

A Trooper stopped a woman for speeding 15 miles an hour over the speed limit. After he handed her the ticket she asked him, "Don't you give out warnings?" "Yes ma'am," he replied, "They're all up and down the highway. They say, 'Speed Limit 55.'"

While working a midnight shift a few years back in a rural county I was eating "breakfast" at a local restaurant. It was about 5:30 am. It had been a long shift and I was looking forward to going home to get some sleep. To top it all off the waitress had just spilled hot coffee on my lap (which has a tendency to wake a person up) when I got the following call:

A pedestrian had been struck on a primary highway, north of the city. A tractor-trailer (TT) was parked on the shoulder on the South Bound side of the road. The driver of the TT was waiting for a business to open so he could make a delivery. It was a three lane highway; you know the type, a "suicide lane" in the middle.

Well the driver of the TT had walked across the road to check the exact time when the business would open. He then proceeded to walk back across the highway to his vehicle. There was a vehicle coming S. bound on highway. The driver saw the TT on the side of the road and that the door on the TT was open. He thought that the driver of the TT was going to exit the vehicle and moved into the suicide lane.

The TT driver was crossing back to his truck and was looking for vehicles traveling North Bound because that was the part of the roadway he was crossing first. He was in the center lane of travel still looking south. Needless to say the TT driver was hit by the South Bound driver. The man was thrown up across the hood, onto the windshield and over the car. He had some broken bones and the damage to the car told the story of where the point of contact occurred.

But you know what? There were two amazing things that happened regarding this incident. First, neither the pedestrian nor the driver of the car saw one another. The impact made them aware of the others presence. Second, by the grace of God the pedestrian survived.

So why did I tell you the joke about the speeder and this incident involving the pedestrian? Well they both had to do with the road or the way we travel. They deal with the "rules of the road," the warning signs placed there to keep us safe. These illustrations also deal with decisions we make and the consequences of those decisions. You cannot separate them, one leads to another.

Do you think that either of those men woke up that morning thinking that they were going to be involved with an incident like that? Do you think that woman wanted a speeding ticket? No way. They were going about their business traveling down life's highway or the "road of life." The decisions each of them made lead them to those moments.

That is why we as police officers don't investigate "accidents." We call them crashes or wrecks because it is no accident that somebody crashes because they are traveling too fast for the conditions, or the slick tire that they should have replaced blows out and causes a crash, or they are out in flooding conditions when they didn't need to be and a bridge gives way with them on it and the passenger in the vehicle drowns. The outcomes of these incidents were a direct result of the people's decisions.

You know I could recount hundreds maybe thousands of incidents where bad decisions or lack of wisdom by individuals cost them their health, wealth, jobs, families or even their lives. I certainly can name a few bad decisions that have cost me dearly in my life. Can you think of some of your own bad decisions that cost you dearly? Do you keep making the same bad decisions?

Obviously no one in his right mind wants to live a life of misery for himself and cause pain to others. But with so many "ways" to go in this life how do we know which "way" or "road" to take.

In Proverbs 14:12 we read, "There is a way (or road) that seems right to a man, But its end *is* the way of destruction (or death).

"The safest road to hell is the gradual one-the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts."

C. S. Lewis

When Billy Graham was around 17 years of age he made a decision, **settled something in his mind forever**. He decided that the bible was God's word. He knew that he might not understand everything in it but from that point on he would not question it. When he started preaching from the bible it was with a new found authority. **Billy Graham had decided which "way" to take in this life**. And it would be safe to say that he is probably the best known evangelist of our times because of it.

Speaking of The Reverend Billy Graham, he tells of at time early in his career when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy told him, Rev. Graham thanked him and said, "If you'll come to church this evening, you can hear me tell everyone how to get to Heaven."

"Thanks for the invitation reverend, but I don't think I'll be there," the boy said. "You don't even know your way to the post office!"

Back to the message...

I too have settled the question regarding the accuracy and the authority of the Bible; it is God's word period. Personally I don't understand everything in the scriptures either. I will never have a **full understanding** of the scriptures until I come face to face with my Father.

But when you think about it do any of us have a **full understanding** of any the things that impact our lives on a daily basis?

Let's consider automobiles, the preferred mode of transportation by many, for an example. By faith I operate several different automobiles nearly every day of my life. I know very little of the theories that went into the design of the vehicles. I don't **fully understand** the chemistry or metallurgy that went into the making of the various parts of the vehicle. I don't **fully understand** the physics, electrical and mechanical engineering that had to take place before the first one was manufactured. And yet I **operate** one (or more) every day of my life. And the key word here is **operate**, not design or build.

The definition of the word "**operate**" according to Webster's is: To run or function effectively.

I operate my issued vehicle in the performance of my duties for my job. My van brings my family to church or the grocery store or whatever. I can accomplish all I need to with my vehicles with the information and the abilities I possess.

I take someone else's design and creation and operate with it. All I have is the owners manual not the blueprints for every bit of the vehicles design! I know enough about preventive maintenance to keep it from unnecessarily going to a garage for repairs. I understand enough of the "rules of the road" to try to keep it from getting unnecessarily damaged so it needs to be repaired at the local body shop.

Once again, some of this was learned by reading a manual and some of it was taught to me by someone else.

God has provided us the same spiritual ability. He has provided us with an "owners manual" called the Bible so that we can function effectively in our in our Christian life. Again this is without having to **fully understand** everything He has done, is doing, and is going to do. I mean does anyone reading this have all the knowledge of God and understand all His ways? You know why there is no such person, because that person doesn't exist.

In 1 Corinthians 13:9-12 (the Message translation) it states, <sup>9</sup>We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. <sup>10</sup> But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.

And it goes on to say...

<sup>12</sup>We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

I would add at this point that if you knew absolutely in your heart that the Bible was the undisputed Word of God that would change the way you handled it and it would change your life. And if you need some more encouragement to help settle in your mind the trustworthiness and accuracy of the Bible consider this:

It was written over a 1500 year span

Written over 40 generations

Written by over 40 different authors from many different walks of life to include: Herdsman, Fisherman, Military

officers, doctor, tax collector, rabbi, political leaders, king, etc

It was written in the wilderness, dungeons, palaces, during battles, on islands

It was written with different moods, in the heights of joy and from the depths of sorrow

It was written on three different continents: Africa, Asia and Europe

It was written in three different languages: Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek

It spoke on many controversial subjects that all the authors were in harmony over

And they all taught and revealed the same thing: God loves us, we are sinners, Jesus is the only way to God and He is coming back!

It is also the most published "book" ever. A while back it was determined that there was one copy published every three seconds, 22 copies per minute, 1369 copies per hour, 32,876 copies every day which equates to 12 million copies sold each year.

It has been translated in one form or another in more than 700 languages

My purpose today is not to defend the Bible. I would that if there are any skeptics regarding the accuracy or authority of the scriptures go and ***try to dispute it yourself.***

Isn't it amazing that almost everyone has an opinion to offer about the Bible, and yet so few have studied it?

R. C. Sproul

Do not rely on the unsubstantiated statements of others who have no true knowledge. You are ***staking your eternal life on it.***

Those who are readiest to trust God without other evidence than His Word always receive the greatest number of visible evidences of His love.

C. G. Trumbull

Don't worry about what you do not understand... Worry about what you do understand in the Bible but do not live by.

Corrie Ten Boom

It may be appropriate at a later date instead of doing a Bible Study to do a Study on the Bible!

I have decided that: <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup> It is **God's way** of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do. (Message)

So what do you want, long life, health, prosperity, happiness? Well what does our "owner's manual" advise us to do?

Proverbs 3:1-8 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,  
<sup>2</sup> for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.

<sup>3</sup> Let **love** and **faithfulness** never leave you; bind them around your neck,

**write them on the tablet of your heart.** <sup>4</sup> Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

<sup>5</sup> **Trust** in the LORD with **all your heart** and **lean not on your own understanding;** <sup>6</sup> **in all your ways** acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

<sup>7</sup> **Do not be wise in your own eyes;** fear the LORD and shun evil.

<sup>8</sup> This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

Well we learned several things from the previous verses. We need to **trust** God with **our whole hearts**. Do not be wise in your own eyes, shun evil. Never let **love and faithfulness** leave us, even to the point of binding them around our neck and writing them on our heart. Lastly we are to **acknowledge Him in all our ways**.

Have you noticed a lot of the use of the word "way;" as in "God's way" or "our way."

Webster defines the word "way" as: **A customary manner of living, acting or doing. A passage leading from one place to another.**

That's a great definition for a believer in Jesus Christ. A customary manner of living, acting or doing. A passage leading from one place to another. **That is an active thing not a passive thing.** Living, acting and doing. It reminds me of the scripture to be a **"doer of the word and not a hearer only."**

Did you know that the Christian life or walk is called **"The Way?"**

Paul spoke of "The Way" in Acts.

In John 14:6 Jesus stated, "I am **the way** and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Message puts it this way, "Jesus said, "I am **the Road**, also the Truth, also the Life. No one gets to the Father apart from me."

That should make it perfectly clear to all of us that without Jesus in our lives we will not make the passage from this life to the kingdom of God. People if you take anything away with you today you need to settle that foundational truth once and for all.

O.K. Preacher I know that Jesus is Lord but how come I have such a hard time obeying Him? Great question, glad you asked! Here is the meat of the message:

<sup>1</sup> You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. <sup>2</sup> I would like to learn just one thing from you: **Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard?** <sup>3</sup> Are you so foolish? **After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?** <sup>4</sup> Have you suffered so much for nothing--if it really was for nothing? <sup>5</sup> Does **God give you his Spirit** and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or **because you believe what you heard?** Galatians 3:1-5 (NIV)

What is the scripture saying? Just as **you received the Lord by faith** in what you heard, you also need to **walk in Him by faith**. This is another foundational spiritual truth. The flesh cannot save you by works and it cannot help you walk a victorious life on this earth. The spirit has to do the work.

Remember people before Jesus was crucified the disciples **learned directly from Him for three years**. They didn't get it. They denied Him, tried to convince Him not to go to

the cross, establish His kingdom in the present. Why, because they were not walking in the Spirit.

In John 16:5-16 Jesus declared, "Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. But I tell you the truth: **It is for your good that I am going away.** Unless I go away, **the Counselor** will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: **in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me**; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, **he will guide you into all truth.** He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said **the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.**"

Again in Acts chapter 1 verses 4-8 we read:

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit.**"

<sup>6</sup> So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

Because they weren't **baptized with the Holy Spirit** they still didn't get it.

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;** and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

So through God's Holy Spirit we will be comforted, counseled, learn the truth and receive power to be His witnesses. In Luke chapter 24 starting at verse 45 that, "Jesus opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Without Jesus in your life and the spirit of God in you, you will never understand the scriptures. It is simple. He wrote them so it should be reasonable that He can help you understand them. What we are talking about is ***walking in the Spirit.***

Spell this out in capital letters: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON. He is not enthusiasm. He is not courage. He is not energy. He is not the personification of all good qualities, like Jack Frost is the personification of cold weather. Actually, the Holy Spirit is not the personification of anything..... He has individuality. He is one being and not another. He has will and intelligence. He has hearing. He has knowledge and sympathy and ability to love and see and think. He can hear, speak, desire, grieve and rejoice. He is a Person.

A.W. Tozer

**Pay attention now**, if we are under a heavy load and life is not easy for us then we are not walking in the Spirit. Listen to that again. If we are under a heavy load and life is not easy for us then we are not walking in the Spirit. **I didn't say life was easy and there are not heavy burdens** that come our way. But the Spirit walk understands the truth of the scripture that with Jesus ***His burden is light and His yoke is easy.***

I read this and I do not know who the author is and it goes like this:

**Bear not a single care thyself,  
One is too much for thee;  
The work is Mine, and Mine alone;  
Thy work is to rest in Me.**

Again are we casting all our cares on Him? The scriptures tell us He cares for us perfectly. These truths are made evident to us through God's Spirit in us. Are we fearful? The Bible states clearly that, **"You did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children (Romans 8:15-16).

And by the way, I know that in this context that ABBA does not indicate a Swedish Rock Group but it is Aramaic for "Daddy."

**That is a true family relationship, a Father with His child, not a King with His servant.** And remember that, **"as many as received Him, to them he gave the power to become the sons of God."**

Hudson Taylor was the founder of the China Inland Mission during the last part of the 19th century. He studied to be a physician and had the ability to "be somebody" in his native England. He accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior in his teens and was on his **way** to China by 21. You must know that the Chinese were not (and still aren't) receptive to Christian Missionaries. Not only that, but the modes of transportation back then were not that safe. Still those things did not deter him. **He made his decision for Christ and discerned the call to serve Him as a missionary.**

On one journey to China from England they experienced 15 days in typhoons! They had nothing to eat or drink for the last three days and all persons on board manned the pumps to keep the ship from sinking. But through it all a majority of the crew was born again. A missionary with them wrote of entering into a "Habakkuk's" experience, ["yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation."](#)

He had numerous other trials to include the death of his seven year old daughter. The following is what he wrote to his mother:

Our dear little Gracie! How we miss her sweet voice in the morning, one of the first sounds to greet us when we woke, and thru the day and at eventide! As I take walks I used to take with her tripping figure at my side, the thought comes anew like a throb of agony, "Is it possible that I shall nevermore feel the pressure of that little hand...nevermore see the sparkle of those bright eyes?" And yet she is not lost. I would not have her back again. I am thankful that she was taken rather than any of the others, though she was the sunshine of our lives...

I think I never saw anything so perfect, so beautiful as the remains of that dear child. The long, silken eyelashes under the finely arched brows; the nose, so

delicately chiseled; the mouth, small and sweetly expressive; the purity of the white features...all are deeply impressed on heart and memory. ...Pray for us. At times I seem almost overwhelmed with the internal and external trials connected with our work. But He has said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee," and "My strength is made perfect in weakness." So be it.

And before it was over his five year old son passed away. Then an infant baby of his passed away. Then his bride of 12 years passed away at the age of 33. Through it all Hudson Taylor remained steadfast in his love for God.

Again Taylor wrote of his wife's passing to his mother:

From my inmost soul I delight in the knowledge that God does or permits all things, and causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him.

He and He alone knew what my dear wife was to me. He knew how the light of my eyes and the joy of my heart were in her. On the last day of her life—we had no idea that it would be her last—our hearts were mutually delighted by the never-old story of each others love...and almost her last act was with one arm round my neck to place her hand on my head and, as I believe, for her lips had lost their cunning, to implore a blessing on me. But He saw that it was good to take her—good indeed for her, and in His love He took her painlessly—and not less good for me who must toil and suffer alone, **yet not alone, for God is nearer to me than ever.**

By his own words he fasted, prayed, strove, agonized, made resolutions, read the word more diligently, sought more time for meditation—but all without avail. He knew if he could **abide in Christ** all would be well, but he could keep himself focused on Him.

He felt assured that in Jesus there was all he needed, **but the practical question was—how to get it.** And I have been asked that very question many times as a Preacher and thus this message.

How could Hudson Taylor endure these trials? And beyond that how could his love for the Lord increase and not turn bitter towards Him. He learned an “open secret” that he called the “exchanged life.”

He was made aware of a passage in a book entitled “Christ is All.” In it he read the following:

“The Lord Jesus received is holiness begun; the Lord Jesus cherished is holiness advancing; the Lord Jesus counted upon as never absent would be holiness complete.”

Read it again and really get it inside your heart and mind.

“The Lord **Jesus received** is *holiness begun*; the Lord **Jesus cherished** is *holiness advancing*; the Lord **Jesus counted upon as never absent** would be *holiness complete.*”

Faith was all you needed. He discovered that **he did not have to strive** to have faith...but a looking off to the Faithful One seems all we need; **resting in the Loved One entirely**, for time and eternity.

He discovered His rest, “**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**” Jesus promised to abide in him. He understood that he was a member of Jesus’ body, of His flesh and of His bones. The vine is the root only, but all—root, stem, branches, twigs, leaves, flowers and fruit. And Jesus is not alone—He is soil and sunshine, air and showers, and ten thousand times more than we ever dreamed, wished for or needed.

“Can Christ be rich and I be poor?” he wrote. Can your right hand be rich and your left hand poor? Or your head be well fed and your body starve? Could a bank clerk say to a customer, “It is only your hand, not you that wrote the check.” Or, “I cannot pay this sum to your hand, but only to yourself.”

He went on to write that It makes no matter where the Lord places me, or how. That is rather for Him to consider than for me; for in the easiest position He must give me His grace, and in the most difficult His grace is sufficient. It matters little to my servant whether I send him to buy a few cash worth of things, or the most expensive articles. In either case he looks to me for the money and brings me the purchases. So, if God places me in much perplexity, must He not give me much guidance? In positions of great difficulty, great strength? In circumstances of great pressure and trial, much strength? No fear that His resources will prove unequal to the emergency! And His resources are mine, for He is mine, and is with me dwells in me.

In Galatians 5:5 (NIV) we find these comforting words, “[But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope.](#)”

Ephesians 5:15-21 (NIV) admonishes us to, “[15 Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. 18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. 19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.](#)”

Galatians 5:19-25 (NLT) warns us, <sup>19</sup> When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these evil results: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, divisions, the feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your own little group, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other kinds of sin. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Don't get upset and discouraged at this point. Read further to get the answer to our question...

<sup>22</sup> But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law.

<sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.

People who are crucified with Christ have three distinct marks: 1. they are facing only one direction, 2. they can never turn back, and 3. they no longer have plans of their own. - A.W. Tozer

<sup>25</sup> If we are living now by the Holy Spirit, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Father our prayer is that everyday You will fill us with Your Holy Spirit, direct our steps, help us to love You the way You love us and to love others the same, and enlist us to further Your Kingdom.

Godspeed.

Preacher