

# THE PENTECOST

ISSUE #100 January 2016





# THE PENTECOST



*Cover photo: 100 Issues!*

**WOW! One hundred issues!** We have hit that mark, crossed that bridge, arrived at this place. This month we are celebrating. We are also thanking those who have helped us on this journey and made the Pentecost possible. The Pentecost Magazine is the work of many behind the scenes people such as Tammy Stevens (proofreader/supporter), Rapid Copy and Print (our publishers), Jake Balzer (writing contributor) and others who have labored where we have needed them. So many others of you have encouraged us along the way. Thank you to our faithful readers. Together, working with Ramona and I, a magazine has risen up to proclaim God's grace and good news. It has been our great privilege to be involved in this good work.

In this issue we would like to share with you our ministry's core beliefs and provide a catalog of our ministry booklets. You can find these booklets as well as art and videos on our website [Zionchristianministry.com](http://Zionchristianministry.com). With the completing of this issue we have decided to take a break. The Pentecost is coming back but you won't see it next month.

If you are on our mailing list we have kept a copy of your mailing address for when we start up again.

God bless all of you.

## **Shawn Stevens**

It is my hope and prayer that all who have read "The Pentecost" have been encouraged and blessed. Our goal is that all would know the love of Jesus Christ and experience daily revelation of His presence. As you read through this 100th issue and browse the catalogue please feel free to e-mail us to request any material that is of interest to you. It is our joy to offer it free of charge upon request.

"The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."  
Numbers 6:24-26

## **Ramona Stevens**

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# Statement of Faith for Zion Christian Ministry

*We believe:*

## THE BIBLE

That the Bible is God's Word. It is comprised of sixty-six books. Although God used men to write it, it is ultimately authored and inspired by God. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" (2 Timothy 3:16). God's prophets spoke as He gave them utterance (see 2 Peter 1:20-21).

That the Bible's canon is complete as:

Old Testament:

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

New Testament:

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude, Revelation

That the Bible is the final authority on all doctrine and Christian practice. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" (2 Timothy 3:16). (See also Acts 17:11 and John 17:17).

The Bible is to be believed and obeyed by all humanity.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

(Psalm 119:105)

## THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

1. That there is one God (See Isaiah 45:21, 43:10). God exists as The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.

The Father (see John 14:7-11 ; Galatians 1:1-3); our Father: (see Romans 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 3:11; 2 Corinthians 1:2).

The Son (see Hebrews 1:1-9; also referred to with other names: see John 1:1 & 14; John 20:28-29).

The Holy Spirit (see Psalm 51:11; Isaiah 63:10-11; Acts 5:1-4, Acts 13:2)

2. That God is Self-Existent – His life is not sustained by someone or something outside of Himself (see Exodus 3:14, Isaiah 43:10).

3. That God is personal – He has a mind, will and emotions, (see Isaiah 1:18, Romans 12:2, 1 John 4:8-9, John 3:16).

4. That God is Eternal – He has no beginning and has no

ending, (see Psalm 90:2, Genesis 21:33).

5. That God is Omnipresent – He is not confined to time and space (see 1 Kings 8:27, Jeremiah 23:23 & 24).

6. That God is Omniscient – He knows all things (see Hebrews 4:13, 1 John 3:20, Psalm 147:5).

7. That God is Omnipotent – He is all-powerful (see Job 42:1-2, Jeremiah 32:17, Matthew 19:26, Psalm 115:3, Revelation 19:6).

8. That God is Holy – (see Psalm 99:9, Isaiah 6:1-5, 30:15, 43:14, 57:15, Leviticus 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, Revelation 15:4).

9. That God is Righteous & Just – (see Exodus 9:27, Psalm 97:2, 89:14, 145:17, Isaiah 45:21, John 17:25, Revelation 15:3).

10. That God is loving and merciful – (see 1 John 4:8, Jeremiah 31:3, Isaiah 63:9, Romans 5:8, Deuteronomy 4:31, Psalm 136, Psalm 103:8, 2 Corinthians 1:3, 2 Thessalonians 3:5).

11. That God is truthful – (see John 14:6, Exodus 34:6, Titus 1:2, Isaiah 65:16).

## THE DOCTRINE OF MAN

1. That man and woman were created in the image of God (see Genesis 1:26-27).

2. That men and women are created subordinate to God and a little lower than the angels (see Psalm 8:4-5).

3. That they were made for God (see Ezekiel 18:4) and that they are to have communion with Him (see 2 Corinthians 13:14).

4. That their constitution is both material and immaterial. They both have a spirit, a soul, and a body (see 1 Thessalonians 5:23). Their bodies are the material part of their being. The soul and spirit are the immaterial parts of their being.

5. That the first man, Adam, rebelled against God and that through him sin was brought into the world (see Genesis 3, and Romans 5:12). The sinful nature of Adam is also experienced by mankind and that when a man or woman yields to that sinful nature, they have therefore sinned, (see James 1:14-15). The result of sin is death (see Romans 6:23). Mankind experiences three modes of death: physical death, (see Acts 5:1-5); spiritual death (see Ephesians 2:1-5); and may experience eternal death (see Jude 1:7).

## MAN'S FUTURE STATE

We believe in the future resurrection of all men and women. Those made righteous through Christ will experience the resurrection of the just and those who are deemed unrighteous will receive the resurrection of the unjust (see Acts 24:15 and John 5:28-29). The righteous will be with Christ and will enjoy eternal salvation (see Philippians 1:23, John 3:16, Revelation 21:3-4). The unjust will suffer eternal judgment and, ultimately, be thrown into the lake of fire (see Revelation 20:11-15).

## **THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST'S WORK**

1. That Christ came into the world to save sinners (see 1 Timothy 1:15, and Luke 19:10). His work of doing this was to die a sacrificial death on behalf of sinful mankind, and to three days later, rise again from death (see Luke 18:31-33).
2. That Jesus' death was sacrificial, for He is the Lamb of God (see John 1:29) and His death was on our behalf, for our redemption is through His blood (see Ephesians 1:7).
3. That Jesus rose from the dead three days later, (see Luke 24:3-8, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, and Mark 16:6). Jesus' resurrection affirms His Lordship (see Romans 14:9).

## **THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION**

That salvation is a work of the Holy Spirit, regenerating and renewing a man or woman (see Titus 3:5-6). Salvation is a born-again experience where a person is converted and delivered from the power of darkness and conveyed into the kingdom of God's Son (see John 3:5-8, and Colossians 1:13). When a person is born-again they have become a new creation (see 2 Corinthians 5:17) and a child of God (see John 1:11-13, and Romans 8:15-16).

God begins the work of salvation with conviction. Conviction is when a man or woman is brought into deep awareness of their personal sin, (see John 16:8-11, and Acts 2:37).

From conviction, we then must come to contrition. Contrition is remorse and sorrow for our sin. It is a deep regret for what we have done against God and our fellow man (see Psalm 32:3-5, Luke 22:62, and 2 Corinthians 7:8-11).

"The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." (Psalm 34:18)

After we have come to contrition, we must then repent (see Mark 6:12, Acts 17:30). Repentance is a decision to turn, with the help of God, from a life of sin to a life of obedience toward God. Our life of wickedness must be forsaken and God embraced. God's great desire is that men repent (see Luke 15:7, and 2 Peter 3:9). There is an outworking of the holy life in the personal life of a Christian. Repentance is not a promise to be instantly perfect; it is a commitment to follow God in everything and every step that He leads us in.

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." (Isaiah 55:7)

Along with repentance we must come to God by faith (see 1 Peter 1:8-9, and Ephesians 3:17). Faith is believing in the truth of the Gospel that Jesus died in our place and rose again (see 1 Corinthians 15:1-4) and it is believing and trusting in Jesus Christ Himself (see Acts 20:20-21). It is actively believing and trusting in the person of Jesus Christ Himself for Salvation. Faith is establishing a personal relationship with Christ. A personal relationship with Christ can be established by coming to Him in prayer and acknowledging to Him that you are a sinner, expressing to Him your remorse for sin and

asking Him to forgive you, declaring to Him that you believe that He died for you, that He rose from the dead for you, and that you will turn from your own way to follow His will, and recognizing Him to be the Lord of your life (see Romans 10:13). That there is salvation in no other name but Jesus by which we must be saved (see Acts 4:12).

## **BAPTISM**

After being born-again we are to be baptized in water, (see Acts 10:44-48).

Jesus Christ commanded His followers to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (see Matthew 28:19).

That there is a condition to being baptized, we must believe with all our heart (see Acts 8:36-37).

Baptism is for those who are born again. It is an outward symbol of an inward truth. It is a testimony of our faith in Jesus Christ and what He has done.

When the person being baptized is brought down into the water it symbolizes Jesus Christ being brought down into death and symbolizes that we have died too. We have died to our old life of self-rule. When the person is brought up out of the water it symbolizes Christ resurrecting from death into life, and symbolizes that we have been born from the dead, that is "born again".

Full immersion is the only method of water baptism that is used in the Bible. Sprinkling, and infant baptism were not practiced during biblical times.

That water baptism should follow conversion, immediately or soon after (see examples Acts 9:1-18, 10:44-48 and 16:25-34).

That water baptism is important as it is a public testimony of personal faith. Christ calls us to take a public stand for Him (see Matthew 10:32)

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16)

The Bible also teaches the baptism with the Holy Spirit, (see Acts 1:5) This baptism did not end in apostolic times but is an experience for Christians today. This experience of the baptism of The Holy Spirit is subsequent to conversion.

## **THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**

That there is a diversity of spiritual gifts present in the body of Christ, (see 1 Corinthians 12:4), and that they are for the benefit of all.

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." (1 Corinthians



12:7-11)

That Christ gives some in His Body to be Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers, (see Ephesians 4:11-12).

## **THE CHURCH**

That Christ founded a Church (see Matthew 16:18) and that He is the Head of that Church (see Ephesians 5:23) The universal Church is comprised of all believers worldwide. The local church is a community of believers which gathers in Jesus' name. This community is a place where God's love is felt and shared. It is a place of worship, prayer and ministry.

Scripture taken from the King James Version.

## **MARRIAGE**

We believe that marriage is an institution created by God and is meant to be a healthy picture of the relationship that Jesus Christ has with His Church (see Ephesians 5:22-33). Marriage is the holy joining of a male and female in wedlock (see Matthew 19:4-6). True marriage is always heterosexual. Homosexual unions are an abomination to God (see Leviticus 18:22). The marriage relationship is to be one where love and submission are exercised and practiced (see Ephesians 5:22-33 and 1 Peter 3:7) and is the only context in which sexual activity is blessed (see 1 Corinthians 7:1-4 and 1 Corinthians 6:18-20).

# **BOOKLETS BY SHAWN STEVENS**

## Romans

I think that most people studying the Book of Romans would admit that they didn't get far into this epistle without becoming awestruck at the grandeur of this work. That is because it is the Apostle Paul's masterpiece epistle. It explains the doctrine of salvation, perhaps in a fuller way than do any of his other works. William Tyndale said that it was "a light and a way unto the whole scripture." That is because it explains the greatest theme of the Scriptures, the redemption of man and personal salvation by faith.

## The Doctrine Of God

God is a personal God who loves men and women. Acknowledging that God does in some ways veil Himself from sinful man, the fact still remains that God can be known, and desires to be known, by men and women.

## Gambling

We can all imagine a desert traveler, thirsty for water, climbing over the sand dunes, who, all of a sudden, sees an oasis just over the next sand dune. He rushes to the spot only to find another dry sand dune. What did he see before? It was a mirage. He was seeing what he wanted to see, but it was an illusion. This is an excellent parallel to the man or woman who aspires to become rich through gambling. They have their eyes fixed upon a great mirage.

## The Life And Ministry Of Frank Bartleman

After studying the life of Frank Bartleman, one wonders if there was ever a Christian worker that labored with such intensity and sacrifice amidst constant opposition as he. Read of the life of this early Pentecostal pioneer.

## When The General's Dream Comes True

He was called "The General." General William Booth was a man on a mission, a mission of salvation. He had a vision for both the spiritual and temporal salvation of nineteenth-century England's poorest citizens.

## The Downgrade Controversy And Faith For The Upgrade

In the nineteenth century, modernism and theological liberalism gained wide acceptance in England. Many ministers began to view fundamentalism as being narrow, irrelevant and unaccommodating. Reverend Charles H. Spurgeon reacted against this, calling theological liberalism a downward trend, and warned his fellow Englishmen of the gravity of an apostasy of this kind. Read of the great struggle between orthodoxy and theological liberalism.

### The Sovereignty Of God

Many people when thinking of the Protestant Reformation think of it mainly as being a splitting away of reformers from Roman Catholicism. The Protestant Reformation was certainly that, but it was more than that. It's reformers did not only challenge dogmas and practices such as Church authority, papal infallibility and indulgences, but they opened up and developed a whole school of thought on theological issues such as Divine sovereignty, free will, Divine foreknowledge, election and predestination. In this book I would like to discuss briefly the issue of the sovereignty of God, human free will and the extent of the atonement.

### Pietism

Historians and theologians usually speak of Pietism as a Christian movement that began in the last quarter of the seventeenth century and continued, with growing significance, into the eighteenth century. Pietism was controversial because it so directly challenged the spirituality of many who encountered it in its day. Read the amazing stories and experience of the Pietist leaders.

### The Doctrine Of Man

Some have thought of man as a mere physical creature who came about as a result of natural selection. However, the Bible tells us that, instead of man being some brutish beast that evolved, man is a valued creation of God.

### The Azusa Revival

In the early nineteen-hundreds, Los Angeles was the fastest growing city in America. In 1906 it was a metropolis of about 238,000 but population growth was not the most significant development of this time. The Los Angeles of 1900 was on the verge of a spiritual awakening that would be unprecedented in its history and, in my opinion, unequaled by any other move of God that the world had seen. Read the story of the Azusa Revival.

### The 1859 Revival

When it came, it came like a hurricane. It came like a mighty flood. It came even before people realized that it was here. When it did come, it was known far and wide for what it was, a heaven-sent move of God. If there was ever a year that Ireland saw revival, it was the year of 1859. Read the story of the 1859 Revival.

### The Hebrides Revival

Revival is the highest plane of Christian experience. This term is to be reserved for those select periods in history when God has descended upon a community, bringing conviction of sin and hunger for Him, in very dramatic ways. Read of how this happened in the Hebrides Revival.

### The Welsh Revival

Read of the Welsh Revival and its supernatural effects upon a people and a nation.

### Revivals In Indonesia

The island country of Indonesia has been touched by a revival that is not well known outside of its borders. Read of the Indonesian Revival.

### The Ministry Of Maria Woodworth-Etter

They called her the "Trance Evangelist." This was a fitting title for a woman who frequently received soul-shaking revelations while suspended in a trance-like state. The title of "evangelist" was equally fitting for she won thousands from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of Christ. She was authentic, candid and courageous; there was nothing ordinary about Maria Woodworth-Etter.

### The Ministry Of William Booth

Overcoming great obstacles and opposition, William Booth was driven by an intense zeal to serve Jesus Christ in offering practical and spiritual help to others. This zeal was passed on to those companions of his who would become known as the soldiers of the Salvation Army and, together, they would have a significant, positive impact on the nineteenth and twentieth century's poor.

### The Ministry Of Catherine Booth

Faith and sacrifice are two words that come to mind when considering the life of Catherine Booth. These words, like many others that she lived by, express the sacrificial commitment that she had towards God and His work. It was her husband William's duty to minister to England's suffering poor and the burden of this great cause spread to her heart as well. Trusting in God, and fulfilling her duty to Him, became the hallmarks of the life and ministry of Catherine Booth.

### The Ministry Of Charles Finney

Charles Grandison Finney has stood out as one of the most widely known revivalists from pre-civil war America. There are many dimensions to the spirituality of this leader; passion for God, passion for prayer and passion for revival mark Finney. Read of this incredible life lived for God.

### The Life And Ministry Of John Lake

The examples of some peoples' lives make it very easy to believe in the Lord. The life of John Graham Lake was one such life. It can be measured as one long string of miracles.

### The Ministry Of Mary Slessor

In a world where the generations of every century pursue order, stability, ease and pleasure, every once in a while a few peculiar souls come along who seem to flee from these pursuits. They abandon all natural securities, most common comforts and almost everything else that is considered to make life tolerable and pleasurable. Such people are a living mystery and such a person was Mary Mitchell Slessor.

### The Ministry Of Samuel Bill

The brave 19th and 20th century journey to the African continent was made by many Christian missionaries. The Nigerian region of Africa would reveal the secrets of its mysterious interior to early Christian missionaries like Samuel Bill who ventured up-river into the alluring heartland. In this book, I would like to focus on the missionary work of this brave pioneer and his wife.

### The Ministry Of Johanna Veenstra And Her Missionary Friends

While others around her dreamed of starting a family, pursuing a career, or advancing themselves in the bustling, exciting urban America which had just entered the twentieth century, Johanna Veenstra dreamed of being a missionary. Read of her inspiring life.

### The Ministry Of David Brainerd

He left us his diary and in it we find an incredible story of a life given over to God and His service. Read the story of the 18th century North American missionary David Brainerd.

### The Ministry Of D.L. Moody

"The world has yet to see what God will do with and for and through and in and by the man who is fully and wholly consecrated to Him." (Henry Varley)

These words were thundered over the pulpit by the nineteenth-century preacher, Henry Varley. Little did he know that among the congregation before him was a man who would be very much affected by his words. That day, Dwight Lyman Moody purposed in his heart that, by God's grace, he would be that man.

### Evan Roberts And The Revival In Wales

Wales experienced a heavenly invasion in the blessed years of 1904 and 1905. In the years leading up to this, God was preparing a man whom He could work through during these momentous years of Wales' spiritual history. The humble Evan Roberts was raised up as a minister after God's own heart, to move and minister in the flow of revival.

### John Newton, William Wilberforce And The Abolition Of Slavery

The African slave trade involved 11,313,000 Africans being sold as slaves between the years of 1450 and 1900. Africans, both male and female, were violently captured through warfare, slave raiding and kidnapping. They were crowded into large ships and sent to the New World, as well as to Europe, to be sold as property. Many slaves felt that their sufferings were ignored by everyone. However, Jesus did hear the cries of multitudes of slaves, slaves like Sojourner Truth. He began raising up leaders, kindling a righteous anger within them to war against slavery and to act as the conscience of a nation.

### The Law And The Gospel

God's Law, good and right as it is, does not contain, within itself, the power to enable a person to be holy and spiritual. However, there is another sense in which the Law does have a certain power, and that is that it shows, or reveals, to the unredeemed man or woman their sin, and their need of Jesus Christ. In this booklet I will try to explain the relationship between the Law and the Gospel.

### I Believe In Free Will Theism

Rebelling against God's rule does not require grace. Receiving and accepting God's rule does take grace, a power greater than ourselves, enabling us to repent from our course of rebellion, surrender to Jesus, and accept Him by faith. Thankfully, God is a good God who enables men and women to turn to Him and be converted, if they choose. This turning, repentance and acceptance of God, and God's rule, is a choice of human free will.

### Creation, Evolution And The Age Of The Earth

How old is the Earth? This question is important to evolutionists and creationists alike and perhaps it is of interest to you. Most evolutionary geologists claim that the Earth is 4.6 billion years old. Many creationists claim that the Earth is less than 10,000 years old. How are these dates arrived at and can either of them be supported strongly? Join with me as I open up this controversial topic.

### Microbiology: Hard Evidence For Intelligent Design

Has the modern study of genomes, and microbiology in general, led us to the necessary evidence to construct a viable evolutionary explanation for the origins of life on earth? The theory of evolution has risen up and spread throughout the scientific community, dominating the majority opinion in this field of study. Is this progress or is it a step backwards? Let's look at what microbiology has to show us about the theory of evolution.

### Gods Word Through History

The Bible has been a faithful guide, staff, comfort and hope for multitudes throughout history. How did this great Book begin? Here we will look at the history of the Bible as a book.

### Should A Christian Participate In Politics?

It is a lively debate in Christian culture over whether a believer should participate in government. Those who say "No" usually base their position on their understanding of being separate from the world. I respect their opinion but I do not share it. We should be separate from the world in the sense that our values should be different from those who do not follow God. However can we follow God in the arena of political life? Explore this with me.

### Darwin And The Races Of Man

Many have written about the early evolutionist, Charles Darwin, critiquing his scientific work on the origin of species and natural selection. In this book, we will examine the fruit of his teaching. Did Darwin's teaching give rise to a philosophy of good will towards one's fellow man? Or was the foundation of Darwin's teaching a mixture of science and racism?

### What Is Pentecostalism?

The Pentecostal Movement, when it broke out in the early twentieth century, was as greatly misunderstood as the early worshipers in Acts 1 and 2 were misunderstood on the Day of Pentecost. In this book I will expound on the origin of Pentecostalism and on its core beliefs.

### Catholicism And Christianity

There are nearly one billion Catholics in the world today. Catholics testify to believing in Jesus Christ, believing the Bible and participating in Mass. However, are Catholics Christians? That is a question best left to the Lord Himself, but we can ask the question; Is the teaching of the Catholic Church Christian? I invite you to read as I attempt to answer this question.

### Islam And Christianity

Did you know that there are more than one billion Muslims in the world today? Most Westerners know little about Islam. Where did it come from? What does it teach? How does it compare with Christian faith? In this booklet I attempt to answer those questions.

### Hinduism And Christianity

There are 900 million people in the world who adhere to the religion of Hinduism. Hinduism is a not-so-easy religion to define because it has no single founder, no single creed, no single system of ethics and no single religious organization. It is comprised of different religious customs which have evolved in India since 1500 BC. Join with me as we dissect this religion and compare it to Christian faith.

### Sikhism And Christianity

The fifth largest religion in the world, with an estimated twenty-six million followers, is Sikhism. Where did it begin? What does it teach? How does it compare with Christian faith?

### Gods Book For Man, The Bible

"Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it." (Psalm 119:140) These words were said by King David around the tenth century BC. From that time until now, there have been millions of people who claim to love the Bible. Is the Bible "very pure" and does it stand up to higher criticism? Has it been accurately passed on from early history to our day? Is it credible and, if so, just what does it have to say?

### The Yorubas And Early Missionary Work Amongst Them

In 1795 AD. a Mr. Mungo Park from Scotland trekked from Gambia into the interior of West Africa and, with great difficulty, reached the Niger River on July 21, 1797. On this journey, Park did not come to an empty land. He was met by tribal people, native to that land. Who were they? They were the Yorubas. Let us now consider the Yoruban people and early missionary work amongst them.

### Spiritual Search

Are you on a spiritual search? All who wish to start this search must start looking in the right place. God has made the pathway for us and, to begin walking on it, we need a basic understanding of what God thinks about us and understand what He has done to bring about His will in saving men and women. To bring us to this understanding, God has given us His holy Word, the Bible. Let us look at what the Bible has to say about finding God.

### Bitterness And Forgiveness

Professional counselors admit that a large part of their work is helping people to forgive and become free of bitterness. Bitterness is animosity and hatred directed towards another person. Friend, if you are wrestling with bitterness or resentment, the Bible has the answer for you. It will help us with this critically important life-issue and its message is forgiveness.

### Loneliness

There are different kinds of choices that need to be made in order to remove the circumstances and attitudes which lead to loneliness. However, there is another kind of loneliness which is greater than other kinds of loneliness. This loneliness is separation from God. In this booklet we will deal with the difficult issue of loneliness and share the hope that heals loneliness' deep scars.



### The Parable Of The Difficult Way And The Narrow Gate

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matthew 7:13-14 KJV)

Jesus uses this simple parable to teach an important and sobering truth. Although God has a kingdom that is large and great, the doorway to that kingdom is narrow. How do we enter this doorway?

### The Parable Of The Pharisee And The Tax Collector

In this great parable, recorded in Luke 18:9-14, Jesus shows us the ugliness of pride and self-righteousness and the beauty of humility. He shows us also that God forgives the humble ones who call out to Him for mercy.

### The Rich Man And Lazarus

Probably the hardest to read parable of Jesus Christ is the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. That is because it jars us with an uncomfortable picture of what can happen after death. What does happen to a man or woman after they pass from this life? Jesus tells us this story to help us understand. Let us look at this parable and learn not only of the danger but, also, of the great hope that can be ours after death.

### Suicide

A young man jumps in front of a moving bus; a young woman is found in her car with a hose running from the exhaust pipe to her window; a teenager jumps from a high bridge; a career professional is found having swallowed a bottle of pills – SUICIDE. After it has happened, family and friends are stunned and tortured with the thought that they did not see signs that may have been there, ahead of time, and done something. Let us find the hope that gives reason to live.

### Anger

Have you ever noticed that people will often do the most illogical things when they are upset? In many cases, it has led to the destabilization of whole countries and regions. It is a worthy goal to overcome and heal from negative anger. Is all anger negative? We will look at this hot topic.

### Facing Death

What follows death? Is there hope beyond the grave? Read of the hope that can be ours when we leave this life.

### Cancer

The "C" word strikes fear in the hearts of many today. Rather than thinking of cancer as one disease, cancer is a class of diseases in which a group of cells exhibits uncontrolled growth and invades adjacent tissues and often spreads throughout the

body. Most cancers can be treated and many can be forced into remission, depending on the stage of growth and type. This booklet is a message of hope for those facing cancer.

### Substance Abuse

From ancient to modern times, people have been abusing the use of drugs and alcohol in an effort to find happiness or to escape reality. Sadly, drugs and alcohol provide neither in any long-term way. More tragic, still, is the damage that such substances do to those who use them and the addictions that they cause. If you are struggling with substance abuse and would like answers please read what I have written. There is great hope for you. You are not alone.

### Temptation

Just as a compass' needle feels the pull towards the magnetic poles so, too, man feels the pull towards many things that he knows are not right; we call this temptation. Temptation is common to all Christians and nonChristians alike. The Bible tells believers ; "There hath no temptation taken you but such as man can bear: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation make also the way of escape, that ye may be able to endure it." (1 Corinthians 10.13 ASV).

### To Bring Us To God

The Lord Jesus Christ, as well as being the King of Kings, Lord of Lords and the Son of God, was also a suffering servant. He endured shame, rejection, ill treatment and, ultimately, martyrdom in fulfilling His purpose on earth. What was that purpose? It was to bring us to God.

### Blessed Are The Forgiven

The Apostle Paul shows us that righteousness is imputed to man, not gained by his own works, but gained by faith in what God has done. Read of the blessings that can be ours through having our sins forgiven.

### The Parable Of The Wheat And The Tares

In this incredible parable , Jesus uses an agricultural picture to speak a spiritual truth. The parable tells of a field which has good seeds sown into it during the day but, at night, an enemy sows tares into the same field. How does this parable end? What does it mean for us?

### Is Salvation Necessary?

Is it necessary to be saved? The Bible tells us, from cover to cover, that it is impossible to please God with a wicked, unredeemed heart. The Bible speaks out against hypocrisy and calls us to see our need for salvation and then to accept what Jesus Christ has done to provide it. Let us take the time to learn what salvation is.

## Jesus Christ

If there has ever been a dark place, anywhere in this universe, it has been the world of mankind. Man has darkened his own heart, his conscience and his world by continually breaking God's laws. However, one day something wonderful happened. A pure light broke through the darkness into our world in the person of Jesus Christ. Learn of the wonderful Savior.

## Responding To God

Did you know that God is trying to draw you to Himself? How do we respond to God?

## The Redemption That Is In Christ Jesus

Friend, are you a Christian? Some would say, "Yes, isn't everybody?" No, dear reader. A Christian is someone who has been freely justified by God's grace through the redemptive work of Christ Jesus. What does this mean? "Justification" is a legal word which, in the Bible, means that God imputes the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ to a person's account, then declares them fully righteous. Read more as we look at Redemption.

## Repentance And Conversion

Repentance is a decision to turn, with the help of God, from a life of sin to a life of obedience toward God. The Scriptures are filled with the call to repentance.

## The Parable Of The Sower

Read along as we look at this great parable.

## The Parable Of The Two Houses

The picture, here, is of two houses in the midst of a storm. One is built on rock and one is built on sand. One house weathers the storm; the other house is destroyed. What does this mean for our lives?

## The Parables Of The Good Fish and the Bad Fish

This parable illustrates and warns of the final separation between the wicked and the righteous. Read more.

## The Parable Of The Good Treasure And Of The Evil Treasure

Let's look closely at this great parable.

## The Parable Of The Pearl Of Great Price

Jesus, when looking for an object to compare the kingdom of heaven to, chose a pearl of great price. Fine pearls were very valuable and costly in Jesus' day, as they are to some extent today. What can we learn from this illustration?

## The Judgment Seat Of Christ

The Bible talks of a great and terrible day in which God will judge the nations, both their leaders and their individual citizens. Yourself, myself and every person who has ever walked this earth will stand before Him and answer for what we have said and done.

Read more on this subject and how to be ready for that day.

## The Crucifixion, Resurrection And Atoning Sacrifice Of Jesus Christ

It is popular today to wear a cross on a necklace or as earrings. You may even have one on a wall in your home or have one hanging from the mirror in your car. However, in the first century, there was nothing popular or pleasant about a cross. It was understood by all to be a sign of torture and death. There is no man who has endured so great a torture, even to the point of death, as Jesus Christ Himself. Hear of what that means for us.

## The Meaning Of Salvation

I don't know what the word "salvation" means to you. You can be saved from many things, a car wreck, a plane crash, a fire, drowning or any number of physical catastrophes. The Bible speaks of another kind of salvation, a salvation of your soul.

## Saving Faith

What then, is faith? It is believing. We are told that it pleased God to save those who believe the Gospel. (See 1 Corinthians 1:21). How does one come to true faith in God?

## The Justice Of God And Holy Desperation

There are different kinds of justice in the world today. When people talk of commutative justice, they mean justice in business or commerce. When people speak of public justice, they are referring to governmental justice. When people refer to punitive justice, they are referring to the punishment of moral evil or sin.

The law of God, in the Bible, contains both precepts and penalties for transgressions from it and is based on the holiness of God. There is appointed a day on which God will judge the world with holy justice.

## Conviction And Contrition

Conviction is when God's Spirit impresses upon the conscience of a man or woman the truth about sin, righteousness and judgment. It is when a man or woman comes to the shocking realization that they are guilty of sinning against God. Read of the good news of where conviction and contrition can lead us.

## **Booklets by Jake Balzer**

### A Treatise On The Book Of Ephesians

The Book of Ephesians is truly one of the mountain tops of holy Scripture. In it, the Apostle Paul discusses the eternal purposes in Christ for the body of Christ, His Church. It teaches on God's election, salvation by grace through faith, the unity of Christ's body, walking in the light, marriage, family relationships and much more.

### Resolving Personal Failures

There is a difference between being a failure and experiencing failure. You can fail without being a failure. We can learn much more from our failures than from our successes. Failure is successfully finding out what you don't want to repeat. We often think failure is our greatest enemy. To fail is something too awful to face according to some people. If, however, we learn to catch ourselves in the act of failing, that is half the battle.

### Suffering

We live in a world of pressure and sometimes the world within is under just as much pressure as the world without. Sorrow, lack, trouble, adversity and calamity are all things that we can relate to. Sometimes we suffer for our own decisions, sometimes for the decisions of others. Suffering is our common and frequent experience. We cry out, "Why?" Often, this is when we look up.

### To Forgive Or Not To Forgive! Its Your Choice.

Someone has said that forgiveness is the bread of daily life. Whenever people who care for each other live closely together, forgiveness becomes the most needed ingredient of their lives.

### Mothers

Mothers, where would we be without them?

### Family Crisis Results In Spiritual Renewal by Jake Balzer

Family crises are unexpected circumstances that create hurt, pain, loss, suffering and often, much agony. We never know when a family crisis will take place in our own family or when we will be called on to help other families who are in a severe crisis. Therefore, I believe it is important that we seek to understand family crises.





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