



So You Wanna Be a **CHRISTIAN?**

A Complete Guide to Help You
on Your Journey with Jesus

By Ericka Clay

So You Wanna Be a Christian?

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From the Author

So You Wanna be a Christian? is a compilation of four individual resources I've compiled to help those who want to follow Jesus count the cost and stay committed to Him. This book includes a list of sound biblical resources to help you know Him better, a breakdown of mental health terms and how to view them biblically to keep your mind and heart focused on Him, a list of ten things I personally wished I knew before starting my journey with Jesus (that I hope will be helpful to you), and finally a "checklist" (so to speak) that breaks down how we can share the message of Jesus with others.

My prayer is that this comprehensive book is a tool that launches you forward spiritually and helps you to know the God of the universe who loves you so.

Bible Study Resources for Beginners

As a new Christian, I remember how intimidated I was by having to read the Bible. I never read it growing up, and I figured you had to be some sort of Scripture scholar to even crack its cover.

Fortunately, I came across a few websites/teachers along the way that broke down everything so easily for me. If it weren't for them, I'd still be majorly confused! So, without further ado, here's a list of Bible resources that have helped me a ton.

The Bible Project

bibleproject.com¹

The Bible Project is a YouTube channel² (and website) that has countless videos that break down what each book of the Bible means. So, before you dig into Genesis, you can watch the video on Genesis to understand the purpose of the book. So helpful! The videos are narrated by Tim Mackie (super chill, laid-back Bible scholar) and his graphic designer friend, Jon Collins. These videos are all animated and beautiful to watch!

Through the Word

throughtheword.org³

Through the Word is still an app⁴ I use nearly every day. It's great in that it reads a chapter of Scripture to you (the guy reading it is all British, so you know it's legit), and then one of the hosts gives a ten-minute rundown on what the chapter means. It's ingenious! A great resource if you're a super

1. <https://bibleproject.com>

2. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVfwlh9XpX2Y_tQfeln9QA

3. <https://throughtheword.org>

4. <https://throughtheword.org>

busy person who wants to spend time with God but happen to spend a lot of time in your car.

Spoken Gospel

[spokengospel.com](https://www.spokengospel.com)⁵

I just recently stumbled across Spoken Gospel, but I was thinking how great it would be for a first-time Bible study⁶. Spoken Gospel breaks down each book of the Bible into individual chapters, so you could read the first chapter of Genesis and then watch their three-minute video that explains it. Every video shows how the Old Testament points to Jesus, something I had never known the Old Testament actually did! Very insightful (and quick) study.

Got Questions

[gotquestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org)⁷

Think of Got Questions as the “Google for Christians⁸.” It’s a search index that has countless articles answering any and every question we might have about Christianity and the Bible. I’ve found their answers to be very accurate, but as always, use discernment and let the Holy Spirit guide you as you search.

Bible Thinker

[biblethinker.org](https://www.biblethinker.org)⁹

5. <https://www.spokengospel.com/?r=0>

6. <https://www.spokengospel.com/?r=0>

7. <https://www.gotquestions.org>

8. <https://www.gotquestions.org>

9. <https://www.biblethinker.org>

Mike Winger has to be one of my all-time favorite people! He is laid back and thoughtful as he studies and answers questions about the Bible. His concern isn't with beating people over the head with Scripture but using it as a guide for living our lives in submission to God - exactly how it should be! Every Friday he does a 20-question series that answers his viewers' questions about the Bible. These are all random, off-the-cuff questions that he answers by delving into the text. Good stuff! You can find him on YouTube¹⁰.

The Bible Recap

[thebiblerecap.com](https://www.thebiblerecap.com)¹¹

The Bible Recap is a podcast¹² (and book¹³) that has you read a couple of Bible chapters each day and then summarizes what you just read in a way that's engaging and easy to follow. I love that not only are the chapters broken down but that historical context is also given, which makes it easier to understand what's going on at the time—especially where the Old Testament is concerned!

These resources have been a blessing in my life, and I pray they're a blessing in yours. And please, please reach out¹⁴ to me to help you navigate any questions you may have. I may not automatically know the answer, but I will definitely get back to you on what the Bible says. Praying you grow further in your love of God and His Word.

10. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7u2HaYBKDaLPcWmldxgGEA>

11. <https://www.thebiblerecap.com/>

12. <https://www.thebiblerecap.com/about>

13. <https://amzn.to/3OL9Q7E>

14. <https://erickaclay.com/about-ericka/>

Mental Health from A Biblical Perspective

As a sufferer of anxiety and depression for as long as I can remember, mental health has played an extremely important role in my life. I've either tried to ignore it completely or have gone down its rabbit hole to the point of practically reaching the earth's core.

There's been, to be fair, not a lot of balance in my journey.

It wasn't until I started researching what God has to say about mental health through His Word that I started to find that balance. And not only that, but a lot of peace, joy, and beautiful surrender in the process.

I've created this resource so we can take a harder look at a few mental health terms you may have come across in your own research, viewing them in the light of Scripture.

Please note that I'm not a doctor or a scientist, just a fellow human on life's journey who has observed a few things on the way and who gives all glory to the God who made her, mental struggles and all.

Agency/Autonomy

When you hear about “agency” or “autonomy,” you’re hearing words related to the concept of self-rule, meaning the ability we have as humans to choose and decide for ourselves.

It’s incredibly easy for us to fall victim to the authority of another human being. That isn’t to say we shouldn’t respect the ideals of authority in light of honoring our parents (Exodus 20:12¹) or our government (Ephesians 6:2-3²).

1. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%2020%3A12&version=NIV>

2. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%206%3A2-3&version=NIV>

But we also need to realize that our relationship with God is built on the fact that we're individuals given free will (Deuteronomy 30:15-20³) and that our journey to eternity with him forever is based on His grace and the decisions we make in following him (regardless of our circumstances or the decisions made by those around us).

It's our responsibility to utilize our agency in ways that respect God and others and to remember that we're bondservants⁴ to God, no one else. Suppose we find ourselves in relationships that dishonor our connection with God. Then we must seek out fellow Jesus followers to share this burden and receive guidance while praying to God for help and protection and relying on His Word to determine the next steps.

3. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy%2030%3A15-20&version=NIV>

4. <https://www.gotquestions.org/bondservant.html>

Codependency

If you were to research an antonym for agency or autonomy, chances are you'd stumble upon "codependency."

Codependency is when two people are invested in an unhealthy relationship that isn't built on real love or sacrifice. Rather, it's built on utter reliance on another person to feel and function. Essentially, it's the act of idolizing another human being, putting them in the role of God, and using this relationship to quell internal fears and a lack of control.

All in all? Not great.

God created man for woman and woman for man (Matthew 19:4-6⁵), however, our roles are to support each other, not treat each other as the source of life itself. That role belongs to God the Father through belief in His Son, Jesus. When we rely on another person to fill this role, we quickly lose trust in Jesus alone as our Savior and instead put our faith in a fallible human being.

When we find ourselves trusting man more than God (Psalm 118:8⁶), it is wise to confess this sin to our Father and pray for the strength to rely on God alone.

Boundaries

In my history of people-pleasing and "do all the things" mentality, the idea of boundaries has often been a foreign concept to me. I've spent countless moments researching Scripture just to make sure I'm allowed to stand my ground and keep from falling victim to others' desires that might not be healthy for me.

And you know what? God is all for boundaries.

5. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2019%3A4-6&version=NIV>

6. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20118%3A8&version=NIV>

In the Old Testament, God maps out several “rules” that define the people of Israel and keep them from falling victim to the sinfully cruel ways of the pagans who live nearby (Leviticus 19⁷).

And in the New Testament, Jesus doesn’t keep healing everyone until he passes out. No, he takes time to rest and commune with His Father (Mark 6:31⁸, Mark 1:35⁹).

God has indeed prepared good things for us to do in and for the world (Ephesians 2:10¹⁰), but He hasn’t prepared “all the things.” When we deceive ourselves into thinking we can’t say “no” and create time to talk and rest with our Father, then we believe the lie that we’re the Savior who has to do everything, which is an absolute affront to Jesus.

Identity

The concept of identity has become very loose in our society. Identity has become a choice rather than a defined role based on our relation to Jesus.

Biblically, identity is who we are in Christ¹¹. When you believe in and follow Jesus, you become an adopted child of God, and your identity is reflected through glorifying Him and administering to His people (John 1:12¹²).

7. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Leviticus%2019&version=NIV>

8. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%206%3A31&version=NIV>

9. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%201%3A35&version=NIV>

10. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%202%3A10&version=NIV>

11. https://www.navigators.org/resource/know-your-identity-in-christ-bible-verses-to-memorize/?utm_medium=search_paid&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=resource_engagement_dsa&utm_term=&utm_content=726323359595&utm_id=726323359595&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjw1um-BhDtARIAsABjU5x7wRkqkl7SmKL1fLjim_oAw568N2pAvw928O3s_htxt5DQd8xaHGx-QaAtWuEALw_wcB

12. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201%3A12&version=NIV>

But the world skews this definition, making us believe identity can be molded by our hands. And how quickly we forget how sinful those hands actually are.

By letting our identity be defined by Christ (and not ourselves), we become who we were truly created to be, healing the wounds of our past and allowing us to fully look forward to a future with God.

Self-Actualization

There's this idea in our world that we need to become our "best selves" and live our "personal truth." But according to Scripture, our best selves are reflected in our total dependence on Christ, and there is no such thing as personal truth, only THE truth that exists through God's Son (John 14:6¹³).

So what does this mean in regard to self-actualization (the process of reaching our full potential)?

It means we're not the ones burdened with the task of becoming our true selves. Instead, we place our shortcomings and sins on Jesus, whose "yoke is easy and burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30¹⁴).

It's this act that leads to complete freedom, which, in turn, allows us to be sanctified through Christ. But here's the deal—we'll never reach our full potential on this side of heaven, and that's okay.

God has given us the acts of confession (owning up to our sins) and repentance (turning away from them) to keep our minds and hearts pure as we walk through this often chaotic and imperfect journey known as life.

Cognitive Dissonance

13. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2014%3A6&version=NIV>

14. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2011%3A28-30&version=NIV>

Cognitive dissonance is really just a fancy word for “self-deception.” And deceiving ourselves is something I think we can all relate to.

The Bible often talks about “the flesh¹⁵” – our sinful human nature that is the result of the fall¹⁶. It is our flesh that is crucified with Christ¹⁷ when we believe and follow Him. We turn away from our dark desires to embrace our newfound freedom in Jesus.

But as humans living in a very sinful world, we can find ourselves off the trail of following Jesus and falling down some very deceptive rabbit holes. This is often when cognitive dissonance kicks in. For example, perhaps you’ve suffered from some sort of eating disorder like I have in the past. I remember being truly convinced that what I was doing was “healthy eating” and not undereating, despite what the scale said and comments from those concerned about me.

My takeaway at the time? They were just jealous of my willpower and ability to look great in a swimsuit. Gross.

Like David, we should ask God to search our hearts (Psalm 139:23-24¹⁸), not falling into the trap of self-deception but always open to the truth and His loving admonishment.

OCD

Control is a sin I’ve wrestled with for a very long time. And it’s only recently that I’ve discovered where it’s roots come from: fear.

As someone who’s diagnosed with a condition that heightens my OCD (obsessive-compulsive disorder¹⁹), the physical and mental ramifications

15. <https://www.gotquestions.org/the-flesh.html>

16. <https://www.gotquestions.org/fall-of-man.html>

17. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%205%3A24&version=NIV>

18. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20139%3A23-24&version=NIV>

19. <https://www.gotquestions.org/obsessive-compulsive-disorder-OCD.html>

can be brutal. My symptoms have ranged from intrusive thoughts to perfectionistic tendencies revolving around my outer appearance.

My head and heart have often felt like prisons.

But over the years, God has taught me that I can control pretty much nothing in my life, and instead of this being a frightful thing, it's quite comforting. Because He, the Lion of Judah²⁰, the Creator of EVERYTHING, is an ever-present help when I'm in need.

And the last time I checked, He's far more capable of helping me than I am helping myself.

By taking my thoughts captive to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5²¹) and renewing the mind He's given me (Romans 12:2²²), I can keep my thoughts from negatively influencing my life.

20. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%205%3A4-5&version=NIV>

21. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%2010%3A5&version=NIV>

22. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%2012%3A2&version=NIV>

Anxiety

I've been battling anxiety since I was a child. I used to have this recurring fear that my mother would die on the way to pick me up for school; something about that thought got lodged inside my entire being.

The physical repercussions were brutal.

It's interesting how the Bible tells us not to fear (roughly 365 times, one for each day of the week), but how is that possible when anxiety feels more like a burden that courses through your very soul than a choice?

Paul answers this question in Philippians 4:6-7²³. “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Instead of worrying? Pray. Instead of focusing on the negative “what ifs,” create a list of all the good things God has provided and continues to provide. By changing our thoughts, taking them captive to Christ, and renewing our minds, we rewire the way our hearts and bodies respond to circumstances beyond our control.

Neurodivergence

One of the most self-affirming parts of Scripture is in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27²⁴ where Paul speaks about how each believer is a special part of the Church, and just because we play different roles or have been given different giftings, it doesn't mean any one person is more important than the other.

23. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%204%3A6-7&version=NIV>

24. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2012%3A12-27&version=NIRV>

This is important to remember when discussing neurodivergence, which is the reality that some people have brain differences that might make them act and function differently than society expects.

And considering Jesus acted and functioned differently than society expected, I believe there's a very special place in God's heart for those of us who do not fit neatly within societal expectations.

Our family falls into the neurodivergent camp, with my daughter having ADHD and there being some evidence that I might be on the spectrum myself. In fact, a lot of my anxiety and depression has stemmed from feeling different from other females since I was young. However, God's gently shown me the giftings and skills He's provided me and how important these are in bringing forth His Kingdom.

He provides all of us talents (no matter how we think) to be used for His glory.

Trauma

It's no surprise we're all victims of a fallen world. We all have suffered injustices and have caused them, too, only adding to the emotional and psychological fallout that arises from distressing situations.

But as we who follow Jesus know, He has forgiven our sins and made atonement for them on the cross. And we have hope that one day there will be no more tears and suffering.

But what about dealing with trauma presently on Earth? What does Scripture say about that?

Several verses in Scripture²⁵ speak of healing, but I'm always personally inspired and encouraged by the Psalms²⁶. David had an entire history of traumatic experiences, some caused by his own hand and some by the

hands of others. But He always knew the God of the universe was there to heal his heart and offer him protection.

Trauma can most certainly begin to heal with prescribed medication and sharing past events with people who can be trusted with your feelings. But praying for greater strength through Jesus and faith in the promises yet to come can help us move forward into a future that contains no harm for us or anyone else.

Addiction

Addiction is ultimately swapping God for something else as the focus of our lives. Usually, this starts innocently enough, but after enough repetition and reliance on an unhealthy substance, we soon come to find out that we're no longer in control and "need" whatever it is we're worshiping no matter how it makes us feel or if we even desire to stop.

This is why it's important to ask God to search our hearts immediately for any sin that could become an addiction and to actively confess it and repent from it. Otherwise, it becomes the slave master, and us? The slaves.

God is the only authority to whom we should be bondservants²⁷. And knowing this, it's far easier to be discerning about the things that might entrap us.

But if we're already caught up in our sin and feel "addicted" to it, we'll need the counsel and help of others to break what we can't break ourselves. This might mean rehabilitation, medication, counseling, etc. But

25. https://go.qsbc.org/healing-bible-verses/?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjws-S-BhD2ARIsALssG0aUYrJUYM8vc7vjB70rGbdBSaB15cxetxVNX-Tj369R9WMzc1tc_wMYaAur2EALw_wcB

26. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%201&version=NIV>

27. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%207%3A21-22&version=ESV>

it always most certainly involves the prayers of the faithful who love us and love the Lord.

Meditation

I've included "meditation" in this resource simply because it's often cited as a treatment for a lot of the conditions I've already named.

Christians need to understand that worldly meditation is the emptying of the mind, making our thoughts vulnerable to outside influences. This puts us in a susceptible position where our heads and hearts can be filled with lies instead of God's truth.

In Scripture, meditation is focusing intently on the Word of God and bringing it to mind, especially in states of desperate need. It's God's words that can heal our hearts, not the words of man.

It is important to note that meditation can have a calming effect on the body. However, prayer is even more powerful in improving our mental health²⁸ and is worth making part of our daily routine.

So what is prayer? It's the act of conversing with our Lord as our Father and friend, coming to Him with our anxieties and requests, while also taking stock of the things we're thankful for and glorifying who He is with our words.

As Scripture says, we aren't to pray as the pagans pray, babbling in rote recitation, but with an authentic purpose to our Lord.

The world is messy, and it seems like every day, we're challenged with a darkness that pervades our personal worlds and the world at large.

But Jesus said for us to take heart, that He has conquered the world, and no matter what we're struggling with, we can keep our eyes focused on Him to heal our heads and hearts.

28. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9WC6yW2LZE>

It most likely won't be instantaneous. In fact, it might be a long process that He uses to sanctify us so that we have a testimony of His glory that we can share one day with others who are struggling.

At the age of forty, I can say I finally feel healed of my mental health battles, and a lot of this depended on me forgoing my cognitive dissonance and being honest about my sins and shortcomings. And in doing so, I turned away from my typical mode of self-preservation and turned to the God of the universe who preserves my very essence with His unconditional love.

So the biggest piece of advice I can give you is to not walk this life alone. Submit to the Lord who created you, loves you, and can guide you to a place of healing and hope.

Helpful Resources

The following are a few resources that I've personally used and might be helpful on your journey to better emotional, mental, and spiritual health.

*Keys to Freedom*²⁹

*The 40-Day Body Image Workbook*³⁰

*Boundaries by Dr. Henry Cloud*³¹

*The Dr. John Deloney Show*³²

*The Un-Perfect Podcast*³³

*Full Spectrum Parent Podcast*³⁴

*ADHD is Awesome*³⁵

*The Anxious Generation*³⁶

*Captivating: Unveiling the Mystery of a Woman's Soul*³⁷

29. <https://amzn.to/4hD4c3r>

30. <https://amzn.to/421nVE6>

31. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-boundaries-me-podcast/id1488880049>

32. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-dr-john-deloney-show/id1527609854>

33. <https://un-perfect.net/the-un-perfect-podcast/>

34. <https://www.jessicaburlbut.com/full-spectrum-parenting>

35. <https://amzn.to/3Y2cZoC>

36. <https://amzn.to/3Rka3jq>

37. <https://amzn.to/4iBsAnj>

10 Things I Wish I Knew When I Started Following Jesus

ONE: JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE CALLS THEMSELVES A “CHRISTIAN” DOESN’T MEAN THEY FOLLOW JESUS

Going to church every Sunday doesn’t necessarily mean a person is a Christian (Matthew 7:15). A Christian is a true follower of Jesus who has submitted their entire life to God and is now a new creation in Him. You will know a true Christian by their fruit (Matthew 7:18).

TWO: LIFE WILL BE HARD...BUT WORTH IT

Jesus is the antidote to all our problems, but we still live in a fallen world where terrible things happen. Christ already warned us about this (John 16:33). When following Jesus, you will face hardship (sometimes for the mere fact that you love Him so much), but it’s always worth it knowing He is a God who knows our suffering personally and will always offer us a safe place to land.

THREE: UNDERSTANDING GOD’S WORD ISN’T AS DIFFICULT AS YOU THINK

Jesus tells us point blank that if we seek Him, we’ll find Him (Matthew 7:7-8). So there’s no need to be a scholar to crack the code to what God’s been saying to you all along. His Word is a love story about the world (and people) He created choosing brokenness over a relationship with Him and how He sent His Son to heal that brokenness and to be in communion with us again. You don’t need a PhD to fully know that kind of love.

FOUR: DOUBT IS NOT A DIRTY WORD

During this journey, you won't always be on fire in the faith. There will be times when you question God, yourself, and fall victim to Satan's uncanny ability to take away the joy we have in Christ. And this is why we need other believers in our lives so that they can encourage us (1 Thessalonians 5:11), pray for us, and show us through their own deeds how God isn't giving up on them and He's not giving up on you either.

FIVE: CHURCH IS MUCH MORE THAN A BUILDING

We're taught that a church is a beautiful building with stained glass windows, the smell of incense, and statues of humans who died long ago. But according to the Word, the Church is something far different. It's the body of believers (Corinthians 12:27) that Christ commands to come together to do the good deeds God assigned us to do before we were even born and celebrate that our Lord died for us and is coming back again. Church is the people who have died to self and taken on new lives in Christ Jesus.

SIX: WE'RE NOT MADE TO DO ALL THE THINGS

When you become a new follower of Jesus, it can be tempting to start going to a local church and then sign up to do ALL the things at that church. But Paul points out in the New Testament that there are certain good works we were created to do (Ephesians 2:10). Plus, we are all different parts of the body, meaning God has made us and will use us for various things (1 Corinthians 12:12). That's why it's important to pray before we jump into a new endeavor to make sure it's something God

wants for us and not just something we've decided to undertake.

SEVEN: IT'S OKAY TO SAY "NO"

We're often wrongly taught that Christians are supposed to be "nice" and act as doormats to the people around them. But you certainly won't find that mentality in Scripture. We are to be kind (in fact, it's one of the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23), but sometimes kindness means creating boundaries and using the word "no." Jesus said to let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" be "no" (Matthew 5:37), indicating we have agency in choosing our next steps (as long as they're in line with God's will). Jesus Himself was never a doormat, standing up to the Pharisees and moving on from people who didn't want to submit to His reign. And as "little Christs" (the very definition of the word "Christian"), we should follow suit.

EIGHT: YOU CAN STILL LOVE THOSE WHO DON'T AGREE WITH YOU

Even though there are some toxic situations where setting boundaries with others might be appropriate out of respect for our relationship with Jesus, we still need to consider that Christ commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. God has given all of us free will and the ability to choose to follow Him. Just because someone doesn't choose Him doesn't always mean we remove them from our lives. As a rule, it might be helpful to have a mindset like Joshua's: "But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15).

NINE: WE ARE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL NOT CONVERT OTHERS

Scripture makes it very clear that it's the Holy Spirit who does the work of conversion in a person's heart (Ephesians 2:1-5). So what role do we play as followers of Christ? We're merely to be messengers of the Gospel ("Good News"), telling others how Christ suffered and died for their sins and that they now have the opportunity to be with Jesus forever by believing this and following Christ's guidance in their lives. That's it. No Bible-thumping required.

TEN: GOD'S GRACE HEALS ALL

It's important to remember we can do none of this on our own strength. It is God working through us that allows us to live and serve His will. It's important to know we will still mess up, stumble, and sin along the way. But when we repent (turn away from our sin) and ask for God's forgiveness, we can watch as His grace floods our lives and keeps us walking through the fire and the flames (Hebrews 4:16).

Following Jesus is something I will NEVER regret, no matter how crazy I may look to others. He has given me and my family great peace knowing He is with us through all hardship—a comfort that only comes when we submit ourselves to Him.

My prayer is that you seek Him, desire to know Him, and find yourself in the most beautiful relationship you will ever know.

How to Share the Gospel

Sharing the Gospel can seem overwhelming even though it's simply telling another person how God has changed your life through His Son, Jesus, and inviting them to accept His free gift of salvation. The following "checklist" is only meant to provide key points that might make this process easier.

- **PRAY FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT'S GUIDANCE**

Before you even meet with someone who needs to hear the Gospel, pray that God ordains that meeting for you and gives you the words that will soften their heart towards Him.

Remember, you're not in charge of their conversion, the Spirit is, so be open to the possibility of rejection. (Matthew 10:13-14)

- **LEARN THEIR STORY**

Everyone has a story and wants to be heard. As Jesus did with the woman at the well (John 4:1-42), we can get to know someone, showing them that God also listens to their hearts, giving them a glimpse of what God's economy looks like versus the world's.

- **SHARE YOUR STORY**

Our stories are powerful because they show how God has already transformed a human heart and how it can be done again. Some people have lost hope, so we have the opportunity to be their hope. As it says in Revelation 12:11, we defeat evil by standing firm in the faith and sharing our stories.

- **THE ROMANS ROAD TO SALVATION**

Sharing Scripture is the best way to provide evidence for the Good News of Jesus. The following are verses referred to as the "The Romans Road" that break down what Jesus has done for us sinners: Romans 3:23, Romans 3:10- 18, Romans 6:23,

Romans 5:8, Romans 10:9, Romans 10:13, Romans 5:1,
Romans 8:1, Romans 8:38-39.

- **PRAY FOR THEM**

We don't end with verbally sharing the Gospel. We continue this process by praying for the person we shared it with. Satan will do whatever he can to snatch away any seed of belief in a person's heart (Matthew 18:23), so praying for God's protection over that person is vital to their future relationship with Jesus.

I pray these words have blessed you and will continue to pray as you seek the one, true King, our Messiah, Lord Jesus Christ.

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