

I'm exChanged... NOW WHAT?

2015 Revised Edition



A VALEDUTAINMENT PUBLICATION

by C.D. Williams

I'm exchanged..., NOW WHAT ?



I'm exchanged... now what? The 2009 pre-churched edition
A manuscript by Christopher Daniel Williams
Things you should know after trusting in Jesus
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written by Chris Williams

What in the world does God want from me?

God wants your praise!

Encouraging words from others can have a tendency to improve the way that we feel about our own self worth.

Special times that celebrate our strengths and accomplishments often reflect the value and appreciation of a person or team. In either case, these actions normally have an uplifting effect on the people receiving encouragement or appreciation. These celebrations can be defined as forms of praise, so what does it mean to praise God?



God is constantly striving to encourage people with the words of the Bible, and to share special times with people who desire to have God's presence in their lives. The Bible says that people were made in the image of God. (Genesis 1:27)

We are people, created in the image or likeness of God. Our actions that display moral wisdom, love, justice, and selfless help reflect part of the divine image of God that we were created in as humans. We praise then by encouraging and celebrating God! That's right praise is giving God a party that should never end!

God wants your soul exchanged!



It's easy to throw a party for someone you care about in order to celebrate them, or even to send a simple card of encouragement in the mail. It's much harder to admit when you're wrong, to ask for forgiveness, or to give another person your unconditional trust.

Praise is something people can give others without fears of personal convictions, regrets, or risky commitments.

The exchange requires more effort from us as people. God is both loving, and just. Justice requires that sin is rewarded with spiritual death (separation from God) paid for by either the person or Jesus Himself. The payment of Jesus on the cross provides the only true life exchange. The Bible says that a believing confession is required for exchanged salvation from the curse of sin. Romans 10:9 says, "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." In a believing confession of Christ we admit that the curse of sin in our lives is wrong.

We ask Jesus for His exchange of our sins for His righteousness, and place the personal trust of our future in the hands of God by an active belief & honest heart.

God wants our spiritual assurance!



There are many things in life that we just don't know about. We don't know exactly what we were doing the entire 8 to 10 months that we may have spent in our mother's womb. We don't know exactly how long we will actually live on the earth. We don't even know exactly how long we've lived when we die..., not to the second anyway. With so many things that we just don't know, it's good to know there are some things God wants us to know for certain.

God wants us to know that the life of exchange is a gift that we can't earn in our own ability. Because we can't do anything to earn it, we can take comfort in knowing that choosing to receive the gift in the manner of God's design is our only requirement to gain the exchange for our future. God's forgiveness is certain when we are sincerely honest and open with Him about our sin. There is nothing that God won't forgive when we ask Him for true forgiveness. It is important that when we receive His forgiveness, that we make honest efforts to turn away from the forgiven sin. Turning from sin confirms the sincerity of our choice to receive the exchange. It does not create the exchange.

God wants our spiritual application!

It can be very disappointing to discover that the time that you spent trying to get something done was wasted.

Lost time can be hard to accept because it can't be recovered. Mistakes made in the past are also difficult to accept because they can create irreversible memories and results that are unpleasant. The Bible says that the troubles we face in one day... the current day, are enough to focus on.



Going beyond that makes unnecessary worry. The time that we spend from the point of our salvation until we physically die in comparison to the remainder of eternity, is like comparing 5 minutes on a stopwatch to a decade. One time frame is **a lot shorter** than the other. God wants us to make the most of our time, by focusing on the present day, and not the mistakes of our past. Every day alive is a gift from God, and we should spend each day treasuring it as if it were our last. It's not easy to do, but it's also not impossible to practice. So... don't ever give up, and keep practicing. There's this rumor going around that practice makes perfect or in Bible terms... complete.

God wants to use us to reach others!

If you found out that there was a way to fix a broken relationship between two people that were both very close to you... would you use the way?

...Of course you **would!**



The Bible says that every person that trusts in the life of Jesus has a way to fix broken relationships between people and God. It's a one on one deal. God is a very personal God, and He wants a very personal restoration of relationship with our family members, friends, neighbors, strangers and everyone else that He chose to create in the human race.

God has given us three important tools to use to reach out to others and offer them the way of reconciling with God Himself in Jesus the Christ.

He has given us the power of the good news in Jesus Christ, the compassion of His own heart to care for others through us, and the inspiration of godly wisdom to share His truth in the right way & at the right time.

We can never force God's way on others, but we can plant a seed by sharing it in love with others we care about and love.

I'm exchanged..., now what?

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Written by Christopher Daniel Williams

Chapter 1: What's happening to me?

If you've recently made the life exchange of accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior..., and have questions..., then this will be a very helpful book to read. Something amazing is happening to you.

It's something that happens to everyone who truly pursues the real exchange of life for Jesus as their personal Lord, Savior, and ransom for the costs of personally missed marks.

A transforming process has begun in your new life. God is now changing both you and I. Each of us is growing gradually..., patiently..., and most importantly, permanently in our preparation of everlasting life.

Let's look at the process. God accepts us exactly as we are. All our strength and weakness is clearly seen in the eyes of God. By the power of Christ, our hearts are now being changed & softened by God, growing His true love through our spirit, thoughts, will & emotions.

There are three signs of the transformation process that God wants us to look for in ourselves, as we move through natural time & help to fulfill His work of love inside us.

The signs of the transformation process are *true repentance, true assurance, and true application.*

The first sign in the transformation process is that of true repentance. In order to truly perform a task, one must first truly define the task. Let's define *true repentance*.

The Bible defines true repentance as the result of godly sorrow. The first experience with godly sorrow occurs when a person makes the personal exchange of trusting Jesus in the "sin forgiveness" of missing marks in life.

Trusting God in godly sorrow simply means humbly requesting help from God, about sin & being willing to act on receiving God's help for us. This humble act sets the example for the consistent growth of dependency that God wants us to desire of Him. As we make mistakes & errors in everyday life, we increase our personal dependency on our relationship with God by practicing the request & receive process of trusting God in godly sorrow from the honesty of our heart, which includes turning away from the missed marks of our choices to sin.

This trust softens our hearts so that God's love can increasingly grow inside us. God knows all about our imperfections, the rules we break, and the marks we aim for and miss.

Our relationship with Him gradually draws us closer with each day to overcome temptations & deceptions. The exchange doesn't mean that you have to earn your way into God's kingdom after you have received Christ. It means that you are now free to experience the endless totality of God's amazing love through godly sorrow, true repentance, and God's complete forgiveness & life change in peace.

The second sign is found in a real understanding of true assurance. In order to understand a result, one must define the result. Now, let's take a look at *true assurance*.

The Bible says that nothing will separate true believers in Christ from the love of God. This is God's direct promise of real assurance to us. The problem we face as people is our own fear, doubting whether or not God identifies us as true believers.

This is both natural and normal. It doesn't last forever. God puts REAL experiences in our lives over time to *remove all doubt of our own sincerity with Him* at the time of our initial choice to receive the real life exchange of Jesus Christ for our life.

It's a personal experience for each person. There's only one thing that we need to do. We must refuse to give up on God, because we know that God refuses to give up on us.

So if you're wondering, "Am I really exchanged in Jesus for life?", it means that you're growing, not lost!

The third process sign is an increasingly active life-consistency in *true application*. In order to truly establish a change, one has to learn and practice the change.

The Bible says that sin (missing the mark) lies at the door of our choices in desire of us, yet we should master & rule over sin. The ability to master sin doesn't come from our actions of obeying rules. It comes from loving God in true relationship with him.

As children, our obedience to our parents isn't based on just being "ordered around". It's based on making choices of trust in the caring guidance of the closest care givers that we have during the most basic & foundational stages of our lives.

In the same way our choices of obedience to resist sin isn't based on following "God's orders".

It's based on making choices to trust God's guidance in our lives. The ultimate Caregiver of both the now & the everlasting that is coming for each us is truly God Himself.

God is the spiritual Head of our spiritual family. We don't free ourselves from our sins.

We trust God to forgive us throughout life as we learn how to resist sins because of the relationship we share with Him; it is more than just the appearance of mere obedience.

So that's the truth. Repentance, assurance, and application are the three signs of the process in God's transformation of us. The key that we need to use responsibly is to trust God continuously. God directs our path when we trust Him. Trust is our part..., God doesn't move in our schedule. His schedule is better.

Remember to give God the time He has set to allow us grow into His complete maturity. He's always right on time for us, because God is outside of natural time..., His time has been, is & always will be... eternal.

Chapter 2: Who will I become?

How do I discover my identity, potential, and development in this gospel of Jesus Christ? These questions are real concerns of the heart and equally require answers from the heart.

The day of accountability approaches for all of us, (both saved and unsaved). We know that Christ is our only acceptable defense and pardon for our missed targets in this life. Three kinds of people must give an account on this day; non-believers who resisted forgiveness, believers who rejected forgiveness and fell away, and believers who overcame the pride that desired to steal away their forgiveness.

Believers overcome through the sacrificed blood of (the Lamb) Jesus and the words of their testimony with Jesus. The future reflects the choices we make to yield and endure to the end.

The identity of a Christian is much like the identity of an adult in the complete sum of time & progression in life. We progress from sinners to servants; from servants to priests; and from priests to kings and joint-heirs with Christ.

Without Christ we progress from sinners to self masters; from self masters to deceived manipulators and from deceived manipulators to self-condemned heirs with the kingdom of hell. Yep, hell is a REAL place.

The servant is a humble person who desires to obey and please their non-abusive Master. The servant practices a daily applying of the good news to improve in actions that are obedient and pleasing to God based on a real relationship.

The servant increases in faith with each action of trust, and builds up true persistence of their pursuit of God. This pursuit of God leads the servant to consistency in both finding and knowing God directly.

The servant then becomes a servant-priest. As spiritual maturity develops, the servant-priest increases in knowledge & responsibility. The servant-priest actively respects their physical body as home to the Holy Spirit.

He intercedes for the sins of self as well as others through the power of Jesus Christ.

In God's kingdom, the servant priest should mature into a servant-king subject only to the leading of the Father, Holy Spirit, and Jesus Christ. This includes biblical five-fold offices of authority when truly sent by God to instruct as the Bible clearly defines.

The true development of a Christian requires belief in action and a never quit attitude for true success.

The Bible says that pleasing God is impossible without believing that God exists and rewards those who search out for Him on purpose.

So who should you become? ... not just a person that simply believes and searches out for God, but a person who knows and trusts God from personal experience. That's who you will become,... if you choose to.

“What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can man give in exchange for his soul?”

Matthew 16:26

Chapter 3: Who should I spend my time with?

The social company that a person keeps definitely has an impact on the life of any person whether they believe in the good news or not.

A person who isolates themselves and spends little or no time interacting with others can weaken their ability to help others. A person who spends all of their time interacting with others can define their entire self worth and life on the opinion of others, and could possibly lose that worth when that interactivity is lost due to life conditions that force them to be alone. What does God say about all of this? God wants to spend quality time with us privately and regularly.

God wants His value of our lives to be the defining self-worth in our spirit, mind, emotion, will and body.

God wants us to build our relationship with God through our time alone with God, and our time interacting with other humans in God's presence. We never leave the observing presence of God in being His creation. It is important to choose carefully where we spend our time, and with whom we spend our time when being observed by God throughout our mortal life.

God wants us to build discipleship and mentoring relationships with fellow believers who are spiritually mature according to the standards of Scripture. God will also use us in time to become teachers and mentors for other disciples as we mature ourselves.

God wants us to share our beliefs and experiences with non-believers, but to be cautious about the amount of time we spend with non-believers as well as the amount of influence that non-believers have over our choices and decisions.

Spending time with our personal family is important, but the distinctions required for the amount of influence and time that is shared together are also based on the status of each member's spiritual maturity as believers, and / or lack of spiritual maturity as non-believers.

In some extreme cases, a period of limited contact or temporary separation from contact may be necessary to protect, maintain, or even rebuild personal faith so that we can interact with the same people more effectively later on.

As parents, God definitely wants us to spend time with our children. This is desired so that we can make our best efforts to model the spiritual relationship of love that God wants to have with our children through our own earthly relationship with our children.

This includes forgiveness, encouragement, hope, discipline, acceptance and restoration throughout life while respecting the child's free will to make personal choices.... both good and bad.

This modeling also strengthens the parent's relationship with God in discovering both the wonders of God's longsuffering hope for us, and the dangers of excessive rejection of that hope through the patience and discipline we share and practice with our own children.

Here are some of the things that a person can look for when they are searching to find spiritually mature friendships, family members, mentors, and partners.

Patience, Accountability, Honesty, Compassion, Consistency, Respect, Determination, Forgiveness, Discipline, Discretion, Conviction, Humility, Responsibility, and Love

Chapter 4: What promises from God do I have?

The Bible contains a huge amount of promises that God desires, enjoys, and prepares for every Christian, everywhere, and everyday.

It would be impossible to even attempt covering most of them..., mainly because we continue to discover new promises as time goes on. This list will give a new Christian a “healthy bite” in tasting a few of the basic promises of God.

It is my prayer that believers everywhere get hungry enough to feed on as many of God's promises as possible while on the earth in the now,... in this life.

Eternal Security: Once you get connected (for REAL), nothing can separate you from the love of Jesus, not even doubts brought to your mind by your past, present, or future. You must choose to k e e p y o u r s e c u r i t y y o u r s e l f .

Divine Obedience: Loving Jesus makes obedience to God *in us*, but obedience to God does *not* make love for God *from us*. God grows our obedience to Him as we grow in choosing to love Him. He never disconnects His love from us.

We need to choose to love Him as an act of our will. Obedience is a growing change of how we think & feel, but the will must love God first so the thoughts & emotions can follow it. Only love produces obedience that has godly value.

Healing and Divine Health:

The stripes, cuts or wounds of the persecution of Jesus before His death and resurrection give us a spiritual healing. The prayers of elders in your neighborhood of believers can provide access to God's physical healing from sicknesses. These prayers work with whatever medical support God decides to use to heal. The Bible has a prayer about believers enjoying good health, as their mind, will and emotions agree with God's will. God answers those who receive this prayer in life to the full. Ultimately, God decides the full amount of time that we live before judgment, not us.

(It doesn't mean that we deny the presence of sickness as if we never experience being sick, but that we consistently heal, and overcome sickness by lining up our speech, thoughts and actions to agree with God's will until God calls us away. That's divine health.)

Sanctification: Jesus prayed for the Father to set apart every true believer in the Bible (Words of God), and His good news of life exchange. The Heavenly Father answers His prayer through the beauty of His transformation of our personal life in serving and knowing Him in our will, thinking, emotions and relationships with others.

Need Supplication: Jesus said that when we put God first, everything else that we need would be met for us by God. This gives us the bonus of freedom from feelings of being forced to worry about provision and time beyond the current day. (It doesn't mean we should not plan beyond the current day, God is a planner..., and we should follow His example to plan ahead.)

Access to Communicate directly with God: Jesus gave us His access to get calls inside the throne of heaven itself through prayer in His name (like a "throne cell phone") to speak directly to the Father. He gave us the seal of the Holy Spirit to comfort, teach, and communicate "text" from Jesus in responding to us. He gave us the 100% Holy Spirit inspired Scriptures (the Bible) for our training in talking with, knowing of and serving God Himself on His terms.

Life Direction: God promises to order our steps and to guide our steps in life as we give Him credit and recognize Him in every life situation.

Power of Forgiveness: Through the sacrifice of Jesus, God gives us access to the ability to forgive best friends and worst enemies equally. When we choose forgive others, God also forgives the things we forgive. We forgive through Him first, because He led in forgiving each of us first.

Divine Renewal: The Bible says that everyone found in Christ is a new creature. Old creation things have passed away or died, and all creation things become new. We are the new creation. Choosing instruction from Christ results in renewing the spirit of the mind in a “God-way”. Jesus says to one that gets and keeps renewal, God will give more to and increase.

Stewardship Prosperity: The Bible says that spiritual seed planting makes a spiritual harvest of fruit in the same way that planted natural seeds make a physical harvest of fruit.

The true investment into Jesus' life teaching makes favor allowing God to use our life as a

blessing filter. This harvest of God's favor in all things (including economics) comes from the investment of planting and watering seeds for spiritual prosperity first.

(This doesn't mean pretend to worship God to get rich. It means to put yourself in a position of REAL trust with God so He can effectively use you to abundantly bless others, while meeting your own needs Himself.)

God's promises are life-changing gifts to us from Him. In order to use a gift that we receive from others, we have to accept it, open it, take it out and then actually use it. In the same way, spiritual promises (the gifts of God) must be accepted, opened, taken out and used by our will to love & build relationship with Him.

The instructions that God gives us to accept our promises must also be followed for us to gain ownership and use of both the promises & their benefits. If you don't take the package, open it, or take the gift out of the package... then it can never be used. It doesn't mean that God didn't wrap it up for you. It's waiting on you, just like God.

Chapter 5: Who can I trust my pain and truth with?

Personal pain and truth are very much like prized possessions. You can't share them with everyone. God is always reliable, and a source of discretion for both personal pain and private truth. The question remains,... "Who can I trust other than God with such prized possessions?" No person can honestly answer this question in a direct and concrete sense.

Hopefully, this section of the book will give helpful guidelines in making good judgments of the character of people in your social circle of life. Trust is defined as the ability to believe in the honesty and reliability of another person.

It is very wise to exercise caution when sharing personal confessions of pain or sinful actions with anyone other than God. The Lord values our confessions and honesty greatly; just as we value jewelry. The Bible says not to place your pearls in front of pigs, because they will stomp on them and turn to attack you. This symbolic statement suggests that our pearls of confession and truth can be abused by people with the wrong motives and then used against our favor to cause us harm.

This is not to suggest that God never intends for us to share our faults or feelings with others. The first key guideline in finding the right people is in researching a person's background history of discretion.

If the person carries a reputation of sharing private information regularly, it is unwise to share with this person. God leads us in modeling discretion by forgiving sin and casting its memory and spiritual sentence as far as the east is from the west. A trustworthy person should share this discretion.

God shares information with us according to His Will as needed. Once we find a person who models godly discretion, we must also determine if it is God's Will for us to share our information with that person during that time.

Personal information that is shared prematurely can create confusion and distort the maximum level of trust possible between the person sharing and the person receiving the information.

The second key guideline in finding the right person is in seeking God's Will for proper timing in sharing with the discreet person. In addition to timing, it is also quite important to determine the motives behind a (**YOUR**) personal decision to share, as well as the motives behind the person receiving the shared information.

We can share information with discreet individuals during a time that appears to be in line with God's Will, and still have that information used against us; especially, if the person chosen to receive the information has false motives.

Judas Iscariot was a treasurer for the disciples following Jesus. His discretion was known among fellow disciples, and the timing of information shared with him was appropriate with God's Will.

The false motive in receiving "discreet info" about the location of Jesus on the night of His capture proved Judas was in betrayal of his discretionary trust. For these reasons, caution is a necessity, rather than an option. Beware of individuals who are aggressive and excited to hear details about your personal faults, weaknesses, and emotions. Some of these people can be pushing to make assessments to attempt to plan your demise without your knowledge.

It may take some time, but your conscience will be a growing tool to help you to make the final decision on who you will select to trust with your pain and truth. The voice that appears logical is not necessarily the correct voice.

Follow the guidelines, listen to your conscience, and expect at least one person to betray you. The servant is not greater than the master, and Judas did betray Jesus.

Remember to forgive, just as Christ forgave us. A pastor should be practicing the godly principle of discretion and should acknowledge this principle openly when asked. If you feel that you can trust no one else, private prayer with Jesus is always the right choice.

Chapter 6: What things should I expect to happen in my future?

When God's people face destruction, they do so because they lack knowledge. The Bible says this clearly. Jesus came so that we might have life & have it to the full... abundant life. As we move through the transformation process that God gives us in salvation, there are many *unpleasant challenges* we should expect to face as we mature. These challenges are 100% "normal" for all Christians.

Expect them, and know that although unpleasant, these maturing challenges work toward our ultimate personal benefit.

The Bible says that *all things work to benefit those who love God*.

In Scripture, we find that many challenges come as we grow in our abundance of life in relationship with God.

Three major challenges are falling away, dealing with worries of life & wealth, and exposing the real & hidden desires that resist the will of God inside of our hearts & require real change.

We can expect to get offended & fall.

One of the first lessons that God teaches us, is that the people in *the world will persecute Christians* for the sake of *their belief in Jesus & the Word of God.*

Initially, we may *fall away* because we assume that this persecution occurs as though we are being treated unfairly, taking a personal offense as though the persecution is a personal attack.

This is a truly normal reaction. God teaches us over time that He has determined to *mature us* in our experiences to understand that this *persecution comes from service to Christ, not from the hatred of another person.* This process also confirms our personal assurance of exchange. It teaches us to forgive each other as well as people who remain deceived. It doesn't teach us overnight. *It takes time.*

Why should we expect to deal with *worldly worries?* The world outside of believers is designed to reject the order, instruction, and training of the Christian life of service and maturity. The world is deceptive and challenging, constantly making efforts to cause believers (YOU) to question their (YOUR) faith in having made the right decision.

A choice is made to trust and serve, the Father, the Holy Spirit, and the Son, Jesus Christ. As we remain in this world, we must gradually mature in the knowledge of God's kingdom.

We will be tried by the world (**that doesn't believe**) to battle against selfishness, greed, and every other concern of worry in life that contradicts or resists the wise instruction of God Himself.

Our own desires to pursue God against our self-seeking concerns and the *battle* between them both are talked about in the Bible as the war between the (exchanged) reborn spirit and the law of the flesh.

This battle is also normal in our development as a maturing Christian believer.

The Bible says that we should choose to be transformed so that we can complete the acceptable, good, and mature will of God in our personal life. This transformation is gradual as we improve in moving away from our selfish worries & cares of this world, while getting closer and closer to maturity in God's complete transformation of us.

This is a life process of practicing the truth of God's Word in our life to resist sin by changing our open desires without quitting in efforts, even when our efforts expose a few failures.

The process is practicing truth with a “grow or die trying” attitude. *This really doesn’t happen overnight.*

Our third and final challenge is in sharing with God our *hidden desires against God's will* for our lives.

These are our *private desires*. They are desires that are *not shared with others* and yet *still exist within us*.

They are desires that we *struggle with identifying in ourselves*, and taking ownership for. These are desires that show us in a *most private and intimate way, how deep the curse of sin really is inside us*. It also shows *the supreme “head-crushing” power of God to deliver us and change our hearts*. We live life practicing to build up our *trust in relationship with God* and face the challenge of hidden desires with Him. It gives us a *lasting maturity that is His, and is REAL*. The amount of hidden desires can vary based on our *own personal history, family history, and past life experience*.

One thing most Christians share in common is the process of discovery.

Hidden ungodly desires are discovered throughout life as time passes... so mastering the exposure of those desires to God only happens patiently through day by day effort, *through success and failure..., enduring to the last breath.*

This definitely does not happen overnight. The Bible says that we should examine ourselves, & work out or exercise our own salvation (exchange) in pursuit of God's holiness.

This doesn't mean that we keep getting re-saved over & over again every time we repent & turn from evil. It simply means that building a lasting relationship with God works just like any good relationship. It's not *instantly* mature.

It takes personal honesty, work, time, & effort.

We must learn to be honest with ourselves first, so that when we approach God we can be honest with Him, and *through His relationship with us*, be lovingly honest with others. We need to "kick it" with God daily.

We CAN know what to expect in our future. Growing in the love of Jesus is a real medicine that cures the real sickness of deception. The serpent used deception to make bad fruit look really good.

Deception tries to convince us that our life challenges happen for reasons that appear true but are *truly false* answers. They discourage us and choke at our faith in what God is already doing for us.

Knowing this gives us power to resist doubt and stand firm in making connections to God's schedule now.

We can own a greater trust in God when we understand what to expect. We can take comfort in seeing these challenges and God moving us through them in His glorious and ultimately complete *transformation* of our lives. We can know the good purpose of God in all of life, even when it's *painful*,... and looks endless on the surface.

Chapter 7: How do I talk to God?

There are four basic ways that true believers in Christ can talk to God. These ways are found in personal prayer, intercessory prayer, community prayer, and topical study of the Scriptures.

We will look at each of these ways and how they can effectively communicate our concerns, thoughts, and expressions to the Lord.

A key principle to understand in the need for honesty in this communication is found in the omnipotent sight and knowledge of God's observation of our lives.

We must understand that in prayer, He is aware of all of our motives, actions, and desires.

The first basic way to talk to God is known as personal prayer. Truly, personal prayer can be as simple as complimenting God, or even venting frustrations to God.

God sees us as adopted & “beloved” sons and daughters of His kingdom when we accept Christ. His rebirthing of our spirit gives us an adopted access of inheritance. This uniquely allows believers to speak with God candidly.

This kind of communication is described best by the example of a military officer & father of a subordinate soldier who is also the adopted son or daughter of the officer.

When on duty, the protocol required and expected of rank in communication and the chain of command is necessary.

Yet while at home or off duty, a personal non-duty based type of communication usually occurs. God offers both forms of communication to us through the sacrifice and resurrection of Christ. The on duty protocol of personal prayer can become very detailed and self-exposing to God.

Praise, repentance, godly confidence, and requests for personal change that conform a person's life to the will of God describe the individual daily "protocol" of personal desire to trust and grow in pursuing His kingdom.

Off duty protocol should still give the same respect to the position of Sovereignty that God has over all things in all of existence because God created it all from the very beginning.

It also represents the manner of "personal V.I.P." communication with God based on His position and our position or serving "rank" in His Kingdom.

The second basic way to talk to God is known as intercessory prayer, where we bring the requests of others to God as ambassadors of Christ on their behalf. Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer as a model for the method of seeking God's favor in making requests for other people including both believers and non-believers.

It does not mean that all interceding prayers should be identical in exact wording to the Lord's Prayer itself, but the content should mirror both the topics and order of the prayer's structural design when interceding.

Lord's Prayer Content

1. Acknowledge the authority of God.
2. Request His will and dominion of both heaven and earth.
3. Request His supplying of the needs of believers, and non-believers. (It's okay to include yourself. **Don't exclude others when you do, and put their needs first.**)
4. Request forgiveness for non-believers & believers, that believers will continue to remain forgiving of all.

Include those who reject the offer of forgiveness when they choose to change & receive it.

5. Request His deliverance from the evil that can be born from the failure to resist temptation. Pray for His strength to resist temptations as they come.
6. Express thankfulness for His authority and faithfulness to all.
7. Acknowledge the authority of God

The third basic way of talking to God is known as community prayer. This is a form of prayer where two or more believers make a request of God. The Bible says that if two or three people gather together in the name of God and make request of the will of God, then the presence of God is with them.

Community prayer usually involves each person placing the needs of the other as well as the group as a whole above the individual person praying. This method of prayer follows the same basic order of personal prayer in praise, repentance, godly confidence, and requests.

Community prayer is commonly used for meals, meetings, new tasks, group challenges, and dedications.

Community prayer is not limited to these topics. The only two pieces truly needed for community prayer are the desire to request the will of God to happen in heaven and earth, & the presence of more than one person willing to speak together to God sharing the same desires.

The fourth way of talking to God is through topical study of the Scriptures in the Bible itself. This process begins with submission to the Holy Spirit's teaching-guidance & gaining a basic working knowledge of the organization of the Bible in books, chapters, and verses.

It continues with gaining additional knowledge through the use of the tool of a bible concordance, which lays an A to Z blueprint of every word written in the Bible by alphabetical order.

This tool will aid new "students" of the Bible in finding familiar scriptures, based on word memory and connected phrases that point to the actual location of the verse itself. (ie. book, chapter, verse)

As this basic education is mastered, it is important to ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and understanding of the Scriptures prior to each study.

This will maximize the ability to search out answers directly from God on virtually any subject chosen using the Bible as a key tool, and the Holy Spirit as a key guide.

Time, culture and context are key to clear understanding of the meaning of words in the Bible.

Chapter 8: How does God talk to me?

There are three basic ways that God talks or communicates to us:

Scripture

A literary manifestation of the mind and will of God

The sacred writings of Christian faith
The message of the gospel of Christ

The study of the teaching found inside the Bible gives us a parental and instructional view of God's desires. The Holy Spirit assists all believers **who ask** in finding the insight and advice that God wishes to share with believers through this book, as it is read by those who are searching.

This is one method in which God speaks to believers, when the desire and request is made.

Time and culture contexts are key in discovering both the Biblical recording of history, and the Biblical recording of God's instructions for us.

Preaching

An address of a religious or spiritual nature (usually delivered during a church service) speaking or pleading in favor of God, A moralistic rebuke

The proclamation of God's teaching is shared verbally by believers with other believers and non-believers alike to strengthen and encourage people through speech.

This is usually defined by the Holy Spirit using willing Christians to share God's messages through the voice of the believing speaker, transmitting corporate and personal messages from God to believers. This can be done in an individual, group, or community setting. It is another method in which God speaks to believers.

True proclamation is established corporately in a biblical Spirit led five-fold office structure of godly authority. Jesus must be the King of this list.

Conscience

Motivation deriving logically from ethical or moral principles that govern a person's thoughts and actions

Conscience

Conformity to one's own sense of right conduct
A spiritual awareness of moral responsibility and privilege

The conscience is known to most as the moral center of the human mind and the reasoning power that helps us decide when making choices about our actions.

The Bible says that the non-believing conscience is seared to reject repentance and endurance in consistently making efforts to resist evil choices through a relationship with God. The salvation of Christ repairs this damage of the conscience so that the Holy Spirit may guide the reasoning power of the mind to pursue righteousness which simply means proper position.

This pursuit of righteousness is fueled by a consistent, never give up attitude. The Holy Spirit brings a reminder of guidance to our conscience when we stop to think about the morality of choices before making them. The conscience is the third tool or method that God uses to communicate with us.

Chapter 9: What does God expect from me?

God loves us through the entire process of life. God transforms us, and He gives us promises. So what is our true role? What does God expect from us? These are some of the common myths (**myths: a nicer word for... can we say: flat out lies!**):

God expects us to what? Get Everything Done Right...?

God expects us to what? Bully Others Into Serving Him...?

God expects us to what? Be Happy All The Time...?

God expects us to what? Never Feel Angry Anymore...?

God doesn't expect us to get everything right. He does expect us to take every care that we have to Him, as much as we can.

Our dependency on His power gives real power to practice His teachings and develop change in our personal lives. We take our mistakes and struggles to God through prayer.

God wants us to do our very best and refuse to quit. He knows that we're not perfect. He knows that we can mature through His power, His help, and our efforts to trust and follow Jesus. God wants to teach us to change our motives as well as our actions.

God doesn't expect us to bully people into deciding to serve and obey His instructions or even to accept His salvation through the gospel of Christ. He does expect us to display with others the same self-less compassion, power and right timing that Christ did.

The ability to love those who reject Christ is a love based on the attitude of Jesus Christ himself when rejected on the cross. It is the quality of helping those that we know or suspect to have intentions to cause harm against us while respecting their God given ability of will to make their own choices.

This expresses our reception of God's forgiveness at the highest level, and it is this example that best identifies each person's real and internal desire to receive Christ as their personal Savior.

We must remember that we willingly chose Christ, so others must willingly choose as well.

God doesn't expect us to be happy all the time. He does expect us to be respectfully honest with Him about how we feel. In every account of the leaders considered close to God in the Bible, each person (**in respect**) expressed their frustration, anger, & confusion in prayer with God during challenging times in life where their experiences appeared to be unfair and overwhelming.

The ability to trust God enough to reach a point of real contentment requires honesty from us about our practical struggles with the journey of maturing. This process teaches us how to grow into a person that lives content in the fullness of God's provision to meet the emotional needs of our lives.

Eventually, we can grow into a place where our relationship with God keeps us happy all the time. This also takes time,... for most of us..., a lifetime.

God doesn't expect us to bury feelings of anger. He does expect us to seek His guidance on how to handle and control our anger in a way that does not produce sinful results. The Bible teaches us to learn to be angry, & avoid sin in anger.

We must resist the “reflex-sin” that we may choose due to the anger that we may feel.

This is a skill that must be practiced, and requires God’s assistance in our lives. We can never develop a level of control and resistance to vengeful responses when angry, without God’s divine support and renewal in life.

Jesus experienced anger as He was persecuted, beaten, spit upon, and crucified to the point of death on the cross, without committing any crime justifying such punishment.

While angry, Jesus resisted the temptation of taking vengeance on those who inflicted His persecution due to the empowering He willingly restrained in His relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

His life will teach us to accomplish this same kind of victory for God’s purposes over time as we face daily persecutions from anyone who may choose to fuel our anger, and provoke an unforgiving response.

Chapter 10: Who are my enemies now?

The Law of Moses according to Leviticus

"If anyone injures his neighbor, whatever he has done must be done to him: fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. As he has injured the other, so he is to be injured." Lev 24:19-20

The Teaching of Jesus according to the gospel of Matthew

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, tooth for tooth' But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well." Matt 5:38-40

Hebrew law very clearly allows for a person to take vengeance on individuals who did evil against them. Such vengeance in most cases was equivalent to the initial crime committed against the person. Jesus taught in opposition to taking equal action against the person who committed the initial fault.

In fact, Jesus teaches us to remain kind and considerate to those who cause acts of evil against us.

Prior to this teaching, Jesus clearly explains that His teachings are not meant to destroy the Hebrew laws that exist, but to fulfill them instead. It is a fair assumption to state that Christ does not expect for those who reject His teachings to follow them.

This means that the Hebrew law still applies to those who do not believe in His identity, teachings, or ministry to others.

It is very important to understand that the identity of an enemy remains the same for non-believers. People remain to see each other as enemies in the non-believing world. This includes their ability to view believers in Christ especially as enemies of their own secular beliefs.

Due to the extensive history of cultural influence that Hebrew law has projected over the past few centuries, it is personally challenging to change the perspective of “don’t get mad... get even!” to “don’t get mad, give forgiveness!” This is (however) exactly what Christ teaches us to do.

Since human people are no longer our enemies as believers and students of Jesus Christ, we need to redefine who our true enemies are.

It is difficult to view lies, principles, ideas, and conflicts themselves as the enemy, rather than the people who choose to project them at others.

Jesus faced this challenge head on Himself when He was openly persecuted and crucified by the projection of hatred from His fellow Hebrew people.

Jesus could have easily resisted the carriers of hatred rather than the source of hatred. The ungodly pride which in essence is projected by the carriers became the true focus of Christ as the real enemy. In the same way, we must learn by observing the example that Jesus set when facing the challenge of dealing with enemy “carriers” who in most cases are deceived.

In time, we will grow to master this observation and technique in sharing the very forgiveness that Christ gave to us without conditions, so the offering of forgiveness is open to all. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. This does not however allow the rejection of mercy to be rewarded as obedience. The rejection of mercy remains to be judged as an active sin, unless mercy is chosen to be personally received.

It is spiritually dangerous to be unwilling to forgive those who choose mercy and treat such as enemies.

The Bible clearly teaches that all divine forgiveness received must also be divine forgiveness shared.

God will only display refusal of forgiveness with us when we refuse to forgive others (including our enemies). It is the power of the sacrifice of the resurrected Jesus Christ that enables us to forgive all who receive. Jesus clearly said if people reject you... they also reject Him. We cannot forgive in our own power alone. We love, because Love loved us first, and of course... God is Love.

Christopher Daniel Williams
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About the author:



Christopher Daniel Williams is the author of several Valedutainment manuscripts designed using education and entertainment to communicate truth of Biblical values in a unique and effective literary format. He is a native of Indiana and the founder of Valedutainment Publications.

You can look for additional manuscript titles from Valedutainment & Christopher D. Williams in the near future.

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