

**I bring you greetings from:
El Gibbor- the Mighty God,
The Ruach Hakodesh- the Holy Spirit and
Yeshua Hamachiach- Jesus The Christ.**

It has only been a week. Has the routine of this life absorbed your thoughts and actions again? Have you chosen not to remember God and His greatest work wrought for you on the Cross?

Have you already forgotten Easter?

Easter is the culmination of Gods plan for mankind. It represents the final extension of Gods nail pierced hand **down** to His Creatures. Each one of us must **choose to take hold** of His outstretched Hand and then be pulled **UP** out of the coming fire that will consume every non-believer forever.

Today the only place you will **see His Plan** (past, present and future), the only place you will **hear His Voice**, the only place you can **feel His Heart** beat as ONE with Yours...is in His Revealed Word to you.... in His Bible.

As a believer, God says through His word that I am to live as Salt and Light among people because I know the Truth.
What does that mean? What will it cost me?

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Being Salt and Light comes at a Cost

How can you and I as believers in Christ remain true to our individual calling by God to be His Salt and Light in the darkness of the culture we live in?

To begin we need to define both Salt and Light. Salt is a preservative. As long as salt remains pure and does not get mixed with another substance it will keep its properties and continue to be effective.

Like salt, Believers who remain in the Word and stand alone for Christ in society will have an effective witness. Once we try to be like the surrounding culture our witness becomes ineffective and our credibility is gone. Then to make matters worse through our stumbling we let the Lord be mocked.

Salt also provides flavor. The Gospel represents a meal that when flavored with truth, and given to a true "Seeker of God" will satisfy their appetite forever.

Salt also makes us thirsty and so we drink water to refresh ourselves. But water is only a temporary solution for our thirst as we begin to thirst over and over again but never get satisfied.

The Gospel however is the Living Water that satisfies our body, mind and soul eternally and will satisfy our everlasting thirst.

Light is meant to illuminate. Just as darkness flees from the light, so to the Gospel, the light of Truth; causes the lies that live in the shadows that plague mankind's soul to disappear.

Light illuminates the path before you, so you can see the destination of your journey clearly. The Gospel represents a journey that everyone needs to take in order to gain the Salvation offered by God.

The Word of God is a "Lamp unto thy feet". It keeps you from stumbling on the pathway home.

God if you recall never prepared Hell as a destination for mankind. Hell is the place prepared for "the devil and his (fallen) angels" in which fallen humanity will also reside. It is mankind's destination by choice. It is not Gods choice for mankind.

“The lost will enjoy forever the horrible freedom they have demanded and are therefore self-enslaved. God will abandon sinners to their own choice and the consequences of their choices.”

CS Lewis...Problem of Pain

Therefore, you and I are to be salt and light in a Godless society. We are to open our mouths whenever the Holy Spirit gives us an opportunity to witness to a forever dying soul. We are never to compromise our life, our walk or our talk. All three must be unified for us to effectively witness to non-believers.

The Apostle Paul in the Book of Acts spoke about “becoming like one of them” in order to witness to the pagan world around him. He did not mean to blend into the society, to be like one of them, to do what they do; so he could have an opportunity to witness to them.

If Paul acted like them he would not have stood out from among them. “Becoming like one of them”, means to understand what they believe and why they believe it so you can witness to them intelligently and show them the errors of their belief system, the flaws contained within their worldview.

Rather than engage people in meaningless witnessing on topics of their choosing, which lead people away from the Truth into arguments, and animosity. Paul chose to control his witnessing by preaching Christ Crucified and His Resurrection from the dead. The ultimate objective of your witnessing is to take people to the Savior’s Cross and to His Resurrection from the dead.

People must understand their need to be saved. Your job is to explain both why they are in need of a Savior and what it is that they are being saved from. This way they will understand the truth of their situation before a Holy God who is coming this time in wrath and with judgment.

Without repentance there can be no Salvation.

When Paul spoke to someone with biblical knowledge, he spoke to them using the Bible to show them the God of the Bible. When they had no knowledge of the Scriptures Paul spoke to them about

Creation and the God of Creation revealed in the Scriptures. These are the two areas of common ground we have with people to explain who God is.

I realize we are all afraid to take on “Spiritual encounters with darkness”...which is the essence of witnessing.

However we need to realize as believers we have the resident Holy Spirit, the Comforter within us so we can step out in faith knowing we are not alone in our witness.

Even Moses feared to do this. But God reminded Moses that it was God who made his mouth and it would be God who would put the words into his mouth. Because Moses doubted, God gave the honor of speaking HIS words to his brother Aaron, who then spoke for Moses to Pharaoh.

Moses lost part of the Joy that belongs to each of us in our journey because he chose not to listen and obey God.

God is strong when I am weak. This insures that He Gets the GLORY...not me. My ears have heard responses from my lips in witnessing confrontations that came from the Holy Spirit, not from me. How awesome it is to see God use our weakness while watching HIS strength in action.

All of us can look back on our journey to faith in Christ and see the multiple seeds that were planted by people into our lives.

You and I are not responsible for any one persons Salvation. We are not responsible for that person’s choice to either accept or deny the Gospel. In the end the responsibility rests with the Holy Spirit and with the choice each person must ultimately make.

You and I are responsible to obey God and do His will during our lives. Being obedient is how we prove to God that we really love Him.

One of the saddest stories in the Bible is about Samson. God was with Samson from the womb. He was a believer that was used greatly

by God until he became like the culture around him. The process was slow, like a frog being cooked alive in a pot till it dies.

God did not turn away from Samson; it was Samson who turned away from God to live a perverted life. You know the story, Delilah cut his hair. Samson got up to fight but his strength was no longer with him. The saddest part is that Samson **did not know that the Holy Spirit had departed from him.**

He no longer was salt and light in his culture.

God left Samson to the consequences of his own choices for the rest of his life. In a sense he was given over to satan for a time. Yet God in His mercy to Samson allowed him to end his life in the service of His Lord.

Every face of someone you know represents the face of God. They were made in the image of God. If they do not know Jesus as Savior, their image is damaged. They need to hear your personal God story; they need the seeds that God has uniquely given you to plant. They need you to be salt and light for their sake.

This is a time when the pulpits of most churches are filled by weak men in weak churches giving weak messages. Instead this should be the time for boldness, for strong biblical ministry so people hear the word of the Living Lord and respond in true repentance for their sins.

One of the signs of the wrath of God is when he abandons a culture. I believe He has done that throughout the world, including the United States. Our culture has asked God to leave and He has complied. We now are left to reap the whirlwind.

There is one last aspect of Salt we did not touch on, the ability of Salt to heal.

As a believer, knowing who I am in Christ is a great responsibility. When I act like Moses and refuse to open my mouth or when I act like Samson and choose to flow with the current of the sewage we all swim in rather than Stand Alone against the tide... my heart breaks leaving an open wound.

You see, my soul is full of light. I know better than to let the encroaching shadows of the old man get a hold of me...yet...often shadows fill my soul.

Sometimes even a follower can get lost.

When this happens my witness is tarnished, the Holy Spirits power is diminished in my life and I am ashamed and cry out for forgiveness. **The salt that I am supposed to be turns inward and flows into the open wound in my broken heart. The salt then causes me pain as it heals me.**

The God I serve knows that "I am but dust" before HIM. My God loves me and extends new mercies everyday to all those who love him. He heals my broken heart and takes away the evil shadows in my Soul with His light.

And then, I begin a new day devoted to making a difference for Him with those I love and those He puts into my path.

May you continue to live your days under the protection of His wings, bathed in His light and covered by the Shadow of His Cross.

This morning I am going to remind you why we need to witness to people. My hope is that as you leave today **you're faith** in Jesus will be strengthened and **you will be encouraged** to speak boldly to all people. Especially your family, neighbors and friends.

Why did God SAVE You?

What kind of answers do you think we would hear from Christians if we asked them that question?

To show Gods Love to others, To give to Charities, To help people, To protect the poor and the widows and orphans....

All of these reasons represent the **results** of your Salvation; they reflect your Christian walk before the world, **but that is not why God saved you.**

Most people who claim to know the Lord **do not witness** to their friends, neighbors and family. They feel it is someone else's responsibility.

Or, they say faith is a personal and private concern. It is really not my business to ask other people who they believe in and trust for their eternal life. **Besides, what if I am asked a question I can't answer.**

I'll look stupid, or what if I hurt the person's feelings by criticizing their faith. I could lose a friend or worse, turn them into an enemy. Anyway, they can see my witness, by the way I live my life.

Most people walk the talk, but few know how to talk during their walk. People are not saved seeing your walk. They are saved, through the work of the Holy Spirit by **hearing your TALK...** your God Story.

Jesus promised us all a Cross to bear. He said the Cross was both a stumbling block and foolishness to the world around us.

Yet, **Faith only comes by hearing** and we are called to be witnesses to a lost and dying world.

The Cross that Jesus promised, is never more real to us than when we obey Him and begin witnessing to the world.

WHO DOESN'T BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS GOD?

Many people look back through the **darkened pages of history** and see a rather obscure picture of Jesus. They have heard of His 2,000 year old claim that He was God, **but they don't quite believe it.**

They find it hard to accept the idea that a small – town Jewish carpenter could have been the creator of the world. They prefer to believe other, less sensational theories about Him.

Here are some of those beliefs.

Jesus is a man who achieved great things....this view is held by the Mormon Church. They teach that Jesus was a preexistent spirit—but they believe that about everyone.

Jesus is a created being who was given the status of second-in-command....this view is held by Jehovah's Witnesses. They teach that Jesus is a created individual who is the second greatest personage of the universe. He is **a god**, but not **The Almighty God**.

Jesus is a man no better than we are....this view is held by the Unification Church . They teach that Jesus' value is no greater than that of any other man.

Jesus is a prophet and messenger of God....this view is held by Islam. They teach that Jesus was only a messenger of Allah.

Jesus is less than most people think He is....this view is held by the Atheist, who respect Buddha or Socrates more than Jesus.

Jesus is a great moral teacher....this view is held by the Unitarian Church. They teach that Christ was sent to earth as a great moral teacher rather than as a mediator between God and man.

Jesus is a mystic medium....this view is held by New Agers. They teach Jesus is a channeler. One of many ancients who give New Ager's a glimpse into the past and their future.

One thing is for sure. These people can't all be right about Jesus. He cannot be exactly who all these people say He is. **Many, who think they know, don't know.**

If He is only a prophet or a medium, **then those who insist He is God are wrong.**

If on the other hand He is God, then those who insist that He is only an exceptional man are wrong. **Somebody is wrong!**

How many of you saw “The Passion of Christ”.
What you witnessed on screen is THE TRUTH about Jesus.

Jesusa **real** person.

Jesus.... who lived a **real** life.

Jesus....who died a **real** death on the Cross.

Jesus... who **came back** from the dead.

Jesus...who **is coming back** again, sooner than you think.

How many of you have friends and family that don't believe the Bible is Gods Word, or that Jesus is Gods Son?

Next time you see them you tell them that your Christian faith isn't based on fairy tales, or legends, or myths...but on the Inerrant, Word of God, and

YOU can defend the Bible through History, Archeology and Science and most of all... **PROPHECY!**

What is Prophecy?its simply God telling us in the Bible about future events, hundreds or thousands of years before they happen.

The Bible you have is made up of two parts, 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament.

It was written over a 1600 year period, covering 60 generations by over 40 different authors.

It was written on 3 different continents, in 3 different languages, discussing hundreds of subjects involving a variety of literary styles including history, poetry, law, biographies and Prophecy.

Yet, the Bible you own is **ONE** book. With **ONE** HERO....Jesus, with **one** villain....Satan, with **one** theme....Salvation and **ONE Purpose**....to Glorify GOD.

There's a war going on between Heaven and Earth; between God and Satan. God isn't looking for you to be bold and strong **when you're with your Christian friends.**

God is looking for people who are willing to stand in the gap for HIM. Someone who will **Stand Alone** in a crowd and **make a difference for HIM.**

The Bible tells us in Ephesians 6:12 " our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places". **That refers to the fallen angels who now follow satan.**

If you claim to know Jesus, then He claims you as one of His own. Your assignment is to learn how to defend Him. Because He has called **YOU...** to do Battle for HIM.

John Eldredge wrote a book called "Waking the Dead". The message of the book is about 3 Eternal Truths:

1. Things are not what they seem to be.
2. An unseen battle has been under way since the Garden of Eden.
3. We (you and I) have a crucial role to play in Gods plan.

His book says it like this; **"you are not what you think you are.** There is a glory to your life that you're Enemy Fears. He is Hell-Bent on destroying that glory (Christ's light) **before you realize you have it and act on it."**

We are called to be Light Bearers...don't hide your light, but shine it boldly into the darkness that surrounds you.

One of the most thought provoking statements made in the Bible was not by any prophet, or an apostle, or even our Lord.. The statement was made by Pontius Pilate during the trial of Jesus

Jesus said, "For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the Truth. Everyone who is of the Truth hears my voice." **Pilate, in return said "What is Truth?"**

Before you can go out and begin to tell others the Truth about Jesus, you first have a responsibility to answer a question that Jesus ask's you.

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

This is a question that too many people answer too quickly. **Before you can answer Christ's question** you have 4 personal questions to answer first. Who am I? How did I get here? What is my purpose here on earth? And lastly, where am I going when I die?

The answer to these questions can only be found in the Truth. Where do you search to find the Truth, the Truth that Pilate questioned? It's found in our Bible, both Old and New Testaments.

As you begin building relationships with people from different religious backgrounds: Mormons, Jehovah's Witness, Jews, Muslims, Hindu's , Buddhists, New Agers and Atheists;

you will notice that all of them believe they know the truth. When you begin witnessing to these people they will try to convince you that your Christian faith is wrong.

The reason they feel that way is because Satan (the original liar) has **created every false religious system in our world.** These religious systems are designed to draw people away from the Truth of the Bible and away from Christ and ultimately into Hell.

Judaism, unlike the other religions is God's word to us in the Old Testament. The Mystery of Christ is hidden in the Old Testament Prophecies and **revealed in the history of the New Testament.**

The Jews, God's chosen people, need to hear about their Messiah's death on the cross for their salvation, as do all people.

As I said before... **You and I as Christians stand on a firm foundation of faith.** We do not place our trust for salvation and heaven into myths or fairy tales or theories.

Christianity, our faith in the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Messiah is based on **FACTS**, facts that are affirmed in History, Archeology and Science.

So, first you must study the Bible from an Evangelistic point of view. That means you have to learn the Truth and how to defend **THE TRUTH that you Believe!**

When you do this you will then understand **your Faith in your Lord.** Then you will be able to go back to those 4 personal questions and answer them intelligently.

Who am I? I am a child of God; Jesus is my Savior, my Lord, and my King. I was given to Jesus by God as a love gift.
I am one of His sheep.

How did I get here? God said in Psalm 139 vs 13 that He knew me before I was in my Mothers womb. God said in Romans 8 vs.29, that whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become a believer in His Son Jesus.

What am I to do here on earth? I am to live out the "Great Commission": To make disciples of all nations, teaching people about the word of God; telling all the Good News of John 3:16.

Where am I going when I die? Because Jesus died for my sins and He was resurrected, and He is alive today; I too will live forever with Him in heaven because I repented of my sins and accepted Him as my personal Lord and Savior.

Now, like the Apostle Peter, YOU too will be able to answer Jesus' question.....**Who Do You Say That I Am ?**

LORD...You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

So take your place with the Elect of God, Study The Bible so you will be able to stand in the front of the battle. **Christ asks you as a soldier of the cross**, to accept His Mission assignment. It's in John 20 vs 21. "As the Father has sent me (Jesus), I am sending you"

Jesus said of Himself:

(Ps. 40:7; Heb. 10:7) "In the volume of the book it is written of me." You will find Him in the Prophets, the Psalms and the Proverbs. He is there in the Messianic Prophecies of the Old Testament.

An Anonymous writer once said:

The most amazing drama that ever was presented to the mind of man—a drama written in prophecy in the Old Testament and in the biography in the four Gospels of the New Testament—is the narrative of Jesus the Christ.

One outstanding fact, among many, completely isolates Him. It is this: **that one man only in the history of the world** has had explicit details given beforehand of His birth, life, death and resurrection;

that these details are in documents given to the public centuries before He appeared, **and that no one challenges, or can challenge**, that these documents were widely circulated long before His birth;

and that anyone and everyone can compare for himself/herself the **actual records of His life with those ancient documents**, and find that they match one another perfectly.

The challenge of this pure miracle is that it happened concerning only one man in the whole history of the world.

Centuries before Christ was born His birth and career, His sufferings and glory, were all described in outline and detail in the Old Testament.

Christ is the only person ever born into this world whose ancestry, birth time, forerunner, birthplace, birth manner, infancy, manhood, teaching character, career, preaching, reception, rejection, death, burial, resurrection and ascension were all prewritten in the most marvelous manner centuries before He was born.

Who could draw a picture in words, of a man not yet born?

Surely, God and God alone! Nobody knew 500 years ago that Shakespeare was going to be born; or 250 years ago that Napoleon was to be born. Yet here in the Bible we have the most striking and unmistakable likeness of a man portrayed, not by one,

but by twenty or twenty-five writers, none of whom had ever seen the man they were painting with words.

The inspiration of that portrait came from the heavenly gallery, and **not from the studio of an earthly artist.**

Nothing but divine omniscience could have foreseen it and nothing but divine power could accomplish it. In 2 Peter 1:21 it says:

“Prophecy came not at any time by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit”.

THE BEST NEWS THE WORLD EVER HAD CAME FROM A GRAVE YARD

“The King is Dead; long live the King.”

With those words, many a monarch has passed from the scene, only to be succeeded by another. But in the case of Christ, the King of the Jews, the phrase takes on added significance.

Never before had a king died only to succeed himself to the throne.

But Christ did:

Never before had a man been crucified and buried only to emerge bodily three days later.

But Christ did:

Never before had a man endured such human hatred in order to demonstrate such divine love.

But the Son of Man did:

No other:

event in human history could be so aptly described as “old, yet ever new.”

No other:

single piece of good news has brought more comfort, more encouragement, and more peace to more people than the ringing declaration...

“HE is RISEN!”

I have been a believer now for 20 years, yet it has always been difficult for me to comprehend that Christ lives in me.

Max Lucado helped me to better understand the role of the Holy Spirit as a helper who lives **in me**.... Here is an excerpt from one of his books:

Jesus promised "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth.

The world cannot accept him, because it does not see him or know him. But you know him, because he lives with you and will be ***in you***".

Can you imagine that?

Note the dwelling place of God—"in you". Not near us. Not above us. Not around us. **But in us**. In part of us we don't even know.

In the heart no one else has seen. In the hidden recesses of our being dwells, not an angel, not a philosophy, not a genie, but GOD.

Could it be what they say is true?

It wasn't enough for HIM to appear in a bush or dwell in the temple?

It wasn't enough for HIM to become human flesh and walk on the earth?

It wasn't enough to leave HIS word and the promise of HIS return?

HE had to go further. HE had to take up residence **in us**.

The Apostle Paul penned, "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit?"

Perhaps you didn't know God would go that far to make sure you got home.

Man says, look inside yourself and **find self**.

God says, look inside yourself and **find God**.

It is not by our power, but through HIS power in us, that we are

guaranteed our flight back home. **God has given you His Holy Spirit. You are never alone; He is in you and with you always.**

QUESTION?

Who is GOD to you?

When I came to know HIM in May of 1985, it was as my JUDGE. I learned first back then what it meant to Fear the Lord. **I felt alone!**

Since then:

I realized I have a friend, who has walked in front of me....**leading me.** Who has walked next to me.....supporting me and sometimes **carrying me when I am tired.** Who has walked behind me....**protecting me.**

But most of all, HE lives inside of me.....I am never alone.

I have studied HIS names as all of you have through the years. HE is Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Eternal Father, Lord, Savior, Jesus the Son of God.....Y'shua Hamachiach –Jesus the Messiah of Israel and the world.

Yes, He is all of that and more. But when I get quiet before HIM and ponder HIS words to us in the Scriptures **I am humbled by the one recurring theme** that I rarely acknowledge or understand the depths of.

That is, HE **is FATHER** and we, you and I are HIS children; and HE loves each one of us so very much.

I have a letter that I found on a website that was organized by a pastor. The letter is a Love Letter to you. The words are taken from the Scriptures, so in essence **this is a letter from your Father, a**

personal letter just for you... close your eyes and listen to His words to you...

My Child...

**You may not know me, but I know everything about you
I know when you sit down and when you rise up
I am familiar with all of your ways**

**Even the very hairs on your head are numbered
For you were made in my image**

**In me you live and move and have your being
For you are my offspring
I knew you even before you were conceived
I chose you when I planned creation**

**You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book
I determined the exact time of your birth and
where you would live**

**You are fearfully and wonderfully made
I knit you together in your mother's womb
And brought you forth on the day you were born**

**I have been misrepresented by those who do not know me
I am not distant and angry, but am the complete
expression of love**

**And it is my desire to lavish my love on you
Simply because you are my child and I am your Father**

**I offer you more than your earthly Father ever could
For I am the perfect Father**

Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand
For I am your provider and I meet all your needs

My plan for your future has always been filled with hope
Because I love you with an everlasting love

My thoughts toward you are countless as
the sand on the seashore
And I rejoice over you with singing

I will never stop doing good to you
For you are my treasured possession
I desire to establish you with all of my heart and all of my soul
And I want to show you great and marvelous things

If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me
Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart
For it is I who gave you those desires

I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine
For I am your greatest encourager
I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles
When you are brokenhearted I am close to you

As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you
close to my heart
One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes
And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth

I am you Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus
For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed
He is the exact representation of my being

**He came to demonstrate that I am for you not against you
And to tell you that I am not counting your sins**

**Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled
His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you**

I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love

**If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me
And nothing will ever separate you from my love again**

**Come home and I'll throw the biggest party
heaven has ever seen
I have always been Father and will always be Father
My question is.....Will you be my child?
I am waiting for you.....**

Love, Your Dad. Almighty God

Quiet Thunder

The voices, can you hear them? There were three distinct and separate voices talking to each other about a plan. I was there just like a fly on the wall listening. It was the strangest thing...I was there among three but somehow within only the ONE. I had no feeling of physicality or of being.

Did you hear, they used the term Birth Pangs...what did they mean? Somehow I knew it meant something specific yet it was more than that because I had the feeling that they were referring to me. Yet I was to find out later that I was but an infinitesimally, small part of the birth pangs.

Oh MY GOD...He knows I am listening to their conversation. His eyes turn inward towards me. His look is soft and loving...as He gazes upon me. I am confused, I don't understand where I am, but He knows. He calls my name...and then begins to explain the plan to me.

Ernie, you live for now in my mind, you are part of my being. I have given you the gift of conscience. You live for now within me. The day will come in the future when I will live within you.

You can hear me but not see me with your eyes. Soon you will be born into a body of flesh. You will have many gifts within you as you live out the days of your life in the flesh. You will have five senses that will feed information to you regarding your surroundings and the world I have created for you.

You will have eyes to see, ears to hear, hands to touch, taste buds to taste and a nose to smell with. These five senses will come together to help you on your quest to find the uniqueness that is you.

Yet there is another sense that you have within you. This sense will be greater than all the rest. But it will be buried deep within you and will not be quickened immediately. It will remain within you dormant for a while.

This sense will bring you back to me when it comes alive within your heart of hearts. Then and only then will you understand who you truly are, your purpose for living and you will begin to worship Me...The True God who created you and all that there is.

As you walk the Earth that I have created, your five senses will help you see Me in the Creation around you. Many others that have already had their new sense ignited will come to you on my behalf. They will help you to understand My plan and the part you are to play in it.

There is a book I have written just for you. They are the Words from My own mouth. When you find this book you will eat of it and it will feed your soul. This book will be both bitter and sweet to your taste. It will be sweet when you find ME within its pages.

It will be bitter when you realize not all those you love or know have found ME within its pages.

Your tears will be great for those who do not know Me...your heart will break for them...but you in the end will have JOY in the MORNING. For I have given you a life that will never end. I also have given them a life that will never end. But you will know that the end of the journey is just the beginning of your life with ME.

And they will know that the end of their journey is but the beginning of their life without ME. Soon you will be born of flesh only to die in a short time. For I have said, life is like a wisp of smoke in the wind. It is seen for a brief moment and then it is gone and forgotten.

So prepare now for your birth in the flesh. I have already prepared you for your re-birth in MY Spirit.

I will begin telling you now of the plan as you leave the Light of My Presence to take your place within the womb of darkness that will open into a land of light and shadows.

Do not be afraid for I have promised to be with you always. I will never leave you nor forsake you because you belong to me. You are being prepared as a love gift for my Son...who loves you as much as I do.

His voice of soft thunder recounted to me the plan. It contained only four simple points. With the economy of words that only God could use; these four points contained depths of knowledge beyond our comprehension. For who among those He has created can say they understand Him or even begin to know HIM.

Point One: God had a vision to create an ultimate Holy and Eternal World where God and man would co exist. This vision became reality when God said, "Let there be Light..." And so there was a place where God and man could walk together in a garden, in the cool of the day.

Point Two: Sin entered into this pristine world, twisting the relationship between God and man. This disease born on the dark wings of a fallen angel named Lucifer spread to every man and woman made in the image of God for all time.

Point Three: Two worlds now existed side by side. Two dimensions occupying the same space but not the same time. God in one and man in the other. But God promised to send His Son to redeem mankind and the world he lived in and re-unite both planes of existence...into ONE.

And so the God / Man was born into the world to die for the world and make it ONE again.

Point Four: In the beginning everything was made new. Then for a time everything new became old and life became a cycle of continuing birth and death. But just as God had created the beginning He also created the new beginning of the end.

God would bring forth new birth pangs that would ultimately give birth to a new blending of Earth and Heaven, a place where God and Man again would walk together forever.

The words were now fading rapidly into the shadowy mist in my mind as I began to move out from my mothers womb into the light filled with shadows. My fists were clenched in rage as my lungs filled with air and I began to cry. I would forget all that I had heard from HIS lips. I would forget the voice of quiet thunder and those soft eyes that looked upon me with such love.

But hidden deep within the very heart of my being this new sense within me would gently echo the words of HIS one phrase..."I have already prepared you for your re-birth in MY Spirit."

I knew you even before you were conceived... ***Jeremiah 1: 4-5***

I chose you when I planned creation... ***Ephesians 1: 11-12***

You were not a mistake... ***Psalms 139: 15-16***

For all your days are written in my book... ***Psalms 139: 15-16***

I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live...

Acts 17:26

I knit you together in your mothers womb... **Psalm 139:13**

And brought you forth on the day you were born... **Psalm 71:6**

The day will come in the future when I will live within YOU.

I will never leave you nor forsake you because you belong to me. You are being prepared as a love gift for my Son...who loves you as much as I do.

My Son Kristopher has a friend named Matt who is a new believer. I gave him a study Bible with the following letter:

Dear Matt,

The Journey will never end; His Mercies are new every morning. Here is some wisdom I have learned along the way:

As long as Jesus is one of many options, He is not an option.

As long as you can carry your burdens alone, You don't need a burden bearer.

As long as your situation brings you no grief, **You will receive no comfort.** As long as you can take Him or leave Him, You may as well leave Him, because He won't be taken half heartedly.

But, when you mourn, when you get to the point of sorrow for your sins, when you admit that you have no other option but to cast all your cares on Him, and when there is truly no other name that you can call on, then cast all your cares on Him...

for He is waiting in the midst of your storm.

Matt, He is preparing a place for you. He is the architect of your heavenly home...its builder and interior decorator too. He knows your hearts desires, your favorite color, flowers, your favorite views. **He chose you before the foundations of the world were made.**

He knows how to surprise you. He knows what you've always longed for. And in His infinite care for you, He is preparing the perfect place for you.

Matt, The book you are holding contains: the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers.

Its doctrine is Holy, its Precepts (laws) are binding, **its Histories are TRUE** and its Decisions are immutable (unchanging).

Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe and practice it to be Holy.

Within its pages heaven is opened and the gates of hell disclosed.

Christ is its grand subject, our good its design and the glory of God its end.

Read it slowly, frequently and prayerfully, always asking for the Holy Spirits guidance in Christ's name.

It is given to you here, in this life and **will be opened at the judgment** and is established, unchanging forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward your greatest labor **and condemn all who trifle with its contents!**

Three things to remember:

1. Don't be afraid:

Too many of us are afraid to witness to people.

Too many of us are intimidated by non-believers.

Too many of us have weak faith and live in anxiety.

2. Don't forget:

We forget who we are in Christ.

**We forget that the Battle is His.
We forget that the Ending has been written
and WE are on the Winning Side.**

3. Don't be ashamed:

Don't ever be ashamed to say the name of the one who died for you. Don't ever be afraid to defend HIM when people or worse your friends misuse HIS name. Don't ever be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Jesus promises - to be with you, always...in every situation...No one can hurt you.

**The Bible says "if God is for you,
who can stand against you!"**

**Jesus bought and paid for you...
your orders are clear...don't stand on the sidelines
...get into the Battle.**

Would you bow your heads with me....

Father, we have explored the reasons for our Faith and the part you have asked us to play in the lives of those we know and love that do not know you.

In the power and strength of the Holy Spirit help each of us here to open our mouths... that we may proclaim Jesus to this and the next generation.

May the Holy Spirit make us **bold** in our proclamation of the God who has acted on our behalf; so **we can declare** HIS Goodness and Holiness to a fallen world; that needs so desperately to hear about the Salvation freely offered through the finished work of Jesus on the Cross.

Lord, as we go out into the world this week, I ask that you place a hedge of Holy Angels around us and those we love. Holy Angels that are strong and awesome in the power of the Holy Spirit to protect us and our family's from all evil...

May the Almighty, the Ancient of Days, The Lord of Hosts, The Lord God of Israel and the Church, bless and keep you...as you go forth to do the work each of you have been called to do...AMEN AND AMEN.