

A large, glowing cross is the central focus, set within a dark, tunnel-like environment. The cross is brightly lit from within, creating a strong contrast with the surrounding shadows. Below the cross, several silhouettes of people are walking away from the viewer towards the light. The overall atmosphere is one of hope and spiritual journey.

Salvation Walk

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The answers you need to grow your faith
and be victorious in Christ

SALVATION WALK

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INTRODUCTION

Many years ago, in 1978 I began my new walk in Christ Jesus. The newness is essential and wonderful. But there were questions that needed to be answered for me to grow. This book is all about how to grow in faith and be victorious in Christ! Today's atmosphere is filled with false teachers and false prophets. They came only to distract and stop the spread of the gospel. My prayer is for you to be filled with God's love and Spirit.

The first question that every child of God should have the answer is the witness of salvation. John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. That is the promise of the good news of the church. God is the one whom has set things in motion to save the world.

The following questions will be answered throughout this book:

1. How many scriptures in the Bible tell of the coming of God's Son?
2. What is the biggest storyline that runs through the Bible?
3. Who brought (translation) you the Bible that is in your possession?
4. Why is confession a vital role in righteousness?
5. Why did Jesus say to His followers, "Be not deceived."

Salvation Step One

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth and the earth was without void and in it was full of darkness. And God said let there be light and there was light (Genesis 1:1-3). Now this is very important to you and me because the question has always been, “When did Satan enter the garden of Eden?” “When did he hear the message that was given to Adam by God?” They were given the charge not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. Genesis 2:16-17

Why is this so very essential to know, because this is when people lost fellowship with God’s plan of everlasting life. The delegated authority Adam was tested on caused the fall of humans. Because the devil told a lie mixed with the truth to Eve off by herself which interfered with the command given to Adam by God. Because it was a command it wasn’t for her to think about whether it was right at that time. Jesus said that the satanic strategy is **deception**. This is where spiritual warfare began, in the information of your mind. Wherever you have gathered your information, from the church in Bible study, television, radio or especially other people (friends and family), if it is true get ready to be challenged by evil interest. They will always be sent to distract you to leave the protection of the fellowship of God.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (John 10:10 KJV)

God is all knowing and all seeing, all powerful, everywhere. He is the beginning and the end of all things that were created (John1:1-2). God knew that Adam and his family would be attacked, so He gave them a charge of obedience, but they failed. And here we are today.

The angelic hosts have an advantage over people, they cannot die or get sick. Only God can destroy them. Also, only the saints of God, through the Holy Ghost, can cast them out but not destroy them. God set up a redeeming plan to reconcile man back to Him and this plan is called salvation. Here's how it works; this example is being exhibited all over the world of business, it is called payment. Man has been exercising this process of exchanging one product for another for centuries.

God's love has drawn you to decide to come as close as possible to be in the family of God or give up to His helping hand of love in your life. In other words, make Him Lord and Shepherd of your heart, mind and soul. He already loves you, so why not return the love by taking God's only begotten son into your heart, and lifestyle, and begin to live on His teaching.

Jesus was the one who gave His life so that you can have eternal life in heaven with the Father after death. God has always wanted you to have everlasting life any way. But because of deception, Adam's family believed the liar Satan, which causes people to live evil ways. God wants you to believe that He loves you too much for you not to believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins (Romans 10:9-10).

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16 KJV)

Notice John 3:16 again, it was God who gave his Son to be a payment for your sins. He died and God was the one who brought him from the dead. God's love for you hasn't changed. The only way to the Father is through accepting the blood of Jesus over your life. Then you will receive everlasting life from God. Jesus has paid it all for you! When you choose Jesus, it is the right way to go.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen me. (John 14:6-7 KJV)

To build up your faith and knowledge of Jesus please read the Gospel of John on its entirety. Confession of all wrongdoing that you are aware of (sin is wrongdoing against God and man 1 John 1:9) keeps your heart and mind clean before God. Remember you just started and there are things and people that will cause you problems, frustration, aggravation, and worries beyond your wildest dreams. The devil wants to take away your happiness and peace of mind (2 Timothy 1:7 *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.* KJV). This allows the Holy Ghost to be in leadership over your life and help you to grow in spiritual maturity.

As Christians it should be confession, confession, confession is the way to victory and not to fall away from grace. We must continue to be aware that this warfare is spiritual not physical, but we war against demonic attacks. James 3:9 says out of the same mouth comes blessings and cursing and this should not be because you pray for help also. It is essential to watch what you say.

1. Repentance

Repentance must be preached, Luke 24:47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning in Jerusalem.

Water baptism: Jesus is who we are following, and we must do as he teaches to become true disciples. He has the key to the kingdom.

And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. John 1:33 KJV

Water baptism is a public ceremony by which sin is removed: Romans 6:3-4 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Likewise, the Apostle Peter summed it up in the book of Acts 2:38: *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.* (Matthew 26:28, Mark 1:4)

These are the doctrines of Christ that all Christians need to study for themselves. Hebrews 6:1-2 *Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgement.*

2. Spiritual Warfare

Warning Danger, Danger the battle for the mind is **REAL!** This is one of the most overlooked problems with the Christian brotherhood today. Not really understanding the spiritual warfare attack that can occur daily. Paul the Apostle in Romans 7:23 *“But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.”* 24-25 *“O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”*

So, you see there is nothing wrong with you that other Christians are not experiencing too. Jesus is here to help with all we go through. 1 Peter 5:7-8 *“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”* We must also understand that the devil doesn't come before you without disguising his real identity. Satan doesn't want to be blamed for your problems of disobedience to against the laws. The same way he caused Adam's family to fall in the Garden of Eden, if you keep listening to his lies you will fall too (Genesis 3:1-6).

Keeping in mind how the devil works, let us study Ephesians 6:11-12

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

Listen again, listen again, listen we are not fighting against one another but against spiritual powers and rulers of darkness in high places. The devil wants you to hurt yourself, family, neighbors and others and he will put the blame on you.

Here are some questions that always come to the table with spiritual warfare in the mind:

1. How do you know you are saved?
2. What is God's will for my life?
3. How can I live holy?
4. I believe that I can keep all my habits and friends because God is a loving God, and he will bless me anyway.
5. God's grace has opened doors that have been shut so Jesus will forgive all my sins regardless of what I say and do.

3. False Preachers and Teachers

You may be asking, "Why is the world so full of false preachers and teachers?" The answer can be found in the New Testament of the Bible.

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it *were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Matthew 24:24 KJV

These false Christs and false prophets exist merely to lead you astray and if it were possible, they will fool the very elect. That means the world is full of false

religions. So, it is essential for you to search out the churches and real people that you know are living righteously. Here are some suggested guidelines:

1. Bible translations being used: King James, American Standard, New International Version, Good News Bible.
2. Bible studies at church and home
3. One major proof for you is identity theft, computer hacking and stealing other people's goods.

Step One Bible Study Review

Here we climb the mountain that so many have fallen from due to lack of proper instructions. The number one problem is the lies told that you can keep the same old lifestyle and friends. Who told you to keep the same environment and social surroundings?

The Apostle Paul said, "Come out from among them and be separated."

Answer: _____

Romans 6:13-14 "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."

In other words, you should not use your hands, or any part of your body as an instrument for ungodly activity. (Example; buying lottery tickets, cigarettes, and/or alcoholic beverages). These things break God's commandments. Answer _____

Tithing is the next valid promotion of promise made by God.

(Malachi 3:6-8) This promise God made has been overlooked and criticized because it helps to bring victory on your life.

Learning the value of prayer: Christians are followers of Christ Jesus and must learn the pattern of life we must follow to call ourselves Christ like. Jesus Christ set up the church and we are followers of his teaching. This is essentially important because of the false teachings that are taking place in this world. Jesus is God in the flesh, he is the Word (John 1:1-2). God created man in his own image and likeness. God wants a fellowship and communion with his human race. Jesus Christ came in the flesh to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).

Learn the Lord's prayer (Matthew 6:9-14) Write it out here:

Learn the agreement prayer (Matthew 18:18-19) Write it out here:

Learn the Church Elders Prayer, the reason for the church to pray over your life (James 5:13-16) Write it out here:

Let's look at Hebrews 6:1-4 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit. For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

We must always go forward in Faith in God. He has not abandoned you because Jesus is God in the flesh. Jesus came in the flesh to give you the victory over sin. Because we live and move in Him, God will accept your prayers. Remember, Jesus is the word of God and He cares for us so much that He gave His only begotten Son.

Jesus died for our sins, and they will be forgiven if you ask for forgiveness and turn from those sins(repent). Your mouth can bless you or curse you in and out of heaven on earth. God expects true confessions. Revelation 21:8a *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murders, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone:*

We understand now that you have the ability and the right to know how to please God. False religions teach that you can say and do anything you want to do and still go to heaven. If we look at the word salvation from a practical point think of it like this; when you made the choice to come to Christ, there were no physical changes in your appearance. You still had two eyes, two feet, two hands, a mouth, a nose and a body. Your daily language stayed the same, you live in the same house and have the same everything. The change has occurred in your mind, soul and spirit. This is called being born again. God didn't remove you from the earth, nor did he give you any materials to help you come to Him. Salvation is a gift! However, you must open your heart to receive it.

Salvation Step Two

1. You must do your part to grow.

This is the rise and fall of Christian growth (Matthew 7:7-8). These are the secrets of maturity in spiritual growth. It's one thing to read the Bible and another thing to practice what you read. The Bible says that you should come out from among them (those are living an unholy lifestyle, unbelievers, immorality). The world is full of false teachers that challenge our freedom to choose what is the truth. Without the Bible being read and taught in the churches, they would have the final say so. Biblical truth gives Jesus full attention and the Godhead as the truth over heaven and hell, death and the grave.

Marriage is being challenged, church is being challenged, children's births are being challenged, races are at war with each other. If you can keep this in mind, Romans 7 speaks of the desire of the Apostle Paul, when he desires to do good, but evil is always present in him. He found that in him dwells no good thing, because in his mind warfare is taking place. The effects of the word of God, when it's read, effect the spiritual world around you and your inner mind, soul and spirit.

Hebrews 4:1-12 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

This passage of scripture tells you how the word of God is quick and powerful, and it cuts with two edges, between the bone and the marrow, and there are no spirits that can hide in your members that cannot be expelled. God's Word will clean you inside and out when you read and study.

2. Meditation

Meditation is another way to soak your mind with the word of God, song and prayer (Psalm 1). Spending time with God and seeking to be closer to Him, (Matthew 6:30-33) benefits you and your family's success. By applying yourself to living God's commandments to testify to His word, supporting local churches with your money and gifts, doing good works among men.

If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. James 1:26-27

In Psalm 37, it says, God will give you the desires of your heart, that's about living a righteous life.

3. Satan's Lies

Here is an observation from the Garden of Eden. Notice in Genesis chapter 3, Satan uses the serpent's body to walk up and talk to Eve. The devil needs a body to carry his false message. He waited until Eve was alone with no one around (isolation). Isolation is one of Satan's primary tactics in spiritual warfare. Get you alone and away from your church, friends, wife, children, husband, anyone that is helping you grow stronger in the Lord. When you are weak and lonely here comes the enemy talking to you, trying to get in your head. *Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?* Jesus said that he will be with you always even to the end of the world. This is why Jesus sends his disciples out in two's.

4. Faith

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. Hebrews 11:1-4

Salvation is a twofold effort. You must have faith in the word of God to believe the way He is showing how to live on the earth until He returns. Your job is now to recruit as many people that you know that don't know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Col 3:1-10 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh

on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

John 17:15-17 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. This is God's world, and He wants everyone to come to repentance. The more people that see your life and want to follow Jesus' teaching for their life the better. Staying saved is taking the teaching of Jesus and living by it. (*Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith*) His teaching will lead and guide you through all your troubles. There are things that you will always need to do on this earth while living for God; work to care for yourself and others, and associate with righteous people.

5. Prayer

Let's review the model prayer from step one. What Jesus is teaching you is how to come to God in prayer with full assurance, to repent of your sins and faults, and be forgiven. *Matthew 6:9-14 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 1 John 1:8-10

So, remember that prayer is the key to walking with God and living a victorious life. Yes, there will be many disappointments in life as a Christian, but Jesus said

he will be with us always even until the end of the world. The model prayer given by Jesus in Matthew 6:9-14 teaches you to pray for yourself and others. This is how to keep a fellowship with God and Jesus Christ always.

6. Christian Maturity

I will caution you here about a part of Christian life that is many times overlooked, because the world has all types of customs that we live as Christians. Look out for these pit falls. 1 Corinthians 6:16-20 *What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.* The Apostle Paul was teaching about the sexual lifestyle of unsaved friends. This is called soul ties, because it involves part of the wedding ceremony that completes the marriage vows. In the beginning of the creation of man, God created marriage. This is the first institution of family development. When a man and a woman have sex, they combine their bodies (two become one) and souls together. That's why the proper paperwork (marriage license) and ceremony puts them together as husband and wife. Sexual activity also connects many other spirits and diseases. See Genesis 2:24, 1 John 5:17-21, John 17:21

7. Tithes

Malachi 3:1-8 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years. And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of hosts. For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Something else that will hinder your spiritual growth is not knowing the true biblical doctrine of tithing. When giving your tithe to support your local church, God promises to fight the devil on your behalf and open opportunities for your physical and spiritual growth here on earth. Read and meditate on this chapter (Genesis 14:18-23). Jesus was a Jew, as well as all his disciples, and they came to church on Sundays and paid tithes. Always remember, you are following the teaching of Jesus the Christ, not man or man's doctrines. Watch out for false teachers! Tithing puts you into a contract with God. All you have belongs to Him anyway, you should be willing to let him help you manage it. He will prove himself to you. He wants to be your partner to support your being prosperous. Tithe stands for tenth which is prosperity.

Paul told Timothy to obey the laws of the land and pay your taxes. Give Caesar what is Caesar's and God what is God's. Maybe you have heard this saying, if not,

it means pay the government their money and give God (tithes and offerings) what belongs to God. We are in the world but not of the world (Romans 12:1-6) but we have not left and gone to heaven yet. You have citizenship in heaven because you have been born again and adopted into the family by the Holy Spirit (John 3:1-9)

The book of Acts, Chapters 1 and 2 teach that the disciples were all assembled in one place and in one accord. You must find a church/fellowship of biblical belief in Jesus the Christ as God's only begotten Son. This will teach you to live the sanctified (separated) life that Jesus lived and taught. He also wants you to live a life free from debts, through honest work physically or your own business to support yourself until His return. God wants your dreams, skills and visions to be used to draw others to salvation (John 12:32, 2 Corinthians 4:7). God gives you the power to change yourself in righteousness. Above all forgive and follow peace with all men and holiness without no man shall see God. Pursue peace!

8. God is Jesus Christ of the Old and New Testament Bible

God was in the beginning and the Word of God is still alive now. There are those who say that God is not alive and they can't believe in the Old Testament because it was under the law of Moses or the Jews laws. However, the truth of the matter is that the antichrist is already in the world (1 John 4:1-6).

Jesus Christ is the man God in the flesh. John 1:1-14 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his*

own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John's gospel said that he came among his own and his own received him not, but as many as received him, he gave them his power to become the children of God (v. 11-12). The Word became flesh and walked among us (v. 14). God came down in a human body on Christmas day to redeem man from hell. God's will is that we live the same as it was in the beginning of creation. Man's activity has changed because of their sinful ways, but the same sun, same stars, same ocean and fish, and human race are still here on earth. So, what is this about the old and new covenant promises from God has changed?

Don't be fooled by the false teachers that say the church is outdated and there is no hell. If there was no devil where did evil come from in the world? If there is no Satan, where did witchcraft and voodoo come from, and killing, sickness, confusion, fears, worries, wars and earthquakes, starvation and death? The world has changed drastically since the days of Noah as far as the sinfulness of man and the environment. There is no doubt that man's life span compared to our ancestors has changed.

God improved on salvation and made it easier for mankind to be saved and protected from those fallen angels that are continually trying to lead man to disobey Christ and live in a sinful state (Rev 12:7-17). Jesus is our High Priest, and his office will never change. As we confess our sins and mistakes to Christ in prayer, he will forgive us (1 John 1:9, Romans 8:1). Jesus connects the Old Testament and the New Testament together to fulfill the Hebrew prophecy of redemption and reconciliation back to God the creator of all the world and heaven. He is alpha and omega!

1 Corinthians 10:11 speaks of the Old Testament as a history, to give us an example of things we should not do because of the consequences. Many times, you hear the past taught, but you don't expect it to be false teaching. Calm down and let God appear to you for your future. Remember, that Jesus came down through forty-two long generations. Today, in this environment, any time we

prepare for any events, (education, vacation, holidays, family reunions), everything must be short and quick.

9. Deception and Deceivers

Deceivers can get you killed. The following passage of scripture tells of a man that dies on the job:

1 Kings 13:1-34 And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the Lord unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. And he cried against the altar in the word of the Lord, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the Lord; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee. And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the Lord hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out. And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him. The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the Lord. And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Intreat now the face of the Lord thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the Lord, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before. And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward. And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place: For so was it charged me by the word of the Lord, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest. So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to Bethel. Now there

dwelt an old prophet in Bethel; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel: the words which he had spoken unto the king, then they told also to their father. And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah. And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon, And went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak: and he said unto him, Art thou the man of God that camest from Judah? And he said, I am. Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread. And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place: For it was said to me by the word of the Lord, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest. He said unto him, I am a prophet also as thou art; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the Lord, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. But he lied unto him. So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water. And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the Lord came unto the prophet that brought him back: And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the Lord, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the Lord, and hast not kept the commandment which the Lord thy God commanded thee, But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which the Lord did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcase shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers. And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, to wit, for the prophet whom he had brought back. And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase. And, behold, men passed by, and saw the carcase cast in the way, and the lion standing by the carcase: and they came and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt. And when the prophet that brought him back from the way heard thereof, he said, It is the man of God, who was disobedient unto the word of the Lord: therefore the Lord hath delivered him unto the lion, which hath torn him, and slain him, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake unto him. And he spake to his sons, saying, Saddle me the ass. And they saddled him. And he went and found his carcase cast in the way, and the ass and the lion standing by the carcase: the lion had not eaten the carcase, nor torn the

ass. And the prophet took up the carcase of the man of God, and laid it upon the ass, and brought it back: and the old prophet came to the city, to mourn and to bury him. And he laid his carcase in his own grave; and they mourned over him, saying, Alas, my brother! And it came to pass, after he had buried him, that he spake to his sons, saying, When I am dead, then bury me in the sepulchre wherein the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones: For the saying which he cried by the word of the Lord against the altar in Bethel, and against all the houses of the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, shall surely come to pass. After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places. And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth.

Regardless of the age or stature, any person that is trying to stop you from being obedient to God's commandments, say NO! That is a sin. Notice the focus point of the passage 1 Kings 13:18-21.

We often ask, what is God's will for my life? What am I given to do daily? The first thing is to get to know him personally as your Lord and Savior. This means you must trust Him with control of your daily living affairs. Pray and read scriptures to command your morning and feed your natural mindset to educate and redevelop your mind (Romans 12:1-2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*) The Holy Spirit is the author of the Word of God, the Bible. The more you begin applying your personal time to him, the more you will increase godly behavior in your lifestyle. Look into acquiring multiple Bible translations (King James, American Standard, Amplified, New International), a Bible concordance and dictionary to have in your library. Also, consistent presence in a church fellowship on Sunday's, Sunday school and worship will cause you to grow in the family of God.

Conclusion

Obedience helps you to live a righteous and successful life before God. There are some that can get out of unnecessary emotions that were thought to be under control or overcome. Many times, family members may be a big hinderance. Jesus did very little miracles in his hometown because family and friends knew who he was. They knew his parents and that he was a carpenter's son. But they knew little of the Jesus that stayed back in the temple on Jewish holidays to debate the Pharisees and Priests over church doctrines. If they disrespected God's Son, surely, they will disrespect you. They know how to get your emotions up and down. They know where your weaknesses and strengths lie. King David stated, if his enemies were coming to betray him, he would have been ready, but it was someone that was eating at his table and had gone into the temple of God with him that caught him off guard (Psalm 55:12-14). Remember, you are reading this because you want an answer to the pressures or bullying by family and friends to come.