

It takes trust in God to believe that our prayers are heard, and that they are, in fact, more powerful than anything else we could ever do for them sometimes.

God is real. Discover the power of prayer!



A LIVE GOD

God isn't dead. He is as much alive now as He was back in New Testament times.

God has spoken to countless millions throughout the ages. He has spoken to man through songs and hymns, poems and books, movies, music and dreams.

God is the very essence of creativity. His voice is the spark of inspiration, passion and truth. And when we get inspired and speak with His love it is actually HIM speaking through us.

We preach a living God to a dying world. Don't doubt His ability to speak through YOU!

Affirmation:

My God is alive and speaking and working through me.

Jesus said, "Greater works shall YOU do." (John 14:12)



OBNOXIOUS

Some people always have to be the center of attention.

They talk nonstop and think everyone is interested in hearing every story imaginable from their past, along with every insignificant, little detail.

They brag and talk only about themselves. These obnoxious people are not much fun to be with.

But most of the greatest souls the world has known have been little people who weren't puffed up by their own egos. People who maybe you didn't even know were there. But they were there when you needed them. They were always quick to see the need and respond.

They got out of themselves and served a greater purpose. They lived to serve their fellow man.

And God was with them!



OUR ROLE

(From “I Don’t Believe in God, but...”)

Ours is not to ask what “role” God has in the universe, but rather what role we have.

To have a role to play is to say there is someone greater, a “director” or a “producer”.

GOD is the director. God is the producer. We are merely the ones playing the roles.

We actually can *choose* the role we want to play, and we are creating our eternal destiny by our choice of roles.



A BACKWARDS WORLD

(From “Be Bold. Be Happy!”)

We need to stop apologizing just because someone doesn’t like something.

Sin, in God’s eyes is basically when we do something that is unloving, because LOVE is the yardstick by which we should guide our lives.

If we say something with good intentions, but someone finds fault, we don’t have to apologize as if we had done something wrong. The problem isn’t with us. The problem is with them!

That’s how God sees things. How backwards the world is becoming.

Better stay close to Him!

Affirmation:

I live a life of love and respect to others and just trust God for the results.

- - -

“If our heart condemns us not, then confidence have we before God.” (1 John 3:21)



THE GLORY OF CHRISTIANITY

People are killing themselves with all of this strife, this bickering, this fussing and feuding. People are getting so uptight, so stressed out as if that will do any good.

Slowly it will take a toll on their health and will ultimately accomplish very little. All of this tension is killing us.

God's ways are not our ways. God sees things differently from how we see them. God wants us as Christians to be opposite of how the world is and to be the example the world so desperately needs.

Jesus forgave. He forgave even the people who murdered Him! The power of Christianity lies in forgiveness. And the glory of Christianity is to conquer... By FORGIVENESS!

Affirmation:

I strive to live like Jesus lived and treat people like He treated them.

- - -

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 2:5)



TOO DELICATE!

It's incredible the amount of babysitting you have to do these days!

So many people require pampering. You have to cater to their sensitive feelings so as not to offend. They are so damned delicate. And it's not getting any better!

Once again, it is the press and television and movies that put this easily offended mindset into people's heads. It's really getting pathetic.

Don't give into it. And don't YOU be one of them!



NOTHING TO PROVE

People go through life *proving* themselves.

Children continually try to prove themselves to their parents, sometimes to no avail. Our educational system is all about proving oneself. People try to get the highest scores and outshine everyone else. It's crazy.

People have to prove themselves in business as they climb the ladder of success. It never ends.

But we don't have to do anything to deserve God's love. God's love is without conditions.

With Him we have nothing to prove!

Affirmation:

Thank you Lord for making it so easy to please You.

"He crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies."
(Psalms 103:4)



DEEP IN OUR HEARTS

(From “The Certainty of Everything”)

Over the ages man has gotten his eyes and heart so close to the material world, that he has all but succeeded in erasing every vestige and memory of the spiritual world. He is getting to the point where he believes in nothing other than what he can see and touch, the things that are right in front of his eyes. And it is only to his loss.

I think that many, if not all of us, chose to come here to this life. I think we chose to come here for our own individual spiritual growth. This world seems to be a testing ground of sorts. A proving ground, a sort of “test tube”.

We see bits and pieces of the puzzle right now, and while all of our perspectives are valid, none of us see the entire picture.

But the truth is, and always has been there. Many times illogical to our minds and known only deep within our hearts.

“We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. The things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:18)



THE WAY

(From “Be Bold. Be Happy!”)

The way to have more love:
Is for YOU to start being more loving.
It's to be more understanding,
When you feel like condemning.

It's to be more giving,
When you feel like being greedy.
It's to swallow your pride,
When you feel like blowing your top.

It's to be humble,
When you feel like being so right.
It's to stop talking, and start doing.

The way to change the world:
Is to start... with YOURSELF!

Affirmation:

I am taking charge of my life and am being the type of person
I want to see in the world!

- - -

“He that has no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is
broken down and without walls. (Proverbs 25:28)



DO OUR BEST

I think we are all by nature prone to criticize.

We all seem to project our own negative traits on others, and then wrongfully judge them.

Well, life is rough and we *all* carry burdens, sorrows and hidden woes.

So lets be quicker to see the good in others and be more understanding.

Let's try to lift up and encourage ach other. Let's do our best and strive for more harmony in our homes and in our lives!



NEED TO CHANGE

People blame the government.

They say it's corrupt. They say politicians are thieves and liars. They say the system is archaic and they think their political ideology is the only way.

They think they have the solution if people would but listen. They grow bitter because they don't. They are full of their own ideas of what is wrong and how to right it.

They are taking us all into a downward spiral. Nothing changes. No wonder things don't get better with all of this negative self talk.

Nor will it ever, until we start focusing on the POSITIVE!



IN YOUR HEART

Organized religion has started wars, brought down governments and caused immeasurable suffering to countless generations.

Organized religion insists on defining God to man and establishes rules by which we are supposed to abide in order to please God. It then judges and condemns us when we do not keep these rules. Yet organized religion is defended by vast swaths of people in our world today.

It's unbelievable that so many people accept the concept of a cruel, merciless and severe God, when He is the complete opposite: the loving spirit behind our universe and the very essence of our entire human experience.

Deep down you know how God is. You know it... in your heart.

Affirmation:

I have left cold, dead religion behind and move forward with the warm, vibrant love of God toward my fellow man.

“The Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me.”
(John 16:25)



DREAM, LIVE, LOVE

Without dreams we achieve nothing.
Without love we feel empty. And without God we are lost.

We need to have dreams and goals. Whether they be big or small it matters not. Any kind of dream, goal, or project that propels us forward is good.

Love is, as they say, what makes the world go around. It's what makes life worthwhile. And we all need God to guide us and help us make it through this life.

So let's live fuller lives by dreaming more.
Let's live fuller lives by being more loving to those around us.

And let's live fuller lives by seeking God more and by making Him our top priority daily.

"You, Lord, will show me the path of life: in Your presence is fullness of joy." (Psalms 16:11)



ONLY BELIEVE

(From "The Certainty of Everything")

Many people go through life seeking love but seldom finding it. They silently cry in their loneliness and yearn for a deeper sense of belonging.

The aching spiritual void man has deep within his heart is really a longing to be reunited with the great spirit of love that created him and rules the universe.

There is a power greater than what the human mind can comprehend. There is a love that is more pure than we now know. There is a knowledge far beyond what we can even begin to fathom.

And we can have them all now, if we will only believe.



HEART CRIES

The rich have gotten a lot richer over these last few years. It's funny how they always seem to come out on top when the going gets rough. And during this period the poor have only become more in debt.

The average person, as always, is just trying to find some semblance of peace of mind in his quest for emotional as well as economic stability.

Yes, life seems unfair. Man certainly is unfair.

Man seems all too quick to exploit his fellow man for personal gain and he thinks more and more only of himself.

I can relate to the working man. I feel for the downtrodden, those suffering.

Jesus was a friend of the poor. He sympathized with them. He heard their heart cries.

"He satisfies the hungry heart, but the rich (full) he has sent empty away." (Luke 1:53)



IN GOD'S KINGDOM

In God's Kingdom children are the highest.
In God's Kingdom the meek are the strongest.
In God's Kingdom the loving are the wisest!
In God's Kingdom there is no war.

That's what God's Kingdom is like!

“Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.” (Matthew 5:5,10)



NERVOUS ENERGY

The spirit of “busyness” has taken over this world today. People are too busy for anything!

It’s easy to fall into the trap of endless activity while we continually justify it to ourselves as somehow necessary. But it is the worst thing a Christian can do because it completely blocks the Lord from being able to work through him.

God fills the empty heart.

God uses the man who knows he doesn’t have all the answers, the man who ceases from his own efforts and nervous energy...

And lets God work in his life.

Affirmation:

I make a conscious effort to get out of the way and let You work, dear Lord.

- - -

“In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.” (Isaiah 30:15)



SUCH IS LOVE

Kids leave home. They seldom call their parents. Parents feel sad.

After all they have done for their children they feel their love is not reciprocated. They feel their sacrifices are not appreciated. It is a lonely feeling indeed.

Parenting can be a thankless job at times. Frustration is the greatest feeling we must endure as parents. And this can last for years.

Then, the kids become parents. Then, and only then, do they begin to understand!

Such is life. Such is love.

“Harken to your father, and despise not your mother when she is old. Your father and mother shall be glad, and she that bare you shall rejoice.” (Proverbs 23:22,25)



NEW THINGS NOW

Some people live in the past. That's all they talk about.

But the past is gone. And living in the past is a dead end.

If you are living in your past, start doing something new. Then, keep doing new things.

Until all you want to talk about, are the new things that are happening in your life...

NOW!

“For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth.” (Song of Solomon 2:10,11)



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE HEART

(From "Givers and Takers")

God doesn't judge you according to how much you give. God judges you according to how much you have left.

A person can give millions and although that may seem like a lot to some of us, if he has many more billions left over, he hasn't really given that much. Proportionately he may be giving even less than the guy who's giving his last dollar or two.

So it's not about quantity. It's about the heart.

The person who gives unselfishly, sacrificially, and lovingly from their heart will always be blessed more than the person who gives just for show.

Affirmation:

Everything I have has come from You, dear Lord. I give freely.

- - -

"I will not give unto the Lord that which has cost me nothing." (2 Samuel 24:24)



PROOF

Some people have been to Paris. Others haven't.

Wouldn't it be dumb for someone to say Paris doesn't exist just because he hasn't been there?

Some people say God exists. Others say He doesn't.

So, it's simple:

The only way you can know if God exists is by going there yourself. "The proof is in the pudding."

And who doesn't like dessert?

"Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him." (Psalms 34:8)



THE COOLEST THING

As you grow old you learn lessons that you can't learn any other way.

As you get older you see people all around you, people younger than you, that are spinning their wheels, hitting their heads against the wall, trying and failing.

You also see people trying to be successful in their lives, and you're just grateful that you don't have to go through all these things again.

Growing old seems to have its limitations. You're not as agile as you used to be. You don't bounce back from an injury as quickly as before. You have to take life at a slower pace. But all these things prove to be blessings in disguise.

Yes, growing old isn't so bad after all.

So if you're young, you can actually look forward to it!

In fact growing old is about the COOLEST THING that ever happened to me!

"The gray head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness." (Proverbs 16:31)



THE RESTLESS

From the moment they get up in the morning some people move nonstop. They then carry their feverish activity throughout their day.

They are restless. Tormented.

That driving spirit simply is not of the Lord.

“Come unto me all you that labor and I will give you rest.”
(Matthew 11:28)

“But there is rest for the people of God.” (Hebrews 4:9)



FIRE WITH FIRE

People get very vocal about social, racial and sexual inequality. They protest and proselytize for change. They denounce hatred. They talk about love. And rightly so.

But then these same people find fault with something some well meaning person does or says. They viciously attack them, when they have done nothing wrong! It's ironic that people who talk about love can show so little themselves.

If you fight fire with fire, you will be burned. You can't make people be good. You can't chase away darkness with more darkness. The only solution is to turn on the light!

That light, is LOVE. And the only way to win with love, is to start practicing it first yourself. You can't wait for the other guy to do it.

There is no other way.

"Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness."
(Psalms 112:4)



HE WILL HELP YOU

Life is hard. Life is not fair. And people can be really difficult.

Sometimes the people the most difficult to live with are those closest to us. Those who know us best sometimes are the least appreciative of our efforts, our sacrifices. It can get disheartening.

At times like these we need to love them all the more. It may not be easy. We may even feel like we have nothing left to give.

At times like these we must draw closer to the *only* one who will always love us, always appreciate us, always be there for us, Jesus.

Talk to Him. Tell Him your problems. He will help you.

He will give you the love you need.

Affirmation:

I am a channel of God's love for my loved ones.

"God is love. He that dwells in love dwells in God, and God in Him." (1 John 4:16)



I DIDN'T HAVE TIME

“I don’t have time.” We say that frequently, yet we find time in our busy schedules for the things that really matter to us. We make time for the things that are important to us.

At the end of the day, we place so much importance on trifles, on frivolous pursuits and things that offer instant gratification, but we fail to see the value in things that ultimately offer richer, longer lasting, results and benefits.

How many things will we regret when we come to the end of our lives because, “we didn’t have time”?



BE ONE!

Do you sometimes feel discouraged when you see all the negativity that is around us today?

Don't feel bad. Cheer up!

There are a lot of people all over this world of ours that are doing great things.

They are doing all kinds of things to help their neighbor, encourage their fellow man, and build a better world and a brighter future for all of us.

They are out there. And YOU can be one of them!

“You know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”
(1 Corinthians 15:58)



GOD'S ONLY LAW

So many misguided people preach FEAR of God instead of LOVE for God. They try to guilt trip you and tell you what God expects you to do. What arrogance!

In God's eyes, you don't have to necessarily *do* something that you don't want to. But if you want to do something, and if it helps you and or someone else, and hurts no one... you don't have to feel guilty about it! It's that simple.

THIS is God's only law, God's only rule: To love. We have a happy, loving God. And He wants YOU to be the same!

Affirmation:

Thank you Lord that the only rule you give us is to love.

"The living God gives us richly all things to enjoy."

(1 Timothy 6:17)



MAN'S FALL

It's amazing what people do because of it. Misunderstandings arise out of it. Life long friends have been lost over it. Wars have been started over it.

Untold violence is caused by it. Heartbreak and suffering are the result of it. Kingdoms have been lost because of it.

Pride is the opposite of love. Pride blinds our eyes to virtue and grace.

Pride has been man's fall, man's curse.

“Thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell with him also that is of a meek and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the meek ones.” (Isaiah 57:15)



“ME?” or “WE?”

People are becoming more and more divided. And being so divided is weakening them. Politics and religion are only dividing them more.

No matter how you paint it, all of this anger, all of this fury and rage, and all of this strife, are getting us nowhere. Nor will they ever get us anywhere. No matter what you say to justify it, they are not the solution.

We need to rise above and work together in harmony towards something better!

A sense of community is where people think in terms of “WE” instead of “ME”.

“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men.” (Galatians 6:10)



HOLD YOUR COURSE

(From “Be Bold. Be Happy!”)

There is a saying: “A friend doesn’t need an excuse, and an enemy isn’t going to believe it anyway.”

Some people are predisposed to find fault. No matter what you do, they will always see something wrong with what you are doing, and criticize. We should not be catering to these sad individuals.

Just because some people see negativity doesn’t mean we should change course and try to accommodate them. That’s what people are doing nowadays, and it is wrong!

Every great man has had to overcome criticism to reach his goal. Every great achievement has been met with obstacles.

Don’t let losers deter you. Ignore them. Keep doing good and moving forward. Just hold your course!

“Be not weary in well doing for in due season you shall reap if you faint not.” (Galatians 6:9)



BELIEVE AND RECEIVE

God's love is unconditional. It never varies.
What varies is our awareness of His love.

We don't have to work for God's love. There is nothing we can do to earn His love.

God loves us because we are each in fact a part of God. And it is when we accept that, and love Him back, that marvelous things happen.

Believe in His love. Receive His love.

Reflect His love.

Affirmation:

I let the Lord shine through me and use me to the max.

- - -

"Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God."
(Micah 6:8)



WANT A NEW LIFE?

Do you want a new life? Would you like for your life to take a completely different direction?

Try listening!

Instead of telling everyone what you want and what you think... start listening to them! Start showing interest in what they have to say. Take time to get to know them.

It won't be easy at first because of the rut you have been in. It will require a real effort on your part, but if you start listening to people and show a sincere interest in them... It will completely change your life.

But don't take my word for it. Try it, and see for yourself!

“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.” (Philippians 2:4)



RUDE

People are becoming really rude these days. Many don't even realize it! But it's true.

The lines have been blurred between so many things, and things that were considered proper and correct in the past have become even offensive at times for some. Let's face it: Things are getting really screwed up in this world!

So, what can we do? What can any of us do? I don't know. I'm not sure I ever will.

I just try to be courteous, and not rude.

And trust God for the results.

"The Lord God has given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary." (Isaiah 50:4)



A MYSTERY

People ask how, if God is a spirit, can we talk to Him as if He were a person?

God is in fact the loving spirit behind our universe. But at the same time we have access to Him, His power and His blessings through prayer, or meditation if you prefer.

This is simply one of the many wonderful mysteries of God.

This is just another one that has to be experienced to understand.

Affirmation:

I contemplate the Lord all day as I go about my business.



ALL THAT MATTERS

Forget doctrines; forget religion.

Forget theories, philosophies and politics.
These things only bring division and more questions.

Helping each other, lifting up each other, sharing the load: these are things that can truly change the world. These are the only things that bring joy and lasting satisfaction.

Living life and loving others is all that matters.



WHAT WE DO

Self improvement does not come automatically. Self improvement comes from a conscientious effort on an ongoing basis.

It comes through study, and taking notes, learning lessons, and then reviewing those lessons and those notes.

That's the only way we learn anything. Not by wishing and hoping.

It's what we DO, that defines us.



TODAY'S "CHRISTIAN" WORLD

We have pastors and preachers, reverends and bishops, apostles, deacons and doctors: eminent members of clergy... supposedly teaching, instructing and guiding people they define as the lost, as sinners, heathen, unbelievers and backsliders back to their "truth".

These seemingly holy and pure, sanctified, highly learned and righteous men and women, would have us believe that they are saving multitudes from *sin*, lasciviousness, adultery, lust and fornication, hell and damnation.

These high and lofty ones, with their big mouth preaching, with their pomp and pageantry, guilt tripping and condemnation, actually think they are saving the world!

And you wonder why young people today say they don't want God?

Affirmation:

I try to have a humble attitude toward others and try to be an example of God's love.

- - -

"Every one that is proud is an abomination to the Lord."
(Proverbs 16:5)



ARE YOU MAD AT GOD?

Are you mad at God? Do you blame Him for your life, your wife, you job, your sobs?

Well, life can be cruel and the people you meet along the way can be less than kind. But we each have more power than we realize to define our realities. We have the power to change the world around us, the people and things, the universe we each live in.

The only way out of the pit of discouragement is to start doing something positive. The only way to get rid of the gloom and the doom is to DO something new, DO something different.

It is as we take our eyes off of ourselves that we see clearly. It is as we think of others that we see new options, new opportunities and have new hope.

Stop blaming God and start DOING something positive... Today!



BEING “RIGHT”

It's so natural to snap back at others. It's natural to want to defend ourselves, justify ourselves.

But by justifying ourselves, we are proclaiming our own goodness, while often blaming others.

We feel we are “in the right”. We want to make a statement. We feel we are not to blame. We *never* are.

But we only keep people away with our wall of defensiveness. We build ever larger walls.

No wonder we are lonely.



ASK OURSELVES

I think idleness is one of the biggest problems we have in the world today.

The ones that complain the most, the ones that find the most fault, are those that are sitting around and doing nothing. And the sad part is that these people often live in the richer nations and have the most to be grateful for.

The complainers need to start **DOING** something *positive* with their lives, instead of criticizing those who **ARE** trying to do something.

We should all ask ourselves: are our words and actions contributing to the wave of negativity taking over the world today?

Or are they bringing joy and hope to those around us?



KILL THY NEIGHBOR

(From “Out of Control”)

There has scarcely been a time in history when there was not a war going on some place. Man uses the best of his resources and knowledge to make war.

We are told that we must protect ourselves from our neighbor, that we must do this for our family, for our children’s sake. We must do it because the other guy is *bad*, because he is *evil*.

We tell ourselves we are better, and then try to outdo each other by building bigger, better, and faster weapons. Such is man’s inhumanity towards his fellow man.

We are living the complete opposite of God’s command to love our neighbor.

Affirmation:

It doesn’t matter what others do. I can still make a difference with His love.

- - -

“In well doing you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.” (1 Peter 2:15)



MORE LIKE HIM

If we want to become more like the Lord, we can. But we don't become more like Him because we say we believe in Him. We don't become more like Him because we sit in a church for an hour or two. Just thinking about God doesn't cut it.

We become like Him as we take in His spirit. As we read His teachings we get to know Him better. As we read His words we cleanse our minds. It is as we read His words that we slowly begin to have His heart.

It is only as we feed on His Word that we can become more like Him.



BE AN EXAMPLE

Too many people try to make everyone accept their beliefs. But instead of helping people get closer to God, they drive them away.

We are all strange in so many ways and we all do dumb things. It's ironic that when we would do good, we often end up doing the opposite.

We are all bombarded by so much information these days. We are virtually assaulted by the media and the Internet. People have grown immune to people who come across like religious fanatics.

Sometimes, most of the time in fact, it's just better to "preach"...

By being an EXAMPLE.



PITY THE CHILDREN

There is so much intimidation and violence in public schools these days. Kids have to put up with a lot and often have no way out.

Many parents have chosen to home school their children. We think that is good.

Either way, we all need to be understanding of the pressures kids feel. Growing up has never been easy and they need our encouragement and support now more than ever.

They need us to be examples of God's unconditional love.



WILL LIVE ON!

When it comes to money, most of us at times know the feeling of wishing we had more.

Our world today has brought us all to a place where, for both rich and poor, young and old alike, money plays a never ending role in our lives.

Having money isn't bad. Having none is worse. How we get it, and what we do with it, is what counts. What we do with it, and our intentions are what's important.

After this life, we will see if our motives were pure or not.

Our conscience will live on.

And *that* is something we will ALL have to live with!



THE SEARCH

People are tired of “fake”. They are hungry for “real”. Deep down inside people sense something is fundamentally wrong.

They know that something is wrong with living in a world surrounded by greed, envy and strife. Because God has put it in our hearts to know there is more to life.

We will never be fully satisfied until we return to a simple life of living in harmony with our neighbor, and being at peace with God, living His *only* law of LOVE.



WE BELIEVE

We believe that too few, have way too much. But we are not socialists.

We believe that you don't have to go to church. But we are not atheists.

We believe that love and humility are the answer. But we are not pacifists.

We believe that true religion should be lived, not preached.



SOME PEOPLE

Some people think the more they yell at God the holier they are. Some people think the more they pray the more God will answer them. You see them on TV all the time.

Some people think the more they publicly proclaim their faith in God with all of their screaming and noise, the more they will draw others to God. They are wrong.

These people are not drawing people closer to God. They make people want nothing to do with God!

Don't you be like them!

“A wise man will show his good works with meekness of wisdom.” (James 3:13)



LASTING PEACE

Everywhere you look you see people trying to be “tough”. Guys want to show how tough they are. Women want to show everyone, especially men, that they can’t be pushed around.

Governments and militaries flex their muscles threatening each other. We see it all around us today. Things are not getting better.

We need to wake up. This is not the way to do things. We can only reap what we have first sown. We can only harvest what we have planted. And so what we have today are the negative fruits of what we’ve been planting collectively.

“Tough” is not the way! It is cold, hard icicles.

Cooperation and finding solutions together is the only way we can ever have hope of making a better world, and creating lasting peace and harmony for all.



HIS TRUE NATURE

People love to blame God for the countless things man has done in the name of religion.

But religion is a creation of man. It is man's interpretation of what he thinks God wants and is very short sighted.

So we must first make a distinction between religion and God if we are to ever have any possibility of understanding God's TRUE nature.



PRESSURE

Everywhere you look, people pressure others to do things.

Governments pressure other governments. Religious leaders and their followers pressure people.

Salesmen pressure people to buy their product. Bosses pressure people. Employees pressure bosses.

No wonder there is so much stress!

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SATISFACTION

For something to be satisfying, it has to be lasting. And few things are lasting in the fast paced world in which we are living.

People have their fast food, their fast cars, and their hectic way of life. People fill their lives with things. But things offer no lasting satisfaction.

That's because life, REAL life, doesn't consist of things. Things will never fully satisfy. Peace only comes from within.

Lasting peace of mind can only come from serving others. That's the only thing that TRULY satisfies.



TRUE ROYALTY

(From “Out of Control”)

Why do people glorify the rich of this world so much? Why do they talk all the time about the wealthiest on this planet? How does that help anyone?

These endless news stories about the rich and famous, the never ending coverage of worldly royal families is ridiculous. They tell us about their every whim and every little thing they do.

The media is creating a perverted appetite for gossip. People eat up news of how the rich and famous live, in a pitiful attempt to mitigate their own lacks and suffering.

Only a life of service to our Lord and each other can truly fill our every need.

That's true royalty in God's Kingdom!

Affirmation:

By doing what I can for God and others, I am collecting riches in Heaven.

- - -

“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.” (Daniel 12:3)



STOP FIGHTING!

Everywhere you look it seems there is discord, discontent, fussing and fighting. It's really sad.

People get on their high horses fighting for so called social justice or for their religious beliefs. But they are not really getting anywhere.

People fight all day long. People even end up killing their opponents. Imagine what would happen if everyone did that! What would we have left?

It would eventually get down to only two men left standing. Ha! They would then probably fight it out also until there was only one! Duh!

We need to stop fighting!



IN GOD'S TIME

(From "I Don't Believe in God, but...")

Words cannot do the subject justice of how much religious fanatics and fake religion have skewed man's perception as to what God is. They have muddled up the picture for so long now that it's hard to see the forest for the trees.

So, the biggest challenge we now face is: showing people what God's true nature is. This is no easy task because the minute you start talking about God, many people automatically assume that you are one of these misguided individuals.

So the best thing we can do is to show people unconditional love. Accept them as they are and don't judge!

God will bring forth good fruits in their lives, in HIS good time.

"My beloved brethren, be steadfast continuing in the work of the Lord knowing that your labor is not in vain."
(1 Corinthians 15:58)



MAKE WAY FOR THE NEW

(From "I'm a Bad Christian")

Churches are full of old people. Have you ever noticed that? Young people don't go to church. Why don't they? They don't want to become like those old people! Yet the church doesn't realize that they are to blame for alienating today's youth.

God never lived in a building anyway. He lives inside our hearts. And God is alive and moving in the hearts of the young, the loving.

Make way for the new!

Affirmation:

I open my heart to God's new things for me every day.

- - -

"Jesus said, The Most High dwells not in temples made with hands." (Acts 7:48)



WHAT MADNESS!

Sensationalism is rampant. A sensationalistic press blows everything out of proportion. People find fault in the smallest unintentional remark. It's ridiculous!

People make mountains out of molehills. People need to chill out. Everyone needs to stop jumping on each other over trifles.

We need to start building a heaven on earth instead of a *hell* for all of us!

Affirmation:

I can make a difference by the way I treat others.

“Whatever a man plants, that shall he also reap.”
(Galatians 6:7)



WORDS OF WISDOM

Have you noticed how money causes the downfall of many people? They become successful and start buying things and doing things they never did before. They become overly self confident and extravagant with their lifestyles. Many fall into excesses of booze, drugs or sex. They really go overboard.

Most people find it hard to handle new found wealth and quite often end up losing everything. They lose their money, wife and kids, and sometimes even their lives.

The Bible warns us about getting overly confident or trusting in ourselves and what we have.

Good advice indeed!

Affirmation:

I know everything I am or have comes from You. Without You I am nothing Lord.

- - -

“Trust not in uncertain riches.” (1 Timothy 6:17)



GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Our Heavenly father never turns away a person who seeks Him.

Contrary to what anyone else may tell you, God doesn't reject you because of something you DO. Nor will he exclude you for anything you may NOT do.

God's love is unconditional. It is not contingent on anything. Don't believe anything anyone tells you to the contrary.

Period!

Affirmation:

I know You love me dear Lord, for which I am so grateful.

“They that come unto Me I will never cast out.” (John 6:37)



NOT HOW GOD WORKS

(From “Prayer Like Pizza”)

People say they prayed for healing and nothing happened. People pray for more money, another job, a mate. They pray for world hunger, for a change in government, for some disaster to cease. The list goes on.

People pray for many things and then when they don't happen they blame God. People treat God like some kind of Santa Claus who goes around giving gifts to those “good enough”.

But that's not how God works. You have to do your part. You have to meet God's conditions.

You have to put Him **FIRST** in your life.

“Seek first the kingdom of God, and everything else shall be given you.” (Matthew 6:33)



DOING THE OPPOSITE

Did you know that the majority of people who profess to be followers of Christ don't even know their Bible? Yes, the majority of churchgoers scarcely have any idea of what the Lord really taught. They don't know the message of the man they supposedly follow!

The majority of Christians follow what their so called "pastor" tells them, without even knowing if it is according to the teachings of Christ. And more often than not, it is NOT at all in accordance with what Jesus taught, believe it or not!

If their pastor tells them to vote for a certain candidate, they do it. If their religious leader tells them to criticize or even resist their government, they do it!

They are doing the complete opposite of what Jesus taught and lived, and don't realize it. How tragic.



THINK ABOUT IT

“I love you.”

We say that to loved ones.

Right now, take a moment to think about someone that you say that to.

Then ask yourself, “What am I *really* saying when I tell them that?”

Stop and think about your answer.

Then... WRITE your answer down.

(It may not be so easy!)

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DEAD BUILDINGS

Church today is all about going to church. Church fanatics always seem to want to build yet another church building. Or they want to make theirs a bigger one!

They go on their so called “mission trips” to some foreign country, and they build yet another building! Their religion is all about their buildings.

All church fanatics talk about is going to church. They say God wants you to go to church too. Churchianity has become their idol. Going to church is the extent of their religion.

Old people are all you see in those church buildings. Young people have better things to do. And almost anything is better than sitting there in one of those dead buildings!



HIGH HORSES

We are living in singular times.

We see the most powerful nation on Earth divided.

Both sides proclaim their righteous cause. Both get on their high horses and say the other must be stopped. Both despise and look down on the other. Both have lost sight of what really matters.

Jesus never encouraged His followers to get involved in politics. It's that simple. Jesus said to lift Him up, proclaim His Word and announce His kingdom.

God's Word says to PRAY for those who rule over us! Period.



TRUE CHRISTIANITY

(From “I’m a Bad Christian”)

True Christianity isn’t about sitting in a church. True Christianity is a relationship. True Christianity is finding the Lord and talking to Him like a best friend.

True Christianity is humbly seeking God’s guidance and letting His love direct our actions, our words, and our thoughts. True Christianity isn’t looking down on people who don’t meet our standards. True Christianity is about breaking down walls, talking less, listening more, teaching with meekness and preaching by example.

True Christianity is having compassion for the weak, helping the needy, accepting those who are different, and forgiving those who have wronged us.

True Christianity is opening our lives as well as our hearts to God... and to each other!



WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

Many people are living in the past. All they talk about are past experiences, past friendships, past loves. But God lives in the present.

God is always moving, doing, creating and loving in the present, and it is only in the present that He can create through us. It is only in the present that we have the power to make a change in our lives as well as those of others.

We either move with the life of God, or we get left behind living in the death of the past.

Where do you live?

Affirmation:

I dwell on the present and God uses me to be a blessing to others.



INCREDIBLE!

Incredible isn't it?

There are people in this world who will chop off your head if you don't accept their idea of God! It's incredible!

There are people who will plant bombs in clinics if you don't accept their version of God!

There are people, LOTS of people in this world, who pressure and coerce others to do what they want, in the name of their God!

There are people who do all kinds of mean things in the name of their particular interpretation of God! It's really incredible!

All of these people depict God as a cruel, merciless monster. No wonder no one wants their God!

It's incredible that humanity is so blind to simply treating others like we all want to be treated ourselves!

We don't need more RELIGION!

We need to work towards more love, kindness, cooperation, understanding and harmony!



WE KNOW LITTLE

We really know very little about the world around us. We certainly seem to know very little about getting along with our neighbor.

Yet we get so haughty. We think we know so much about things we really know very little about.

We really need to come down a notch or two.



NO NEED OF MORE

(From “The Certainty of Everything”)

God’s real nature and true spirituality are not at all what many people have been taught by organized religion.

Pleasing God and being in tune with the universe is not about feeling all “spiritual”: self-righteous. It is about being kind.

Ultimately Christ’s entire message can be summed up in one word, *love*: love for God, and love for each other. “Do unto others.”

I see no need for more.

“Be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.” (2 Corinthians 13:10)



FOR OTHERS

We were conceived in love, and we were born in love, that we might become beacons of love to those around us during our time here on Earth.

You can talk it away all day long. You can make your long and detailed heady arguments. You can enumerate all your excuses to justify the selfish life you are living.

But, only what we do for others and for LOVE will last... in the end.



A COLLISION COURSE

Fear abounds today.

Fear and distrust are at the forefront of so many people's minds. It's really tragic that man has lost so much faith in his fellow man.

Integrity, trust, and honor are scarce commodities in today's so called modern world.

The only way we can rise above is to refuse to give in to these negative emotions and feelings.

Love always has been, still is, and always *will* be greater than fear, greater than hate, and is the only thing that can turn us around and bring a change of direction on the collision course that we are presently on.



SPIRITUAL BULLIES

We have all known Christians who pressure you into believing like they do. They pressure you to go to church. These bullies tell you what you need to do to please God. What arrogance!

These people sure are missing the boat. They certainly seem to not know their Bibles. Jesus said to avoid people like this.

Jesus didn't bully anyone. God waits for us with open arms, and accepts us with unconditional love.

Affirmation:

I stopped worrying about what others think. I know I am ok with God.

- - -

“The fear of man brings a snare, but the man who trusts in the Lord will be safe.” (Proverbs 29:25)



WHY ARE WE HERE?

Why are we here? What is life all about?
These are questions we all ask ourselves.

We are here to learn to make the right decisions. We are here to learn to find the balance between our convictions and our emotions.

We are here to *do* what is right, or what is *not* right, from the moral perspective of love and honesty. We are here to learn that to do good has its reward, and to do evil has its reward also.

We reap... what we sow.



YOU DECIDE

Unbelievers put Christians in one of the following FOUR groups:

1. That of a wimpy, “**goody-goody**” type person. One who sits in a church pew feeling spiritual and holy. One that will try to guilt trip you into doing what he says is in the Bible. To him booze is bad, sex is sin, and everything pleasurable is to be shunned. He can get pushy in his approach and quite arrogant at times.

2. As a **politically correct** purveyor of truth. This “doctor of the divine” won’t guilt trip you or even make you feel uncomfortable about the pleasures of the flesh, as long as you keep them hidden. These often have very large congregations and preach love, peace and material abundance for all, especially themselves.

3. As a person who will **justify violence** to achieve something they say is God’s will. This type can be belligerent and even scary.

4. A **mixture** of ALL of the above!

Any of these *holy* men and women may have

a string of letters after their name to certify their divinity, and as proof of their qualifications to lead others in the paths of righteousness. But Jesus didn't resemble any of them.

But don't take our word for it. You can read all about Jesus, what He taught and how He lived in the New Testament.

Then YOU decide.

Affirmation:

I go to the Source itself to get my information and see things in their proper perspectives.

- - -

Jesus said: "In the latter days, many will come in My name and deceive many." (Matthew 24:5)



GREAT IN GOD'S EYES

Jesus didn't have much to do with the religious leaders of His day.

He didn't hobnob with the learned doctors of theology. Nor was He found at the tables of the chief priests in their sumptuous feasts.

Jesus spoke to the common man. Jesus was a friend of the humble, the poor, the lonely and down trodden.

Yet He made an impact like none other before or since. He changed the world with His example of love and forgiveness.

Greatness in God's eyes is contrary to this world's idea of greatness. May we all follow Jesus' footsteps.



ALL ENRICHED

True love is to give until it hurts. This is true, in a sense.

But true love *also* is to when ALL give, and ALL are enriched.



WORLD CHANGERS

Some people say that being an idealist is bad.

Well I am an idealist, and a dreamer.

But you know, it's been dreamers, and only dreamers who have changed the world, or accomplished anything truly worthwhile!

I am a dreamer, because I believe in the power of love. I believe in the power of kindness and meekness, and forgiveness.

And I believe that how we treat each other... is how we treat God!



NOT SANTA CLAUS!

God is not some kind of Santa Claus that brings us good things if we go to church and maintain a “squeaky clean” image of how a Christian is supposed to be.

Too many people for too long now have promoted this image of God, an image that couldn't be farther from the truth.

God is not Santa Claus. And pleasing Him is not about trying to be perfect.

God is love: unconditional love. As long as you are motivated by love, you are ok with Him. That's all you need.

Let that be your compass and your guiding light in life.

And FORGET the rest!



WHAT MATTERS?

Why is religion so divisive? Why are politicians at each other's throats? Why are people using racism to divide us all?

Who knows? Then again... Who cares? As Christians, we know what is expected of US. We are here to love God. We are here to love our neighbor... and we are here to love ourselves.

What else matters?



FORGIVE AND FORGET

It's amazing how many people focus on vengeance or "getting back". They were hurt and want to get back at someone. They harbor resentment and bitterness.

Someone once said that bitterness is like a poison that destroys the thing that it's contained in. Bitterness really does nothing to the other person. But it sure does take a toll on us.

The only way to get free from bitterness is to forgive. To forgive, and forget.

Many people say we should forgive but never forget. Well that's not true forgiveness. Because as long as you're hanging on to bitterness, it's going to affect you the same way as resentment does.

It will harm you and no one else.



ROLLING WITH THE PUNCHES

Everywhere you look people are trying to show everyone else how tough they are.

You see it on television, in the movies, in the lyrics of many songs. You see it in dance. Everyone is tough and with an attitude of, “Don’t push me around!”

Women do it too.

Men started it. Men have always been kind of like this. But now women have jumped onto the bandwagon.

To me it just seems like way too much work to put on that façade of toughness. As if being tough, cold, hard, merciless, unforgiving were “virtues”. As if these things were cool! It’s all so stressful.

I think we would *all* do better if we just learned to not take ourselves so seriously...

And roll with the punches!



NO ONE TO BLAME!

(From “Death: Should We be Afraid?”)

People love to blame God for the death of a loved one. But just as we are born, we must die.

We die when we come to the end of our lives. Death is a release. It is our graduation. Death is a liberation!

In death we are free from the burden of our bodies. We are set free from the struggle of daily life with its conflicts, burdens and chores.

When we die, love’s arms will fold around us and envelop us in unconditional acceptance and warmth.



PROGRESS GIVES HOPE

Seeing progress gives us hope. When we see someone making an effort, that gives us hope in them. And when we have hope in someone it's easier to be patient with them.

But if we see zero progress, zero effort, that doesn't make us want to try to help that person. Progress means leaving things behind. Progress means growth.

If you make an effort to grow in your own personal life and in your relationship with God, people will not only see the progress in you, but you will also encourage others to do the same.



WHY?

Why are we here? Is this our punishment for something we did before? Wise men and philosophers have asked this question for ages.

There are so many things that don't make sense to us. We feel so small and helpless at times. It really gets you wondering: "Why?"

We tell ourselves that this life is fun, that everything is ok. We try to fill our senses, our lives with things, activities, noise. Yet deep inside we cry.

We long for real. We long for purpose. We long for truth. Why?

We each have to figure that out for ourselves.



"THIS IS JESUS"

(From "Be Bold. Be Kind!")

Mother Teresa was a kind woman, a wise woman. She said she saw Jesus in people. When she saw a homeless person, she said, "This is Jesus as a homeless person."

When she saw an alcoholic, she said, "This is Jesus as an alcoholic." When she saw a leper, she said, "This is Jesus as a leper."

Mother Teresa saw Jesus in every person she met, and she treated them with utmost love and respect.

Should we not do likewise?



SOLVED!

When something doesn't turn out the way people want, many people say:

“It's because I'm black” (or “because I'm white”)

or “It's because I'm Jewish”

or “Muslim”

or “Christian”

or “gay”

or “fat”

or “old”

or “young”

or “rich”

or “poor”

or “not from here”

or any number of other things.

If we stopped being “victims” and blaming others, that may not solve all of our problems...

But we would sure be a lot happier!

(And we just may have solved about half of our problems!)



DON'T FEEL BAD

Many people think that Sunday is something special to God. People have been told so many times that God wants them to think of Him on Sunday and give Him an hour or two of their time. They call it: "Going to church."

But don't feel bad if you never go to church. God would rather have you see Him as your friend. He would prefer that you talk to Him, confide in Him and seek His guidance directly in prayer.

So, going to church is nothing special. What's special, is letting God guide your life. It's letting God's love rule your heart.

It's living in the peace that only HE can give.



FOCUS ADJUSTMENT

(From “Many Shades of Gray”)

We need our government.

We need *someone* to run our infrastructures, provide healthcare, security, and other essential services. Yet so many people these days criticize their government and everything it does.

People are so divisive.

We don’t need more divisions. We need to work together in cooperation if we are to have any realistic hopes of improving this world we live in.

We need to focus less on things that divide us and dwell more on things that unite us.



HARMONY IN OUR LIVES

Harmony. Now that's a word you don't hear very often, do you?

Harmony, and getting along with others, is not something that is on people's hearts or minds or agenda in this fast paced world we are living in. No wonder people feel lonely. It's no wonder that people feel empty.

Let's strive for more harmony! Harmony at home, harmony at work, harmony at play.



SIMPLE AGAIN

People today talk everything to death. You see it on television. You see it in government. They talk and talk and talk to no end.

People have somehow come to the point where they equate efficiency with wordiness. They analyze and dissect everything. How twisted things have become.

Jesus said that to understand the mysteries of the Kingdom of God we must be as children. It's wise to be simple... Back to the basics, and the simplicity of love.



BECAUSE WE LOVE THEM

The rich and powerful have raped this earth for thousands of years. The greedy have exploited the poor and lived sumptuously at their expense.

They are experts at justifying their selfishness and brazenly flaunt their riches before all. It's no wonder the poor are disheartened.

We know what it is to be hungry. We know how it is to feel overworked and too little appreciated. Yes, we feel for the working man, the downtrodden and forgotten.

That's why the poor receive us and welcome our messages of hope. The poor and needy sense that we understand their plight and feel that we can relate to them.

They know we *love* them.



FOOLISHNESS

Everywhere you look nowadays it seems like people are playing the role of victim. Many want to be pampered. They all feel sorry for themselves and complain about how bad others treat them.

This is the *epitome* of self centeredness.

People don't realize that the negative habit of playing the victim is the greatest impediment to success. By doing this they become their own worst enemy and can contribute nothing positive in a relationship.

Life is too short for such foolishness.



SIMPLE. EASY.

Most religions teach that you have to work your way to Heaven. They teach that you have to be *good enough* to make it, by keeping a list of rules. But that isn't true.

True religion isn't about sinless perfection and trying to be holy: Self righteousness.

It's not about working so hard in an attempt to somehow *please* God.

True religion is simply about being loving.

It's about accepting God's free gift of love through Jesus, giving up our own agendas, and letting Him take control of our lives.

Simple. Effortless. Easy!

Affirmation:

I don't have to work to please God. I just have to accept His love.

- - -

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us." (Titus 3:5)



WHAT YOU PUT IN

Relationships are not always easy. If you want a relationship to work, you may have to work really hard at it.

It is often hard and we may be tempted at times to quit, to give up. It can be a real challenge at times.

But when it comes to a relationship, whether it be of a romantic nature or one between family members or friends...

You only get out of it, what you put into it.



WHO'S IN CHARGE?

We often say God is in control. But this can be misleading.

We have free will here in this world. We are free to do good things, as well as bad things. And we can discern between the two based on the fruit that each produces in our lives. To a very large degree we really are in control of our destiny.

Then why do we talk about God as if He is in charge? This is a mystery that many don't understand. God is within us as well as outside of us. In a sense we are both in charge.

As we yield to Him and let Him guide our lives... we understand.



IN FOR A SURPRISE?

People work hard to keep God out of their lives. They fill their hours with noise, activities and non stop confusion. They fill their heads with knowledge, facts and trivia.

They stimulate their senses with everything and anything but the Lord.

Then they think that sitting in a pew for an hour or two will pay God off.

Boy, are they in for a surprise!

Affirmation:

God is very near to me. He leads me and guides me throughout my day.

- - -

“Where your treasure is, there will be your heart also.”
(Matthew 6:21)



FAKE RELIGION

On one hand we have atheists. On the other we have a lot of fake Christians. We can't relate to the atheists because we have seen too many miracles, we have received too many answers to prayer and we have felt God's love too many times.

And we certainly can't relate to the misguided Christians who are so disproportionately absorbed by politics, conspiracy theories, and arming themselves against their fellow man. Worst of all, they are doing these things "in the name of God"!

Well, this goes against everything Jesus taught. These things are not at all the message of true Christianity.

True Christianity is not about pride, arrogance and self righteousness. The central theme of Christianity is love, compassion and forgiveness.

That's how you can tell a real Christian from a fake!



OVERCOME WITH GOOD!

“Christians should resist”? That’s what so many Christians are teaching and preaching.

They get on their high horses about it.

They think they should resist the government.
They resist opposing political views.

But this is *not* at all according to scripture.
This is NOT what Jesus taught.

Jesus said we should “resist not evil.”

But rather, to “overcome evil with GOOD!”

(Romans 12:21)



UNIQUELY HIS

(From “I Don’t Believe in God, but...”)

We are all unique expressions of God. Similar to a ray of sunlight shining through a prism and splitting up into a rainbow of colors, we are each an individual manifestation of the same light.

We each reflect God differently and in our own way. If you want to know what God is like, imagine yourself, but a better version.

Something to think about.

Affirmation:

I let others see Your love, compassion and forgiveness through me, Lord.

- - -

“Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)



STOP PRETENDING

So much music today is garbage, with lyrics that promote gang violence and treating women in the vilest ways imaginable. A few perverted souls like it. Many only pretend to. But most people don't!

Modern dance is no different with its twisted, jerky gyrations, and so called modern art is just as bad.

Just because everyone else seems to like these things, just because everyone else pretends to like them, doesn't mean YOU have to.

Stop pretending to like that trash. Speak up!

Be an inspiration to those around you. An inspiration of beauty, of truth!



ROBBING US

People are getting so aggressive it seems.

Everywhere you look people are preaching their own particular “gospel”, whether it be religious or political.

People get up in arms over their particular social injustice, cause or complaint.

Life is more than this. Life SHOULD be more than this.

I don't think it's worth it to get so bent out of shape over things we really have no influence over, things we really can't change.

At least not to the extent that they rob us of our joy and happiness...

Or peace of mind.



SAVED FROM OURSELVES

(From “Out of Control”)

Everywhere you look, you see man’s leftovers and waste: abandoned buildings, rusting cars, deforested jungles and lands, and overfished seas.

Man leaves behind the fruits of his selfishness and greed. Our planet pays the price. We *all* pay the price. We don’t seem to be getting any wiser.

We are on a collision course of our own making and headed for destruction, and we have no one else to blame.

Only God can save us from ourselves.

“Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood; waste and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings. The Redeemer shall come unto them that turn from transgression, saith the Lord.” (Isaiah 59:7,8,20)



WHY THEY KILLED HIM

Jesus taught the opposite of what the religious leaders of His day were teaching. He broke their rules. He didn't honor their traditions. He didn't respect their authority.

Jesus repeatedly exposed the decadent, self serving religious system and its big shot leaders of His day. Jesus exposed their hypocrisy. Jesus called them liars, false shepherds and blind guides.

Jesus didn't draw people closer to the religious establishment of His day. Believe it or not, Jesus drew people away from it.

That's why they killed Him! Things would be no different if He were here today!

Affirmation:

I go straight to the source, Jesus' words. That way I know what is right and true.



CHOICES I MADE

I never knew how to make lots of money.
I have never been accepted by churchy
Christians.

I never finished getting a college education.

When I saw what money did to people, I
didn't even want to try.

When I saw how church fanatics were, I
didn't want to go.

And when I saw how too much education
puffed people up with an exaggerated sense of self
importance, I knew that wasn't for me.

Many years later now, I am happy with the
choices I made.



LOOKING FOR HOPE

Church attendance is in decline with each passing year. Many young people have given up on established religion.

They don't consider church, with its limited spiritual experience, a realistic means to help them acquire useful knowledge in any significant way. That's why young people look to us for spiritual guidance.

They know *we* will not condemn them. They know *we* will accept them, unconditionally, as God accepts us all.

They look to us for HOPE.



ALL OF US ARE

People do all kinds of dumb things.

It makes no sense getting mad at them,
although it *is* a challenge to not feel frustrated.

The biggest problem in this world right now I
think... is IGNORANCE.

Ignorance can be defined as: “something that
one does not know.”

We are *all* ignorant about many things.

Should we show more tolerance and
understanding, and be more forgiving of each
other?



THE RIDDLE

(From “I Don’t Believe in God, but...”)

Everything is ordained. Everything is predestined. Yet, at the same time we each individually have free wills and we do control our destiny.

On one hand, everything *is* “planned”. But on the other, we have free will to create and really influence our destiny, within certain boundaries.

That these two concepts appear to be illogical, contradictory or irrational, isn’t a statement as to their impossibility, but rather a challenge to our limited comprehension and default approach to understanding things.

Therein lies the riddle. Therein lies the mystery. Therein also lies the simplicity.



WHAT IS TRUE?

People lie.
Companies deceive.
Ignorance reigns.

Our planet is polluted.
Garbage is peddled as food.
Sham is sold at a premium.

Politicians are crooked.
Greed is the coinage of our times.
Everywhere you look the world's upside down.

Only God's Word remains true.
Read it.



TWO EARS. ONE MOUTH!

People sure talk a lot these days, don't they?

Have you ever met someone, and then walked away 15 minutes later and realized you didn't get to say a word? They didn't stop talking!

I have learned that you can't really learn much as long as you're talking.

Lord help us to be quicker to hear... and a lot slower to speak. We would have more friends that way!

They say that God gave us two ears and one mouth, and that we should use them in that proportion. That sounds about right.



A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Sometimes when you try to share something with someone, you see that they are not very receptive: that it is not being well received. It may even be perceived as unloving.

This happens frequently throughout life. People sometimes misinterpret your words. They may even misconstrue your intentions.

All you can do at times like these is pray for them. But, don't forget to pray also for yourself.

Maybe the Lord is trying to teach YOU something!



THE MEASURE OF A MAN

The world measures a man's worth by what he owns, by how much money he has. The world looks at everything in material terms. The world praises the rich and powerful, the billionaires, celebrities, but acknowledges so little real worth. How misguided.

In God's Kingdom, money and material possessions play no part in the measure of a man's worth. In God's eyes it's not about wealth and power and fame.

It's about levels of understanding and spiritual development. It's about depth of love.

That's the *true* measure of a man.



ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY

When all is said and done, we *choose* how we're going to respond to things. We choose how we are going to react.

We can either blame others, we can either blame circumstances or our limitations, or we can assume the responsibility of our actions and of our choices, learn to roll with the punches, and enjoy life.



HOW EMBARRASSING

You see preachers screaming on television. You see them working themselves up into a frenzy. They are supposedly “spiritual”.

Well, these big mouths are not helping people get closer to God. On the contrary, they are *alienating* people from God!

These preachers are not full of the Lord. They are not a good example of the Lord or His spirit. They are full of themselves and their own supposed “holiness”. They are an embarrassment to the cause of Christ!

When will they wake up!

“These are wells without water, mists carried by a storm.”
(2 Peter 2:17)

“Having the appearance of godliness but not it’s power. Avoid such people.” (2 Timothy 3:5)



DEAD OR ALIVE?

Religion has really screwed up this world!
So many people today see God as a merciless
tyrant who wants us to obey some set of B.S. rules.

No wonder people reject this whole false
image of God.

We don't need more religion. The world is
fed up with religion. People have figured out that
God is greater, God is more.

Religion is dead.

But God is as alive as ever!

“Forsake the foolish and live and go in the way of
understanding.” (Proverbs 9:6)



A GOOD REASON

Do you sometimes feel ignored? Snubbed when someone forgets to do something, or doesn't reply to an email or answer their phone or something?

At times like these none of us know what's going on in the lives of others. We have no idea of the pressures, demands, problems, obstacles and difficulties they face, nor how often.

So sometimes we shouldn't think someone is specifically ignoring us. We shouldn't feel like they are being mean to us. We shouldn't feel victimized and take it too personal.

Knowing that sometimes there is not only a time and season for everything...

But also a good REASON!



LOOK INTO THEIR HEARTS

People today are too quick to judge. You may say something insignificant but they pass judgment. They catalog you and decide they know all about you, your character and beliefs. And they do this in a matter of moments without taking the time to even get to know you.

Every person is different. Each person is an entire universe. And it takes time to really get to know someone. It's over time that we see where they're coming from.

Let's make more of an effort to not only look *at* someone, but to look *into* them as well.

To look into their hearts, with love.

Affirmation:

I try to treat others with an open heart and a receptive attitude.

- - -

“As you do unto others, you are doing it unto Me, saith the Lord.” (Matthew 25:40)



NEW LIFE, NEW FIRE

(From “We Are All Family”)

Has your marriage grown stagnant?

Over time we take our blessings for granted. It just seems to be human nature. But we should always remember to appreciate our mates.

Your mate is your ally, your best friend, and biggest fan. Your mate will stand by you, do anything for you, and never give up on you.

If you and your mate have drawn apart over the years, if your relationship has grown cold, ask God to help you rekindle it with the warmth of His love.

Start sharing from your hearts.

Love, prayer, and humility can bring new life and new fire into *any* relationship.



WHAT WE DO FOR OTHERS

I don't want to hear about how much money some big shot billionaire made in one day.

I don't want to hear about how much some big shot celebrity earned making a film.

I don't want to hear about how much some guy makes for kicking or throwing a ball around.

I'm tired of hearing about where these people take their vacations, the cars they drive or how much they spent on their house, boat or pet.

In God's eyes, the only thing that matters is what we DO unselfishly for others.

The only thing we can take with us from this life is what we do in *service* to others, and for the good of mankind.

It's only the things we do for love that will earn God's: "Well done thou good and faithful servant," when we come to the end of our lives.



THE STARK CONTRAST!

(From “I’m a Bad Christian”)

We recently read an article about a Christian who had escaped from North Korea.

When some American Christians asked him what North Korean Christians most needed prayer for, this man laughed and replied: “You want to pray for us? *We* are the ones that pray for you!”

He went on to say, “You Christians in America have money and you have freedom. In North Korea we don’t have money and we don’t have freedom, but we have Christ, and we have found that He alone is sufficient.”

What a contrast between these dear persecuted Christians in North Korea and the lethargic Christians in the U.S.

That speaks volumes about the true spiritual state of churches today!

“Let us not sleep as do others, but let us watch and be sober.”
(1 Thessalonians 5:6)



TAPPING INTO HIS POWER

When things get rough people will often say “hold on”. When all hell is breaking loose we are told to hang in there, keep fighting and not let go. This sometimes is good advice.

But there are times when the exact opposite is the smart thing to do. Sometimes it’s wiser to “let go”.

Holding on can wear you out. It can suck all the strength out of you. So sometimes by giving up you actually get stronger.

That doesn’t mean you should abandon your cause, turn tail and retreat. It means you stop all of your feverish activity. It means you realize that it’s going to take more than just your puny human efforts and you turn to God.

It is in our weakness that God has an opportunity to work. It is as we look to God for guidance and ask Him to show us the next step that we tap into HIS power.

Affirmation:

I seek You first in my decision making, Lord, and in so doing walk on solid ground.



LIVE AND LET LIVE!

We live in a world where people can get bent out of shape talking about religion or politics.

Why do people try to force their way of thinking on others?

After all of these years of world history man doesn't seem to have come very far. He praises himself for his inventions but he is woefully lacking in basic human skills and just getting along with his fellow man.

I don't think any of us have an acceptable explanation as to why these things are. But then again, we don't need to know why.

All we need to know is, if we want peace with our mate, peace in our home and peace with our neighbor, all we have to do is: Be more accepting. Be more tolerant and...

Live and let live!

Affirmation:

I will be more understanding and less demanding of those around me.

- - -

"As much as possible, live peaceably with all men." (Romans 12:18)



WHAT WE SEND OUT

What we send out in the way we treat others, and the way we see the world in general, whether it be negatively or positively, comes back to us.

So if we want a change in our lives, in our realities, the first step is to start with a change in OUR attitudes. And to start sending out good things.

We reap, what we have sown.

Individually, as well as collectively.



WHAT IT'S ABOUT

It's not about where we live.

It's not about the things we have.

It's not about what we do or don't do that matters in God's eyes.

It's about letting God rule and reign in our hearts and lives. It's about giving Him our ALL and being a blessing to others, growing in love, and receiving His blessings.

It's about *life to the fullest*, in this world and in the world to come.

Affirmation:

I let You, Lord, take the reins of my life and use me for Your glory.

- - -

“He is no fool to give a life he cannot keep, for a love he will never lose.”



HEALTHY AGAIN

We are living in such stressful times.

We feel we have to do everything “right now”. Action. Movement. Never stopping. Those are the defining traits of many. No wonder so many people’s physical as well as mental health are in decline.

You’ve got to make the choice. To live a life of pressure, stress and haste, or to make a deliberate effort to slow down. This requires a real effort on an ongoing basis but it’s worth it.

Only finding peace with God can bring lasting health to man’s body and soul.

Affirmation:

I consciously avoid stress and that driving force that makes me want to go nonstop.

- - -

“Your strength is to sit still.” (Isaiah 30:7)



IN THE HOME

We need to start using our heads a little more.

People today unashamedly display their bad tempers, as if going into a rage were some kind of *virtue*!

We need to take a big pause and collectively realize we can do better. We CAN have a better life, better world. We CAN be happier!

But this has to start with FAMILY. It has to start with the individual. It starts with learning to get along with those closest to us.

It must start in THE HOME.



DRAWING CLOSER

To the extent that we *allow* God, He will become more real to us.

As we draw closer to Him, God will bring good, positive and fun things into our lives, help us see things as He sees them, show us the solutions to our problems, and give us strength for life's difficulties.

As we draw closer to God's presence, we will be set free to fully enjoy life's pleasures, and discover His never ending, unconditional love.

"In His presence is fullness of joy. At His right hand are pleasures evermore." (Psalms 16:11)



WHEN WE TALK

When *we* talk about God in our books, we are referring to the very essence and spirit of love. We are talking about the Creator of our universe who also lives inside us all.

When *we* talk about pleasing or serving God, we are talking about putting others first and basically just being kind and considerate. We are talking about treating others like we want to be treated ourselves. We are talking about showing patience, compassion, and forgiveness.

The God that *we* believe in, is opposite to the judgmental and condemning God that so many people teach and preach. We cannot relate to people like this... and don't even want to!

Our God is love. People who love, have God. We can relate to them, and they can to us.



OUR MOTIVE

(From “Givers and Takers”)

Some people say they are giving to God when they donate to a charity. But if they do it only in order to receive a tax write off, they are not really giving to God. They are only looking for a way to give less to the government.

Others say they are giving by creating jobs for people. But they aren't giving to God either. They are trading their money for people's time and labor.

Neither of these are examples of *true* giving, because both are receiving something in exchange. And that doesn't count as giving as far as God is concerned.

In God's eyes, giving is when we expect to receive nothing in return. Giving is something we do out of love for Him and our neighbor.

It all depends on our MOTIVE.



FEELING OLD?

Do you feel that life is passing you by? Do you feel like your best years are behind?

You can still do something. There IS still time. Maybe the best for you is yet to come!

But for that to happen, you may have to make a big change. You may have to stop thinking of yourself and start thinking of others.

Sounds impossible? With God's help it's not.

Ask Him how. He will show you!

Affirmation:

I have my hands on the helm of my life and I know that good things await me.

- - -

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
(Philippians 4:13)



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In this big old world that we're living in with all of its humongous problems, struggles and never ending conflicts, we may be tempted to feel that we can't do anything to make much of a difference.

But no matter how small we may feel, no matter how limited in strength or resources, let's remember that even the biggest, toughest, strongest and bravest of us, can be shut down in an instant and our life can come to a screeching halt by one, tiny mosquito!

So don't think for one moment that YOU cannot make a difference!



NOT GOD'S FAULT

Many people feel they have been let down by politicians and religious leaders.

People have lost faith in their leaders as well as God, when the fact of the matter is, God has had nothing to do with the matter.

God has not been the one that has shattered everyone's dreams, taken away their hopes, made them feel destitute, sad and alone. These are products of man's inhumanity toward man. These are products of man's forsaking God and His only laws of kindness and love.

People need to stop blaming God and start assuming the responsibility for the mess man has made not only of this planet, but of our entire lives!



CALL HOME!

Kids leave home, and they never call their parents. That little girl who was your princess, that little guy who was your buddy, have forgotten you. They are so caught up in their own lives. They no longer have time: for you! It's hard for a parent. It's soul crushing.

If you are young, and have little kids, don't think it won't happen to you. It will.

In the meantime, have a little heart for your parents and... Call home!



RUNNING ON EMPTY

This world sometimes seems to run on “nothing”. People get together and talk for hours, about nothing. People read novels and the next day remember nothing they read. They watch television, a movie or a football game and forget them almost immediately.

Relationships are skin deep. Chit chat abounds. “Real” is scarce. We are bombarded by useless trivia. Surrounded by “veneer”. So much emptiness.

Only in the Lord can you find depth. Only in His love can you find hope.

Affirmation:

I try to leave people with something of lasting value in my dealings with them.

- - -

“Every idle word that men shall speak they shall give account thereof.” (Matthew 12:36)



GOD ISN'T THAT!

Why is it so seemingly hard to live Christianity?

Because it's hard to define what true Christianity is nowadays.

The churches have confused everybody with their thousand and one interpretations of the Bible, all leading to the same place of guilt and submission to them and their rules.

God isn't any of that!

God is easy going, non-condemning and accepting of us all. So don't you worry!



YUMMY

Love is sweet.

How sweet it is to fall in love, to have someone special in your life, and to know that you are special in theirs.

How yummy it is to experience the excitement, and to share this excitement with someone else!

But there's no getting around it: you get out of a relationship what you *both* put into it.

If you want it to last, you are going to have to work at it!



WHAT DID JESUS TEACH?

(From “Be Bold. Be Kind!”)

Jesus taught us to be loving and kind. Jesus’ entire message was to be respectful and caring and considerate of each other.

So OUR only yardstick should be that also: *kindness*. And our only goal should be to treat others like we want to be treated ourselves.

We should be helping each other instead of attacking each other. We should be lifting each other up instead of beating each other down. We should be quick to look past others’ mistakes instead of focusing on their faults. We should forgive, because we ourselves need to be forgiven for so many things.

These are the things Jesus taught.



HOW THEY SEE HIM!

People the world over think of the western world as being Christian. But people also see western countries fighting wars. They saw it in Iraq. They saw it in Afghanistan. They have seen military interventions in Syria, Libya, Panama and many other places.

To them, in their eyes, Christians make WAR! This is the concept that non-Christian nations actually have of Christianity. Right or wrong, Christ to them represents aggression. That's how they see Jesus.

Nothing could be farther from what Jesus taught and lived!

Affirmation:

I fight in the Spirit. My weapons are faith and love and prayer.

“Jesus said, My Kingdom is not of this world, otherwise would my servants fight.” (John 18:36)

“For the weapons of our warfare are not physical.”
(2 Corinthians 10:4)



CAN YOU?

When you go to bed at night do you have a clean conscience? Can you say that you will be blessed for what you did that day?

If you go to sleep knowing that what you did is of some heavenly value, then you will be able to rest peacefully.

If what you did was more than just make yourself some more money, if what you did was in some way helpful to others instead of just yourself, you are a rich man indeed.

A clean conscience is better than gold.

What more could we want than that?



DON'T LOSE SIGHT

People pretend.

They pretend to have money. They pretend to be important. They pretend to be something they are not.

The Internet hasn't helped. The Internet and social media have only enabled people to be more arrogant, more false and hide behind a cloak of online anonymity.

We are living in a veneer world where everything is skin deep. But the day will come when we will see what was really good, what was true and what was real.

Don't lose sight of that vision!



GIVING UP

We all have moments of deep discouragement. We get sad when people do certain things, or when things don't turn out our way. We feel sad when we are mistreated.

When we feel this way it's time to go off alone and talk to God.

We will often realize that our unrealistic expectations and trying to control our lives are what make us feel discouraged.

But there is great relief when you realize that YOU don't have to do it all. There is relief in placing certain people and things in God's hands and trusting Him to have His way in their lives.

For some things, we find peace... in giving up!



AVOID THEM

People today talk so much!

They talk like they know so much, when in reality they know so little.

They talk very little about things that are really important. They even avoid talking about things that are of real worth.

Avoid them.



NEVER REGRET

When all is said and done, we are either living for this present time or investing in the next.

We either think of ourselves, or think only of others. We are basically a selfish person... or we are a giving person.

We will never regret the things we did in loving service to others.

Do you seek this world's honors and pleasures?

Enjoy them now, while you can!



ABOVE ALL

Above all things: Love one another.



LIVE WITH IT

This world is unfair. People are unfair.

There will always be problems. There will always be prejudices. People will always be cold, hard and judgmental. Such is the nature of this world. Live with it!

Strive to be happy and make the people around you happy!



COLD BRICKS OR WARM LOVE?

Christians today make a god out of “going to church”. Then they coldly try to guilt trip you into going to church by quoting one little verse from the Bible. And they even quote that verse out of context!

They are also into building increasingly bigger church buildings. But did you know that nowhere in the New Testament it says we should even spend our time building church buildings?

God lives in the heart of man, not in a pile of cold, hard bricks. Open your heart to Him and receive the warmth of His love today.

Affirmation:

I try to show people God's unconditional love.

- - -

“Where two or three are gathered together in His love, there He is in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20)



KEEP GOING

You are going to be misunderstood. Let's face it.

You are going to have people misinterpret things you say and things you do. And many times in life, you are going to have people doubt your motives, and want to argue, and there's not much you can do about it.

About all we can do is just continue to do the right thing, don't let them discourage us, and keep going!

And through it all, let's try to be kind.



TURN ON THE LIGHT

(From “Out of Control”)

People take part in protests demanding social justice and respect. Many have do so peacefully. Many do so violently.

People are trying to cast out the darkness.

But, if these same people focused their resources and efforts toward turning on the light, just imagine what the result could be!

There are enough good people in this world to turn around this tide of darkness and bring about the changes we all want to see. And the way we will do that is by COOPERATING with each other!



THE BLAME GAME!

The “blame game” seems to be the national pastime today. People are blaming anyone and everyone else but themselves.

People blame the government.

People blame their parents.

People blame their spouses, their children, their bosses, their mates.

Younger generations blame older generations.

The religious blame the non-religious. And vice versa.

Governments blame each other.

The blame game! You can't win it. If you play it...

You are destined to lose!



ALL YOU HAVE TO DO

History is full of people being miraculously delivered from fires, floods, avalanches and drowning. You name it.

Millions of people throughout the ages have had near death experiences, seen angels, experienced miracles, and received divine guidance through revelations and meaningful dreams.

There have been countless peculiar instances which have no scientific explanation. People have inexplicably gotten better from illnesses after they had been given up for dead. Almost any doctor will testify to this.

There is in fact another dimension, a spiritual one. And to learn more about it...

All you have to do is BELIEVE.



ALL THE ANSWERS

Some people have all the right “reasons” for not believing in God. They say they don’t like the hypocrisy of Christians.

They say that religion has been the cause of all the world’s wars. They blame God for the death of a loved one. And they love to blame God for natural disasters.

They always find some way to blame God or others. They have all the answers. They are the only “right” ones.

They always find “something”, some excuse. But is God going to excuse them?



A TRUE CHRISTIAN

So many people these days say they are seeking justice. People say they are seeking fairness. People are seeking revenge. But this is not God's solution.

We all need to be forgiven for so many things. We need to learn to forgive each other. We need to forgive those who have hurt us. We need to forgive those who have offended us and those who have been unfair to us.

We need to forgive, and we all also need to be forgiven.

True Christianity is not about seeking justice. True Christianity is about forgiveness.

A true Christian FORGIVES.



WELCOME TO “NOW”

How do you know if you are living in the past? If all you talk about is the past, if all you think about is the past, you are.

The past is gone. It's dead. The past has little power to empower the present.

God's time is “now”. “Now” is the place where things are alive and moving. “Now” is where the action is. “Now” is the place where we can make a difference. “Now” is where you find God.

Forget the past. Embrace “NOW”!



"BE YE DOERS"

You say you believe in God?

You say you believe in the Bible and in Jesus? Many people say they do.

They say they believe in the Lord and want His blessings, but they're lazy. They expect God to bless them without giving God much in return.

But they're not doing anything to further the cause of Christ, or to get out His message. They are not giving of their material possessions to those that are doing something for the Lord.

Would you like for God to bless you more? Then start sharing more with others. You can't expect God to bless you if you are not doing your part.

It's that simple.



STANDING UP

Just because one person doesn't like something you do, doesn't mean you should apologize and stop doing it. Just because one person doesn't agree with something you say, doesn't mean you should apologize and stop saying it. But that is precisely what so many people are doing today.

We need to stop letting the press tell us how to speak and how to act. We need to stop letting television set our standards and dictate our lives.

It is always time to stand up for right things. But please just do so with LOVE and HUMILITY.

Affirmation:

I guide my life by the standards of God's Word.

- - -

"Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."
(Psalms 119:105)



REAL COURAGE

We cannot beat out the darkness.

The only way we can change the world, is by living in the *light*. The only way we can change others, is by first changing ourselves.

It is only by having a more positive attitude towards negative situations that we can bring about lasting change. And that must begin with *us* treating others the way *we* want to be treated ourselves, no matter how they treat us. No matter how long they continue to treat us unfairly. No matter how long it takes.

We must be the change we want to see in the world. And that means: Leading by EXAMPLE! To be examples to each other.

This is what takes REAL courage!



TODAY'S YOUNG PEOPLE

The older I get the more I realize how little I know.

I've come to realize that I don't know anything as much as I thought I did, at least when it comes to seeing things in their proper perspective. It seems to be a thing of youth thinking that you know so much, thinking you have all the answers.

According to the United Nations, two-thirds of the world's population today is 40 years of age or under...

I hope today's young people do a better job of running this planet than my generation is doing.

But I'm not so sure that is likely.



DON'T GO!

Why do people go to church? This has always been somewhat of a mystery to me. Church is so boring! I mean, they don't seem to be having much fun sitting there every Sunday morning. I sure didn't.

When I was a kid I was forced to go to church. God, it was horrible. It was so dead. Everyone was going through the motions and pretending to like each other. Dead, dead, dead!

I have come to the conclusion that most Christians go to church simply because they think this is what God somehow wants. They think that God wants them to go because they have been told this for so many years by church leaders. They seem to think that God is pleased with their sacrifice, when in all honesty they would rather be somewhere else.

It's tragic, that God for so many people has been reduced to just going to church. It's sad that pleasing God has been reduced to such a dutiful, unpleasant chore.

So, if you don't like church... Don't go!



THE HEART OF MAN

(From “We Are All Family”)

When you travel, you quickly realize that people the world over are all pretty much the same.

We all share the same cares, the same ambitions, the same hopes for our children, and the same dreams.

The heart of man is the same the world over. People everywhere are seeking love. They are seeking warmth and understanding. They want peace. And they want their basic needs met.

Are they really asking too much?



TAKE CHARGE!

All of this noise! All of this non-stop confusion! It's enough to drive anyone crazy.

Some people live in a never ending state of confusion. It's a wonder they get anything done.

It takes discipline: self discipline to stop everything and focus. But that's the only way we can be productive and feel better with ourselves.

Take charge of your thoughts. Take charge of your mind.

Take charge of your life!



WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE

Life is rough. Life is a never ending series of challenges, conflicts and battles. Life can be disappointing at times.

People can be cruel. People can bring real pain into your life. Sometimes you feel all alone. Sometimes you feel like you could just cry.

God never promised us an easy journey, just strength along the way. He never promised us sunny days, only grace to confront our challenges and rise above.

When all is said and done, what else do we need?



ENOUGH FOR ME

I'm not trying to get anywhere anymore.

I'm in no rush to get to some destination that never arrives, that's continually changing and out of reach.

I'm not waiting to check out the next new thing. I know the grass on the other side of the fence is not greener.

I'm right here, right now. I'm where I'm supposed to be. I'm happy where I am.

That's enough for me.



EXERCISES IN FUTILITY

Politicians sure argue a lot. They seem to argue about everything! They dissect, analyze and bicker for days or weeks on end before coming to a decision. Then they flaunt their so called successes and pat themselves on the back. But little really ever changes.

Man sure learns a lot. Man's accumulated knowledge has increased exponentially during our brief lifetimes. We announce our discoveries, and pat ourselves on the back. But we are not really getting any happier.

Until we get our priorities straight, all of our efforts will continue to be mere exercises in futility.

“Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, and the fire shall try every man's work to show what sort it is.” (1 Corinthians 3:13)



ROTTEN APPLES

I don't know how this ever got started, but we need to stop catering to the one person who finds fault, gets mad, outraged or offended, as if they represented the majority.

These rotten apples are spoiling life for all the rest of us.

We need to just stop listening to them, stop giving them more press. Stop focusing on negative people!

∞

THE BEGINNING

I'm going to say something that the vast majority of people are not going to agree with. The majority of people will not like it. It will go against the current beliefs of the majority of the population.

It is something that transcends organized religion and is the very core and essence of what Jesus Christ lived and preached, and died for. And that is *forgiveness*.

Forgiveness is the key. Forgiveness is the only way: a collective forgiveness and coming together in a kind of love that only God can give. Forgiveness is the beginning of healing as well as the solution to all of our problems and all of man's ills.

The glory of Christianity is to conquer through FORGIVENESS!



LOVE LISTENS

Someone goes to work and shoots their boss and coworkers with a gun. A kid walks into a school and kills his teachers or classmates. A man goes on a rampage in a restaurant or mall and indiscriminately murders complete strangers.

Men kill their wives, wives their husbands, children their parents. People are going crazy. You hear about it all the time and people ask “why?” They look for some “reason”.

Many people today feel they are not being heard; they feel they are being ignored. Maybe they try repeatedly to sort out some problem, or they have a complaint, but their words fall on deaf ears. Then they get frustrated and give up, or worse, they commit some heinous crime, simply because nobody heard them, nobody cared. They keep it in a long time, and then they eventually exploded.

These things are not going to get any better in the increasingly complex world that we are creating, because people are too into themselves to listen, to care about their neighbor.

LOVE is to sympathize, to listen, to HEAR.



LET GO

Many people are trying to right wrongs, rectify past mistakes and make people conform to parameters of behavior that are realistically unattainable. They get consumed by these things.

But that will never work!

Peace comes when we forget the past, stop worrying about the future and focus on the present.

Peace comes when we LET GO.



A WISE INVESTMENT

Don't you wish you had invested in Microsoft years ago? Or Apple? Just imagine if you had bought some Bitcoins when they were worth just a few dollars. Now they are worth tens of thousands!

There is an investment opportunity available to us all. Not everyone will agree that it is a worthwhile investment, but the sooner we take advantage of it the more we stand to gain.

It will be bigger than both Microsoft and Apple, and a lot bigger than Bitcoin.

It requires a certain sacrifice, but it's a risk that none of us will ever regret taking. And we can start today by putting God first in our lives.

But you better start today!

"NOW" is the only time we have to invest in eternity.

Affirmation:

I have the vision for doing greater things in my lifetime, things that really matter.

- - -

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures on Earth, but rather lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven." (Matthew 6:19, 20)



DEAD ENDS

I'm not interested in conspiracy theories or exposing the system. I see so many people doing that these days. I see so many harping on the ills of their governments and elected and non-elected officials.

I consider these things dead ends. They really get us nowhere. Nothing positive comes out of them.

I prefer to dwell on the POSITIVE!



HOPEFULLY

You will grow old. You will regret some things. You will be ashamed of others.

When you were young you only thought of yourself.

But hopefully as you grew older, at some point you had a change of attitude. Hopefully you became more compassionate, more understanding.

Hopefully you became less selfish. Hopefully you found the joy of serving others.

Hopefully.



SELF LOVE

We talk about loving others. And so we should. But we should also love ourselves.

We tend to be too harsh on ourselves. We beat ourselves up. God isn't harsh with us. Why should we be?

God's love is unconditional. It is ours, no matter what we've done. It will always be ours and doesn't depend on anything we do.

We are here to love God and to love this life He has given us. We are here to love others and help them along their journeys.

And we are here, to love ourselves!

Jesus said: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:39)



REAL CHANGE

People work themselves up into a rage over the craziest things!

They get bent out of shape over short lived causes and can really cause some problems. But they don't accomplish much that is long lasting this way.

We really need to choose our battles. We need to ask God for wisdom to give us His sense of priorities and to do things His way.

God's way is the loving way. It is the kind way.

It is the only way to assure real change.



IT DEPENDS ON US

(From “Be Bold. Be Happy!”)

Some people are never happy. They are always looking for love, but never finding it. They are always looking for more thrills, but are never satisfied.

They spend their lives thinking of themselves. And that is precisely their problem. As long as we only think of ourselves we will never be happy. We will have moments of joy, but nothing lasting will remain.

We go through life but once. What we make of it depends ultimately on us, and us alone.

Affirmation:

I know the way to happiness is in thinking of others.

- - -

“The generous soul shall prosper.” (Proverbs 11:25)



MARITAL PROBLEMS

Many people have trouble getting along with their mate.

Many confess that at times they have wanted to give up on each other. They have felt like running away, and calling it quits.

When we find ourselves in these lonely places, God wants us, as His children, to draw closer to Him and each other in increased unity and prayer.

From the moment we stop dwelling on the past, stop looking at each other's faults and complaining, and start counting our blessings, God starts strengthening, blessing, and renewing our relationship.



THE BEST DEFENSE

Jesus spoke truth and love. But He was misinterpreted. He was lied about. He was falsely accused of all kinds of things. Talk about being mistreated!

They questioned His motives. They twisted His words. They really tried to hurt Him. And that wasn't enough. They turned people against Him and didn't stop until they got blood!

They weren't satisfied until they had Him arrested, tortured and killed in the vilest manner imaginable. Yet, through it all Jesus didn't lift a finger to defend Himself. Jesus didn't speak one word in His defense.

Many people spend their entire lives defending themselves and justifying their every word and deed. Politicians are especially adept at this.

That's not my idea of a fun time. How much better to just do good, try to be a blessing to others, and trust God for the results!

“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves. Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord.” (Romans 12:19)



HOW GOD SEES

People say they pray for their estranged son or daughter but nothing happens. Why is this?

It's because *we* see things differently from how God sees things. We only see what **WE** want. And what we want may not be the best thing at that moment for the other person.

God is working on our hearts. He wants us to learn to see things as He does.

Sometimes God's way up... is down.



HOW IT WORKS

Some people say they are looking for God's will in their lives. They say they are looking for their calling, their "mission".

But you find God's will when you stop looking for it and realize that you already ARE in God's will. You are right where God wants you to be this minute.

The next step is to let God work through you, right where you are. Be a blessing to others. Let God use you today in the lives of those around you.

Be faithful in the little things and He will show you bigger things. That's how it works.

Affirmation:

I do what I can, where I am, and God blesses me.



WHERE IT STARTS

All around we see people trying to change racial inequality, financial disparity, social and sexual discrimination; all kinds of things.

They are trying to expose the bigoted and biased, the prejudiced or the ignorant. But they are going about it all wrong.

We cannot really change others with threats and by blaming. Nor with violence, coercion, guilt tripping and arrogance.

We cannot bring about change by playing the victim, and expecting *others* to make things right. This only makes matters worse.

If we want to change the world, we have to begin by changing the way we see things.

Change has to begin there. It has to begin with *us*, each one of us. It has to START from within.



ACT AND LIVE

Do you believe in God? Do you SAY you believe in God? Well, if you have Jesus, you are a member of God's true church, the body of believers.

You are a part of the bride of Christ, and represent His spiritual kingdom, a kingdom that offers love and TRUE righteousness for every inhabitant of this planet.

Act and live like His bride ought to live!

Affirmation:

I represent the Lord of Lords and walk with dignity upon this earth.

- - -

"You are each a member of the body of Christ."
(1 Corinthians 12:27)



A HAPPIER WORLD

(From “We Are All Family”)

Everywhere you look, people are pressuring others.

Parents pressure their children to do what they want them to do. Children pressure their parents. Husbands pressure their wives. Wives pressure their husbands. Governments pressure us all to do all kinds of things.

People everywhere are trying to make others do what they want. They sometimes do it with the excuse that it is for the other person's good. But this isn't always true.

Imagine how it would be if we all just stopped thinking of ourselves. Imagine how it would be if our only yardstick were the happiness of others.

It would be a happier world!

Affirmation:

I will be more accepting of the people and things in my life.



NOT YUCKY

You see people on TV shouting to God, jumping up and down and getting all weepy. They work themselves up into a real frenzy and want us to believe that they are “spiritual”. I don’t know about that. To me, that’s just yucky.

Being close to the Lord is not some big emotional “feelings” thing. It’s not an outward display of feeling good and righteous. When you have the Lord, you don’t need to show people how holy you are.

Being close to the Lord is having a dear friend who is always there when you need Him. A friend who is always comforting and always accepting. It’s a place of rest, a place of calm and a place of unconditional love.

And that’s enough... for me.



TIME TO TOUGHEN UP

People have become so thin skinned. They need to be treated with kid gloves. They need to be coddled, babied. People get offended over the dumbest things. They whine. They always find fault. It's ridiculous!

It's time we stopped giving in to them. It's time they stopped complaining. It's time they grew thicker skin!

We all need to toughen up. We need to learn to laugh more at ourselves... And be GRATEFUL for our many blessings!

Affirmation:

I love the Lord and count my blessings.

"Godliness with contentment is of great gain." (1 Timothy 6:6)



DON'T LET IT HAPPEN!

Some people try to be so grown up. They work all the time. They bask in the respect and honor others bestow upon them. They feel “important”. They take themselves too seriously.

Their lives pass them by. They miss out on so much. They never let the little kid in them come out and play.

They don't make time for the little things that so much joy can bring.

Don't let it happen to you!

Affirmation:

Help me Lord to not overly complicate life. Help me to see things more with the pureness of a little child.

- - -

“Except a man become like a little child, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (Mathew 18:3)



BURN OUT

So many people these days live lives of confusion. They never stop. For them, moments of reflection are few and far between.

A car will only run so long if it is out of oil. It will burn up fast! And if you live a stressful life you won't last long.

Only moments of rest, moments of contemplation and moments of prayer can keep us smoothly running and prevent overheating.

Take time out. Stop everything. Talk to the Lord, for longer than you think you should.

Or you too may burn out!



START LIVING IT

People used to say that we should not judge others. Yet nowadays people seem to be judging others all the time! The press is especially guilty of this.

Everywhere you look, you see people criticizing every little thing that others do. They criticize them for things they say and for things they do. It is really getting out of hand.

We need to first look at ourselves and if instead of being so self righteous, we practiced what we expect of others, we would all be better off.

If we want to change the world, we must first start with OURSELVES.

Affirmation:

I don't criticize others. I try to put myself in their shoes.

"To the same degree we judge, we shall be judged ourselves."
(Matthew 7:2)



EVERY TIME

Each and every time we get impatient, we become more frustrated. Each and every time we get mad, we become more bitter. Each and every time we are unforgiving, we become smaller.

We are not becoming a better people, but rather an unpleasant, sad and cynical people. We are becoming our worst enemies.

And we are also the only ones that can change things and forge a better future for ourselves.

Each and every time we look on the good, each and every time we are loving, each and every time we are caring, giving, forgiving... we become those things. Happiness is a choice: "Do unto others."

And our life depends on what WE make of it!



SURPRISE, SURPRISE!

Man sure knows a lot of things. He knows all about science. He knows all about space. He knows everything about mechanics, electronics, hydraulics and medicine.

Man knows all about art, culture, ancient civilizations and cooking. And man knows all about war.

Man even thinks he knows more than God. That's what he thinks any way.

Boy, is man in for a surprise!

Affirmation:

I know that wisdom and true knowledge come from God.

- - -

“Every man in his best state is altogether vanity.”

(Psalms 39:5)



THEM FIRST

(From “Givers and Takers”)

Many people are only looking to receive. They want to get, but they don't want to give. Their focus is wrong. They are only thinking of themselves.

You don't get blessed if you give looking to receive something in return. That is not giving. You don't get blessed if you are nice to someone because it furthers your personal agenda. That is not loving. You don't get blessed thinking only of yourself. Giving is putting someone's needs above your own.

Giving is thinking of others...
And putting them first!



A GREAT EXAMPLE

You see them on television and in the press arguing. But no one is ever successful in changing the other guy's mind when it comes to politics or religion it seems.

The world is tired of TALK.

There was a really wise woman who didn't get involved in politics. She never preached to anyone or told them how to live their lives.

This dear woman spent her entire lifetime unselfishly helping the poor and needy. This wise woman was Mother Teresa.

What a great example she gave to *all* of us!



FED UP!

The average church today has lost its youth and the reason seems obvious to everyone but them.

Young people are fed up with churches telling them what to do. Young people are fed up with churches telling them how they should live. The church system is a failure.

Christians are supposed to show people Christ's unconditional acceptance...

And show it by being examples *themselves*!



A LOT OF LOVE

What a sad world we are living in.

In some countries people mercilessly criticize their leaders and their government. They endlessly sow division, strife and discontent, and contribute nothing positive.

In other countries people are afraid to say anything against their leaders or government.

Everywhere the world over we have the greedy rich, as well as the incredibly poor and needy. And no one seems to really care about their neighbor.

It's gonna take a lot of love to turn this world around!



JUST A NAIL

There is an old fairy tale that tells the story about how many, many years ago an entire kingdom was lost all because of a nail!

Because of one little nail, a horse shoe fell off. Because one horse shoe fell off, a horse fell down. Because of the loss of a horse, the king was lost. And because of the loss of the king the entire kingdom was lost! All because of a nail.

Little things ARE important. A mighty oak tree starts as a little seed. A gigantic forest fire starts from a tiny spark.

No matter how inadequate you feel, YOU can make a difference, little by little, day after day in the lives of the people who are in your life, right now. Right where you are.

So if sometimes you feel discouraged... Remember the tale of the nail!



DOWN THE ROAD...

To the degree that we allow God to have His perfect will in our decision making, without putting any conditions of our own, we will be happier later on down the road.

And to the degree that we hold back, and maybe are not completely yielded to His will, further down the road we will not have it as smooth as it would have been otherwise.

God sends *leanness* to our souls. (Ps 106:15)



A WOMAN'S STRENGTH

On one hand we have women who are showing everyone how tough they can be, how they can do anything men can do, and sometimes even better.

But on the other hand they reserve the right to be so delicate, and to get offended by the silliest, most childish little thing. How undignified.

Both are rather ridiculous I think.

A woman should resist the temptation of playing the role of a helpless, weak, little dandelion that gets blown away by the slightest breeze.

A woman has the incredible power to do good if she is strong enough to retain her gentle, soft, compassionate femininity.

Therein lies a woman's *real* strength.



SERIOUSLY!

People take themselves too seriously. The news tells us daily about protests, riots and violence. They continually publish reports of people's crusades for equality, social justice and fairness.

People are getting so bent out of shape over things. It's ridiculous! The tension, stress and getting all worked up over so many things are detrimental to everyone's health.

This is no way to live.

People need to lighten up. Seriously!

“Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him. Fret not yourself because of him that prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked devices to pass.

Cease from anger, and forsake wrath. Those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.” (Psalms 37:8,9)



HERE IS WHERE

Here on earth, the power hungry have their way. Here, the greedy have their fill.

Here in this life, we have dreams, many of which are never fulfilled.

And it is *here*, that we are to learn to make adjustments and allowances, and learn to be patient and tolerant of our fellow man.

Here is where we have to learn to accept some injustices, learn to just roll with the punches...

That is, if we want to be *happy!*



OUR GOD

We don't believe in the god of religion, the god of meaningless customs and rituals.

We don't believe in a god who condones the slaughter of multitudes, brainwashes his followers and condemns those who disobey him.

We don't believe in that kind of god.

We believe in love. We believe in being kind and helping our neighbor. We seek peace and harmony. Love is our guiding light.

LOVE... is *our* God.



ALL YOU CAN DO

Life can be discouraging. Trying to stay positive and do good can be discouraging. Especially when you see no one else doing it. Especially when you see people who are only thinking of themselves.

But if you are going to wait until others do the right things, you yourself will never do anything. The only thing you can do is prepare yourself for the long haul. You have to shift into a lower gear and, like a good farmer, patiently plant your seeds not expecting to see any fruits for maybe a long time.

We must take courage from the fact that we WILL see those fruits some day. We will most certainly reap what we have sown. Until then, you just can't let yourself get in a rush. You can not lose sight of the reward. Until then you will just have to hold on.

That's all you can do.



PRETENDING

People today pretend to have more than they have. People today pretend to be something they are not. Yes, people are getting increasingly fake in our world today.

People are starving for warmth. People are starving for “real”. But people then pretend they aren’t.

It takes way too much energy trying to be something you are not. It’s so much more restful just being truthful.

Only God’s love can set us truly free.

Affirmation:

Thank you Lord for setting me free from the need to pretend.

- - -

“Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.” (2 Corinthians 8:21)



MORE

People are under the illusion that “more” is better. They want more money, more things.

They want to get there faster, go higher and be bigger. More, more, more.

Maybe this is why they are *more* unhappy than the rest of us.



PRIDE

Pride is not of God.

I am not talking about pride in your work, or pride in a job well done. Or that warm feeling you get when your kid does the right thing.

I am talking about getting all up in the air because you decide someone has slighted you. Or when you think you are better than someone else!

People have killed, ended relationships, and started wars over pride.

God is LOVE.

And pride is the *opposite* of love.



THE PAMPERED ONES

It seems like the richer the country, the more delicate the people are.

Some people are so ridiculously pampered and play the role of the victim over the most insignificant little thing. They are so spoiled!

These people know nothing about suffering. They have no idea of what reality is for many people in poor, third world countries. They have no compassion for the millions and millions of overworked and under paid people whose every day struggle is just trying to minimally provide the bare essentials for their families. and often times they are not even able to do that!

The rich have always turned a deaf ear to the plight of the poor.

Yes, these delicate and pampered ones have their soft lives, hard drinks, and hard hearts.

They are feeding their bodies but starving their souls.



WHY WE'RE HERE

(From "The Big Question")

We hear people, organizations, even movements that talk about empowering "victims" of this, that, or the other. We have grown used to it.

But as Christians we are not here to empower ourselves. We are here to glorify the LORD.

We are not supposed to try to right all wrongs, solve the world's problems, and fight for social, political, or even religious causes.

We are here to let Jesus shine through us. We are here to show the world God's love.



WE COULD ALL LEARN

I think we could all learn something from the Chinese and the Japanese and some of the other oriental nations in the way of learning to *listen*.

These dear people and their cultures appreciate the beauty that there is in silence and in contemplating nature and the things around us.

They seem to have found a balance between their oftentimes hectic lifestyles and finding some degree of inner peace.

Yes, I think we who live in western nations could all learn something from them.



THE END OF FEAR

We are living in fearful times. We buy things out of fear. We make decisions out of fear. We avoid each other out of fear.

Everywhere you look there is fear. People are fearful of their neighbor. Countries are fearful of each other. You can see it even in small children's eyes. It's tragic.

But LOVE is greater than fear. Love sees the good and possibilities. Love lifts up, encourages and inspires. Only love can defeat fear.

Love will ALWAYS win, in the end.

"There is no fear in love. Perfect love casts out fear."
(1 John 4:18)



INTO THEIR HEART

People are starving for love. They're starving for just a little tenderness.

Some go months or even years without the warmth of human touch. It is the sad reality of our world today.

Sadder still is the fact that people fail to see how they themselves are keeping others away by giving into their doubts, distrust and insecurities.

Many people are alone, because they are too quick to rule out someone who might otherwise be a perfectly good candidate.

It takes time to really get to know someone. We need to take the time to not only look *at* someone, but to look into them...

To look into their *heart*.



OUR WRITINGS

Our writings are not aimed at church goers. We write for people who *don't* go to church.

We write for people who don't want to go to church, people who don't like church. And there are a LOT of them out there!

Our writings resonate with people who are fed up with people telling them how to live and what to believe. Our writings bring people closer to a God that loves them unconditionally: not for anything that they *do*, or *don't do*.

Ours is not a ministry of condemnation, but one of encouragement and reconciliation for all.

Through our writings we are helping people break free from the chains of their past.

Chains created by false religion!

“Preach good tidings unto the meek, heal the broken hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.” (Isaiah 61:1)



A SIMPLE PRAYER

Lord, open my mind, open
my heart and open my eyes that
I may see the bigger picture, Your
greater plan, and how I fit into it.

In Jesus' name, amen.

WHAT CAN **YOU** DO TO HELP?

We all need to be kinder to each other. Let's spread that message however we can!

You can copy and paste and share portions of the PDF version of this book with family and friends.

See what miracles love can do!

Download the PDF version here:
(www.sponsorsofhope.org/boldandbelieving.pdf)

Also by Gary Britton:

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Love awaits us all at the end of the tunnel!

MANY SHADES OF GRAY

Life in an increasingly polarized world!

I DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD! BUT...

Science or God. Do we really have to choose?

WE ARE ALL FAMILY

United in kindness only is the path to change!

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What does God really expect of us?

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Our mission is to encourage people to be
kinder to each other.

***“Your comforting words really
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***“This book fell into my hands at the moment
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We are creating our eternal destiny by the things we do day in and day out, by the thoughts we entertain, and by the way we live.

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We need to learn to work together in cooperation instead of competition.

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