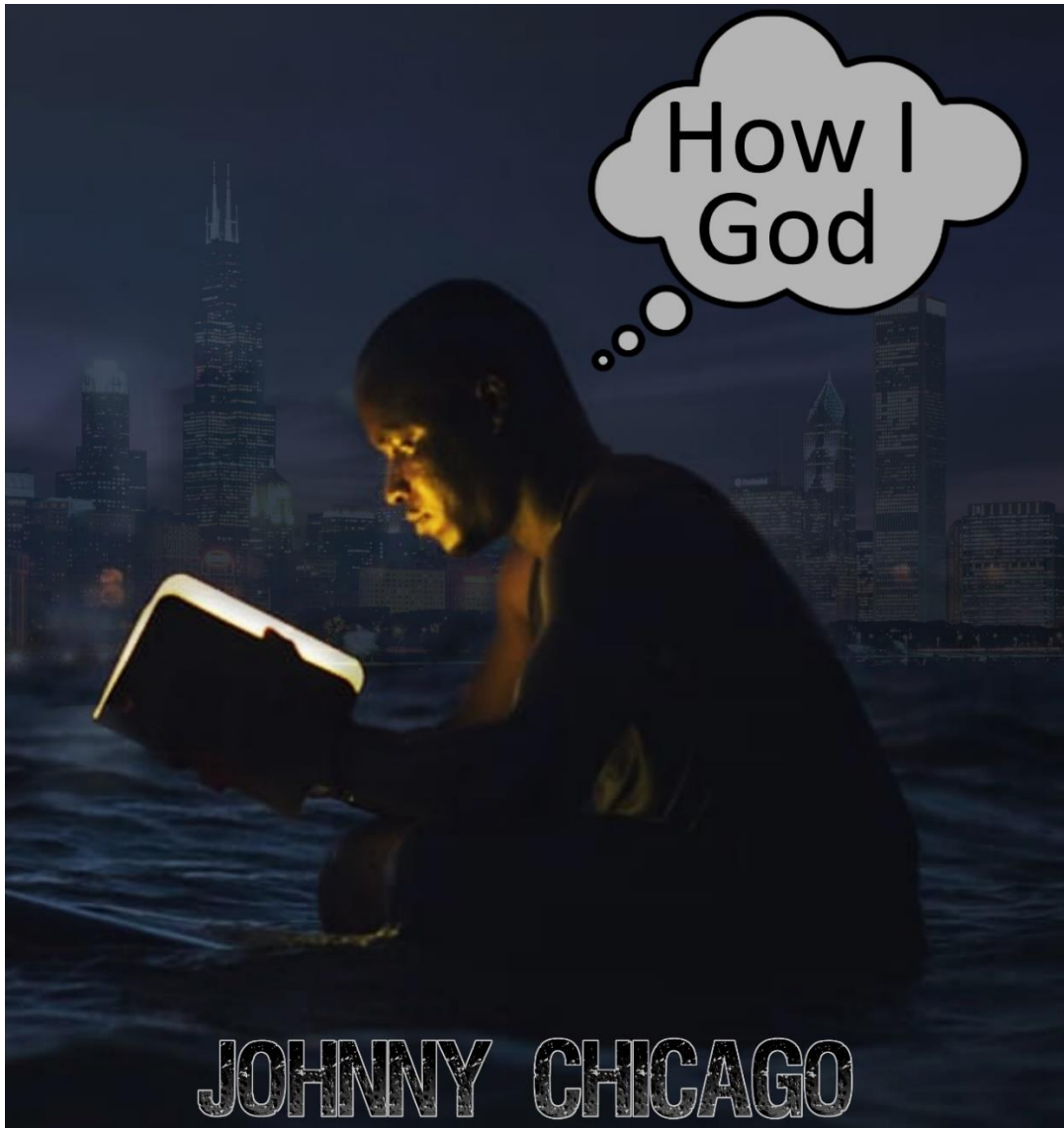


How I God



This book can be a prayer book/guide, a book of affirmations, or a make you think book.

You decide.

By Johnnie Chicago. 2022

Remember, somebody loves you.

Introduction

How I God is about how I live as a believer or a follower of Christ. It's How I interpret God's scripture. It's How after being in the church for over 30 years, I can see that I was going through the motions doing whatever the man behind the pulpit told me, but I wasn't learning what it was to be a true believer or learning who Jesus was and who I was in Jesus. I was miserable, but I hid it as well as I could, anyway.

Everything in this book comes from intimate times between God and myself. I hope that something you read causes you to think, search, and pray. You are also free to disagree, but if you disagree, let it be because you have studied and not just because you heard somebody else say I was wrong. And just because we disagree doesn't mean I don't love you. It's ok to disagree.

“This is the judgment; the life-giving light of God has come into the universe, but men’s hearts are addicted to a shameful narrative based on a deep-seated sense of worthlessness, so they strive to perform to gain a sense of value and worth, they don’t want to be exposed by the light because of the shame they’d experience admitting to their error.” Pastor Jeff Thomas

Thank you to anyone that reads this book. I wanted to share what a simple healthy relationship with God looks like. Read this book wherever you are. Read it as many times as you like. Just read it. I hope it helps you and makes you go deeper with God. Maybe, it's how you already see God, or perhaps this is the first time you are seeing Him in a way you hadn't before, the way scriptures intended Christ/God to be seen.

You are loved and accepted just the way you are, and when the Father looks at you, He sees you as beautiful.

Remember

You/I don't need to know more than anybody else; you/I need to know Jesus.

Love never brings fear, for fear is always related to punishment. But love's perfection drives the fear of punishment far from our hearts. Whoever constantly walks afraid of punishment has not reached love's perfection. You can't scare the hell out of people; you have to love it.

Perfect love casts out fear.

What is love?

"Love is patient; love is kind. Love isn't envious, it doesn't boast, brag, or strut around. There's no arrogance in love; it's never rude, crude, or indecent—it's not self-absorbed. Love isn't easily upset. Love doesn't tally wrongs or celebrate injustice, but the truth— yes, truth— is love's delight! Love puts up with anything and everything that comes along; it trusts, hopes, and endures no matter what. Love will never become obsolete. - 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

This love is fulfilled with us so that on the day of judgment, we have confidence based on our identification with Jesus in this world. Love will never invoke fear. Perfect love expels fear, particularly the fear of punishment. The one who fears punishment has not been completed through love. - 1 John 4:17-18"

We are people created to share life and love with others, but what if you have no one? We were never designed to be alone. Life was never meant to be an I journey but a WE Journey. We've been taught that it has to exist before WE can. I think a great WE relationship will produce some of the greatest I's.

"I spent years in the church alone. I thought myself to be one who would talk to anybody regardless of who and where they are, but when it came to those who, according to scripture, were supposed to love me, I just found it easier to hang out with non-believers. Christians always made me feel less than and alone. Maybe it was just me. I had people around, but I still felt alone. It was like everybody was competing, trying to be the big name instead of working together to get the good news of the Gospel out. During this time, I had been traveling with some well-known ministries. I thought this would somehow catapult me to the next level, but all this did was give me a place to hide. I convinced myself that this must be where God wants me even though I knew this was wrong."

Simple: share the good news of Jesus so unbelievers will believe.

Just saying

Someone did say that I don't use scripture, but everything is scripture, from scripture that I share; it's just not the chapter and verse method that Jesus used.

“People have become worshippers of the bible. Most pastors can quote scripture and tell you exactly where the chapter and verse are. So, what about those who know scripture but do not necessarily know where to find it? Does that make them less than?”

I have been reading the bible for years, and I can't remember all the chapters and verses, but I know it's in there. I used to feel less than, but this is back when I thought the bible was the Word of God and when I thought that the book was something Holy and God forbid I got anything on the leather binding. The book was intended to point a person to God and introduce us to Jesus who if we followed would lead us to God.”

The Gospel is free. It was given to me; freely, I will give it to whoever is in front of me. Why charge others for something that God gave us for free? Sure, you can ask for money, but make sure it feeds the hungry and clothes those who need clothing.

“There was a time when I was a part of the prosperity movement and believed that God would give me riches if I were good enough. I was going to a megachurch at the time and everything I saw supported my beliefs surrounding the church. I didn't know Jesus, but for a price, I could not only know him, but I could have encountered and prophesied and sat in the second row for the right price. I never reached that level and would hang out with the poor folks. I think back when the catholic church was selling their version of salvation.”

Let's genuinely love people more than we love a building or our reputation. The Gospel was never meant to be a good sideshow bringing entertainment to bored People.

“Is it me, or has the church become a concert hall? I guess I don’t really have a problem as long as people are coming to Jesus, but when the people involved are treated the same as Hollywood celebrities and somehow above the rest of us non-celebs. I have a small issue. I don’t have an issue with people using their talents to generate income, but I am concerned when it becomes a sales pitch.” I do love a good Christian concert, but remember why we do what we do.

It is essential to be in people's lives. Don't assume everything is ok because they haven't contacted you. Reach out. You may have to be a friend too at times.

“Growing up, we didn’t share our feelings; we just pushed them down deep inside. It wasn’t something we did, especially if you were a man. This carried over into other areas of my life. Even after accepting Jesus as my savior, You never told anybody that you were doing bad because that wasn’t Godly. We were always programmed to say when asked; I’m doing great. I can’t lie. I still do this from time to time.”

If you feel like nobody has ever fought for you, or you've never been worth the risk, I'm praying for you, and I love you. Today is the day of believing salvation came for you.

Salvation

Ephesians 2:1-10

"2 As for you, don't you remember how you used just to exist? Corpses, dead in life, buried by transgressions, 2 wandering the course of this perverse world. You were the offspring of the prince of the power of the air—oh, how he owned you, just as he still controls those living in disobedience. I'm not talking about the outsiders alone; 3 we were all guilty of falling headlong for the persuasive passions of this world; we all have had our fill of indulging the flesh and mind, obeying impulses to follow perverse thoughts motivated by dark powers. As a result, our natural inclinations led us to be children of wrath, just like the rest of humankind. 4 But God, with the unfathomable richness of His love and mercy, focused on us, 5 united us with the Anointed One and infused our lifeless souls with life—even though we were buried under mountains of sin—and saved us by His grace. 6 He raised us up with Him and seated us in the heavenly realms with our beloved Jesus the Anointed, the Liberating King. 7 He did this for a reason: so that for all eternity we will stand as a living testimony to the incredible riches of His grace and kindness that He freely gives to us by uniting us with Jesus the Anointed. 8-9 For it's by God's grace that you have been saved. You receive it through faith. It was not our plan or our effort. It is God's gift, pure and simple. You didn't earn it; not one of us did, so don't go around bragging that you must have done something amazing. 10 For we are the product of His hand, heaven's poetry etched on lives, created in the Anointed, Jesus, to accomplish the good works God arranged long ago."

Let today be the day you step away from your comfort space and love somebody outside that special place you hold dear.

“I remember being told that I needed to step out of my comfort zone. I was also told that when I took a step, I was wrong. What do you do then? If I wasn’t praying every morning, always reading my bible, memorizing every scripture, in church every Sunday, praying for an hour before Sunday services, at every outreach on Saturday then I was backsliding. Not to mention breaking my TV and throwing it in the dumpster out behind the church. TVs were the devil. Sorry about the rant, but for years I was made to believe this was where I was supposed to be, but the problem was that I, like everyone else there, became comfortable.”

Love genuinely loves when it goes deeper than the surface dirt. Anybody can love the surface, and it doesn't take a lot of effort, but to love beneath into the deep, takes all of who we are.

“Years ago, if you would have asked me if I loved people, I would have said yes. It’s what Christians do, right? The problem is, I had no idea what love was. You hear in the church what love is, but I never saw it. I heard the word a lot, but it is very superficial. I did think I truly was loving people, but I knew nothing about the people I said I loved, and, to be honest, I just wanted to keep loving people on a surface level because it was safe.”

There's a lie going around that “good ministry” ends with someone saying the sinner's prayer. No, good ministry "begins" with a relationship between two people.

“I thought that if I lived a good Christian life and shared this good Christian life that it was enough. Problem was that I couldn’t live the life I was telling others to live. I was wondering why God wasn’t blessing the ministry work I was doing. If you were to ask

me the names or anything personal a person may have shared with me, I could tell you nothing. I had no relationship with them. You don't have to know someone for years to have a relationship with them, you just have to be intentional in the time that you have with a person."

I read something recently, and it made me think. We've created this "Saved" life where it's God vs. the Devil, and it's really about God's love for us, and it always has been. There are too many self-proclaimed super Christians out here making sure others know how spiritual and knowledgeable they are and how much they do, how much of a badass ninja they are, and how demons best fear them who are preaching a message of God vs. the devil. Beloved, The enemy has been defeated.

Some people will run, stop running, and yet are always running. Most don't even know they are running because the things they are running from have become a part of their everyday routine. I hope that they don't run themselves to death.

The goal is not to not sin but to see you are forgiven for said sin, past, present and future. Don't beat yourself up over the many mistakes you continue to make. To be reminded of God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness is a beautiful thing.

"Okay, maybe there are people out there who maybe need a nudge from an angry God, or maybe they need an angry God who will punish them if they don't walk the line to hold them accountable, but it should not be a lifelong thing. Eventually, you will have to let love come in. Perfect love casts out fear and if there's fear; are we letting love do its work?"

You are loving those that others don't find worthy of love and that is tough especially when others don't understand why you waste your time loving them. Don't be afraid to get hurt, and love people. And those of you that are hurt, don't allow your pain to cause you to miss out on amazing relationships. Your story doesn't scare me; it makes me want to hug you and love you even more.

“I left my dream job, came back to Charlotte, and started a life where I would have to truly depend on God. I heard God say that if I wanted to reach those he loved I would have to get eye level. At the time I loved the homeless and so I needed to figure out what eye level looked like. I moved in with some brothers I knew who were believers and I thought,” I’ll get a job, pay the rent and share Jesus with the homeless. Well, the brothers I moved in with didn’t have their stuff together and eventually lost the house. Here I am homeless, squatting in a house. Now, I could have gone back to my old job which was in Savannah, GA, but I kept hearing a voice telling me to stay here and trust myself. This made no sense to me. Why would God want me to be homeless? I remembered what I heard previously about being at eye level. There was a prayer room on the corner just down the street from where I was squatting and I would go down there and just get on my face a cry out to God. I was homeless and I had no idea how to be homeless. I was homeless when I was young and partying, but I wasn't really homeless and now God was asking me to be homeless, like real homeless. I have this opportunity to go back to my job and my former boss is offering me more money, and a promotion, and God is saying stay and trust me. What the hell! I did it, and I stayed for 4 years on the streets of Charlotte. After, I traveled all over the USA sharing, praying, and loving folks. I had some support from those who loved what I did, but I also had my

share of haters who thought I was crazy and in sin. They would say this isn't the Lord's will. But I wouldn't change a thing. I met some awesome people and heard some amazing stories. Some of them still call me today."

Loving people is not easy, especially when the love they have known isn't love. So how do you love them? How do you navigate all the B.S. (belief system) they believe about themselves and show them their value when they look in the mirror and see no value at all? When you've decided to love, there's no undeciding. You love even when it's just you doing the loving.

We are all Forgiven even if we never ask for it. Forgiveness wasn't waiting on you or me to accept forgiveness. When we believe that we are forgiven, we will live like it.

I am thinking about Love and what love is. I'm still convinced it's a word we just throw around. Do we really know what this word means? Do you think we love as Christ loved? I guess we do our best, but is it our best?

Let Jesus manifest wherever you are. He is not a secret to be kept.

Don't try to stop sinning... Just live like you're forgiven. Change is not of your doing but in the knowledge of what He did.

"I, maybe you thought this was what

Today, make a friend with someone you would not normally befriend. Serve someone who you'd usually just walk past. Today is the day you make change happen, and it's about a relationship.

Live and love. Let Love lead. Be happy it's ok. Loving yourself is not being selfish. Take yourself out and treat yourself. Let you be your focus, it's not wrong. It's ok to love you.

I don't care too much about thousands of Christians meeting together. I'm not against it, but I'd rather see one Christian sharing bread with a man, woman, or child who's been sleeping under the bridge or an abandoned building or on the steps of the church.

"We fight not against flesh and blood," but we actually do this a lot. It's because we want to be right; we don't want to seem weak. We like to be in charge, but sometimes we need to take the high road and go low. Being the boss is where we find value. Having more stuff is where we find value. Knowing more and having degrees is where we find value. Making sure people know how much we give is where we find value. It's how we say, "I'm better than you," without actually saying it. We are all people, and we aren't that different. Material stuff may make us look different, and our education may make us sound different, but we are all human.

There are people out there who don't need church but need a relationship with God. They need to know what Jesus has done for them. People need to know they've been forgiven. We give people a snippet of Jesus but spend hours talking about the church and its programs. We preach the name of these prominent pastors or worship groups. People need to hear the good news of the Gospel. Let's preach Jesus and the freedom people have in Christ and tell those we deem as lost that Jesus forgave them. They need to hear and believe, this is why we preach the good news that the unbeliever will believe and therefore be reconciled to the Father, which was the plan all along.

When people say, "I used to go to church," it's because people only got invited to the church, but when you ask people to know Jesus...

We have been created in God's image, you, me, them. Even the criminal you think should have been murdered for his crimes was made in God's image. Once they believe what God has done for them, and how much He wants to have fellowship with them, they hear and believe the Gospel. If given a chance, I want to encourage you to find someone who you think deserves the worst because, in your eyes, they are the worst, and love them enough to share the good news of Jesus. Love them enough to see God in them. This relationship goes beyond a Sunday, mid-week meeting in a building.

Regardless of your thoughts concerning any of the topics trending, we have got to learn how to communicate our differences resulting in peace instead of fighting, yelling, manipulating, and even causing physical harm, as if this has ever produced anything more than a band-aid that eventually falls off. We find ourselves right back in the fire, years later, facing the same issues. Insanity is doing the same thing repeatedly, expecting a different outcome. Have we learned nothing?

I talk about when I had the homeless church so much because it was at this time in my life that I learned the most. What I learned I couldn't learn in the institutional church or from a man. I could only learn from experience. Church folks had a problem with me doing this because it didn't look like a church; I didn't look churched. I didn't preach as most preachers preached. I would have conversations with the homeless, and I did use scriptures, but it was more conversational. More than being the pastor, I wanted to be their friend and let the God in me

reach out. I wanted to love them, even loving the hell out of them. A relationship is a great tool, but Love is the most excellent tool.

When you see the face of God in the faces of humankind, then you will have no room for judgments against your fellow humans.

What's on my heart? I've spoken about it before. I don't read about salvation in the bible as something that can only be obtained when a dirty sinner begs a loving God to let them into heaven. I do see the salvation that was given to ALL men because this loving God wanted fellowship with His creation whom He loves because He loves. He is Love, and we are love in Him and Him in us. I don't go around talking about Hell either, why, because the scriptures tell me to share the good news of the Gospel. I tell people what this loving God truly thinks of them. I build relationships and let me, as love (one with God), love the Hell out of the one standing in front of me.

Can you imagine if people weren't afraid to build relationships with unbelievers, homeless, addicts, criminals, and so on? What if we made friendships and let the Love inside each of us as believers reach out to them. What if we shared the good news of the Gospel with our NEW lives instead of trying to fix broken people? What if people believe because we give them something to believe in?

Not knowing something doesn't make you less than; it just means you haven't learned it yet. People learn at different paces so let them learn. Teaching isn't something you do, but it's how you live your life in front of people wanting to learn and later on sit down and have a conversation about what they saw.

The way you know it doesn't mean you know it. We like to think that we know it and because we think we know it, we teach what we know, but knowing what you know or have been told you know means you heard something, read(or were told to read) about it, or watched a movie on the subject and told other people what it sounds like too you. Today, it is common to be taught, and when we are taught, very little is learned. Don't be confused; there is a difference between learning and being taught.

If God knows everybody's name, we should know the names of the people we talk to every day. Knowing a person's name makes it personal, and walls come down.

God didn't send Jesus to condemn; man does this. People know what they're doing, and they don't need to be shamed or guilted and made to feel condemnation. Jesus came to reconcile us back to the Father then he gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

Please don't wait until you disagree and feel the need to correct a person to talk to that person. That's not a relationship.

Love who you are and where you are at. If you let people tell you who you are you will never be who you are.

Will you tell people about Jesus, or show them, Jesus? Which do you think will speak the loudest?

My goal is not to know the most, and in no way do I do the most, but it's to do something and know (learned) enough to make a difference.

Second part

God is not a dictator who demands us to live a certain way.

I got to hug the necks of witches, and feed the homeless with Muslim friends. I got to hear stories of ghosts and the dark history of New Orleans. I got to embrace the waitress who just needed to hear how loved she was. I was able to give a meal to the hungry couple on the streets in the French Quarter. I got to share my story. Maybe it didn't look like the traditional churchy ministry we see today. There were no events or setup. There were no organized outreach or meet-up times. It was more of an AS YOU GO thing, and most importantly, there was no one saying, you're doing it wrong.

Sometimes, we just love. We love all no matter how they act, you just love, and love will change them where they are. You and the dirtiest homeless drug addict you can find are both created in God's image. You and every man or woman doing time in prison for whatever crime, you are both made in God's image. When you stop seeing the world as them versus us, maybe you will find it easier to see your brother and sisters and more willing to help instead of pushing past dirty strangers to escape a feeling deep inside that says we were all created in God's image. Whether clean or dirty, innocent or guilty, we were all created in God's image.

“Jesus never excluded or expelled anyone-He only transforms and integrates people together. In fact, we could say that for Jesus, the very act of excluding and expelling is the problem.”

“I wish I didn't say this but I do. Levels, I hate talking about people being at different levels. I am referring to Christians. Maybe we don't all do the same stuff, but I disagree with the whole being at different levels. We have the same Jesus and because you're not good at something someone else is good at doesn't mean they can do what you do. That's why we need each other. This whole being at different level stuff just keeps us constantly comparing ourselves to others and when we fall short it can cause us to see ourselves as a failure.”

I never wanted to pastor a church because of the Sunday theatrics I had seen put on by those calling themselves pastors. I wasn't a fan of the million-dollar buildings or expensive suits. I once watched as a pastor rode his Harley-Davidson up on the stage. Another reason I never wanted to pastor is that most carried themselves like they were above people, especially poor people. I watched as these so-called pastors would run churches more like a business and less like a church. They have little to no outreach and no caring for people. It's like the majority of the people calling themselves pastors; they have no idea what pastoring is.

It's the life "YOU" live that makes God happy.

You are sharing as a believer don't share your intellect (how much you know or what you've memorized); Just live life and let that speak to those you are doing life with. Life, when lived, looks better than it sounds.

Indeed, we don't talk to people when they are doing good but let them make a mistake, and we make it our life mission to make sure they know they're wrong. It's like we don't want people to

know when they are doing good, but we find joy in making sure people know how bad they are. Let's let people know how good they are and stop pointing out how bad they are.

Being relational is better than being right.

Sharing life is sometimes dangerous, and if it's not, you are either not sharing, or you're sharing from the surface so as not to offend the deep. It's in the deep where relationships begin. Love is deep.

Just a reminder, we died with Christ, and we were raised to live with Christ. There is no need to die anymore, but only to live and not only live but to share this life with others. I love you all.

The more we see Jesus in bodily form, the less we see Jesus in us. Seeing Jesus in bodily form is seeing Jesus as separate. As long as you see Jesus as separate, you will never see yourself as being one.

Is it really freedom if your BS (belief system) restricts you from loving people who may disagree with you?

We tend to not invest in the lives of people we feel we can't fix. Maybe, we can't "fix" them but we can love and befriend them. Love has a way of fixing what we can't.

Knowledge is empty without a relationship.

Let's be honest for a moment. The offense has nothing to do with the other person but mainly with the heart condition of the one who is offended. You, allowing yourself to be offended is on you, it's all about the reaction.

Jesus didn't come to be served but to serve, but everybody wants to serve Jesus. I'm not serving Jesus, I'm following him and serving people. This is the Gospel. And while some things may be shared we don't put everything we are doing for Jesus on blast. I also am not doing things for Jesus but because of Jesus. What if we all did this? What if we all followed Jesus, served people, and lived the Gospel, not for, but because of. What if we did things in secret and let God get/bring the Glory? Let's give without expecting anything in return. Let's love even after we've suffered abuse. There's freedom in just living life because He lives. We also don't have to convince Him we are good enough for Him to show up. We get to be a part of what He has already done, doing now,, and will continue to do just because. Value is not found in what you do, your title or position, your education, your bank account, or how much you give. None of these are fruits of the Spirit.

I love you all and you are welcome to agree or disagree. It doesn't change my relationship with Jesus and my love for people and my sharing. I promise you that I will never make you earn my love or expect any kind of return for anything I can give to you. Whether you agree or disagree.

Do you invite people to a building, an excellent teaching, amazing worship, to hear a popular speaker, a revival, a big event, or do you invite people to Jesus? If you invite people to Jesus, they will get to experience all of these things, but plenty of people come to the show and never meet the host.

Jesus favors orthopraxy over orthodoxy.

People expect from people with whom they should probably have more grace.

I was a yes man in the past and got in a lot of trouble because of it. I could never say no because of how I thought it would make me look. It's ok to say no.

People will go along with what's popular regardless of what the popular group believes.

Knowing information or having intellect is not what God desires if knowing doesn't drive you to do. Reading, writing, and arithmetic are not fruits of the spirit.

Earned?

What if love was something to be earned or deserved?? We have told people this lie for too long, maybe not with our words, but our actions scream it.

Love should be for everybody.

It's not always helpful to others when you tell them they should live more like you because how you live is right and how they live is wrong. A person may miss their best by listening to you.

Nothing can separate us from God's love.

God's healing is not concerned with how good you are, and we never have to be "good enough" for God to answer our prayers.

Self-healing looks different for every person, and most people don't even know they need healing.

Real love is different from the love we usually experience today, and God's love is real love.

When we believe someone is too broken, can we love them and have nothing to do with them simultaneously? Love doesn't push away but engages.

I love you.

How will you see yourself today? Will you look and see all that's wrong, or will you see what God says is good?

Love has no expectation and asks nothing from but freely gives. Love is a beautiful expression of God's person. Love well.

Both the follower and the unbeliever deserve to know LOVE, and neither of them is expected to earn it.

You'll never be effective in ministry until you can see the face of Jesus in the face of others.

Let me say this.

The Gospel is not as complex as it has been made to be. Jesus made it simple. God's plan wasn't that we would all have Doctorates. He wanted all of us, regardless of how far they went in school or if they went to school. He is also not interested in our social status or high positions. He wanted us to be at eye level with Him. Let Love Lead.

Let me also say this.

I said the Gospel is simple to understand, but it's even easier to practice. It's easy to share with others. Once you know this message, you will notice how you no longer have to try and live this life out, that it becomes who you are, and it just happens for none other than you are a new creation in Christ, and, in John 17, it says you have become one with Him. I was always told there was a system and expectations to being a good Christian and that If I didn't do these

things, I was a terrible Christian. I eventually Got to a place where I was like, why am I even trying? God will be mad at me because I am a dirty sinner. I spent years going through the motions, traveling around with big-name ministries in charismatic circles, and the whole time I was miserable. It wasn't till I told God I was finished that He began to make himself known. I started meeting friends who believed in a Gospel that I had always known and thought not to be true deep inside. They showed me in scripture where it said what I felt. My life changed.

The best "ministry" is not to minister but to "live as you go," being who you are. Ministry is more genuine when it's not something you do but who you are every day.

Use what you have to help others. Whether you are rich or poor, give, and it doesn't always have to be money; people need people. Loneliness is a killer. If anybody truly matters, then prove it. Your empty words mean nothing. Show people you care. To be honest, they (people) "HEAR" how much they are cared for, but they need to see it. It's time to invest, engage and go past the surface dirt.

The reason people don't give because they're afraid they will lack. Let's find someone to show how much we love them.

The fear of death should never be something with which we struggle. We should never plan to be martyrs, but we should not fear death. Live your life confident and content.

Today is the day of believing salvation came for you.

People will see fault in you because it's what we do. People may not think you're suitable for the job. People may not support you because of some crazy reasoning they have. They may even say, how can God use someone like you. They may be correct, but are they doing anything? The last I checked, God uses people who make themselves available, imperfections and all. Stop picking people and ministries apart or finding reasons to fault them and just be Jesus and love, people. When we have problems with others, it is because we have a problem with ourselves, and it's easier to deflect onto others than to deal with the areas where we are not happy.

If you feel like nobody has ever fought for you, or you've never been worth the risk, I'm praying for you, and I love you.

Believers, you are not dying to sin, but you are dead to sin.

Love has no expectation and asks nothing from but freely gives. Love is a beautiful expression of God's person. Love well.

Both the follower and the unbeliever deserve to know LOVE, and neither is expected to earn Love.

He loves you just as you are right now in whatever you got going on. His love was never dependent on you being good.

Once you love, it's hard to un-love.

There's always the temptation and opportunity for someone to bring up your past, and it may even be a friend or loved one. While they may be right about your history, you are no longer that person. When and if they do. Love them.

Love will always find a way to work. It's our fears and insecurities that stop it (In our minds). Because of this, we miss out on some extraordinary relationships. Love when you have the opportunity, and this means, love you.

We run into problems when we demand more of ourselves than God does.

His love isn't based on our accomplishments or performance, and heaven isn't holding auditions.

Everybody has a past, but those in Jesus have no history of wrongs..

Get it?

Every day is a new beginning.

We should only see believers like Christ.

Let Love lead.

Hurt and pain ignored will have a person searching for peace and wholeness everywhere outside of Jesus only to discover they will never find the healing they desire, plunging deeper into a place of despair.

The Gospel is all about sharing, giving, and building relationships outside of ourselves. It's not about what we can suck into our own lives. It's not about our wealth. It is not about a title or position. What we do have, we freely give away.

God's not mad at you. He loves you because He loves you.

We give so much power to those things that cause us anxiety, stress, and pain when God has given us the ability to control these things. It may seem as if the anxiety, stress, and pain are too great in the midst, but how great is our God?

God is not mad at you or punishing you when it hits the fan, and he wants you to press in. It's like Paul's trip to Asia, feeling like he'd been sentenced to death and despaired of his life. At that moment; Paul the Apostle knew he needed to press into God, who had already and would continue to deliver him.

If you have two bags of groceries and your starving neighbor has none, Christian friends. Do you give a bag to God, your church, or your neighbor?

Today, make a friend with someone you would not normally befriend. Serve someone who you'd normally walk past. Today is the day you make change happen. It's about relationships with people.

Don't look for opportunity, be obedient to those who find you. Trust, if you (As you go), there will be plenty that finds you.

Let's not focus on differences that divide but focus on the love that bridges over those differences.

Remember, as we go!

Build relationships today.

Let Love lead.

If we didn't go out to minister to people, people might get ministered too. Who you are "ALL" the time is a ministry as you go.

People say "God is in Control" because it frees them from having to do anything or take any responsibility.. What if God has trusted us to do it? What if saying "God is in control" is us being lazy?

Be grateful for Grace and Mercy. Jesus didn't come so we would not sin, but we'd be free from its grip. Jesus came because God wanted to be with us. Trust, you will still "sin," but you've been forgiven. Sin has been dealt with once and for all. People are still living afraid to "sin" instead of living in the new life in Christ; they are living, trying not to be the old man, never experiencing the freedom as a new creation. Everything we will ever do is already known, but God is still crazy in love with us. Seriously, none of your "sins" is a surprise to God. So, please stop living in the bondage of religion and start living free the way God intended you to live.

Love is not dependent on one's value.

“Thank GOD! He deserves your thanks. His love never quits. Thank the God of all gods; he never leaves. Thank the Lord of all lords. His love never ceases to remember us when we are down; He can never stop. He rescued us from the trampling boot. His love never quits.”

Take care of everyone in a time of need. God’s love never leaves, and thank God who did it all! His love never ceases.

Sharing the Gospel is not throwing a bunch of scriptures at a person so they will say a prayer, and you can put another notch on your belt.

Real quick

Instead of memorizing scripture to quote to impress others, maybe we practice doing what the word (Jesus) says. I am not suggesting you not read scripture, But like I’ve heard it said, we don’t need a more bible centered world, but more Christ-like.

I am surprised that those who quote scripture don’t lead the way in doing what the scriptures say. Now, some are doing what scripture says, but I say to the rest of you, If you are not already doing so, go. Go out today and take a minute to love and serve someone. There’s no more excellent feeling.

Simply put, He (Jesus) loves you just as you are right now in whatever you got going on. His love was never dependent on you being good.

You are loved and accepted just the way you are, and when the Father looks at you, He sees you as beautiful.

Did you know?

I am telling you that God wants fellowship with you; that's why Jesus came, and if you don't have a relationship with Jesus, here's how you do it. You believe. You don't need to go to an altar or say a prayer begging Jesus to forgive you of your dirty sins. He already did that. Now, if you said a prayer or went to an altar, that's fine.

When asked if they are Christian, people will say no because they don't get to church, haven't said the "prayer," or never read the bible. These things are good things to do, but these are things done after you hear and believe the good news of the GOSPEL.

What happened, and why do I see God the way I do?

Here is the reasoning for my deconstruction. I had been doing the Christian thing for years, but I always believed there was more than what I was seeing or being taught. I had some excellent God times and felt the spirit, but I didn't see or hear about new people believing the gospel. It was a big party. I was told that I couldn't go certain places or be around certain people because I would catch whatever demon they had. I was always at the altar begging God for forgiveness because God was upset with all my wickedness. Because of my sin the Holy Spirit would come and go. I was told once that I had fallen from grace and could lose what God had freely given. While a few would love the homeless it wasn't something that was a priority or not as important.

The church was a business, and couldn't be hired because of my past life; if others were to find out it might put a stain on the clean reputation of the church or the pastor.

I felt like Jesus was pushed to the back burner. It was more about programs, events, guest speakers, or popular worship groups. I heard more talk about new buildings and the millions they needed the congregation to give. I listened to the shame messages if you didn't give. I heard a pastor say a person who is poor is obviously in sin.

A pastor should never gain wealth off the backs of their congregations. Some form of payment, maybe, but big homes, nice cars, fancy suits, expensive shoes, jewelry, vacations. If you write books and that pays you, great. I'm not suggesting that we don't give money to those doing some type of ministry, but living life looking like a king?

When I raise funds it's never so I can look great and I don't live like I'm rich. If you know me, you know me. Now, I do believe all the people from any of my past experiences love Jesus and where in my life at the time for a reason, but I couldn't continue to live this life especially after seeing the Gospel for what it is and how it's the true message of salvation. I love all those who have been in my life, and I love those who never gave up on me. I was a hard one to love at times.

I just wanted to share from tonight

March 21, 2022

I noticed tonight that one of the more well-known homeless gentlemen who typically sleeps in front of the brown line had moved his bedding to the other side of the street. This guy has been out here sleeping in the same spot for years, now don't feel sorry for him because somehow, he's made it work.

Everybody knows Ben. People will walk up to this guy and give him a fist full of cash like he's an old college buddy who needs a loan till payday. Seriously, the dude has been out here so long that he has become a friend to many people walking by or taking the train.

He even has a show where he stands and sometimes dances, weaving in and between cars stopped at the light, asking that those attending the show would donate to his one-person production.

I'm surprised that he's never been hit, and I have not once heard anybody yell for him to get out of the way.

They're used to him being there, so they drive around him like he is supposed to be in the middle of the street.

Tonight, I looked over at Ben, now sleeping in a new spot, and I heard this, "we see people where they are, but we don't see them where they're at." Ben is homeless, as in he has no house, but Ben is at home where he is at. We may not get it, But Ben is sleeping at night, and

during the day, he is working his 9 to 5, he eats, and after his shift is over, he has a drink or two or seven.

I think the reason we see people and assume that a person is in a bad situation and needs our help is that we compare their situation to ours and because they are not living as well as we are, they must be miserable, and in need. I've been out there with the homeless, and yes, many do need help, but some of them have made a decent home out of being homeless.

This is why it is essential not just to help them but to know them. Ask them for their names. Listen to their stories. It makes a difference when they are people and not just a good deed you do on Saturday.

Scripture

Titus 3:3–7

3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice , and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

But then...

"4 But then something happened: God our Savior and His overpowering love and kindness for humankind entered our world; 5 He came to save us. It's not that we earned it by doing good works or righteous deeds; He came because He is merciful. He brought us out of our old ways of living to a new beginning through the washing of regeneration. He made us completely new

through the Holy Spirit, 6 who was poured out in abundance through Jesus the Anointed, our Savior. 7 All of this happened so that through His grace, we would be accepted into God's covenant family and appointed to be His heirs, full of the hope that comes from knowing you have eternal life."

Here it is again.

Titus 3:4-7

"When the extraordinary compassion of God our Savior and his overpowering love suddenly appeared in person, as the brightness of a dawning day, he came to save us. Not because of any virtuous deed that we have done but only because of his extravagant mercy. He saved us, resurrecting us through the washing of rebirth. We are made completely new by the Holy Spirit, whom he splashed over us richly by Jesus, the Messiah, our Life-Giver. So as a gift of his love, and since we are faultless—innocent before his face— we can now become heirs of all things, all because of an overflowing hope of eternal life."

I have a question.

How do you respond to the one that hurts you? I read once in the scripture that even if you are not in the wrong, or think you are not in the wrong, you are to go to that person and make it right, even if it means apologizing for something you didn't do, even if you have no idea what your part is in the "wrongdoing." I believe everybody is in our life for some reason or another whether they are good or bad everybody has a role to play. Love covers a multitude of wrongs, right? If you

got a situation like this happening I think you should pray and go to that person and make it right. We have to walk in unity and we/I have to walk in the message that we preach.

Hey, did God save everyone on the cross through Jesus? Could it be that we are all saved, but some don't believe this and so never encounter His salvation? When I read scripture this is what I read. Not everybody will look as "saved" as you, so have patience with people. I shared something earlier in the book but I really want to remind and encourage you. Don't let pride and arrogance keep you from loving people. I know when I started to see and love people as Christ, it set me free and made me a better person. It didn't always make others around better but it changed my response toward them.

By the way... No one will ever be like you, so stop trying to make people just like you. You will only frustrate yourself and become angry. Our goal is to point the way to God and allow Jesus to make us like Him. Every day we are going glory to glory when we keep our focus on Papa God.

Romans 2:1-4

Just remember this

No matter who you are, before you judge the wickedness of others, you had better remember this: you are also without excuse, for you too, are guilty of the same kind of things! When you judge others and then do the same things they do, you condemn yourself. We know that God's judgment falls upon those who practice these things. God is always right because he has all the facts. And no matter who you think you are, when you judge others who do these things and

then do the same things yourself, what makes you think that you will escape God's judgment? Do the riches of his extraordinary kindness make you take him for granted and despise him? Haven't you experienced how kind and understanding he has been to you? Don't mistake his tolerance for acceptance. Do you realize that all the wealth of his extravagant kindness is meant to melt your heart and lead you into repentance?

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Love unconditional.

Go out today, and love well talk about Jesus, or maybe you just let Jesus talk through and out of you.

ME

I believe God sent Jesus to reconcile humankind back to God because He wanted fellowship with us. He is not now, or at any other time in history, was he mad at us. Jesus went to the cross not for us, but as us. When He came out of the grave we came out with Him. Jesus had to become the one-time offering for sin because the blood of bulls and goats wasn't cutting it. I believe we have been forgiven, for past, present, and future sins. I believe that in Christ, we have no sin.

I believe that when scripture says we are new creations, we are indeed new creations. The old is GONE, and the new has COME. I don't believe Salvation is something we have to work to keep; I believe it was given, and when we truly understand the gift, we work from our understanding of this LOVE. It's a simple concept.

You don't need years of schooling and a degree to obtain a particular position in the kingdom. Jesus taught a simple message to simple people who went on to do GREAT things. We may not always get things a hundred percent correct, and I don't think we are supposed to, but if we continue to follow Christ and love, we'll continue to learn and grow. Let's not let our differences and understanding cause a divide between us, but let us all follow Jesus, and if we do this, we will begin to see how alike we are.

