



A Witness Of Faith

By Cynthia Bailey-Rug

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Introduction

These days, Christians are getting a bad reputation. Many who do not share our faith tend to think we are all unreasonable, judgmental, critical and even crazy. Sadly, the behavior of many Christians makes that a rather easy conclusion to reach. Christians are acting pretty wild these days. Some examples of what I mean are:

- Christians protesting at the funerals of soldiers killed in combat because they were gay, rather than comforting their families during their time of grief.
- Christians murdering doctors who perform abortions, because they say these people are murderers, rather than focus on changing abortion laws.
- Many Christians are saying people who support non-Godly behavior are being punished by God when going through hard times, rather than offering comfort and helping them to make proper changes, if they want to.
- Many Christians are trying to scare people into the faith by telling them that they will go to hell if they continue participating in sinful behaviors, rather than explaining the message of Jesus Christ, and allowing the person to make an informed decision on whether or not they wish to be born again, and accepting their decision.

- Cults are created under the guise of Christianity, and many of those in these cults are brainwashed, financially ruined, or forced to perform lewd sexual acts with members of the cult, all in the name of God.

Due to these radical behaviors, many non-believers visibly cringe when someone says that he or she is a Christian. And frankly, with things like this happening, who can blame them?

A very dear friend of mine is involved in the Pagan religion. She has had many bad experiences with Christians. She has experienced many to be very hypocritical and judgmental. Also, in the area in which she lives, around the Halloween season, several local churches hunt cats- poisoning or running them down with cars, because they believe them to be evil beings, the familiars¹ of witches. This past Halloween season, she told me about a conversation with her vet. He worked very long hours during the entire month of October, and said all but one of his in-house patients for several weeks was a black cat. That is so wrong! These poor cats did nothing wrong! It does not matter what their owners have done- these animals are innocent! Yet here people were, trying to kill them, and using God as the reason.

As a Christian myself, I certainly understand not agreeing with certain things that are happening in the world today. So much of people's behavior blatantly excludes or mocks God. That being said however, there are better ways to handle how we relate to other people, whether or not they share our faith, and to be a good example of our faith!

It is truly sad when Christianity, a religion based on love, is full of people who are hypocritical, disapproving and judgmental. It must grieve the heart of God greatly when He sees His children misbehaving, and using Him as an excuse for it! God is love², and we are to imitate Him and His ways.³ Yet, how many Christians truly love God and their fellow man God's way?

The chapters to follow will teach you how to be a superb example of your faith, while loving and accepting others. You will be challenged you to think about how you represent God, and become a truly wonderful example of the endless love that the Father has shown you. I believe this book will bless you, as well as those people God has placed in your life.

¹ A familiar is a being (either a spirit or animal, often a black cat) said to possess supernatural, magical powers, and to be the closest ally of a witch or magician.

² 1 John 4:8 "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

³ Ephesians 5:1 "Therefore be imitators of God [copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father]." (AMP)

Chapter 1

As I mentioned in the introduction, Christianity is based on love. The love God has for His children, their love for God, and also their love for others. Luke 10:25-28 says, “Just then a religion scholar stood up with a question to test Jesus. "Teacher, what do I need to do to get eternal life?" He answered, "What's written in God's Law? How do you interpret it?" He said, "That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself." "Good answer!" said Jesus. "Do it and you'll live. "" (The Message)

To begin, we will focus on the love shared between God and you, because you cannot love yourself or others until you accurately understand that loving relationship.

Every Christian knows John 3:16. It is most likely why you came to know Jesus as your Savior in the first place: John 3: 16 says, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” How long has it been since you really thought about this verse? Do you have a deep understanding on just how much God loves you to send His only Son to make this incredible sacrifice for you? For YOU!!! If you had been the only person that needed this sacrifice, Jesus still would have died on the cross and been resurrected just for you! Stop reading for a moment and really think about this fact. Think about the horrors that Jesus Christ experienced in His last days alive on this earth. Or, better yet, take a few moments and read John 18-21 for yourself. He did all of that, experienced all of that pain and humiliation for you. You are truly loved! And not just loved by anyone- by the One who created the universe

and everything and everyone in it! He knows you intimately, and has since before you were even formed in your mother's womb!⁴ God loves YOU!

Now that we have the fact that God loves you settled, how do you feel about Him? Do you love Him in return? Are you humbled, honored even amazed by His love? Or, do you take that love from Him for granted? If your love for God has grown somewhat cold, then it is time to stir it up. King David is a wonderful example of doing this. The book of Psalms is full of him reminding himself that God was on his side. He reminded himself of things God had done for him in the past⁵, he reminded himself that God was worthy of his trust⁶, and that God was his protector⁷. Reminding oneself of such things not only stirs up faith, but it also stirs up love for God.

Another good idea is to ask God to open your eyes to the blessings that He has done in the past, and does each and every day. In the book of Genesis, chapter 21, a young Egyptian woman by the name of Hagar was stranded in the desert, fully expecting to die with her young child after they ran out of water. When she cried out to God, He opened her eyes, thus enabling her to see the well of water in front of her, and saving the life of Hagar and her son. Sometimes, we all need to have our eyes opened! I encourage you to ask God to open your eyes to what He is doing in your life. You will be amazed! I have done this myself during hard times, and the results were absolutely incredible! I saw my blessings in a whole new light, and saw blessings I had not even thought about prior to that prayer.

Once you realize just how much God loves you, and you not only receive that love, but love Him in return, then, and only then, can you love others the way God would have you love them. It automatically improves your example of your faith. When you love God, you want to do things that are pleasing to him. Your behavior changes- you become gentler and more understanding of others.

⁴ Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."

⁵ Psalm 4:1 "When I call, give me answers. God, take my side! Once, in a tight place, you gave me room; Now I'm in trouble again: grace me! hear me!" (The Message)

⁶ Psalm 7:1 "O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me:"

⁷ Psalm 7:10 "My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart."

Chapter 2

Let's spend some time talking about loving yourself. You did see that was mentioned in Luke 10:25-28, didn't you? If not, let me repeat those verses: "Just then a religion scholar stood up with a question to test Jesus. "Teacher, what do I need to do to get eternal life? "He answered, "What's written in God's Law? How do you interpret it?" He said, "That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself." "Good answer!" said Jesus. "Do it and you'll live."" (The Message, emphasis added)

Unfortunately, some believe that hating yourself is holy. If that was truly the case, why in the world did Jesus Himself say we must love ourselves? He never would have said we are to love ourselves if it was a bad thing!

Also, you can find out for yourself what the Bible has to say about you. God has placed some amazing things in the Bible about His children! He says that He created you for good works, that you are His own handiwork⁸! Did you know that you are the apple of God's eye? Well, He says you are! Really! Psalm 17:8 says, "Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings," There are many other wonderful Scriptures in the Bible saying how much God loves you, and they will be included at the end of this book. I urge you to read them, over and over

⁸ Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]." (AMP)

if necessary, until you realize just how special you are in the eyes of a loving Heavenly Father.

Loving yourself improves your quality of life. You are more patient with yourself, you do nice things for yourself. You see yourself as valuable, and in return, other people also see you as valuable, and treat you accordingly.

Loving yourself also is a good witness to unbelievers. Many who do not know about Christianity think the worst of it, and often that includes the false belief that hating oneself is holy. Why would anyone want to be a part of a religion that believes that way? No one in his or her right mind would! However, people are interested in a religion that not only allows, but also encourages, them to feel good about themselves.

Chapter 3

The last part of Luke 10:25-28 I want to cover is about loving others. Loving others can be the most difficult part of that verse to do, because it requires not only thinking of others, but often putting their wants or needs ahead of your own. Self-sacrifice just is not a fun thing to do! It often hurts giving some of yourself, your valuable time, possessions or money, but it is something God requires of His children from time to time. The good news is you always will be rewarded for your sacrifice⁹.

God wants His people to be like Him. 1Peter 1:16 says, “Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.” God held no good thing back from anyone. Ever. That includes His only Son, Jesus. Remember John 3:16? “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Is that not amazing? God would sacrifice His Precious Son, allowing Him to endure such terrible pain and humiliation. (Do you think you could sacrifice your child, or your spouse, or someone you love like this?) If He allowed His Son, Jesus, to go through that, He truly holds nothing back from His children! And, as His children, we should be willing to hold no good thing back from each other!

⁹ Matthew 10:42 “And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.” And, Luke 6:38 “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”

Granted, God will not ask you to make big of a sacrifice for anyone. However, there are times He may ask you to do some things that are very difficult for you. One of the hardest things He may ask of you is to do nothing- to allow someone you love to fail, because He knows that failure will teach them a valuable lesson they could learn no other way. Unfortunately for you, this may be excruciating for you to step back and watch. Doing nothing can be the hardest thing God can ask you to do.

God also may ask you to give up something that means a lot to you for someone else, which is another painful experience. But, He knows that you need to surrender that item, because it has become too important to you. As an example, even well-meaning Christians are not exempt from lusting after money. Even to the extent of working such long hours, they no longer have time for church activities, or even just spending one on one time with the Father. He may ask you to donate some of your finances to a worthy cause. If you do not do so, He may intervene by allowing you to lose your job. Hopefully, that would teach you to return to God as your first love and priority over money. Lesson learned. (If the lesson is not learned, you may need to have much more serious money problems until you finally learn the lesson God wants you to learn.) Truthfully, if you just give up the item in question when God asks you to, then you need not endure the more painful experience.

Also, think about others in your life. I mean, really think hard about them. What do those people need? Are you able to meet those needs? Then what is holding you back from doing so? If you are able and willing to meet their needs, for heaven's sake, do so, and do NOT give people what you want them to have- give them what THEY want or need! Many people give gifts that they would like, when the person they are giving to has different needs or tastes. It can be frustrating! I have received many gifts from others that are not my taste, but are the taste of the gift giver. It annoys me! I end up either feeling like the giver is trying to change me, or just did not care enough about me to find out what exactly I would like or need, so she gives me what she likes rather than taking the time to learn what I like. Either way, it is hurtful!

If the person in need that you know is not in need of money or things, but of a true friend, that may be a challenge. Not everyone knows how to be a good friend. Basically, being a good friend involves listening to the other person, helping them as you can, and showing them unconditional, Godly love. Love will be covered in the following chapter, so you will learn about true love in the following pages.

I encourage you to pay attention to those God puts into your life. Bless them how you know they need blessing, and if you do not have the ability to meet that need, then pray for God to send them someone who does have that ability. Not only will the other person be blessed, but you will be as well by making their lives a little better. The old saying, "It's better to give than receive" is very true! Not only will God reward you, but the feeling of joy you receive when you bless others will be a great reward as well!

Chapter 4

Now it is time to focus on loving God's way. Without that ability to love properly, your witness will be ineffectual.

Many people seem to think that to love means giving people anything they want, and forgiving and forgetting anything offensive or hurtful done to you. That is not even close to true, Godly love! Love is not simply going to church on Sundays to show God your love, or giving others anything that is wanted. Love goes much deeper than that. I think the Message translation of the Bible sums up how to love beautifully and simply:

1 Corinthians 13:3-7 says, "If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love. Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, Doesn't have a swelled head, Doesn't force itself on others, Isn't always "me first," Doesn't fly off the handle, Doesn't revel when others grovel, Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, Puts up with anything, Trusts God always, Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end."

Let's break this down one phrase at a time:

"Love never gives up." Love is why you continue to pray for that loved one who has rejected the Christian faith she grew up with, or the husband who is going through a very difficult and painful mid-life crisis.

"Love cares more for others than self." Love makes you willing to give of yourself, to the point of great sacrifice if necessary, to bless others.

“Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.” Love is why you do not envy the new car your friend got, but instead, you are genuinely happy she was blessed, even though your old car has plenty of problems.

“Love doesn't strut, Doesn't have a swelled head,” Love enables you to have clear vision about yourself- it sees the good, but also the not so good. Yet it accepts anyway, without boasting about the good. It allows the good qualities to speak for themselves.

“Doesn't force itself on others,” Love allows others to have their own wants, needs, feelings, desires and more without feeling you must “show them the light.” Sometimes what people want is just different from what you want- that does not necessarily mean they are wrong, just different from you.

“Isn't always "me first,"” Love causes you to be humble, and realize that the world does not revolve around you. It helps you to put your own problems aside, so you can be supportive to others whose problems are greater than yours at the moment.

“Doesn't fly off the handle,” Love helps you to be patient and understanding of others. It is why when your spouse snaps at you, or a cashier is rude, you think that person may be having a bad day, rather than take their bad attitude as a personal attack. Love understands that others may be going through some private battle, rather than simply assuming they hate you. Love lets the little things like that go rather than retaliating with a harsh response.

“Doesn't revel when others grovel,” Love enables you to tell someone who is begging for your forgiveness to say, “It's ok. I forgive you,” and genuinely mean it.

“Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,” Love loves truth! Love appreciates what God says over what any person says. Love is pleased when the truth comes out in any situation, rather than a lie, even if the lie would be more palatable.

“Puts up with anything,” Love knows that no matter what painful circumstances are happening, God ultimately has a plan. He may not have put the bad situation on you, but that does not mean He cannot work it out for good somehow. Love knows that you grow during the difficult times. Love also forgives easily, so when your child comes home after a bad day at school and yells at you, you understand why he did that, and let it go instead of fighting.

“Trusts God always,” Love for God knows that He is truly a good Father, and no matter what is happening in your life, it is for a reason. It knows that no matter what, God loves you, and has a grand plan for your life!

“Always looks for the best,” Love knows that there is positive to be found in all situations and people, you just have to look for it.

“Never looks back, But keeps going to the end.” Love is wise- it knows that the past does not determine the future. Love has the sense to learn from past mistakes, and make appropriate changes to avoid a repeat performance. Love lets go of past

hurts and regrets, which enables you to endure current trials as well as enjoy the present.

Godly love is giving and mature- it wants the best for the recipient of your love, even if it means some self-sacrifice. Love does what is best, not necessarily what is easiest. It allows the recipient of your love to make mistakes, rather than forcing that person to do something your way, because true, Godly love realizes that if God does not force people to do things, no person should either. Love does not rescue others from situations knowing that person will repeat it again and again, failing to learn from it. Love also allows people to have their own feelings, wants, priorities, needs and even their own calling from God that is different from yours. Love never controls or manipulates- it allows total freedom. Love exercises wisdom in the words that are spoken- love builds up, and does not tear down. Love does not condemn or judge others. Love tries to understand the “why” behind hurtful actions rather than merely being hurt or angry. Love is truly a beautiful and glorious thing.

All of this being said...how does the way you love measure up to how God wants you to love? Think about what areas you can improve in, and how to make those improvements. Do not just be negative either- think about your strengths too, as that will encourage you. Ask God to help you improve how you love- love God, yourself and others. He will help you!

Chapter 5

Below are some final pieces of advice for how you can improve walking out your faith, and being a good witness for Jesus. Feel free to add to this list. If you are unsure of what to add to this list, pay attention to what people say about how you and other Christians act- you will learn plenty about what people want and need from you.

- Above all else in your witness, remember this: 2 Corinthians 3:2 “[No] you yourselves are our letter of recommendation (our credentials), written in your hearts, to be known (perceived, recognized) and read by everybody.” Simply put, remember that what you do is witnessed by other people. You may be the only example of Christianity some people ever know. Use that power in their lives very wisely! Be sure when they see you, they see someone who does not preach one thing, yet lives another. Fakeness discourages and disgusts people!
- People are hungry for people who are real, and down to earth. Share your battles, your failures and not only your victories with others. Let others know that you make mistakes. If you do not share the negative as well as the positive, people will think you never have any problems, and find it very difficult to relate to you. ***Be real and be sincere!*** Non-believers are often quite interested in how Christians act- do we walk out

our faith or is it all a pious act? In my experience, as an example, I have learned that if someone asks me a question that I do not know the answer to, they respect it more when I tell them I do not know, than if I try to answer them. They also respond positively when I tell them of mistakes I have made. A lot of folks seem to think Christians think we are perfect. The truth is, we are not! We make mistakes like everyone does, and non-believers need to see that.

- Put yourself in another person's shoes. When someone is explaining a problem or situation to you, try to imagine yourself in that situation before offering any advice. It may give you a clearer picture of what your friend is enduring. Plus, rather than rushing into any judgment, you will be able to discuss this situation, and hopefully come to a good solution together. Ecclesiastes 4:9-11 says, "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?"
- When you are dealing with someone who does not share your faith, do NOT tell them that they are going to hell if they do not change their sinful ways. For one thing, it is faith in Jesus or rejecting Him that determines where you spend eternity- not your behavior. (Remember John 3:16?) For another thing, it really irritates non-Christians! Always remember, Christianity is based on true, Godly love- attempting to bully people into the faith is just wrong!
- Respect the beliefs of others. As I mentioned in the introduction, a good friend of mine is involved in the Pagan religion. We respect each other's religious beliefs, and do not try to force our beliefs on each other. We discuss our beliefs openly, without judgment. Besides, even if you do not share the beliefs of another, you may learn some interesting things from that person. I continually learn about herbal remedies and gardening from my friend. Plus, we share a deep love of animals. None of this is offensive to either of our religious beliefs. In addition, God Himself allows people the freedom to choose their own religion- should people not do the same? (Meanwhile, nothing says you cannot pray behind the scenes

for them to come to know the joy of knowing Jesus as their Savior...)

- Along the same lines, respect the boundaries of others. Boundaries tell you where you end and others begin. Your responsibility is what you think, feel, believe, your talents, desires, choices, and your actions- those are within your boundaries. The same things are within the boundaries of each individual. It is not your place to interfere with those things in other people. For much more information, I encourage you to read the book, “Boundaries” by Drs. Henry Cloud and James Townsend. You may be thinking this sounds restrictive, but boundaries are surprisingly freeing- they allow you the freedom to be who God created you to be, and free from trying to make others into what you think they should be or to fix them.
- Forgive easily- forgive yourself and others. Try to understand the reasons behind the actions, before becoming angry or hurt. 1 Samuel 16:7 says, “But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.” Take a lesson from God- try to look at the motivations behind the actions, not only the actions.
- Be merciful, again with yourself and others. Luke 6: 36-37 says, “Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:” The kinder you are towards other people, the more willing to overlook their flaws you are, the kinder and more willing to overlook your flaws they will be in return.
- Always remember that everyone has their own path to walk out in life. 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11 states, “God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful: wise counsel, clear understanding,

simple trust, healing the sick, miraculous acts, proclamation, distinguishing between spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues. All these gifts have a common origin, but are handed out one by one by the one Spirit of God. He decides who gets what, and when.” (The Message) Respect the calling of others as coming from God Himself! You may wish people would do something else, but that is your problem, not theirs. God has a special, individualized plan for every single person, and He does not need your approval to put that plan into action.

- When you discuss God and His word, remember to speak accurately. Never pull out random Scriptures to prove your point, or twist God’s word! God calls people who do that “irresponsible,” and warns against such people. 2 Peter 3:15-18 reads, “So, my dear friends, since this is what you have to look forward to, do your very best to be found living at your best, in purity and peace. Interpret our Master's patient restraint for what it is: salvation. Our good brother Paul, who was given much wisdom in these matters, refers to this in all his letters, and has written you essentially the same thing. Some things Paul writes are difficult to understand. Irresponsible people who don't know what they are talking about twist them every which way. They do it to the rest of the Scriptures, too, destroying themselves as they do it. But you, friends, are well-warned. Be on guard lest you lose your footing and get swept off your feet by these lawless and loose-talking teachers. Grow in grace and understanding of our Master and Savior, Jesus Christ. Glory to the Master, now and forever! Yes!” (The Message, emphasis added)
- Finally, please- remember never be hypocritical. Jesus spoke harshly to people like that, and was very disgusted with their behavior. Look how He spoke to the Pharisees in Matthew 23: 27-28 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.”

Scriptures

Below is a list of Scriptures that explain what God has to say about His sons and daughters. When you read this information, please keep two things in mind: God is saying these wonderful things about you, and He is also saying these wonderful things about every other being on the planet. When you must deal with others, remember these verses- they will impact how you treat people, and the kind of witness you are.

Also, if I may suggest that if you have trouble accepting any of these verses mean you, try phrasing them in first person, or “I,” format. For example, “No weapon formed against me shall prosper!” in Isaiah 54:17.

- Isaiah 54:17 “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.”
- Matthew 5:13-14 “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be

trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.”

- Mark 16:17-18 “And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”
- Luke 10:19 “Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”
- John 1:12 “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”
- John 14:12 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”
- John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”
- John 15:15-16 “Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”
- Romans 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”
- Romans 6:11 “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
- Romans 6:18 “Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”
- Romans 8:1-2 “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”

- Romans 8: 15 “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”
- Romans 8:17 “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”
- Romans 8:37-39 “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- 1 Corinthians 2:16 “For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ.”
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”
- 1 Corinthians 12:27 “Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”
- 2 Corinthians 1:21 “Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God;”
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”
- Galatians 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

- Ephesians 1:1 “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:”
- Ephesians 1:3-6 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”
- Ephesians 1:13-14 “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”
- Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”
- Ephesians 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
- Ephesians 2:16 “And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:”
- Ephesians 2:19 “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;”
- Ephesians 3:2 “If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you...”
- Ephesians 4:24 “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”
- Philippians 4:7 “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
- Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”
- Philippians 4:19 “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

- Colossians 1:13-14 “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”
- Colossians 1:27 “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:”
- Colossians 2:7 “Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”
- Colossians 2:10-12 “And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”
- Colossians 3:4 “When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:5 “Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.”
- 1 Timothy 1:7-9 “Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,”
- Titus 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”
- Hebrews 2:11 “For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,”
- Hebrews 4:15-16 “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let

us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

- Hebrews 13:5 “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”
- 1 Peter 2:9 “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;”
- 1 Peter 5:8-9 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”
- 1 John 4:4 “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”
- 1 John 5:18 “We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.”

Epilogue

I hope that after reading this little book, you have a better understanding of being a good witness of your Christian faith. It truly will be a blessing to those who come into contact with you, whether they share your faith or not. Also, you will become closer to God as you work on improving yourself, and that is the best blessing anyone could ask for.

My prayer is that everyone reading this is blessed, as is everyone who comes into the lives of everyone reading it. Yes, that is a bold prayer, but why not? We are encouraged to be bold in our faith, according to Hebrews 4:16 “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

May you be blessed and highly favored by God!

About The Author

Cynthia Bailey-Rug is happily married to Eric Rug. Together they live outside Annapolis, Maryland with their menagerie of lovely pets.

Cynthia has been a Christian since 1996, and believes God has called her to write. She always loved writing, but realized it was her purpose in 2003. She has since written many articles, and several books. She also has edited books for other up and coming authors. She enjoys reading, animals, classic cars, crafts, gardening, gadgets, and spending time with her friends, family and pets.