

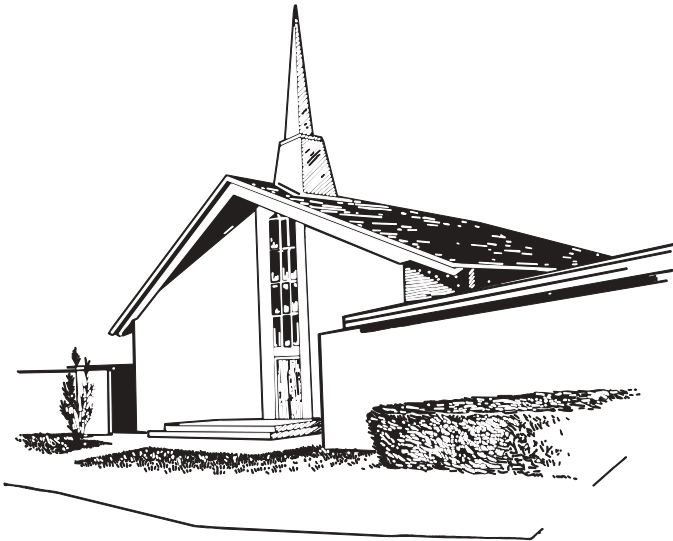
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# Just Like Me

What sort of a church would our church be  
If every member were just like me?  
Better or worse would our church be  
If every member were just like me?  
Were every member of our church to be  
Just such a member as Christ would see,  
What changes would come to you and to me,  
And the gain to our church—what would it be?

*Sing to the Lord  
A new song, and  
His praise in the  
Congregation.*



# Big Power in a Little Package

A few thousand years ago, there was a young man named David. He was probably only 15 or 16 at the time. He went to take some provisions to his brothers in the army, and found that a giant man was threatening the army of Israel.

He made a choice to stand up to this giant, without really even knowing much about him. Everyone thought there was no possible way David could go up against Goliath. Surely he would be pounded into the dirt. What was David thinking? How could this little boy possibly beat this giant? Where would he get the power to defeat a giant?

When David finally confronted Goliath, he said, "You've come out to fight me with a sword and a spear and a dagger. But I've come out to fight you in the name of the LORD All-Powerful." There was big power in David because he trusted in God's power.

So, now you are probably wondering what this has to do with anything. Well, I was thinking about the difficulty faced by young Christians today. Standing up for your faith in Jesus before your peers, might seem like facing a giant.

How do you explain to your friends who are not Christians that you have to go to church, instead of doing something they get to do? How do you explain that you do not participate in some of their activities because you know it would not be pleasing to the Lord? How do you stand your ground

when they tease you about your faith? After all, you're just a young person. You're not big enough to take on these giants.

Trust in the Lord. He will give you power to overcome the giants. You may be small in the world's view, but you are precious in God's view. You can be like David in the face of a giant.

We each face our own giants. Things that we, or others, are sure that we cannot overcome. When we look at our abilities, or our own strength, we simply sit around, as did the other Israelites, feeling defeated. When we do as David, and look at the Lord and His strength, we will overcome.

I know that in this time that we live, there are many teaching us that everyone should just do their own thing. We must be tolerant of everyone, and everything they do. However, we need not be part of their "own thing" or be made to feel that we are wrong to believe what we believe from God's Word. I know also, that the Bible is considered old fashioned and out of date for our society. God's power is never out of date, and neither is His Word.

I want to encourage you to stand firm for your faith in Jesus. In the end, it is the only thing that will remain. You need not let anyone make you feel that you are losing out in life because you have chosen to follow Jesus. In this time of little faithfulness by God's people, we can and will stand in the face of the giant by God's power. Your age or size are of no consequence to God. He is not limited by you or me, or anything else.

Gordon Crook

# BIBLE TRIVIA

## *The Life of Jesus*

1. What is the name of the sermon that contains the Beatitudes?
2. “Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be \_\_\_\_“
3. “Blessed are the meek: for they shall \_\_\_\_“
4. “Blessed are they which do \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ after Righteousness: for they shall be filled.”
5. “Blessed are the \_\_\_\_: for they shall see God.”
6. “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called \_\_\_\_“
7. “Blessed are they which are \_\_\_\_: for their’s is the kingdom of heaven.”
8. What parable did Jesus use at the end of His Sermon on the Mount?
9. What is a parable?
10. What is the name of the evil spirit that Jesus drove from a wild man into a herd of pigs?
11. How long was the woman who touched the garment of Jesus sick before she was healed?
12. How did Jesus know a woman had touched him even when he was in a large crowd?
13. What was used to feed the five thousand?
14. How much food was gathered up after the five thousand had eaten?
15. Which disciple walked on the water with Jesus?
16. What happened to the two thousand hogs after Jesus commanded evil spirits to come upon them?
17. When feeding a crowd of four thousand or more, what did Jesus use as food?

Sermon on the Mount/ Comforted/ Inherit the earth/ Hunger, thirst/ Pure in heart/ The children of God/ Persecuted for righteousness's sake/ The parable of the wise man, who built his house upon the rocks and foolish man, who built his house upon the sand/ Short stories to show the truths of the gospel/ Legion, meaning "we are many"/ Twelve years/ He felt healing power go from his body/ Five loaves and two fishes/ Twelve baskets/ Peter/ The hogs ran down the mountainside, plunged into the sea and were drowned/ Seven loaves of bread and a few small fish.

# Is It A Bear?

It's night. You're walking down a path in the woods. It's spooky. There isn't much moonlight; you can't see well at all; and you're hearing strange noises you wish you weren't hearing. You catch a glimpse of something moving through the trees ahead of you – something big – and suddenly a huge black dog walks across the path.

At this point, your whole body gets involved. Your eyeballs send a message to your brain: "It's a bear!"

And your feet don't argue with your eyeballs – your feet don't say, "I don't *think* so; let's go check it out." Your feet say, "Let's take the body to a new place."

And you burn a hole in the ground getting out of there. Why? It wasn't a bear! It was just a black dog on his way to see his girlfriend, and he didn't have time to waste on you. Friends, it doesn't matter if you're looking at a piece of cardboard, or a rock, or a shadow, or a dog, or a hamster – if you *think* it's a bear, you'll respond the same way as you would if a huge grizzly bear were right there breathing down your neck.

We may be wrong in what we think, but we will act on what we think is true anyway, just as if it *were* true. Solomon said it a little differently years ago when he wrote the book of Proverbs, but it's just as true today: "As he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7).

You are what you think. It may be a bear, or it may be a hamster, but if you *think* it's a bear you'll run just as fast either way.

If you're brave enough, I challenge you today to examine your life – the way you act, the things you say, the things you're afraid of, the kinds of relationships you have, and how you conduct yourself within those relationships. Then conclude what your life shows as to what you really believe about God. Because if you believe that God is all-powerful and loving, you'll behave one way. If you believe that God is angry and vindictive and just waiting for you to screw up so he can zap you, you'll behave another way. If you believe that God is blind, or asleep, or just doesn't care, you'll behave yet another.

What does your behavior tell the world about what you believe about God? What are your friends seeing in you today? What does that tell them about your belief in God?

James 2:18 – “Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works; shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.” What we do demonstrates our true faith and belief.



You say, "It's impossible."

God says: "All things are possible." (Luke 18:27)

You say, "I'm too tired."

God says: "I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28-20)

You say, "Nobody really loves me."

God says: "I love you." (Jn. 3:16 - Jn. 13:34)

You say, "I can't go on."

God says: "My grace is sufficient." (II Cor. 12:9 - Ps. 91:15)

You say, "I can't figure things out."

God says: "I will direct your steps." (Prov. 3:5-6)

You say, "I can't do it."

God says: "You can do all things in Me." (Phil. 4:13)

You say, "It's not worth it."

God says: "It will be worth it." (Rom. 8:28)

You say, "I can't forgive myself."

God says: "I forgive you." (I Jn. 1:9 - Rom. 8:1)

You say, "I can't manage."

God says: "I will supply all your needs." (Phil. 4:19)

You say, "I'm afraid."

God says: "I have not given you a spirit of fear." (II Tim. 1:7)

You say, "I'm always worried and frustrated."

God says: "Cast all your cares on ME." (I Pet. 5:7)

You say, "I don't have enough faith."

God says: "I've given everyone a measure of faith." (Rom. 12:3)

You say, "I'm not smart enough."

God says: "I give you wisdom." (I Cor. 1:30)

You say, "I feel all alone."

God says: "I will never leave you or forsake you." (Heb. 13:5)

# The Other Side

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, “Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side.”

Very quietly, the doctor said, “I don’t know.”

”You don’t know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?”

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side of which came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, “Did you notice my dog? He’s never been in this room before. He didn’t know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing...I know my Master is there and that is enough.”

Romans 5:1-2; John 14:1-6



# Stewardship of Life

Find the underlined words in the puzzle block on page 10.

## **Men are Stewards, not Owners:**

Lk. 19:13 – And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

## **Faithfulness required:**

I Cor. 4:2 – Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

## **Life Precious:**

I Cor. 6:20 – For ye are bought with a price:

## **A Sacred Treasure to be Kept:**

I Tim. 6:20 – O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

## **Ministering as Stewards:**

I Pet. 4:10 – As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

## **Accountability:**

Rom. 14:12 – So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

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 Q M R     D P R F B E V O F H C     N N N  
 Z M I B     S V O P C U E X O     C W C G  
 U M C B W     A Y M N N Y U     H C M A C  
 W L N M Z D N T D E Q N P L G T N L E  
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