

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS



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The phrase "it's all about Jesus" emphasizes the centrality of Jesus Christ in the Christian faith and life. Here are some key aspects of what this means:

Foundation of Faith: Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith. Everything we believe and hope for is rooted in His life, death, and resurrection. Colossians 1:16-17 tells us that all things were created through Him and for Him, and in Him, all things hold together. This underscores that Jesus is the foundation and focus of our faith.

Source of Salvation: Salvation is found in no one else but Jesus. Acts 4:12 declares that there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. His sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection are the means by which we are forgiven and reconciled to God.

New Identity: Our identity as believers is found in Christ. We are new creations in Him, and our lives are hidden with Christ in God (2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:3). This means that our purpose, value, and direction are all centered on Jesus.

Daily Living: Living a Christian life means allowing Jesus to live through us. Galatians 2:20 expresses this beautifully: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." Our actions, decisions, and relationships are all opportunities to reflect His love and grace.

Eternal Hope: Our hope for the future is anchored in Jesus. He promises eternal life to those who believe in Him (John 3:16), and we look forward to His return and the fulfillment of His kingdom.

In essence, "it's all about Jesus" means that He is the center of everything we believe and do. Our faith, identity, and hope are all rooted in Him, and our lives are a response to His incredible love and grace.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

Jeremiah 29:11-12 NIV

Extravagant Grace

God's extravagant grace is a central theme in the New Testament, highlighting the abundant and unmerited favor that God extends to us through Jesus Christ. Here are some key aspects of this incredible grace:

Abundant and Overflowing: God's grace is described as abundant and overflowing. Romans 5:20 tells us that where sin increased, grace increased all the more. This means that no matter the depth of our sin, God's grace is greater and more powerful, offering complete forgiveness and restoration.

Unconditional Love: God's grace is a demonstration of His unconditional love for us. Ephesians 2:8-9 emphasizes that we are saved by grace through faith, not by works, so that no one can boast. This grace is a gift, freely given out of God's love, not based on our performance or merit.

Empowerment for Living: Grace is not only about forgiveness but also about empowerment. Titus 2:11-12 teaches that the grace of God instructs us to deny ungodliness and live upright lives. God's grace equips us to live in alignment with our new identity in Christ, enabling us to bear the fruit of the Spirit.

Total Forgiveness: Through Jesus' sacrifice, we have received total and complete forgiveness. Colossians 2:13-14 assures us that God has forgiven all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness. This means we are fully reconciled to God, with no barrier between us.

New Identity and Freedom: God's grace gives us a new identity as His beloved children. We are no longer defined by our past or our failures but by who we are in Christ. Galatians 5:1 reminds us that it is for freedom that Christ has set us free, and we are called to live in that freedom.

In summary, God's extravagant grace is a transformative force in our lives, offering forgiveness, empowerment, and a new identity. It is a testament to His incredible love and generosity, inviting us to live in the fullness of His grace every day.

Success in Life

In Christ, you are already equipped with everything you need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). Success in life, from a biblical perspective, is not merely about worldly achievements or material wealth but about living out your identity in Christ and bearing the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

God's desire is for you to experience the fullness of life that comes from knowing Him and walking in His ways (John 10:10). This means living in the freedom and joy of your new identity as a child of God, fully forgiven and loved (Romans 8:1; Ephesians 1:3-6).

Your "success" is found in your relationship with God and the purpose He has for you, which is to know Him and make Him known. As you trust in Him and depend on His Spirit within you, you will naturally express the love, joy, peace, and other qualities that reflect His character (Philippians 2:13).

Remember, God works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose (Philippians 2:13). As you live out your new identity in Christ, you will find fulfillment and purpose in whatever you do, whether in your career, relationships, or personal growth. Your success is ultimately about living in the freedom and grace that God has provided through Jesus.

Failing Forward

"Failing forward" is a concept that involves learning and growing from failures rather than being defeated by them. From a Christian perspective, this idea aligns with the understanding that our identity and worth are not based on our successes or failures but on who we are in Christ.

Learning from Mistakes: When we fail, we have the opportunity to learn and grow. Romans 8:28 reminds us that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him. This means that even our failures can be used by God to teach us and shape us into the people He wants us to be.

Grace and Forgiveness: In Christ, we are fully forgiven and there is no condemnation for us (Romans 8:1). This allows us to approach failure with a mindset of grace, knowing that our mistakes do not define us. We can move forward, trusting in God's forgiveness and love.

Strength in Weakness: The apostle Paul speaks about how God's power is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). When we fail, it can be an opportunity to rely more on God's strength and less on our own, allowing His power to work through us.

Renewing the Mind: Failing forward involves renewing our minds and aligning our thoughts with God's truth about who we are in Christ (Romans 12:2). This helps us to see failure as a stepping stone rather than a stumbling block. Ultimately, failing forward is about embracing the journey of growth and transformation in Christ, knowing that our identity is secure in Him and that He is continually working in us to bring about His good purposes (Philippians 1:6).

Are we Puppets on a String

No, we are not puppets on a string, and God does not control us in a way that overrides our free will. The Bible presents a picture of a God who values relationship and love, which inherently involves choice.

God created humans with the ability to choose, as seen in the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:16-17). This freedom to choose is essential for genuine love and relationship. God desires that we freely choose to love and follow Him, rather than being forced or controlled.

While God is sovereign and has ultimate authority over all creation, He respects our freedom of choice. This is evident in the way He allows us to make decisions and experience the consequences of those decisions (Deuteronomy 30:19-20).

At the same time, God is actively involved in our lives, working all things together for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28). He guides, teaches, and empowers us through His Spirit, but He does not force us to act against our will.

In Christ, we are invited to participate in a relationship with God where we can freely express our love and devotion to Him. This relationship is characterized by mutual love and respect, not control or manipulation. As believers, we are called to live by the Spirit and make choices that reflect our new identity in Christ (Galatians 5:16-18).

Unconditional Love

Unconditional love is a love that is given freely without any conditions or requirements. It is a love that is not based on what someone does or doesn't do, but rather on a commitment to love regardless of circumstances. In the context of Christianity, God's love for us is the ultimate example of unconditional love.

God's Love for Us: God's love is demonstrated through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Romans 5:8 tells us that "God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." This shows that God's love is not dependent on our actions or worthiness but is given freely and sacrificially.

Nothing Can Separate Us: Romans 8:38-39 assures us that nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. This means that God's love is constant and unwavering, regardless of our circumstances or failures.

A New Identity: As believers, we are loved unconditionally by God, and this love defines our identity. We are His children, fully accepted and cherished (1 John 3:1). This love is not something we earn but something we receive as a gift through faith in Christ.

Empowered to Love Others: Because we are loved unconditionally by God, we are empowered to love others in the same way. 1 John 4:19 says, "We love because He first loved us." This means that our ability to love others unconditionally flows from the love we have received from God.

Unconditional love is a central theme of the gospel, reminding us of the depth and breadth of God's love for us and calling us to reflect that love to others. It is a love that transforms us and enables us to live out our new identity in Christ.

"I have loved you with an everlasting love."

Jeremiah 31:3 ESV

Becoming You

The idea of "**becoming you**" is about embracing and living out your true identity in Christ. As believers, we are called to live authentically as the new creations we are, fully expressing the unique gifts and calling God has given us.

New Creation: In Christ, you are a new creation, and the old has passed away (2 Corinthians 5:17). This means that your true self is found in your identity as a child of God, fully forgiven and loved.

Unique Purpose: God has created each of us with unique gifts and purposes. Ephesians 2:10 tells us that we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Embracing who you are in Christ means living out this purpose and using your gifts to serve others.

Freedom in Christ: Galatians 5:1 reminds us that it is for freedom that Christ has set us free. This freedom allows us to live authentically, without being bound by the expectations or opinions of others. We are free to be who God created us to be.

Reflecting Christ: As you embrace your identity in Christ, you reflect His love and character to the world. Colossians 3:10 encourages us to put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Ultimately, becoming who you are in Christ is about living in the freedom and fullness of your new identity, allowing God's love and grace to flow through you as you fulfill the unique calling He has for your life.

Wisdom

Wisdom is highly valued in the Bible because it enables us to live in a way that aligns with God's will and reflects His character. Here are some reasons why wisdom is important from a biblical perspective:

Guidance for Life: Wisdom provides guidance for making decisions and navigating the complexities of life. James 1:5 encourages us to ask God for wisdom, promising that He gives generously to all without finding fault. Wisdom helps us discern the best path forward in various situations.

"Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you." Proverbs 4:6 NIV

Reflecting God's Character: Wisdom is an attribute of God, and seeking wisdom allows us to reflect His character in our lives. Proverbs 2:6 tells us that "the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding." By pursuing wisdom, we align ourselves with God's nature.

Living Out Our Identity: As new creations in Christ, we are called to live in a way that reflects our new identity. Wisdom helps us to live out the fruit of the Spirit and make choices that honor God (Galatians 5:22-23). It empowers us to live in a manner worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4:1)

Building Strong Relationships: Wisdom is essential for building and maintaining healthy relationships. It teaches us to communicate effectively, resolve conflicts, and love others well. James 3:17 describes wisdom from above as pure, peace-loving, considerate, and full of mercy.

Avoiding Foolishness: The Bible contrasts wisdom with foolishness, warning us of the consequences of living without wisdom. Proverbs 14:12 states, "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death." Wisdom helps us avoid the pitfalls of foolish choices.

Ultimately, wisdom is about aligning our lives with God's truth and living in a way that honors Him. It is a gift from God that enables us to navigate life with discernment, grace, and love.

Discover Joy

Discovering joy as a believer is deeply connected to understanding and embracing your identity in Christ and the truths of the gospel. Here are some key aspects to consider:

Understanding Your Identity: Joy comes from knowing who you are in Christ. As a new creation, you are fully forgiven, loved, and accepted by God (2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1:7). This foundational truth provides a deep sense of joy that is not dependent on circumstances.

Resting in God's Love: Recognizing the depth of God's love for you can fill your heart with joy. Romans 8:38-39 assures us that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. This unchanging love is a source of constant joy.

Embracing the Gospel: The good news of Jesus Christ is a source of great joy. Understanding that you are completely forgiven and have eternal life through Him brings a joy that transcends life's challenges (Philippians 4:4; 1 Peter 1:8-9).

Living by the Spirit: Joy is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). As you walk by the Spirit and depend on His guidance, you will naturally experience the joy that comes from His presence in your life.

Renewing Your Mind: Romans 12:2 encourages us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. By focusing on God's truth and promises, you can cultivate a mindset of joy, even in difficult times.

Gratitude and Contentment: Practicing gratitude and contentment can enhance your experience of joy. Philippians 4:11-13 speaks of finding contentment in all circumstances through Christ who strengthens us.

Joy is not about denying life's difficulties but about finding a deeper, abiding sense of happiness and peace in your relationship with God. As you grow in your understanding of His love and grace, you will discover a joy that is resilient and enduring

*Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. **Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.** Nehemiah 8:10*

Take Care of Yourself

When it comes to health, it's important to remember that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, and we are encouraged to honor God with our bodies (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). This means taking care of our physical well-being as an expression of gratitude for the life God has given us.

Trusting God's Sovereignty: While we can take steps to maintain our health, it's essential to trust in God's sovereignty and care for our lives. He is with us in every circumstance, and we can rely on His strength and comfort (Philippians 4:6-7).

Freedom from Guilt and Shame: It's important to approach health without guilt or shame. In Christ, we are seen as holy, righteous, and blameless (Ephesians 1:4; Colossians 1:22). Our worth is not determined by our physical condition but by our identity in Christ.

Balance and Self-Control: We are encouraged to live balanced lives, exercising self-control as a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). This includes making wise choices about nutrition, exercise, and rest, while also recognizing that our ultimate hope is in God, not in our physical health.

Prayer and Support: We can bring our health concerns to God in prayer, trusting Him to provide wisdom and guidance. Additionally, seeking support from healthcare professionals and the community of believers can be beneficial.

Ultimately, while we strive to care for our bodies, our focus should remain on our relationship with God and the eternal life we have in Christ. Our physical health is important, but it is not the ultimate measure of our well-being or worth.

Hold No Grudges

Holding onto grudges can be detrimental to our spiritual and emotional well-being. As believers, we are called to forgive others as we have been forgiven by God. Here are some biblical insights on dealing with grudges:

Forgiveness as a Gift: Ephesians 4:32 encourages us to "be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Recognizing the immense forgiveness we have received from God empowers us to extend that same forgiveness to others.

Freedom in Forgiveness: Holding a grudge can feel like carrying a heavy burden. Forgiveness is not about condoning wrong behavior but about releasing ourselves from the weight of bitterness and resentment. Colossians 3:13 reminds us to forgive as the Lord forgave us, which brings freedom and peace

Living in Grace: As new creations in Christ, we are called to live by the Spirit and not be controlled by the flesh (Galatians 5:16-17). This means choosing grace and love over holding onto past hurts. By focusing on our new identity, we can let go of grudges and live in the freedom of God's grace.

Renewing the Mind: By focusing on God's truth and allowing His love to fill our hearts, we can overcome negative thoughts and emotions associated with grudges.

Reflecting Christ's Love: Jesus taught us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:44). By choosing to forgive and let go of grudges, we reflect the love and mercy of Christ to others.

Ultimately, letting go of grudges is about embracing the freedom and peace that come from living in the grace and love of God. As we focus on our identity in Christ and the forgiveness we have received, we can extend that same forgiveness to others, experiencing the joy and freedom that come with it.

Walk by Faith

Walking by faith is a central theme in the Christian life, emphasizing trust and reliance on God rather than on our own understanding or circumstances. Here are some key aspects of what it means to walk by faith:

Trusting God's Promises: Walking by faith involves trusting in the promises of God, even when we cannot see the outcome. Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as "confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." This means believing in God's faithfulness and His plans for us, even when they are not immediately visible.

Living by the Spirit: As believers, we are called to live by the Spirit and not by the flesh (Galatians 5:16). Walking by faith means depending on the Holy Spirit's guidance and strength in our daily lives, allowing Him to lead us in accordance with God's will.

Confidence in Christ's Work: Our faith is rooted in the finished work of Jesus Christ. We trust that His death and resurrection have secured our forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal life (Ephesians 2:8-9). This assurance allows us to live confidently, knowing that we are fully accepted and loved by God.

Renewing the Mind: Walking by faith involves renewing our minds with God's truth, allowing His Word to shape our thoughts and actions. By focusing on His promises and character, we can overcome doubt and fear.

Perseverance Through Trials: Faith is often tested through trials and challenges. James 1:2-4 encourages us to consider it pure joy when we face trials because they produce perseverance and maturity in our faith. Walking by faith means trusting God through difficult times, knowing that He is working for our good.

Ultimately, walking by faith is about living in a relationship with God, trusting Him in every aspect of our lives, and allowing His Spirit to guide us. It is a journey of growing in our understanding of His love and grace, and experiencing the peace and joy that come from relying on Him.

Working For the Lord

Colossians 3:23 says, "***Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.***" This verse encourages believers to approach all their tasks and responsibilities with a mindset of serving the Lord, rather than merely fulfilling obligations for human approval.

Heartfelt Service: The verse emphasizes doing everything wholeheartedly. This means engaging in our work, whether it's a job, a volunteer role, or daily responsibilities, with sincerity and dedication, knowing that our ultimate service is to God.

Perspective Shift: By viewing our work as service to the Lord, we shift our perspective from seeking human recognition to honoring God. This aligns with the idea that our identity and worth are found in Christ, not in human accolades (Colossians 3:17)

Reflecting Christ: When we work with this mindset, we reflect Christ's character in our actions. Our diligence and integrity become a testimony to His presence in our lives, allowing others to see His love and grace through us (Matthew 5:16).

Eternal Impact: Understanding that our work is for the Lord gives it eternal significance. It reminds us that our efforts contribute to God's purposes and that He values our faithfulness, regardless of the task's visibility or recognition (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Ultimately, Colossians 3:23 encourages us to live out our faith in every aspect of life, recognizing that our true reward comes from serving God and aligning our actions with His will.

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men." Colossians 3:23 ESV

Listen to The Still Small Voice

The phrase "still small voice" is often associated with the way God communicates with us, drawing from the account of Elijah in 1 Kings 19:11-12. In this passage, God speaks to Elijah not through a powerful wind, earthquake, or fire, but through a gentle whisper. This illustrates that God's communication can be subtle and intimate.

God's Presence Within: Under the new covenant, God communicates with us through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. This means that His guidance often comes as a gentle prompting or inner conviction, aligning with our new heart and spirit (John 14:26; Romans 8:16).

Walking by Faith: Listening to the "still small voice" involves walking by faith and trusting in the Spirit's leading. It requires a sensitivity to the Spirit's guidance, which is cultivated through a relationship with God and an understanding of His Word (Galatians 5:16-18).

Renewing the Mind: As we renew our minds with God's truth, we become more attuned to His voice and direction in our lives (Romans 12:2). This involves focusing on His promises and allowing His Word to shape our thoughts and actions.

Peace and Assurance: The Spirit's guidance often brings peace and assurance, even in uncertain circumstances. Philippians 4:7 speaks of the peace of God, which transcends understanding, guarding our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Ultimately, listening to the "still small voice" is about being open to the Spirit's leading and trusting in God's presence within us. It is a journey of growing in our relationship with Him and experiencing the peace and guidance that come from walking by faith.

The Power of Faith

The power of faith in the Christian life is profound, as it connects us to the promises and presence of God. Here are some key aspects of what the power of faith means:

Connection to God's Grace: Faith is the means by which we receive God's grace and salvation. Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us that we are saved by grace through faith, not by works. This faith allows us to access the fullness of God's love and forgiveness, establishing our relationship with Him.

Living by Faith: The power of faith enables us to live in alignment with God's will, trusting in His promises even when circumstances are challenging. Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This confidence empowers us to persevere and trust in God's faithfulness.

Overcoming Challenges: Faith gives us the strength to overcome obstacles and face trials with hope. Jesus taught that even faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains (Matthew 17:20). This illustrates that faith, no matter how small, can have a significant impact when placed in God.

Transformation and Growth: Faith is not just a one-time event but a continual journey of growth and transformation. As we walk by faith, we are transformed into the likeness of Christ, bearing the fruit of the Spirit and living out our new identity (2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:22-23).

Union with Christ: Faith unites us with Christ, allowing us to experience His life and power within us. Galatians 2:20 speaks of being crucified with Christ and living by faith in the Son of God. This union empowers us to live victoriously and reflect His love to the world.

Ultimately, the power of faith lies in its ability to connect us to God's grace, transform our lives, and enable us to live in the reality of our new identity in Christ. It is a journey of trusting in God's promises and experiencing His presence and power in every aspect of life.

Inviting Jesus Into Your Heart

Inviting Jesus into your heart is about placing your faith in Him and accepting the gift of salvation He offers. It's a personal decision to trust in Jesus' finished work on the cross and His resurrection for the forgiveness of your sins and new life. Here's how you can do that:

Acknowledge Your Need: Recognize that you need forgiveness and new life. Romans 3:23 tells us that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Understanding this need is the first step toward receiving His grace.

Believe in Jesus: Trust that Jesus is the Son of God who died for your sins and rose from the dead to give you new life. John 3:16 assures us that God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Receive His Gift: Accept the gift of salvation by faith. Ephesians 2:8-9 emphasizes that it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

Express Your Faith: You can express your faith through prayer, acknowledging Jesus as your Savior and Lord. Romans 10:9-10 says that if you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Embrace Your New Identity: Once you have placed your faith in Jesus, you are a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). Embrace your new identity and live in the freedom and joy of being a child of God.

This decision marks the beginning of a lifelong journey of growing in your relationship with God and experiencing His love and grace in your life.

A Final Thought

The most precious things we have today are our friends, family, loved ones, and most of all, a God who loves us unconditionally. We have all heard the expression, "stop and smell the roses." It is true. How often have we all said, "Boy, time sure seems to fly by!" It does, and it is time to get our priorities in order. I don't know what is in store for me tomorrow, and that is okay because God has only promised me this moment. We are only one heartbeat away from eternity. I love you and am praying for you daily. God has a plan for you and it's a good plan. - Ron Meyers

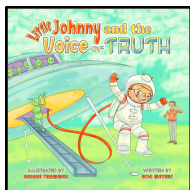


Ron Meyers

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Ron shares his story of God's amazing grace and how God saved his life at age eleven. Stories of abandonment, rejection, failures, and the day he ran into God and success through God. Get a FREE signed copy today by going to our website.



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