

Down deep you already want to.

Every believer, in his spirit, wants to be a fruitful Veteran Christian.

I know you want to glorify Jesus with your life; it's a part of your new nature.

But it's never going to begin until you decide who you want to live for.

Maybe you have just never made up your mind; maybe you are still on the fence, never having decided once and for all who you are going to live for.

You have lived for your flesh all these years. How's that working for you?

You have trusted in Jesus' death, burial and resurrection...the complete payment for your sin and now you have eternal life.

Are you going to just keep living to satisfy your flesh?

There is a life that is far better!

You didn't have a choice before, but now you can choose to live your life for Him.

What'll it be?

Veteran Christians Part II

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Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

We are gathered here in the house of God today in the name of Jesus that, through the leadership of the Holy Spirit Who dwells in us, we might worship our heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are the children of the living God. We have been saved by the blood of the Lamb. We are of those whom God has redeemed out of this sin cursed world and we know in Whom we have believed.

1 John 5:13 [These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life...](#)

If someone were to ask you, (and if they haven't someone likely will); "How do you know Jesus saved you?"

There is but one accurate answer to this question; what do you think it is?

"I now have peace in my life." Other people claim to have peace who don't claim to know Jesus.

“OK, well, He changed my life.” Other people have had major life changes without claiming to know Jesus.

Some might say, “I prayed and asked Him to”.

Let me help you out: Somebody ask me, “Pastor, how do you know Jesus saved you?” Go ahead...

(wait)

Because He said He would if I would trust Him to do it.

Ok, now ask me, “Pastor, how do you know if He did it?”

(wait)

Because He said He would if I would trust Him to do it.

But Pastor, what makes you so sure?

Because He said He would if I would trust Him to do it!

Ultimately, your salvation and the certainty of your salvation depends entirely upon **God’s promise**.

Hebrews 10:21-23

21 And *having* an high priest over the house of God;

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world*.

3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

2. Every real believer will keep His Commandments.

3. These are not “The 10 Commandments”: they are the New Testament commands of Jesus.

4. Matthew 28:19-20

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things **whatsoever I have commanded you**: and, lo, I am with you *always*, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

5. In two weeks in Part III, Lord willing, we will explore these very specific commandments.

Conclusion:

I can show you how to keep Christ’s New Testament commandments.

any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

10 And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

3. Galatians 5:16-17

16 *This* I say then, **Walk** in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

C. The path of joy and fellowship is a road every believer can travel.

1. 1 John 2:1-5

1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (**for he *is* faithful that promised;**)

I know Jesus saved me because He said He would and He is faithful that promised!

It's not because we now have peace; there will be times your peace will disappear.

It's not because you've been changed; there will be times you will revert back to your old self.

It's certainly not because you prayed a prayer; Jesus never promised to save you if you prayed.

But He did promise to save you if you would place your trust in Him to do it...over and over again!

It is a fact that a saved person can and will do pretty much any stupid sinful thing a lost man can do.

David committed adultery.

Moses committed murder.

Peter denied the Lord three times.

Lot spent the last half of his life wallowing in Sodom and then fathered two evil nations with his own daughters.

Noah got drunk.

Their salvation, like yours, did not depend on their actions.

If you are glad your salvation depends on Jesus and not on you, say “Amen!”

When you trusted Jesus to save you, He brought your spirit to new life; eternal life.

Jesus did not save your flesh; He did not change your flesh; He did not improve your flesh...at all!

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; **the flesh profiteth nothing**: the words that I speak unto you, *they are spirit, and they are life.*

What Jesus did give you that to some degree affects your flesh is a new desire to live for Him instead of simply living to satisfy your flesh.

Everyone who has trusted Jesus to save them has this new desire in their heart.

If you would become a Veteran Christian; one of those steady, stable, dependable believers who is always there with joy and praise for Jesus; here are some steps you must take.

First:

I. You need to decide who you want to live for.

(You have two choices.)

A. You can live your life for your flesh.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and **walk** in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

7 But if we **walk** in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

2. Romans 8:1-14

1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who **walk** not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who **walk** not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if

His problem wasn't the flood waters, **his problem was refusing the solution!**

6. **Jesus has provided the solution**; sin is not the problem!

Third:

III. The issue before you is your walk.

A. *Salvation vs. Fellowship.*

1. Salvation determines your spiritual destination once and for all...forever.
2. Fellowship is about the path you **walk** to get there.
3. If you are saved, you'll get there all right; Jesus has promised it.
4. You can walk with God in the Spirit and your path will be filled with joy, light and blessing.
5. Or you can walk your path living to please your flesh and your life will be filled with darkness, pain and the consequences of your sin.

B. *The Scriptures are clear.*

1. **1 John 1:6-7**

1. You have lived thus far trying to give the flesh what it wants.

2. You have tried to find satisfaction, the fulfillment of many desires.

3. You want a satisfying relationship.

4. Lots of delicious food, a comfortable house, a fast car, a cool truck, recreation, recognition; love, financial security...

5. The flesh is still not satisfied. It wants to feel good; it wants drugs, alcohol, sex...more and more...then more and different...it never stops.

6. Not everything the flesh wants is evil or bad; but it still wants what it wants and our mind and spirit are still its slaves.

Or...

B. You can change your mind (repent) and decide to live your life for Jesus.

1. **Romans 12:1-2**

1. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*
2. And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

2. It is said that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step; this is that first step.
3. Unlike most religious institutions whose goal may be to help you do a better job of living your life for yourself...
4. Our job is to help you live your life for Jesus; there is a vast difference between the two.
5. Sadly, this is another reason that many get saved here and then move on to find a more appealing message somewhere else.

Second:

II. You need to understand your problem.

A. Opinions vary greatly on what is the problem.

1. You may think your problem is your sin.
2. Sin is not your problem.

B. Oh, sin is a problem all right, but Jesus has already solved this problem for us.

1. Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.
2. If Christ has paid for our sins...all our sins; then how are they any longer a problem?

3. Concerning our sins of the flesh Jesus promised:

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

4. I repeat, how is sin still any longer the problem?
5. It's like the guy who drowned in the flood trusting Jesus to save him.

The waters were rising and he is up on his roof.

A rescue boat comes by and he says, "No, go on, Jesus will save me."

Another boat comes by and he says again, "No, go on, Jesus will save me."

Finally, he is sitting on the top of his chimney when a helicopter then hovers overhead...again, "No, go on, Jesus will save me."

The waters continue to rise, he drowns and goes straight to heaven.

He asks Jesus, "Lord, why didn't you save me?"

You know the answer, the Lord said, "I sent you two boats and a helicopter!"