

The True God

The bible tells us that when the storm arose on Jonah's journey, **the mariners were afraid and cried every man unto his god. (Jonah 1:5)**

We are not told who or what those gods were, but we do know that they were useless to the sailors in a time of crisis. When things get desperate, you need something, someone you can really rely on. If your god is your intellect, or philosophy or something that is rooted in mysticism, that god will give you zero when the storm clouds gather and the waves of loss and despair crash upon you. When times are tough you need a personal, loving and caring God. You need the creator God, the one not only with enough power to create storms but to settle the storms in your life today.

Don't waste your time with gods that are not gods. The true God is willing and ready to be real in your life today if you will let Him.

Modifying Your Life

Anyone can modify their life. You can quit smoking or start exercising and eating better. You can do it. But when it comes to sin in your life, you may be able to change yourself for a while, but you cannot change yourself permanently. Not without the power of God. Your only defense against sin is Christ in your heart.

If you are not constantly connected with God, if you are not surrendering to Him moment by moment, you will be overcome. That is why Paul wrote in **Galatians 2:20 – "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me..."**

The only power that can change your life permanently is the power of God. You receive that by surrendering fully to Him. You don't want to wait to do this. Ask God to keep living His life in you and keep on asking Him. Your life will really change through the power of God.

Moment by Moment

It's good to surrender your life to God. In fact, that's the essence of the Christian experience. But what happens when you surrender to God for a while. Maybe a minute, an hour or a day? And then you don't anymore?

Many people struggle because they have this on again off again experience with Jesus. And Jesus is allowed to take over their life temporarily, but not permanently. What you want to do in your life is to surrender to Jesus, moment by moment. Allowing Jesus to live His life in you and then later choosing to do it on your own is not a powerful spiritual fulfillment.

Matthew 6:33 says, **“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...”**

Seek and continue to seek. Surrender and continue to surrender. You want to surrender to Jesus today and everyday moment by moment. The results of doing this in your life will be outstanding.

Do You Trust Him?

There are times in your life when you really need God to come through for you to do something special for you to help you in your situation. You have a bill to pay but you just don't have the means in which to do it. Can the Lord provide the money for you? Yes, He can. But how, where will the money come from?

Your car may need servicing, and you didn't expect it to be an emergency. Can the Lord provide for you to get it done? Of course He can. But how? You see how is the one question that you don't need to ask. The forecast says rain, but you need a fine day. Can God get you through that? Yes! How? You don't need to know. God has ways to provide for you that you know nothing about.

Jesus said in **Matthew 11:30 - My yoke is easy and my burden is light.**

Let God do the worrying about how. Your job is to trust. And if you are trusting God, then you will be in great shape.

A New Power

Jesus died so that you can be entirely recreated. Not just improved or modified. You renovate a house, not a human. When we fail to understand this principle things can get really complicated. We can put burdens on ourselves to try and change a person's way of doing things. But that is impossible. We are to only be examples for others so that they can watch our Godly behavior.

Matthew 12:43-45 says, "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."

It is one thing to turn away from sin, but you must fill that gap with Jesus. When you surrender your life to Him a new power takes over your life. Whatever you allow God to clean up in your life, replace it with His wonderful Spirit, of love, joy, peace, patience and all the fruit of the Spirit. You will have a new power and you will never thirst again.

Worrying!

When did worry ever help you? We know the answer. And even though you may have some big things going on in your life, health issues, financial issues, problems with raising your children, work difficulties, there is still no need to worry if you are in Christ Jesus.

But we must ask ourselves this question, when did worry ever help? You either have to believe that God is God, or you don't. Either we believe that God can take care of our needs, or we don't. It doesn't mean that you have to be numb to important things. But it does mean that you will trust God and believe that He is guiding your life.

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:27 – "Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?"** You will never worry yourself out of a challenging situation.

Today, you can rest in the assurance that God is with you. And that God can lead you through any challenge. He can, so trust Him today.

Peace Like a River

In **Isaiah 48:18**, God speaks to His people and says, **“Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, And your righteousness like the waves of the sea.”**

God made it clear that the pathway to peace in this world is obedience to Him in His law. Of course, that is done in this way. You first come to faith in Christ, accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, then He comes into your life and lives His life in you. After that you grow in obedience and faith in Him and that is when you start to experience peace in your heart.

There is no peace when you don't follow the ways of God or when you are at war with those who are around you.

Today, you can be encouraged to focus on God and surrender to Him. Ask God to let His will be done in your life. When you heed God's commandments things begin to go right. Then you will experience His *peace like a river*.

Sin Must Go

Addictions can be so harmful and deadly to a person's life. And we know that Satan is behind all of it. But there also comes a time in a person's life when they realize that sin “must” go, because it ruins a person's life and is unfulfilling.

God encourages you today if this is you. He says in **Proverbs 9:6 – “Forsake the foolish, and live, and go in the way of understanding.”**

It could be foolish people or friends that drag you down. It could also be a foolish habit, drinking or illegal drugs. It could be something that is not visible to others but only to you, but if you forsake it God will give you the power to keep moving and living in His way. Sin must go! You don't have to put up with it any longer and with the power of Christ it can start right now.

Taking the Time

We know what it is like to be on your phone and your phone goes dead. Phones have to be kept charged. That can be a reminder to you that Christians need to be kept charged too. Neglecting your daily devotional life will see your Christian experience go flat, no power, no joy, no assurance, and no ability to resist sin.

When you see yourself becoming what you don't want to be, it's probably because you have not kept up your personal walk and devotional time with God. Make sure that you are taking time to pray and spend time with the Master every day in His word and His presence.

Mark 1:35 – Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

If it was necessary for Jesus, then we know that it is necessary for you. Next time you plug in your phone remember you need to be plugged in as well to Jesus.

Obedience to Christ

We don't hear much about obedience anymore. A matter of fact hardly at all. Today's society does what it wants to do without thinking of the consequences of their actions. When men disobey God repeatedly after the law [the word] is rejected along with the prophets, and messengers of God, he removes himself from them and no more visions or messages are given. He sent His word to them, and they rejected it, and he sent his prophets, and they rejected them. This is both the Law and the Prophets, and they rejected them both.

Jesus is saying, you are not seeking after me and I will withdraw my law from your life, and you will see what your life will like without me. My law is a good

guide for your life. You did not obey my law, nor my prophet and they are both pointing to me. Then I will leave you on your own.

Matthew 23:37- O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you that kills the prophets, and stoned them which are sent to you, how often would I have gathered my children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate (empty). For I say unto you, You shall not see me henceforth, until you shall say, Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord.

Your house does not have to be left without the voice and power of the Holy Spirit. You can obey God today and hear and receive His message for your life. God longs to stay with you if you will have Him. And remember no house without Him will prosper. But a house that obeys and listens to His message will never fall.

Broken not Crushed

The Pharisees believed that God's word can be ignored, and you still can be saved by their own justifications. They added to God's law rituals that they could not even keep. They added extra things to the Sabbath laws, and they believed that Jesus was not keeping the Sabbath the way they wanted him to.

They killed him because He did things on the Sabbath and claimed that he was God. *John 5:16 - And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.* The temple was destroyed because they placed false religion above God's truth while claiming to be holy and they plotted the death of Jesus. As we may look upon their actions as deplorable, we must not fail to look at this world as doing the same things now.

The truth of God's word has been trampled to the ground and the people are now enjoying the pleasures of sin instead of the goodness and peace of God. Jesus said in **Matthew 21:44 - And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.** Today, you can call on the name of Jesus and be broken of sin, shame,

unforgiveness, fear and rejection in the name of Jesus. You can be broken and avoid the stone from crushing you on the day of the Lord's return. He really is the Savior of this world, and He really is the answer for all that you are facing. God's word is true, and you can trust it for your life right now. Be willing to be broken and not crushed in Jesus' name.

A New Nature

Some people are ready to give up and they can't keep their mind stayed on Jesus. They can't keep certain things out of their lives, they can't stop saying certain things. It is a battle for them, they get tired and quit fighting, saying I will never be good enough.

God doesn't fault anyone for being bad, bent or broken. The bible says that God is plenteous in mercy. **Psalms 103:14 - For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.** He knows what we are and what we are made of and He doesn't expect the impossible from you. Instead, God will do the impossible in you. He doesn't fault you for being unclean. Adam was made from dirt. But God says you can come to me and I will make you clean.

Come to me and I will give you a new heart. If you give it **ALL** to me, I'll make you clean. If you give it all to me I will make it all new. The Christian life is not a modification or improvement of the old life, but a complete transformation of the old nature. A death to life in sin and a new life all together. Instead of feeling hopeless about who you are today, it is time to fill hopeful about what Jesus can do in your life. He died for people with a fallen nature. Jesus died and Barabbas was set free. Jesus died for us so we can go free. And we can stay free from sin and its power. Free from that old nature, the sin that causes us pain.

You can be free today, free from an old nature that don't want to follow God. Would you like a new nature today and no longer be chained to that old nature, that can't keep things straight? God can give you that and He will give you that, right now. And you will experience freedom, and power to be new. And you won't feel terrible about who you are when you lie down at night, but awake refreshed knowing that I am a child of the living God and I receive this new nature starting right now.

Showing Light in the Darkness

You would imagine that someone in his position would have been hopeless. His brothers planned at first to kill him, but then sold Joseph as a slave which then might have seen like a fate worse than death. In Egypt He did everything right but ended up in prison because of the false accusations of a lying woman.

But it was in the darkness of a dungeon that Joseph showed brightest. **Genesis 39:23 says, “The Lord was with him, and that which he did, the Lord made it to prosper.”**

If you are neglected or unjustly treated in some way, Joseph’s message speaks to you. He had served his master faithfully and had been imprisoned unjustly, yet God brought him through that. When you are confronted by hardship, instead of rejecting God know that God will bring you through. When you pray and things get worse, keep praying. It may be that you will shine brightest in the darkness.

Your Eyes on Jesus

Are you careless about your walk with God? Do you do the things you hear in the word of God to help you have a better life? It is so easy to look the other way when things are going really bad. Satan has many suggestions and ways on how you should live your life, but none of them agree with the word of God. When trouble comes and challenges come, what we really don’t want to do is take our eyes off of God. **Hebrews 2:1 says, – Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, unless we drift away.**

As you study and read the word of God can you see a change in your behavior? There must be something in the way we live our lives that show we belong to God through the tough times. Don’t be careless about your faith and time with God, doing what He has asked you to do.

A moment’s carelessness we can lose sight of what God has for us and drift away. If you are careless about your relationship with Jesus, the cost could be a whole lot higher than you are willing to pay. Keep your eyes on the things that you really ought to keep your eyes on when trouble comes. Keep your eyes always on Jesus.