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# Believe

God sent His own Son for you and for me.  
His Son gave His life so we could be free.  
He died on the cross for everyone.  
We'll praise Him forever for what He has done.

He went back to heaven. He's coming again.  
He'll take us away, but we don't know when.  
Get ready to meet Him. He is the way.  
Believe He is Lord, and you too will say . . .

He's alive! He's alive! He's alive!  
He is no longer dead.  
He has risen instead.  
He's alive! He's alive! He's alive!



**The tomb is empty. He is RISEN!!!**

# WAR

We find ourselves once again in the midst of a war with Iraq. There are also wars in many places around the globe. Some are civil wars, and some are country against country. All of this reminds us what Jesus said about the end times. Matthew 24:6-7. The world is in turmoil all around us.

The thought of war is scary and can be unsettling. The unknown outcome keeps people on edge, and causes concerns that ripple throughout our society, including the economy. Many times, as young people, we do not understand the thinking of our leaders that take us to war. We do not see the possibility of any benefit coming from war.

There is not doubt that war is terrible, and can be devastating for the countries involved. However, we, as Christians, need to understand that there will be war as long as man is ruling in this world. No amount of wishing or demonstrating is going to change the nature of man. The old nature in man is naturally self centered and this leads to conflict.

We pray for peace, especially the peace of Israel, with the understanding that peace will only come when God installs His government. This government will be headed by Jesus, and will not be a democracy. Jesus will rule in absolute righteousness, and with justice. There will be no conflict or war.

In the mean time, there are wars of men, and more importantly, there is a spiritual war. While we may or may not be involved in the military, we are involved in the spiritual war. Every believer in Jesus is a soldier in this war. We cannot hope to sit on the sidelines and be idle.

The great thing about our spiritual war is that we follow behind our Captain (Jesus) who is already fully victorious. We certainly can feel the ferocity of the enemy, but he cannot have any victory over us as long as we follow our Captain. We need not fear or live in defeat.

I feel that we, in the United States, will see more and more persecution if we choose to stand for Jesus. We may not have life as easy as it has been in the past. I do not worry about these things, nor do I advocate political action to improve our rights. We must simply trust our Captain and know that He will surely us bring out victorious.

When you feel persecution from your peers because you have chosen to fully follow Jesus, know that He is with you and will never leave you nor forsake you. Hebrews 13:5. Be strong in the Lord and fight the good fight of faith, on your knees. Prayer is our great weapon in this war.

Gordon Crook

When the winds of adversity  
blow, seek shelter under the  
shadow of the Almighty



# BIBLE TRIVIA

## *The Life of Jesus*

1. Describe the occupation of a publican.
2. Which disciple was a tax collector in the city of Capernaum?
3. "I have not come to call the \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ to repent."
4. Which Gospel records more of Jesus' words than any of the other Gospels?
5. What is the name of the pool at which Jesus healed a crippled man?
6. What was believed that the Pool of Bethesda did for people?
7. Why were the Pharisees angered by Jesus healing the crippled man at the Pool of Bethesda?
8. How many disciples did Jesus pick?
9. Name six of the disciples.
10. Which disciple was also called Nathanael?
11. To which disciple did Jesus say, "Upon this rock I will build my kingdom?"
12. Which three disciples are known as "the inner circle?"
13. Which disciples are known as "the quiet workers?"
14. What was the occupation of most of the disciples before following Jesus?
15. What is another name for the twelve disciples?
16. What does the word, apostles, mean?
17. "Blessed are the poor in \_\_\_\_: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Tax collector for the Roman government/ Matthew/ Righteous – sinners/ The Gospel according to Matthew/ Pool of Bethesda/ The first person to step into the water when it moved would be healed/ He healed him on the Sabbath/ Twelve/ Peter, Andrew, James, John, Matthew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew (or Nathanael), James, Simon, Jude (or Thaddeus), Judas Iscariot/ Bartholomew/ Peter/ Peter, James & John/ Andrew- Philip- Bartholomew- Thomas- Matthew/ Fisherman/ Apostles/ Those who are sent out?/ Spirit.

## Do You Have A Close Intimate Relationship With Jesus?

We read in Mark chapter 9 a startling statement Jesus made to His disciples. That some standing there would not taste death till they had seen the kingdom of God come with power. It came to pass just a week later. When Jesus took three of them apart by themselves, up into a high mountain (Peter, James and John). And Jesus was transfigured before them.

He did not take all the disciples with Him, only those who were on **terms of intimacy**, an inner circle as it were. They are the ones who enjoy the visions of coming glory even here on the way to glory. Such will have an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. The high mountain figures the heavenlies where Christ throne will be set in due time.

What did these three behold? They were privileged to have a fore view of the glory to be revealed at Christ's second coming. The transcendent glory shone out through the vail of His flesh, changing His appearance. He glowed with a brilliancy that no worker in linen or other material could produce. The Lord Himself will have the special place and special glory. The book of Revelation tells us the Holy City will have no need of the sun or the moon, for **the Lamb** is the light of it, Rev. 21:23.

Then appeared unto them Elijah and Moses talking with Jesus. These worthies of faith have been in paradise for many centuries. Notice, they are conscious and capable of conversing with the Lord and with one another. This tells us something about the state of departed saints.

Moses died and God buried him, Deut. 34:5-6. He must have been raised from the dead, because the devil disputed with Michael as to the body of Moses, Jude 9. Elijah went to heaven without dying, he was translated. They figure the dead in Christ who will be raised from their graves and those who will be alive and translated at the coming of the Lord, I Thess. 4:16-17.

Peter had an intimate relationship with Jesus and was highly favored to behold such a scene and yet he failed to realize its significance. He speaks when he should have been silent. He said, "Master, it is good for us to be here...let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." His proposal is to honor all three equally.

Even the greatest of God's servants are not the Lamb of God who willingly **laid down His life** to save mankind and bring them unto God. The highest caliber of saints will fall down before Christ and cast their crowns at His feet and worship Him, Rev. 4:10. **Worthy is the Lamb!**

Peter spoke out of line with the mind of God, who would not have any others occupying the hearts of His people to detract from the glory that is Christ's alone. It is His Son, the Father delights to honor. "There was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, **This is my beloved Son: hear Him.**"

Mt. 17:6-8 tells more detail on this. The disciples trembled and were afraid, but Jesus comes and touches them and all their fears are gone. They lifted up their eyes and saw no man, save **Jesus only**. Yes, He is the Mediator. He touches God and yet touches man, "Be not afraid."

By Earlene Davis

# Unfolding The Rose

A young, new preacher was walking with an older, more seasoned preacher in the garden one day. Feeling a bit insecure about what God had for him to do, he was asking the older preacher for some advice. The older preacher walked up to a rosebush and handed the young preacher a rosebud and told him to open it without tearing off any petals. The young preacher looked in disbelief and was trying to figure out what a rosebud could possibly have to do with his wanting to know the will of God for his life. Because of his respect for the older preacher, he proceeded to try to unfold the rose, while keeping every petal intact. It wasn't long before he realized how impossible this was to do. The older preacher began to recite the following poem.

It is only a tiny rosebud,  
A flower of God's design;  
But I cannot unfold the petals  
With these clumsy hands of mine.  
The secret of unfolding flowers  
Isn't known to such as I.  
GOD opens this flower so sweetly,  
While in my hands it would die.  
If I cannot unfold a rosebud,  
This flower of God's design,  
Then how can I have the wisdom  
To unfold this life of mine?  
So I'll trust in Him for leading me  
Every moment of my day.  
I will look to him for His guidance  
Each step along the way.  
For the path that lies before me,  
Only my Heavenly Father knows.  
I'll trust Him to unfold each moment,  
Just as He unfolds the rose.



# God's Alphabet

Although things are not perfect  
Because of trial or pain  
Continue in thanksgiving  
Do not begin to blame  
Even when the times are hard  
Fierce winds are bound to blow  
God is forever able  
Hold on to what you know  
Imagine life without His love  
Joy would cease to be  
Keep thanking Him for all the things  
Love imparts to thee  
Move out of "Camp Complaining"  
No weapon that is known  
On earth can yield the power  
Praise can do alone  
Quit looking at the future  
Redeem the time at hand  
Start every day with worship  
To "thank" is a command  
Until we see Him coming  
Victorious in the sky  
We'll run the race with gratitude  
eXalting God most high  
Yes, there'll be good times and yes some will be  
bad, but...  
Zion waits in glory...where none are ever sad!



## Proverbs 18:24

One day, when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class was walking home from school. His name was Kyle. It looked like he was carrying all of his books. I thought to myself, "Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a nerd."

I had quite a weekend planned (parties and a football game with my friends), so I shrugged my shoulders and went on. As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward him. They ran at him, knocking all his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him. He looked up and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes.

My heart went out to him. So I jogged over to him and as he crawled around looking for his glasses, and I saw a tear in his eye. As I handed him his glasses, I said, "Those guys are jerks. They really should get lives."

He looked at me and said, "Hey thanks!" There was a big smile on his face that showed real gratitude. I helped him pick up his books, and asked him where he lived. As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before. He said he had gone to private school before now. I would have never hung out with a private school kid before. We talked all the way home. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid. I asked him if he wanted to play a little football with my friends. He said yes. We hung out all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him, and my friends thought the same of him.

Monday morning came, and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, "Boy, you are gonna really build some serious muscles with this pile of books everyday!" He just laughed.

Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors, we began to think about college. Kyle decided on Georgetown, and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends. He was going to be a doctor, and I was going for business on a football scholarship. Kyle was valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd. He had to prepare a speech for graduation. I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak.

Graduation day, I saw Kyle. He looked great. He was one of those guys that really found himself during high school. He filled out and actually looked good in glasses. I could see that he was nervous about his speech. So, I smacked him on the back and said, "Hey, big guy, you'll be great!" He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled. "Thanks," he said.

As he started his speech, he cleared his throat, and began: "Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years. Your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach...but mostly your friends. I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I am going to tell you a story."

I just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the story of the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his Mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying his stuff home. He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile. "Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable." I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. I saw his Mom and dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile. Not until that moment did I realize its depth.

Never underestimate the power of your actions. For better or for worse. God puts us all in each other's lives to impact one another in some way. Today is a gift. Look to God and He will use you for His glory.