

The background of the entire page is a detailed architectural floor plan of a building. The plan is rendered in a light blue/teal color. It shows a complex layout of rooms, corridors, and service areas. Labels on the plan include 'ELECTRICAL 5006A 8A2', 'CSL/GS 5001 15A1,2', 'CSL/GS 5002 15A1,2', 'HALL 5004 15A2', 'LSL/GS 5009 15A2', 'CSL/GS 5008 15A2', 'LOBBY 5007 15A2', 'SMILE SHED 5010 2A+', 'STAIR 2', 'COMM 2A 5011 15A4', 'COMM 5014 19L1', 'HALL 5016 15A2', 'CSL/GS 5024 15A2', 'CSL/GS 5029 15A1,2', 'HALL 5025 15A2', 'CSL/GS 5023 15A2', 'HALL 5026 15A2', 'CSL/GS 5028 15A1,2', 'CSL/GS 5027 15A2', 'CSL/GS 5022 15A2', 'OPEN TO LOUNGE', and 'SPA'. There are also various room numbers and codes like '1B1', '1B2', '1B3', '1B4', '1B5', '1B6', '1B7', '1B8', '1B9', '1B10', '1B11', '1B12', '1B13', '1B14', '1B15', '1B16', '1B17', '1B18', '1B19', '1B20', '1B21', '1B22', '1B23', '1B24', '1B25', '1B26', '1B27', '1B28', '1B29', '1B30', '1B31', '1B32', '1B33', '1B34', '1B35', '1B36', '1B37', '1B38', '1B39', '1B40', '1B41', '1B42', '1B43', '1B44', '1B45', '1B46', '1B47', '1B48', '1B49', '1B50', '1B51', '1B52', '1B53', '1B54', '1B55', '1B56', '1B57', '1B58', '1B59', '1B60', '1B61', '1B62', '1B63', '1B64', '1B65', '1B66', '1B67', '1B68', '1B69', '1B70', '1B71', '1B72', '1B73', '1B74', '1B75', '1B76', '1B77', '1B78', '1B79', '1B80', '1B81', '1B82', '1B83', '1B84', '1B85', '1B86', '1B87', '1B88', '1B89', '1B90', '1B91', '1B92', '1B93', '1B94', '1B95', '1B96', '1B97', '1B98', '1B99', '1B100'.

basics of life

help for your spiritual journey

Basics of Life Ministries
By Tom Kaastra

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This booklet is dedicated to the Immanuel Church Family - sisters and brothers who loved,
supported and encouraged me for 38 years.



introduction

From birth to death life involves challenges. Some are minor, requiring little thought and effort to overcome. Others seem insurmountable! Like a tsunami they quickly sweep over us, paralyzing our minds and depleting our energy.

We choose some challenges

like education and marriage, purposely engaging our wills and energetically harnessing our resources. And, with patient determination we succeed. Other tests... Like illness and unemployment... We don't choose. They intrude without permission. Catching us off-guard, these unexpected encounters drain our energy and confidence, often producing feelings of helplessness.

Because life challenges are unavoidable, it's wise to ask:

“How can I courageously confront
and effectively master them?”

Fortunately, the answer is easy to discover, understand and implement.

Consider a **positive** challenge like education. To write a pupil must first memorize 26 letters. With these essentials she can form words, sentences and paragraphs. Similarly, mathematics start with 10 numbers. With these fundamentals the student can perform addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Educational success begins with the mastery of basics!

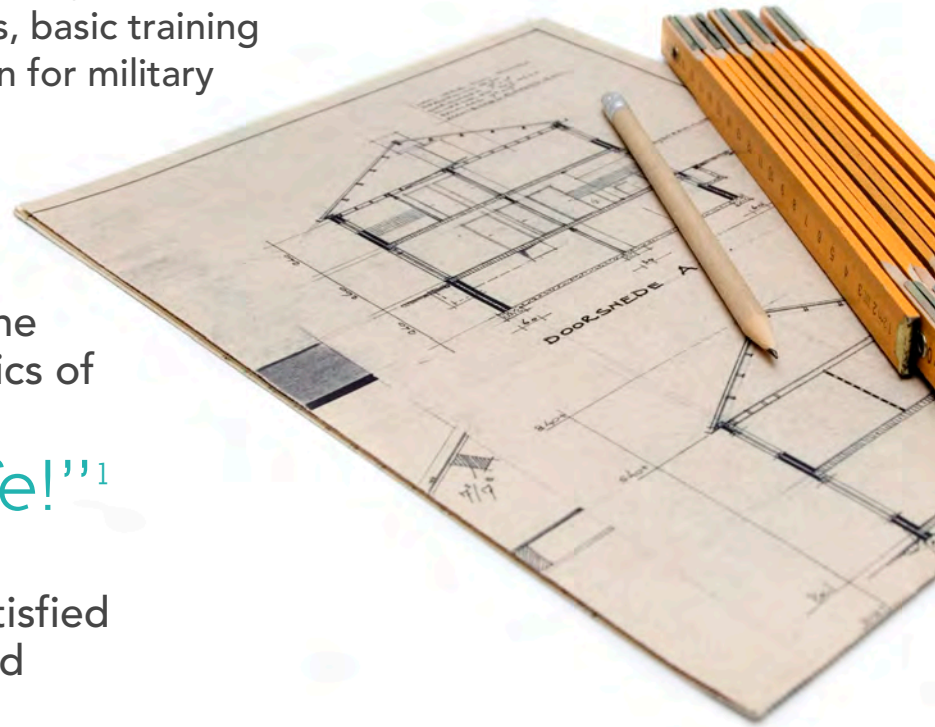
Consider a **negative** challenge like war. An enlistee begins his term of duty not on the battlefield but at Boot Camp. The beloved drill sergeant imparts fundamentals of combat through significant degrees of physical and mental stress. Though often despised by trainees, basic training forms the foundation for military success!

So, it's just common sense! To experience fulfillment in the adventures of living one must learn and practice the Basics of Life! About these Jesus claimed to be the inside scoop.

“I am the way of the truth about life!”¹

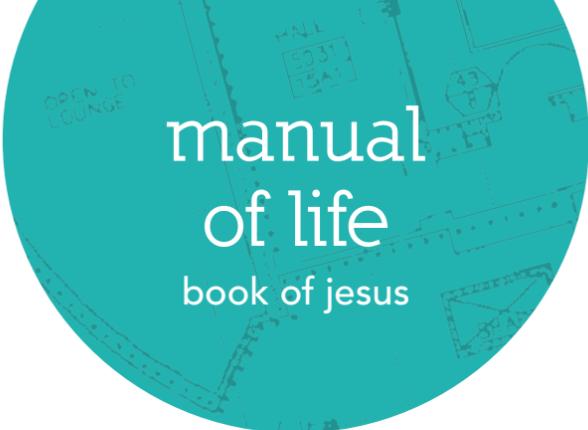
Furthermore, he promised satisfaction, fulfillment, and happiness to those who mastered such basics. “How satisfied you’ll be when you get your inside world ~ your mind and heart ~ right.”²

Our plan is to examine the fundamentals Jesus taught and demonstrated. You’re invited to explore our findings. All that’s required is an adventures hurt hungry for satisfaction in living. Are you up to the challenge?



1 John 14:5

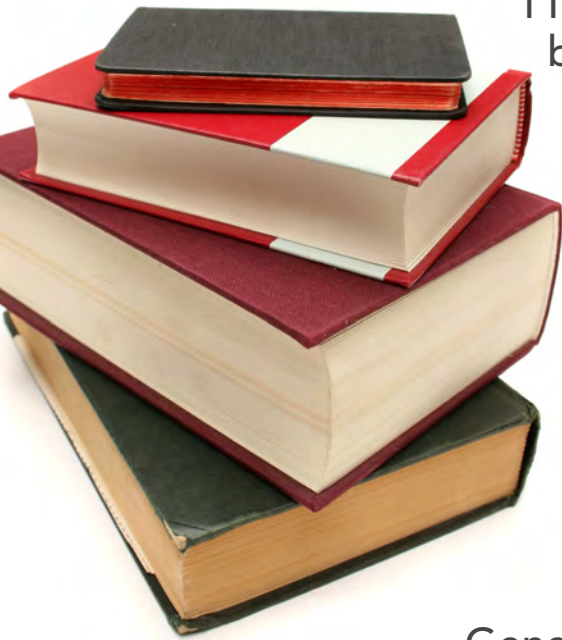
2 Matthew 5:8



manual
of life
book of jesus

You study the scriptures. These very Scriptures speak about me! Yet you will not come to me in order to have life.

John 5:38-39



I I'm holding a 2014 Chevrolet Cruze Owner's Manual. Have I read the whole booklet? Of course not! So, why does GM bother?

Customer satisfaction is essential for success in business.

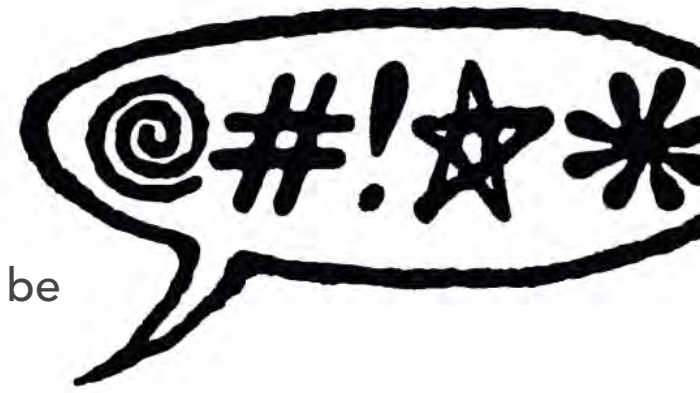
“Research has shown that dissatisfied customers are likely to tell ten other people of their unfortunate experience.”³

A User's Guide is one weapon in a company's arsenal to combat detrimental consumer dissatisfaction by supplying as much practical information as possible.

Genetic research has proven that every human being is absolutely unique. Yet, everyone is driven by the same basic desire: happiness, satisfaction, and fulfillment. This universal craving is the focus of the Bible. *“These are wise sayings written down so we'll know how to live well ... a manual for living to teach the inexperienced the ropes and give people a grasp on reality.”*⁴

The **manual for living**

features Jesus as the Model of Life. "You study the Scriptures. These very Scriptures speak about me! Yet you will not come to me in order to have life."⁵ "The Scriptures should be read with the aim of finding Jesus in them."⁶



Have you ever ignored a User's Guide?

You attempted to assemble, install or use a new product. Hours later your nervous network is overloaded. You've failed and the product appears to be damaged. Out of frustration you unleash a few expletives! Finally, in desperation you open the product manual.

A famous author wrote:

The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation.

Don't wait for desperation to dominate your life. Check out the User's Guide for Living, the Bible! Start with Genesis, the first section of the Manual. Nothing less than your complete satisfaction with life is at stake!

3 WPA opinion research

4 Proverbs 1:1-5

5 John 5:38-39

6 Commentary on the Gospel of John, John Calvin

maker
of life
father of jesus

Let us bow down in worship. Let us kneel
before our Maker.
Psalm 95:6

The Manual of Life begins by identifying The Manufacturer!

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”⁷

The Maker’s fingerprints are on everything! However, his crowning masterpiece is humankind. *“God created human beings godlike, reflecting His own nature.”*⁸ So, you are not the result of a cosmic crapshoot! Neither are you a mere ape-upgrade! *“People of God, is he not your Father, your Creator, who formed you?”*⁹

You are a child of the Creator Father!

The Corvette is the first American sports car. It originated in the mind of Harley Earl in 1951. Shortly thereafter his mental blueprint took shape in an actual-size clay model. To one of His kids the Maker said:



“Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you.”¹⁰



You were intricately and meticulously designed. “A fertilized egg is about the size of a pin head. Yet, it contains information equivalent to about six billion DNA “chemical letters”. This is enough information to fill 1000 books, 500 pages thick with print so small you would need a microscope to read it!”¹¹ “We are God’s masterpiece.”¹² YOU are nothing less than a work of art!

Comedian Billy Crystal coined the line: “Darling, you look absolutely marvelous!” In reflecting about his Father’s creativity David said this about himself: “You formed me in my mother’s womb. Body and soul, I am marvelously made!”¹³

The Maker designed you for fulfillment.
“You will feel the greatest pleasure when who God made you to be is fully developed and expressed!”¹⁴

7 Genesis 1:1

8 Genesis 1:27

9 Deuteronomy 32:6

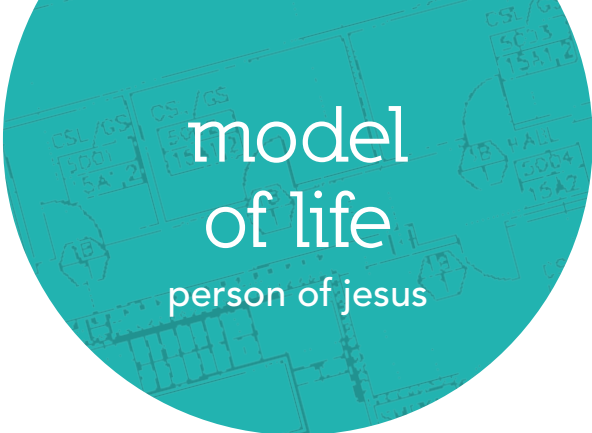
10 Jeremiah 1:5

11 The Origin of the Universe, p1

12 Ephesians 2:10

13 Psalms 139:14

14 About You! p 29



model of life

person of Jesus

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. [John 14:6](#)

“God formed man in his own likeness.”¹⁵

Obviously, we must know something about God if we are to know anything about ourselves!

Held every January in Detroit, Michigan, the North American International Auto Show is one of the world's premier public events, attracting nearly one million visitors. Though generating \$2 million at its glitzy charity ball, the primary purpose of the affair is to unveil new models.

Over two thousand years ago a model debut occurred that impacted the whole world. It was so momentous that it altered calendar dating from BC to AD. The event, of course, was the birth of Jesus. In a Bethlehem stable, a most unlikely venue for such an auspicious unveiling, the Maker of Life revealed His authentic design for human living ... **the Model of Life. He's the Creator's Prototype of Humanness! He's the Original Human Being! He's the Pattern of Humanity! So, you need not be “in the dark” about the Maker's purpose for your life! “To be mature is to be basic. Christ! No more, no less.”¹⁶ “It's through Jesus that we find out who we are.”¹⁷**

In Washington DC the Washington Monument sets due east of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. On a cloudless day the quiet waters of the pool reflect a perfect image of the monument. Jesus is like the Washington Monument. You, on the other hand, are intended to reflect him in the waters of your God-designed personality.

“As God’s beloved children, copy God!”¹⁸

No wonder Jesus said: “I am the Way to the Truth about Life!”¹⁹



15 Genesis 1:27

16 Colossians 1:28

17 Ephesians 1:11

18 Ephesians 5:1

19 John 14:6

mentor
of life
spirit of jesus

The Counselor, the
Holy Spirit, will remind
you of everything I
have said to you.
John 14:26



GPS (Global Positioning System) is a common feature on cell phones. With it you can be guided anywhere. Directions are provided both visually and verbally. And, if you mistakenly or willfully choose the wrong road, the program will immediately reveal your mistake and provide a course correction.

We're all seeking happiness. However, most of us are clueless about the best route, the one that guarantees optimum fulfillment ... **eternal life.** So, we waste time and energy on detours that only lead to increasing levels of disappointment, frustration and emptiness. Aware of our situation, the Maker designed a Life Guidance System, LGS, called "The Jesus Journey".

Originally "Jesus recruited a band of twelve to be his traveling companions."²⁰ "Come, follow ME!"²¹ On this journey Jesus is the North Star, the only point of navigation required.



At the end of his earthly journey Jesus told his followers:

“The Father will give you another guidance counselor who will be in you” and “make sense out of all that I have done and said.” The Spirit of Jesus is an internal LGS app. The Mentor’s task is to keep you “focusing on Jesus” He receives data from the Father that are meticulously tailored to your journey with Jesus. His primary methods are coaching, counseling and correcting.

That’s the Life Guidance System. And, here’s the best news. LGS is a free gift from the Creator! All that’s required is connection to the system.



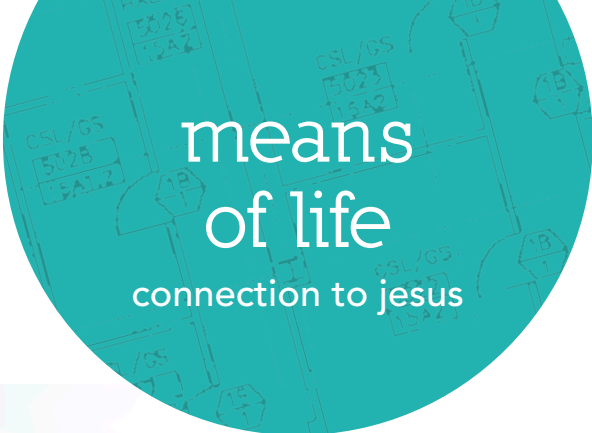
20 [Mark 3:14](#)

21 [Matthew 4:19](#)

22 [John 14:16](#)

23 [John 14:26](#)


24 [Hebrews 12:2](#)



means of life

connection to jesus

God gave us eternal life; this life is in his Son.
So, whoever has the Son has life; whoever rejects the Son,
rejects life. **1 John 5:11-12**



Imagine a solid gold table lamp. It has a cord at the end of which is a plug designed for connection to an energized receptacle. However, the expensive lamp is UNplugged. It can be seen and handled. But, from the perspective of purpose the gadget is LIFE-LESS! It merely exists. Everything changes when the cord is plugged in. Energized the lamp fulfills its purpose. The conclusion is simple: connection means power for purpose whereas separation signifies a lifeless existence!

“God gave us eternal (living at 100% satisfaction) life; this life is in his Son.” ²⁵ Provided by the Maker, Jesus is the source of power uniquely generated for humankind. “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never become hungry...” ²⁶ “God invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on gasoline. It would not run properly on anything else. God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn.” ²⁷

“So, whoever has the Son has life....”²⁸ “Jesus said to the fishermen, ‘Come, follow ME!’ At once they left and went with him.”²⁹ “When we are called to follow Jesus, we are summoned to an exclusive attachment to his person.”³⁰

“Jesus came into the created universe, bringing with him new life. Everyone who gets it gets it by personal contact with Him.”³¹

Getting connected to others via phone, computer, car, train, or plane is costly. Attachment to your Maker is “free of charge”! Just get connected to Jesus.

“But wait! There’s more. You’ll also receive LGS without charge!” It’s “an offer you can’t refuse”!



25 1 John 5:11

26 John 6:35

27 Mere Christianity, p 50

28 1 John 5:12

29 Matthew 4:19

30 Cost of Discipleship, p 49

31 Mere Christianity, p 221

mechanics of life

faith in jesus

We live by faith,
not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7



If you spent money today, you operated by faith!
A one dollar bill is only paper. Nonetheless, it has power.
Why? Note the words "The United States of America". They
represent the authority of the federal government. Second, observe
the words "Federal Reserve Note".

The government promises that your piece of paper has \$1 worth of purchasing power. The third
element is trust. If neither the seller nor buyer has trust in the governing authority, the paper
becomes worthless! Finally, the system requires action: selling and buying.

These are the mechanics of faith: authority, promise, trust and
action.



A rather humorous Bible story demonstrates faith. Abraham and Sarah had been childless their entire marriage. At age 75 Abraham was promised a baby boy by the Maker. Sarah laughed at the promise. Can you blame her? Nonetheless,

“The Lord was good to Sarah and kept his promise. Although Abraham was 100 years old, Sarah had a son exactly at the time God had said. Abraham named his son Isaac (meaning he laughs).”³²

Years later Paul commented: “Abram never wavered in believing God’s promise. He was fully convinced that God has the power to do whatever he promises.”³³

God, the governing authority, made a promise to Abraham who trusted the promise. We’re left with action. Inquiring minds want to know: what exactly did Abraham and Sarah DO for 25 years? Get it? The Maker is not a killjoy, lacking a sense of humor. Just ask old Abraham and Sarah! Oh, by the way, undoubtedly God got the last laugh!



³² [Genesis 22:1-3](#)

³³ [Romans 4:20-21](#)

medicine of life

grace of jesus

“God is love.”³⁴ Humans were designed to love and be loved! Jesus confirmed this: “Love God ... and love your neighbor as you love yourself.”³⁵

We are saved by grace through faith - a gift from God.

Ephesians 2:8

Observe the Middle East today! Obviously, humankind is NOT loving! The Manual renders this diagnosis: “Everyone sins! Everyone falls short of God’s glorious design!”³⁶ The virus of sin has caused a major malfunction in the human spirit so that we “fall short” of loving God, others and self. We’re diseased and the disease is deadly! “We are dead because of our sins....”³⁷ Like the UNplugged solid gold lamp we exist but are unable to fulfill our destiny!

Though our prognosis is bleak, we’re not hopeless! Father has created a medicine to cure our dis-ease.

Blood is red in appearance; yet, it contains white blood cells. When your body is under a viral assault, white blood cells attack the virus. However, in gaining victory they die. Healing is won via death!





Father's medicine is similar! Jesus died to destroy the virus of sin! "Jesus was handed over to die because of our sins."³⁸ Our healing was accomplished through his death. "We are healed by the wounds he suffered, made whole by the blows he received."³⁹

Father's medicine is called
GRACE: G od's R estoration A t C hrist E xpense!
"We are saved (the meaning of the word is "made whole") by grace...." The old hymn calls it "amazing"! Why? Whereas grace is extremely costly ("You were rescued by the precious blood of Christ"⁴⁰), yet, it's "a gift from God"!

How does one obtain the Medicine of Life? "Jesus said, 'Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? I'm here inviting the sin-sick, not the spiritually-fit'."⁴¹

Have you been to the Doctor yet?

34 1 John 4:9

35 Matthew 22:34-40

36 Romans 3:23

37 Ephesians 2:5

38 Romans 4:25

39 Isaiah 53:4-6

40 1 Peter 1:19

41 Mark 2:17

maintenance of life

intimacy with jesus

A branch must stay connected
to the vine to bear fruit.
It is the same with you.
John 15:4

Food, water and sleep! These are the basics for maintaining physical life. What's required to maintain connection to Jesus? Step Eleven of Alcoholics Anonymous provides a clue: "Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God ..." ⁴²



Remember the Mentor of Life?
His purpose, using the Life Guidance System, is "to improve our conscious contact with God."

Listening to the radio requires TUNING. The receiver is tuned to the specific frequency of the desired source. If one likes The Grand Ole Opry, one would tune to WSM 650 AM. To maintain connection to Jesus requires tuning of the heart and mind. This is accomplished primarily through prayer and meditation.

In the Bible "meditate" is a rather humorous picture word. Literally it means: a cow chewing its cud. So, meditation is the act of chewing a portion of the Bible over and over until it becomes a part of us. "Let the word of Jesus dwell in you, enriching your life and making you wise." ⁴³

Prayer is conversation. Jesus taught us how to begin: "Our Father ..." ⁴⁴ Praying is both speaking and listening to our Father. He knows us better than we know ourselves. "You shaped me inside and out." ⁴⁵ So, no subject is "off limits"! If it concerns you, it concerns Him! Furthermore, prayer can take place anytime and anywhere. And yes, questions are encouraged!


Combining prayer with meditation is the preferred method. For example, the Manual talks about the use of money. So, it's best to chew on its financial instruction while having a conversation with Father about your own finances.

Remember, "A branch must stay connected to the vine to bear fruit."



42 The Big Book
43 Colossians 3:16

44 Matthew 6:9
45 Psalms 139:13-14




manner
of life
love of jesus

We know what real love is because Jesus
gave up his life for us.

1 John 3:16

LOVE IS God's Manner of Living. It's His characteristic way
of acting. Jesus is the proof!



"God loved the world this way: he gave his only son."⁴⁶ Loving IS
Giving! At Christmas we seem to get it. Yet, in the long
run "love is the only thing there's just too little of!"⁴⁷
Where's the problem?

Hours before his death Jesus provided a clue. "Unless a
grain of wheat is buried in the ground, it's never more
than one grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts
and reproduces itself many times over. Right now I
am storm-tossed. What am I going to say? 'Father,
get me out of this'? No, this is my purpose. I'll say,
'Father, put your glory on display through me.'"⁴⁸



Jesus was a “human-being-seed”, filled with “all of God’s character.”⁴⁹ His purpose was to display “the extravagant dimensions of God’s love”⁵⁰. Yet, he struggled. “Right now I am **storm-tossed**.” Why? His fulfillment, like a seed, would only come via the route of surrender: giving his heart away for the wellbeing of others, “sinners”⁵¹ and “enemies”.⁵²

Love is risky business! “Love means to commit oneself without guarantee, to give oneself completely”⁵³ “To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one. Avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket of selfishness.”⁵⁴

Living is Loving (Giving)! Anything less is mere existence devoid of satisfaction.

46 John 3:16

47 What the World Needs Now, Burt Bacharach

48 John 12:24-27

49 Colossians 2:9

50 Ephesians 3:18

51 Romans 5:8

52 Romans 5:10

53 The Art of Loving, Erich Fromm

54 The Four Loves, C. S. Lewis

measure of life

conformity to jesus

God chose us to bear the
family likeness of his Son.

Romans 8:29

"Attached to Jesus, you are a unique masterpiece."⁵⁵ Yet, "God chose us to bear the family likeness of his Son..."⁵⁶ So, the genuine YOU is JESUS-LIKE!

I have bad news! Because we crave acceptance, we permit parents, peers, pressures and the public to define us. Consequently, Father's original design is hidden beneath layers (like an onion) of false fabrication. In the process of conforming we lose our true identity.

Don't panic! The Creator possesses the original blueprint of YOU! "Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is illusion."⁵⁷ This is the first step of self-discovery.



Secondly, become acquainted with THE Measure. Liquids are measured in ounces, pints, quarts and gallons. "Grow in ... understanding your Master and Savior, Jesus Christ."⁵⁸ "It is when I turn to Christ, when I give myself up to His Personality, that I first begin to have a real personality of my own."⁵⁹ As you employ meditation and prayer the Mentor is on 24/7 duty to guide you in discovering the Jesus-Like YOU!

Finally, slowly begin to examine yourself. "God is patient. He wants you to have an opportunity to change the way you think and act."⁶⁰ What thoughts, actions and words are Jesus-like? Label these: "the real me"! Anything that doesn't measure up to Jesus is a distorted fabrication. If you need help, ask Father: "Investigate my life. See for yourself whether I've done anything unlike Jesus. Then guide me on the road to the fulfilled life."⁶¹

George Washington, the first president of the United States, was serious about "measuring up"! He prayed: "Daily frame me more and more into the likeness of thy son Jesus Christ."⁶²



55 [Ephesians 2:10](#)

56 [Romans 8:29](#)

57 Brennan Manning

58 [2 Peter 3:18](#)

59 Mere Christianity, p 226

60 [2 Peter 3:9](#)

61 [Psalm 139:23-24](#)

62 George Washington, the Christian pp. 24-35

manifestation of life

community with Jesus

You are together the body of
Christ, and individually you are
members of him.

1 Corinthians 12:27



The storyline of The Ten Commandments is from the Bible. God miraculously delivers the Jews from 400 years of bondage for one reason: "They'll realize that I ... brought them out of Egypt so that I could live with them."⁶³ After liberation the Jews are immediately instructed to build a transportable tent. "The people must make a Tent for me, so that I may live among them."⁶⁴ When construction was complete, God moved in. "The Glorious Presence of God filled The Dwelling."⁶⁵ Then God said: "The twelve tribes of Israel are to set up camp around my Tent."⁶⁶

What was vaguely illustrated in Exodus was fulfilled in Jesus. "The infinite Life of God took shape before us"⁶⁷ and "fixed His tent of flesh among us; and we saw His glory."⁶⁸ That's why Jesus was called "Immanuel," which means "God is with us."

After Jesus "moved into the neighborhood"⁶⁹ "he chose twelve disciples to be with Him"⁷⁰ 24/7.



Imagine a wagon wheel. There are twelve spokes embedded in a central hub. The rim unifies the spokes in the hub. The twelve disciples (spokes) were connected to Jesus (hub). The Holy Spirit (outer rim) brought unity by keeping the dissimilar members in alignment.

Note: there are no Lone Ranger followers of Jesus! If Peter wanted to follow Jesus, he had to relate to eleven other followers. "You are together the body of Christ, and individually are members of him."⁷¹



You've just been introduced to the CHURCH as designed by Jesus! It's a Community of Life; liberated persons connected to and camped around Jesus 24/7.

63 Exodus 29:46

64 Exodus 25:8

65 Exodus 40:34

66 Number 2:1

67 1 John 1:2

68 John 1:14

69 John 1:14

70 Mark 3:14

71 1 Corinthians 12:27

movement of life

ministry with Jesus

As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.
John 20:21

The CHURCH is like a wagon wheel. It is people (spokes) attached to Jesus (hub), kept in alignment with Him and each other by the Mentor (the outer rim). A wheel is designed for movement!

"As the Father sent me...." Jesus was on A Mission from God. When he called his twelve friends, he gave but one instruction: "Come, FOLLOW me!"⁷² Whenever and wherever Jesus went, the twelve followed (it's estimated that Jesus walked 3,125 mi during his three years of ministry). Most likely he originated the song, "On the Road Again".⁷³





"So I am sending you." The church is a movement of people not a monument of bricks and mortar! Minutes before he was beamed up Jesus described the scope of the movement. "You will tell about Me ... to the ends of the earth."⁷⁴

"God showed his love for us when he sent Jesus ... to give us life."⁷⁵ Jesus was the Father's Emergency Medical Service, dispensing the Medicine of Life: healing the dis-eased (physical, mental, spiritual, relational), rescuing the lost, mending the broken, embracing the outcast, clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, befriending the lonely, promoting justice for those falsely accused, mourning with those who grieve, liberating those demon possessed, freeing the imprisoned, offering hope to those in despair.

"So I am sending you." "The person who trusts me will not only do what I'm doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I've been doing. Whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I'll do it."⁷⁶ The church is nothing less than a movement of ministry, doing the stuff Jesus did, so that people experience "life that is full and good!"⁷⁷

72 Matthew 4:19

73 On the Road Again, Willie Nelson

74 Acts 1:8

75 1 John 4:9

76 John 14:12-14

77 John 10:10



money of life

currency with Jesus

"It's like a man going on a trip.
He called his servants and loaned
them money to invest for him while
he was gone."

Matthew 25:14

The belly button marks the place at which the nutritional "life line" from your mother was attached to you. This permanent scar is a reminder of a profound truth: life is a **GIFT!** Grace is given to us through Jesus (the umbilical cord) so that we are enabled to achieve the purpose for which the Creator designed us.

Fundamentally, Father loans you three commodities: Time, Talent and Treasure. "It's like a man going on a trip. He called his servants and loaned them money to invest for him while he was gone."⁷⁸

TIME! How many days will you live? Obviously, you don't know! What you do know is this: when you wake up in the morning, your 'alive-ness' is a gift. You neither earned nor purchased it. So, "teach us to use wisely all the time we have."⁷⁹

TALENT! Consider your unique personality and talent mix. Did you purchase it/them at Niemen Marcus? Here's what the Manual says. "You shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb." ⁸⁰

TREASURE! Much advertising appeals to our sense of entitlement. "You've work long and hard! You deserve this!" However, a smidgen of honesty reveals the truth. Yes, we work hard; but WITH the time and talent that have grace-fully been given! "Every good endowment that we possess and every complete gift that we have received comes from the Father above." ⁸¹

"Sometime later the master returned and called them to give an account of how they had used his money."⁸² As with any financier Father wants a return on his investment.
How's your account in His portfolio?



78 Matthew 25:14

79 Psalm 90:12

80 Psalm 139:13

81 James 1:17

82 Matthew 25:19



monster of life

enemy with jesus

The thief's purpose is to steal,
destroy and kill. My purpose is to
give abundant life.

John 10:10

Watch one evening of local, national and international news. EVIL is on the move before our eyes!

The Manual identifies the source of evil. "Jesus turned to Peter and said, 'Get behind Me, Satan! You're in my way!'"⁸³ "Satan is ... an angel (spirit being) who rebelled against God. His goal is to lead people away from (backwards) the love of God; i.e., to lead them to evil."⁸⁴

"The word **'evil'** is the word **'live'** spelled backwards." ⁸⁵ Though possessing a reverse gear, an automobile is designed to move forward. Imagine a person, ignoring a car's design, driving down the expressway in reverse! Destruction guaranteed!

Jesus came to give you "abundant life" ... ultimate satisfaction, fulfillment and happiness! On the other hand Satan tempts you 24/7 to choose REVERSE. His "purpose is to steal, destroy and kill" every feature of Father's design for your life.

Satan has many strategies. "Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against ALL strategies of the devil."⁸⁶ However, his primary tool is deception. "Your father, the devil, is **the father of lies.**"⁸⁷ "The ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, **the one deceiving** the whole world—was thrown down to the earth ..."⁸⁸

ISIS confronts people with a choice: "follow us or die!" Satan is no less atrocious with his demands! But remember; he's a Liar! Only Jesus is "the Way to the Truth about Life!"⁸⁹

*Have YOU become attached to him yet?
"God loved people so much that he gave
his only Son, so that anyone who has
faith in him will have eternal
(a fulfilled) life and never
really die."⁹⁰*



83 [Matthew 16:23](#)

84 [Wikipedia, Satan, 3.1](#)

85 [The Way, E. Stanley Jones, p 25](#)

86 [Ephesians 6:10](#)

87 [John 8:44](#)

88 [Revelation 12:9](#)

89 [John 14:6](#)

90 [John 3:16](#)

meal
of life

supper of jesus

Blessed are those invited to the
Supper of the Lamb.
Revelation 19:9

Memorial Day was birthed in May of 1865 by a group of freed slaves in Charleston, South Carolina. They visited a cemetery for Union soldiers, decorating their graves to Remember:

FREEDOM is not FREE!

Israel received this instruction for the eve of their liberation. "Each Jewish man is to take a lamb for his family and slaughter it at dusk. He must take some of the blood and smear it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the house in which his family will eat the meat, along with bread. This will be a memorial day for you..."⁹¹ Remember:

FREEDOM is not FREE!



"On the eve of his crucifixion Jesus took bread. When He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'Take this bread and eat it. This is my body which is broken for you. Do this to remember ME.' After supper, He took the cup. He said, 'This cup is the New Way of Relationship between God and you via my blood. Whenever you drink it, do it to remember ME.'"⁹² Remember: **FREEDOM** is not **FREE**!

"Every time you eat this bread and drink from this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes again."⁹³ Jesus will return with the Father's new production, "a new heaven and a new earth."⁹⁴ Here's Act One: "Then I heard the sound of many people. 'Let us be full of joy, for the time has come for the wedding supper of the Lamb. Those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb are happy.'"⁹⁵

Guess what? YOU'RE invited! Just RSVP to Jesus!



91 Exodus 12:1-10

92 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

93 1 Corinthians 11:26

94 Revelation 21:1

95 Revelation 19:6-10

mansion
of life
dwelling of jesus

"There is plenty of room for
you in my Father's home.
I'm on my way to get your
room ready.

John 14:2



The Creator has an inconceivable sequel! "Then the One sitting on the throne said, "See! I am making all things NEW."⁹⁶

What is the most breath taking natural wonder you have experienced? With absolute certainty I guarantee this: "You ain't seen nothing yet!" "Then I saw a new earth and a new sky, for the present earth and sky had disappeared."⁹⁷ "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." What you've experienced is but a short preview of what's coming!

Furthermore, for the first time you will meet the real YOU! I'm not joking! Remember, Father's original design of you has been hidden beneath layers of false fabrication. Listen to this!

“Jesus shouted, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in grave clothes. Jesus told them, ‘Unwrap him and let him go’!”

Jesus will return for YOU. He will call you OUT and UP! In the process the God-Designed you will be unwrapped! “We will all be transformed! It will happen in the blink of an eye ...”⁹⁸

What will you be like? There's only one reliable clue! “The Father has loved us so much that now we are called children of God. However, we have not yet been shown what we will be like in the future. But we know that when Christ comes again, we will be like him because we'll see him as he really is.”⁹⁹ You will have a Jesus-Shaped personality! You can take that to the bank!



96 [Revelation 21:5](#)

97 [Revelation 21:1](#)

98 [1 Corinthians 15:52](#)

99 [1 John 3:1-3](#)