

## **FORGIVENESS, PEACE, And HOPE**

**Matthew 11: 28 to 30**

**With all the reports of abuse around the world, how many people have been affected? And the healing processes; are they adequate? Do they deal with the deep problems on the spiritual level? What's needed is a different approach. Instead of working from the outside in, we will start from the inside, at the spiritual level. Even though psycho-therapy is the world's main method of treatment, I will not be advocating it.**

**I believe that God's way is best. God has provided forgiveness for the past, peace for the present, and hope for the future, through the shed Blood of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Hebrews 13: 8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**

**John 15: 24 - If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.**

**And He is the only One we can trust to help.**

**Hebrews 4: 14 to 16 - Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

**When dealing with abuse, there are many factors to consider. One of them is the breach of trust. Victims feel that everyone betrayed or abandoned them, like church, parents, governments, social agencies etc., even God. But please do not blame God for the abuse. He had nothing to do with it. Ezekiel 34 and Matthew 23 show what God thinks about it.**

**And He will deal with the abusers in His own way, and in His own time. Romans 12: 19 - Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord. God did not tell them to abuse anyone. And He does not tell anyone to kill people, even abortion doctors. John 8: 7 - So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.**

**Everyone suffers some type of abuse in their lives, ranging from childhood to elder abuse; and because of all the false doctrine around these days, there is too much spiritual abuse. The main thing is how we deal with it. Some advise people, don't get angry, get even. However this is not the best approach, because violence begets violence. But victims should remove themselves from the abusive situation as soon as possible.**

**And there's more to the process of getting free. The ungodly bonds or evil soul ties with the abuser, will have to be broken, so the soul, (mind, will, and emotions) can be restored.**

**Only God in Christ Jesus offers this to you. Psalms 23: 3 - He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.**

**Yes, Our Lord Jesus Christ came to help people. Luke 4: 18 & 19 - The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.**

**I won't insult you, and tell you that I know everything that you went through. Everyone's situation is different, and extremely personal.**

**For many years now, we have been supporting a charity called, Rhodesian Christian Group. They help those who have been displaced by the brutality in Zimbabwe. The extent of abuse and violence there is so great, that many have lost their lives. I recently saw an article about a farmer who wouldn't leave his land. Why Christians Refuse to Hate; My Experiences in Mugabe's Zimbabwe beliefnet.com Monday December 7, 2009**

**One innocent victim was Ben Freeth, a sunny Christian farmer who, after publishing an article in the Western press about the illegal and murderous farm seizures being carried out by Mugabe's Zanu (PF) party, was savagely beaten and later watched as his farm was burnt to the ground. When I met Freeth in Harare last week he described to me and my friends from the Christian relief organization ROCK of Africa who were hosting us how, in the midst of the assault that fractured his skull, he suddenly reached out and touched the feet of his assailants and said, Bless you, bless you.**

**That's nice, you say, but is it having any effect? Recently, I saw another interesting article. Zimbabwe has become a nation of churches**

**Sept. 15, 2009 - Freedom Writer Perhaps faith is all that people have left to cling to in Zimbabwe's on going turbulent times? Congregations of all denominations are taking over every large empty buildings, defunct cinemas, theatres, barns, factories, & warehouses, & people congregate to worship even under large shady trees.**

**Sundays reverberate with joyous music and on Friday nights more people are in church than in pubs. Church conventions in Zimbabwe gather extraordinary crowds: thousands and thousands of people gather together to worship and pray for entire weekends of devoutness. The new charismatic churches appear to hold more for the bewildered populace than the older established churches like the Church of England, the Catholic, and the Presbyterian churches.**

**Many struggling theatres and businesses make their main income from**

hiring out their premises to church groups on Sundays, and instead of pantomimes, operas, or farces, these auditoriums resound to the sound of people praying, or speaking in tongues, and many are the voices of the poor who have little else to do except pray that their lives will take on a different turn.

Now what would account for that change in attitude and behaviour? Because it's what overcame Rome, the world power, 2000 years ago. The Bible has an account in Acts 7: 59 & 60 - And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, Lord, do not charge them with this sin. And when he had said this, he fell asleep."

Why was he, an honest and righteous man, killed? Obviously, there are malevolent forces at work in the world . But Stephan was able to rise above his being abused, and pray for them.

And then we have the extreme example of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who when dying on the cross, did not seek revenge. Luke 23: 34 - Then Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do. And they divided His garments and cast lots.

So if Our Lord could forgive, we have to forgive also. If we refuse, we are only hurting ourselves, and blocking the healing process.

This leads us into becoming bitter, and hard-hearted etc. And that means that we become like the abusers. Besides this, it could lead to an increase in sicknesses. The Mayo Clinic has an interesting article. Forgiveness: Letting go of grudges and bitterness.

When someone you care about hurts you, you can hold on to anger, resentment and thoughts of revenge or embrace forgiveness and move forward. Katherine Piderman, Ph.D.

Nearly everyone has been hurt by the actions or words of another. Perhaps your mother criticized your parenting skills or your partner had an affair. These wounds can leave you with lasting feelings of anger, bitterness and even vengeance, but if you don't practice forgiveness, you may be the one who pays most dearly. By embracing forgiveness, you embrace peace, hope, gratitude and joy.

There are those who follow Exodus 21: 23 to 25 - But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

That however was for the Old Covenant. We are now under the New Covenant. John 1: 17 - For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

These days, there are many mis-guided interpretations of Bible passages. One of Our Lord Jesus Christ's main tasks was to give correct

interpretations, even to the devil. Matthew 4: 5 to 7 - Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: `He shall give His angels charge over you, and, In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone. Jesus said to him, It is written again, You shall not tempt the LORD your God.

Another example of gross abuse of the Bible was in England recently.

Monday, Dec 21 2009 Priest outrages police by telling congregation: My advice to poor is to shoplift By Graham Smith

Highly irresponsible: Father Tim Jones has been criticized after advising his congregation to shoplift following his Nativity sermon.

The married father-of-two insisted his unusual advice did not break the Bible commandment, Thou shalt not steal - because God's love for the poor outweighs his love for the rich.

Matthew 22: 29 - Jesus answered and said to them, You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.

Now you may have noticed, that I have been mentioning the Lord Jesus Christ. That's because; He is the best way to get help.

Matthew 4: 23 & 24 - And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.

Now that was 2000 years ago, what is it like now? Hebrews 13: 8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

And He still cares for you to-day. Matthew 11: 28 to 30 - Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

So the question is; Will you let the Lord Jesus Christ help you, so you can find rest for your souls? What exactly does the Bible say about forgiveness? Under the Old Covenant, when sins were committed, the offender brought an offering to the priest.

Leviticus 19: 22 - The priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering before the LORD for his sin which he has committed. And the sin which he has committed shall be forgiven him.

Also godly leaders, like Moses, interceded for the people. Numbers 14: 9 - Pardon the iniquity of this people I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.

But we are now under the New Covenant. Our sins are no longer forgiven by

**the blood of animals, but by the shed Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Matthew 26: 28 - For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**

**1 John 1: 7 - But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

**Why don't we look at what the Bible says about forgiveness.**

**Matthew 6: 9 to 15 - In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

**People have been using that prayer for a long time. But do they really mean it, or is it being used as a magical charm to ward off evil? Did you catch the conditional phrase? And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will Our Heavenly Father forgive your trespasses. I don't know how I could make it any clearer. If we refuse to forgive others, we are telling God not to forgive us. Do we really want that to happen?**

**Now does Our Lord really mean what He says? Matthew 18: 21 to 35 - Then Peter came to Him and said, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus said to him, I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all. Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me what you owe! So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay you all. And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him,**

**You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you? And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.**

**Forgiving from the heart is important. We don't have to stretch back too far, to remember incidences of public apologies. Were they really sorry for what was done, or were they sorry for getting caught? Only God knows. But we have to forgive those who ask. And the greater the hurt is, the longer it will take to forget it. We've all seen people mad at the world. They go around looking for a fight. Some call it, having an attitude. Here, we say that their demons are manifesting. If left unresolved, problems will appear in other areas, like family, church, work, school, and society. Unforgiveness can lead to hatred, bitterness, etc., and that's not good. 1 John 2: 11 - But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.**

**1 John 3: 15 - Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.**

**1 John 4: 20 - If someone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?**

**Mark 11: 25 & 26 - And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.**

**Paul had some good advice for people.**

**Ephesians 4: 32 - And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.**

**When situations arise that have to be dealt with, it is important to stay in control of the situation. Ephesians 4: 26 & 27 - Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.**

**You may have noticed that I believe that Jesus Christ is the only way for lasting help. And I don't apologize for it. In fact, there's much evidence to support this. From The Times December 27, 2008**

**As an atheist, I truly believe Africa needs God. Matthew Parris**

**Missionaries, not aid money, are the solution to Africa's biggest problem - the crushing passivity of the people's mind set.**

**Now the author as a confirmed atheist says, "I've become convinced of the enormous contribution that Christian evangelism makes in Africa: sharply distinct from the work of secular NGOs, government projects and**

**international aid efforts. These alone will not do. Education and training alone will not do. In Africa Christianity changes people's hearts. It brings a spiritual transformation. The rebirth is real. The change is good. "**

**Those who want Africa to walk tall amid 21st-century global competition must not kid themselves that providing the material means or even the know how that accompanies what we call development will make the change. A whole belief system must first be supplanted.**

**And I'm afraid it has to be supplanted by another. Removing Christian evangelism from the African equation may leave the continent at the mercy of a malign fusion of Nike, the witch doctor, the mobile phone and the machete.**

**So, if an atheist from Africa can see the difference; we must seriously consider it. Matthew 16: 13 to 19 - When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am? So they said, Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. He said to them, But who do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus answered and said to him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**

**Have you made the best spiritual insurance preparations? Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 13: 5 - Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? --unless indeed you are disqualified.**

**Karl Marx said that religion was an opiate for the people. Why? Because then it enslaved the people, instead of freeing them. Matthew 23: 4 - For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.**

**John 8: 31 & 32 - Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**

**Our Lord Jesus also says in Matthew 11: 30 - For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**

**Dr. Suresh Chander Verma writes in his book, "Death of a Guru" , how his mother told him of another God, if he got into trouble.**

**One day when he was walking outside, a king cobra rose up close to him. He called on his gods for help, but nothing happened. So he called out to**

**Jesus. And immediately the snake departed.**

**Changing one's religion will be dramatic, like Paul, on the road to Damascus. Acts 9: 1 to 6 - Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? And he said, Who are You, Lord? Then the Lord said, I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads. So he, trembling and astonished, said, Lord, what do You want me to do? Then the Lord said to him, Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.**

**Our Lord Jesus Christ may reveal Himself like that, or else in the Scriptures. Luke 24: 44 to 49 - Then He said to them, These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me. And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.**

**But when one comes to Christ, there is a difference in their lives.**

**In fact, it is good to read the biographies of the great men of faith; like Martin Luther, John Knox, and Charles Chiniquy.**

**Now the 500th anniversary of the Reformation is in a few years, in 2017. And I am sure that all God's people are praying for a revival of the reformation. It may involve some changes.**

**The Telegraph - October 20th, 2009 By Damian Thompson Religion  
Pope announces plans for Anglicans to convert en masse**

**This is clearly a historic gesture by Pope Benedict which will encourage thousands of disaffected Anglicans to become Roman Catholics.**

**So if you are disaffected with your religion or church, call on the Lord Jesus Christ to guide you what to do, and where to go.**

**And ladies, if you are tired of being treated like second class people, check out the Gospels. Jesus Christ ministered in agape love to women much more than any other religion.**

**Galatians 3: 28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**



**There are many examples of women serving God, even in the Old Testament, like Queen Esther and Deborah the prophetess.**

**In modern times, there's Fannie Crosby, Corrie ten Boom, and Joni Eareckson Tada.**

**Fannie was born in 1820, and became blind shortly thereafter. She didn't let bitterness and unforgiveness keep her down. God's Grace was poured out mightily on her. And the Love of God flowed through her, bringing forgiveness, peace, and hope. How else could a blind lady, born 200 years ago, write 9000 hymns? A line in one of them sums up her life, Take the world, but give me Jesus.**

**Corrie ten Boom was born in Holland in 1892. Being committed Christians, her family sheltered Jews and others, and helped them to freedom. But they were betrayed in 1944, and sent to concentration camps, where her father and sister died. God kept Corrie alive, and after the war, she was used to spread Christ's love and forgiveness around the world.**

**Joni Eareckson Tada had a diving accident in 1967, which left her a quadriplegic. After working through how God could let that happen to her, she has let God's love and Grace flow through her so much, that she now has an international ministry helping the disabled.**

**So you can either let the hardships of life keep you down, or you can take affirmative action, and do something about it.**

**I offer you a life changing message. God provides forgiveness for the past, peace for to-day, and hope for to-morrow, through the shed Blood of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**There are no shortage of programs out there, but I prefer God's way. For the Love of God is the only way to overcome all the hatred of the world. John 3: 16 & 17 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**

**But aren't there other ways to heaven?**

**John 14: 6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

**Acts 4: 12 - Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**

**Why do we need to be saved?**

**Because sin brought dire consequences to the human race.**

**Genesis 2: 16 & 17 - And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**

**Romans 3: 23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
Romans 6: 23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**How can the Holy God bring us back to Him? Colossians 1: 21 & 22 - And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight.**

**2 Corinthians 5: 21 - For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

**Hebrews 2: 17 - Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.**

**Why did Our Lord Jesus Christ have to shed His Blood?**

**Hebrews 9: 22 - And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.**

**Hebrews 10: 1 to 23 - For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshippers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come--In the volume of the book it is written of Me--To do Your will, O God.'" Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them " (which are offered according to the law), then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all . And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," then He adds , "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." Now where there is remission of these, there is no**

**longer an offering for sin. Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.**

**Does God really want people to come back to Him? Acts 17: 30 & 31 - Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.**

**Revelation 3: 19 & 20 - As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.**

**Is this what God wants for us? John 6: 40 - And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.**

**John 6: 28 & 29 - Then they said to Him, What shall we do, that we may work the works of God? Jesus answered and said to them, This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.**

**If we give ourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ, have we any security?**

**John 10: 28 & 29 - And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.**

**So with this all-inclusive guarantee, the loss of salvation is only a false doctrine, based on good works, not God's Grace. Is Jesus Christ the only way to heaven? John 14: 6 - Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

**Acts 4: 10 to 12 - let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone. Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**

**John 11: 25 - Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.**

**Hebrews 7: 25 - Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession**

**for them.**

**You may have noticed that Jesus Christ redeemed us to God by Himself.**

**1 Timothy 2: 5 - For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,**

**And good works have nothing to do with salvation. Isaiah 64: 6 - But we are all like an unclean thing , And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away. Ephesians 2: 8 & 9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.**

**I am so thankful that God in His Grace saved me. Having a Presbyterian background, I joined the church at 16. However something was lacking.**

**Mark 7: 6 - He answered and said to them, Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.**

**And the Holy Spirit kept prodding me. One morning in the school cafeteria, a few weeks later, while reading my Gideon's New Testament, I went through the sinner's prayer. Praise the Lord!**

**Religious people can be the hardest to get saved. One of our friends, now home with Jesus, was a Methodist minister for 30 years, before he got saved.**

**Now people say that Biblical Christianity is so restrictive. At the beginning, there was only one thing Adam could not do. Genesis 2: 16 & 17 - And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**

**However, he couldn't even do that, and sin and death became ingrained in humanity. Under the New Covenant, the early church considered another important matter. Acts 15: 22 to 29 - Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely , Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren. They wrote this letter by them: The apostles, the elders, and the brethren, To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, You must be circumcised and keep the law --to whom we gave no such commandment-- it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy**

**Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.**

**Sexual immorality is a major stumbling block for many. God's ways are not compatible with the world's standards.**

**1 John 2: 16 - For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world.**

**Idolatry and the occult have always been an affront to God.**

**Deuteronomy 18: 9 to 14 - When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.**

**1 Corinthians 10: 14 - Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.**

**Many years ago, I became interested in para-psychology. Not being sure of it, I asked at church, and no-one had any problems with it. Thankfully the Lord didn't let me get in too deep, before getting me out. If you are not sure about it, check out the Scriptures. Kurt Koch wrote books exposing the occult. The main one is, Occult ABC, where he recounts how believers got oppressed by occult involvement.**

**The last big area deals with eating blood. In case it's hard to keep things in order, Our Lord sums it up for us.**

**Matthew 22: 35 to 40 - Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question , testing Him, and saying, Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said to him, You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. Yes, Biblical Christianity, like Jesus Christ operates on love.**

**Matthew 14: 14 - And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.**

**John 13: 34 & 35 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**

**And it's in love, that Our Lord Jesus says in Matthew 11: 28 to 30 - Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. So why not let Our Lord Jesus take your heavy burdens of sin and unforgiveness? He offers you forgiveness, peace, and hope, through His shed Blood.**

**All you have to do, is come to Him in simple, sincere faith. But do not delay. 2 Corinthians 6: 1 & 2 - We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you. Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. If you feel a stirring within you, it is God's Holy Spirit prodding you to take action. And a little, simple prayer is all God wants from you, confessing your sins, and turning your life over to Him.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that You are the Son of God, the Messiah who came in the flesh to destroy the works of the devil. You died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead.**

**I now confess all my sins and repent. I claim forgiveness and cleansing. I believe that Your blood cleanses me now from all sin. Thank You for redeeming me, cleansing me, justifying me and sanctifying me in Your blood.**

**And when you do do it, Your sins are forgiven, your name is written in the Book of Life, your own spirit is cleaned up and sealed with God's Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1: 11 to 14 - In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. In Him you also trusted , after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.**

**Salvation doesn't cost us anything, but following Christ as Lord, will cost us everything. Matthew 10: 38 - And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.**

**And when we have a right relationship with God, through His Son, we can move on to the next stage of healing. This involves straightening out our relationships with others.**

**The unforgiveness, resentment, and bitterness have to be dealt with. Here is another little prayer, you can follow along with.**

**Lord God, I have a confession to make; I have not loved, but have resented**

**certain people who hurt or disappointed me and have held unforgiveness in my heart. I call upon You, Lord, to help me forgive them.**

**I do now forgive {name them, both living and dead} and ask You to forgive them also and bless them, Lord. I do now forgive and accept myself in the name of Jesus Christ.**

**And when we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, we have access to His promises.**

**If you had to describe the world in one word, peaceful would not be one of them. But that is exactly what God offers us. Do you know that peace is mentioned 390 times in the Bible? Psalms 4: 8 - I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.**

**Psalms 29: 11 - The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace.**

**Psalms 34: 14 - Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.**

**Psalms 37: 11 - But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.**

**Matthew 5: 9 - Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.**

**John 14: 27 - Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

**John 16: 33 - These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**

**John 20: 21 - So Jesus said to them again, Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**

**Romans 14: 19 - Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.**

**Paul had some good advice to a local church.**

**Colossians 3: 12 to 17 - Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do . But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.**

**You may have noticed that I use a lot of Scripture. Actually there was a**

**time, when believers were called, people of the Book.**

**Of the many names I've heard Christians called to-day, that is not one of them. You see, Jesus Christ is the Word of God.**

**John 1: 1 to 4 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. How long will it last?**

**Luke 21: 33 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.**

**Now what importance is placed on the Word of God?**

**John 14: 24 - He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me. James 1: 21 to 25 - Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.**

**It's important to get into the habit of reading some of the Bible every day. And ask Our Lord to reveal His truths to you.**

**Luke 24: 27 - And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.**

**And as you get to know Our Lord Jesus better, you will see that He is able to get us through life's storms, just like He did before.**

**Mark 4: 37 to 41 - And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing? Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, Peace, be still! And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!**

**You will be amazed at how Jesus Christ helped those who came to Him.**

**Matthew 4: 23 & 24 - And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.**



**And what Our Lord did yesterday, He still expects us to do to-day.**

**Mark 16: 14 to 18 - Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.**

**But before God will do much through us, we will have to get rid of unbelief and hardness of heart. They will first have to be confessed as sin.**

**1 John 1: 9 & 10 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.**

**Then we can obey Our Lord's command to cast out the demons.**

**What would you say is a major factor against Christianity?**

**1 John 4: 1 to 3 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.**

**Do you know how many spirits are mentioned in the Bible? Take a Crudens Concordance, and look up, spirit of. You will see a list of both good and evil ones. An example is, 2 Timothy 1: 7 - For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.**

**And when we are dealing with the abuse syndrome, there will be a lot of fear. It is important to let God's Love work through us. 1 John 4: 18 - There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.**

**The authority we use is from Our Lord in Matthew 16: 19 - And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**

**This kind of spiritual warfare and deliverance faded out for the most part of Church history, and has only recently made a comeback. But thankfully believers had the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ to help them, such as...**

**I place the blood of the Lord Jesus on our doorposts; I draw the bloodline of Jesus around all of our possessions and properties; and I sprinkle or**

**place the blood of Jesus upon myself and my family.**

**Through the blood of Jesus, I am redeemed out of the hand of the devil. Through the blood of Jesus, all my sins are forgiven. The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, is cleansing me now from all sin. Through the blood of Jesus, I am justified, made righteous, just as if I had never sinned. Through the blood of Jesus, I am sanctified, made holy, set apart for God. My body is a temple for the Holy Spirit, redeemed, cleansed, sanctified - by the blood of Jesus. I belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son - body, soul and spirit.**

**His blood protects me from all evil. Because of the blood of Jesus, Satan has no more power over me, no more place in me. I renounce him and his hosts completely and declare them to be my enemies..**

**Revelation 12: 11 - And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.**

**Paul shows us where our attention should be focused.**

**Ephesians 6: 10 to 18 - Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.**

**So our task is to battle the hosts of hell, and get freedom from them. 2 Corinthians 10: 3 to 6 - For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.**

**And by harassing, and grappling with the demons, we can annihilate, conquer, demolish, and eradicate them. I have seen, and been involved in different kinds of deliverance. This is serious stuff, in engaging demonic forces. I have been involved in deliverance sessions where it took 10 men**

to hold down one manifesting man. Our Lord Jesus left us an example, of how to deal with them. Matthew 8: 28 to 34 - When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men , coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time? Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine. And He said to them, Go. So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region.

Mark 5 and Luke 8 have similar accounts. If you are serious about getting into deliverance, spend much time in prayer and preparation.

Mark 9: 17 to 29 - Then one of the crowd answered and said, Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not. He answered him and said, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me. Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, How long has this been happening to him? And he said, From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us. Jesus said to him, If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes. Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help my unbelief! When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more! Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, Why could we not cast it out? So He said to them, This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.

For people with these powerful demons, strong deliverance is needed. Counselling will not get rid of these. Feeling good techniques, which

**include visualization and inner healing, won't get the big demons out.**

**Dave Hunt, a well-known Christian author, wrote - Seduction of Christianity - and - Beyond Seduction - where he mentions about the occult principles of visualization. Therefore I don't use it.**

**There are other methods used, which are not found in the Bible, and which are portrayed in movies, like holding up a cross, which may be good theatrics, but not very effective.**

**World Weekly News April 10, 1990**

**Attempt to Force satan out of girl's body backfires, when ... Priest Burst into Flames during Exorcism Holy mans horrible death rocks Vatican!**

**by DAVID TANNER Correspondent A Catholic priest exploded in flames when a demon-possessed schoolgirl attacked him with balls of white-hot energy that shot from the palms of her hands!**

**The death of Father Luis Ponce stunned church officials who called the holy man "one of the premier exorcists of this century or any other."**

**"We knew Father Ponce was in for a fight but never expected anything like this," said a Vatican spokesman who requested anonymity.**

**"The exorcism took a turn for the worse," said the official. "Father Ponce sprinkled holy water on the girl while his assistants held her in bed and the room filled with the smell of rotting flesh. For a split second the demon emerged from the girl's mouth, exposing black, scaly skin and a face so horrifying her mother threw up.**

**"When the demon returned to the child's body she broke away from Father Ponce's assistants. "Blood began to flow from her eyes as she raised her hands to chest level. Her body began to shake. Then two balls of energy shot from her hands and hit Father Ponce in the chest, burning him as badly as if you had soaked him in gasoline and struck a match. "I'm told that he literally exploded in flames.**

**"A few seconds later the girl returned to normal and had no recollection of what had happened. We don't know whether Father Ponce banished the demon prior to his death or if it left on its own."**

**Would there be any similar occurrences in the Bible. Acts 19: 13 to 20 - Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches. Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you? Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was**

**magnified. And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.**

**So what's the difference? Our Lord Jesus promised to take care of His own. Luke 10: 17 to 21 - Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name. And He said to them, I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven. In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.**

**Remember, that one of the by-products of the seven sons of Sceva was the believers getting out of the occult. Interesting. That's one of the items that the Church leaders told the new Christians to stay away from.**

**So what are you going to do? Having been victims of abuse, you will need more than counselling or self-help groups. You need the Lord Jesus Christ to help you. As to how fast the healing process occurs, it is entirely up to God. The best attitude is to expect a longer process, and if it takes less, you will have more to thank God for. But as this is a life-changing message, it will take a life-long commitment from you, to Our Lord Jesus Christ. You will not be abandoned by Him. That's because of Hebrews 13 :8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**

**And His promise is still valid, you can trust Him. Matthew 11: 28 to 30 - Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**

**God has provided forgiveness for you through the shed Blood of His Son. God offers peace to His children. God also gives hope for the future, for His children. These blessings are freely available to God's children.**

**Galatians 3: 26 - For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.**

**So if you want to take advantage of God's Love offer, call on His Son, Jesus Christ. - Lord Jesus, if I have never really asked You into my heart, I am asking You here and now, to come in and to save me from all my sins. -**

**Romans 15: 4 - For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures**

**might have hope.**

**Romans 15: 13 - Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**Titus 2: 11 to 14 - For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.**

**So, to summarize, God offers salvation to us, through the shed Blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. He also offers restoration of our souls. And with the Holy Spirit, he offers us freedom from evil spirits.**

**And so we can see how God has provided forgiveness for the past, peace for the present, and hope for the future, through the shed Blood of His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we have covered a lot of ground to-day, and you may need some time to reflect upon it.**

**But for those who realize that Jesus Christ is their only hope, talk to your pastor about the new and abundant life God offers.**

**And if you need any more assistance, please contact us.**

**Pastor T. John Franklin  
Church of Salvation, Healing, and Deliverance  
COS-HAD.org**