

My Testimony

by Gra Whitehead

This is a story of my life; some people would call it my testimony – I'm calling it a story that took nearly a lifetime to learn.

My life can easily be divided into 10 age periods, each with its own name and events that have clearly made me who I am today.

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Stage 1: birth to age 21

my worldview development

I was born in 1948 approximately 2 months **premature**, weighing only 3 lbs at the Duke Hospital.

Very shortly thereafter, I developed **pneumonia**.

Back in that day, very few infants survived **pneumonia**, let alone **premature** ones.

My Grandfather Whitehead told my Dad that I would **never** make it.

My Grandfather had **no** idea there were orders from **Headquarters** that I would make it.

God knew my whole life before it ever got started.

He knows everyone's life, for **He** is the **Author** of life.

He knew that stage 5 was on the horizon.

As I grew up, I developed a worldview (wv) that represented the values of the home in which I grew up in.

Everybody has a worldview, even if they are **not** aware of it.

A worldview is how we look at and interpret any situation in life – it is the filter through which we process information in order to come to a decision, choice, or an opinion.

Everyone's worldview is different.

One's worldview can be **totally incorrect**. (based on **false** information)

Whose worldview is correct?

Actually, a **Biblical** worldview (bwv) is the **correct** one.

God made the world, **God** made humans, **God** made the rules for humans and the universe; **His** rules rule.

It makes absolutely **no** difference if you believe in **God** or **not**, your beliefs will **not** change the prior sentence.

As I grew up in a very **materialistic, social-oriented** world, my views and opinions were being determined by my environment.

I went to Sunday school, church, and was taught **right** from **wrong**.

I **never** thought about the word “**Christian**”, I just **assumed** I was one.

My **assumption** was **not** based on any **Biblical** knowledge.

It was based on the fact that I thought I was a decent person.

Everyone should read, *How Good Is Good Enough* by Andy Stanley.

During my high school years I developed a strong work ethic around a goal that I established early on – I wanted to earn a basketball scholarship to a school in the ACC.

For four **long** years I worked at that goal 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year.

When my friends were doing other activities, I was in the gym practicing for my goal.

There is a **price** everyone must pay for anything in life that they want.

One must determine what they want out of life; and then how much of their life they are willing to exchange for it.

My level of determination was to the point of **not** drinking a single carbonated soda, **not** eating peanuts, popcorn, or drinking any alcoholic drinks during my entire high school career.

I was told that any of those activities would **reduce** my stamina or ability to perform in the athletic challenges.

I achieved my goal during my senior year in high school by signing a four-year scholarship to UNC.

I can remember very well a few days after signing, I was again in the gym practicing basketball.

Although, this time something was **different**.

I **didn't** have a goal to chase.

I felt **empty**.

My motivation was **not** the same.

I **never** thought about the actual playing of basketball in college – my whole focus in life was earning that scholarship.

My college basketball career was limited to 2 years.

I completely **lost** interest in basketball as other worlds opened up to me.

Satan was slowly establishing a base from which to operate in my soul.

After college, I went to work for BB&T in Wilson.

While at work one day, I was informed that my Dad had died; he was 49.

I was 22, young and **dumb**.

My life forever changed.

Stage 2: 22 – 23 years of age: my dad's death

My Dad was a great dad.

He and I were entirely different.

Farming was his life – he was devoted to being the very best farmer in the area; farming was even his hobby.

That's where we were different.

I did **not** grow up doing manual labor on the farm due to my dad's share-cropping method of farming.

I worked during the summers on the farm, but **not** doing the **unpleasant labors** involved in agriculture of the time.

I developed different hobbies and interests.

My dad and I were **never** close because of our different interests.

He **died** suddenly of **suicide**.

He was mentally **depressed** – a condition that was **not** talked about back then.

With **no** professional help, **depression** won.

I hold myself responsible for his **death** – a fact that I will take to my grave.

Some life-changing decisions had to be made in order to ensure that our family farming operation would continue.

Again, my life forever changed.

Stage 3: 23 -34 years of age:

living for self, society, &

worldly goals

At the age of 23 with **no** idea how to farm, I was suddenly thrust into a position of responsibility – something that was **not** familiar to me.

I did have a business education, but that was of **little** help in the daily running of a farm, except for the business accounting.

With help from family friends, we hired a long-time family associate of my dad's to be our farm manager.

I resigned from working at the bank and Mr. Anderson started teaching me how to farm.

I **loved** it.

I became **obsessed** with it.

During the years of the 70s, agriculture can into its own – it was very prosperous as American farmers began to trade on a world market.

I was successful, as were so many of my farming buddies.

Making money was easy.

I thought that I was responsible for my success.

This was a product of a **distorted** worldview. (**false** knowledge)

I was totally looking at life through the **wrong** lens.

I developed very ambitious goals and was well on my way to achieving them when all of a sudden **clouds** appeared on the horizon.

Stage 4: 35 – 49 years of age: hurricane season

The **clouds** gathered over Grasunan Farm, and little by little **storms** began to develop.

God places **storms** (circumstances) into a person's life and it is up to each person to recognize **them** for what **they** are, from **Whom they** come, and to figure out how to respond to **them**.

Totally **unaware** to me, this was the beginning of a different eternal destiny.

Sadly, most people do **not** realize that **God** is involved in their daily lives; therefore they do **not** recognize life's circumstances as signals from **God**.

Various areas of my businesses began to **crumble**.

In the **Bible**, **Jesus** calmed the **storm** on the Sea of Galilee; but on Grasunan farm, **He** created the perfect **storms**, one after another.

I had **no** idea what was happening.

All I knew was that I was **losing** money at a very **dangerous** rate.

I started experiencing **depression** for the first time in my life.

During the good years, I expanded the farm, started an oil distributorship, entered into the hog business, along with a hardware store, a farm supply company and a gourmet peanut company; all of which were **earthly** goals.

The oil business was the first to indicate something was **wrong**.

As it was **losing** money year after year, it pulled resources from the farming operation.

I had to turn things around or **disaster** was looming.

During all of this, I developed **glaucoma** and **lost** sight in one eye.

My mother **died** of **cancer** after a 5 year **battle**.

My mind was slipping further into **depression**.

As the years continued, my marriage became another **victim**.

My wife and I **separated** and we both decided the children would be better living with her.

That was a **crushing blow** for me.

I had decided early in my life that I would be close to my children regardless of the **cost**; and I was and still am.

After the children **left**, things continued to get **worst**.

I was **selling off** hundreds of acres of farmland in an attempt to save our family farm.

Finally, I decided to **get out** of farming.

I can look back on what happened in my life and see something that **never** crossed my mind during the time – **Someone** was arranging the events in my life.

Events just happened too perfectly timed.

A new job opportunity appeared at an agri-business facility which I owned.

I took the job which allowed me to have more flexible hours than in farming.

This meant that I could travel to participate as a coach for my children's athletic careers.

What a wonderful **blessing**.

I also began dating a girl that I had **not** seen in 20 years.

We married and she entered into a very **hard** situation – that of being a step-mom in a family where the dad was still rocking with **depression**.

The **storms** continued.

I still had **no** idea why.

People with a **distorted** worldview **cannot** see the bigger picture of life – that life's circumstances are being influenced by **God**.

All in all, I **lost** seven-figure money, farmland, fuel businesses, an agri-business, before I finally **collapsed** on my bed and **cried out** to **God** wanting to know what was going on.

What did **He** want?

There in my bedroom **He** spoke with **His** “silent” voice deep in my soul – **He wanted me.**

Why in the world would the **God of Creation** want the **broken, worn-out**, remnants of a once-successful man; a **sinner**?

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. When you seek Me with all your heart, I will be found by you,” declares the Lord. Jeremiah 29:11-14

Unbeknownst to me at the time, the next 15 years of my life could best be described by this verse, which has become one of my three favorite **Bible** verses.

Stage 5: 50 – present:

salvation & enrollment in God U.

This contains the most important time period of my life.

I going to tell you what happened to me and a lot of what I learned during this stage.

What I learned is well known among **true Christians**, but **not** to others.

This is my attempt to tell **lost people** the good news of **God's** salvation plan, and that **the lost** are **not** automatically a part of it.

I also hope they will become a **Christian** by reading how I did.

I had a high school classmate mate tell me **not** long ago he **never** dreamed I would become a **Christian**.

He did **not** think I could **humble** myself and **submit** to **Jesus**.

He and I are very good **Christian** friends today!

Two of my friends – Jim Branch & Kenneth Sykes – were aware of what was happening to me.

They stepped into my life and led me to **accepting Jesus** as my **Savior** at the Billy Graham retreat – The Cove.

I was the only person out of 600 men to go forward to accept **Jesus**; **don't** be **afraid** or **embarrassed** to do so when you get an opportunity – **Jesus** will **change** your life.

My life changed dramatically once again.

I can remember when Jim Branch told me that Kenneth Sykes had “gone religious”, I said, “Why would he do that and miss **out** on all of the fun in life.”

That **ignorant** sentence of mine can best sum up how **unsaved** people think of born again **Christians** and people living for **Jesus**.

Let me set my experience as a **Christian** straight – becoming a **Christian** is by far the **best** thing that has ever happened to me.

I am enjoying my “new” life as I have **never** experienced life before.

Everything about me has changed which has enabled me to see the world through the eyes of **Jesus Christ**.

I’m looking at the same world as before, but now I see it differently.

Things that were once so important mean **nothing** to me now.

I **cannot** describe to my friends how wonderful it is; I just **cannot** make them understand.

As I describe how my **Christian** life evolved, I’ll be telling you why I **cannot** make them understand.

As I began my **Biblical** education, slowly my worldviews started to change.

I could see that I had everything **upside down**.

The educational process I went through to change my world views meant that I had to learn **God’s truth** in **His Bible**.

The **Bible** states that **God** starts everyone into **Christianity** with baby steps.

A person’s **Christian** advancement is based 100% on that person’s willingness to learn and to what degree of a **Christian** they wish to become.

A **Christian** is a person **who**:

- has **admitted** (to **God**) that **they** are a **sinner**; (many people do **not** realize they are)
- who has pledged (to **God**) to **repent** of **their sinful** life style (which means to turn from their **old ways** of living for **self**); [this is different from asking for forgiveness for your **sins**]
- by placing **God/Jesus** as the number one priority in **their** life, and lives a life of **obedience**.

Admitting & recognizing that you are a **sinner** is the first critical step a person must make.

Repentance is a two-fold process: 1. turning away from **sin** 2. turning toward **God**.

Obedience is a life-long process which the **Holy Spirit** will help you with.

Once I was born again, the **Holy Spirit** started turning me into a new person (the **Bible** states this will happen).

The fact that the **Bible** states this and it actually happened to me is one more shred of evidence that the **Bible** is the **truth**.

I started slowly, but I set a goal to become the best **Christian** that I could possibly be – I wanted everything **God** had planned for me.

I'm going to tell you something that only a **few** people ever learn concerning the verse **John 3:16**.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Most people who read this think **Jesus** died for their **sins**, therefore they are going to **heaven** after **death**; automatically.

This may shock you, but **Jesus** did **die** for your **sins**, but you are **not** going to **heaven** **automatically** because of it.

John 3:16 is a promise from **God**.

All of **God's** promises in the **Bible** are **true**, but they are linked to a relationship requirement; a condition which you must fulfill.

You must **do** something, for any of them to be a promise to you.

In **Hosea 4:6**, the **Bible** states that people **perish** for **lack** of knowledge.

Perish refers to going to **hell**.

Due to the **lack** of **Biblical** knowledge, most people do **not** know what **"believes"** means in **John 3:16**.

It does **not** refer to the fact that you **"believe"** **God/Jesus** are real and that **They** did what the **Bible** claims.

"Believing" in **God/Jesus** is as deep as most peoples' religion gets; which they **"believe"** qualifies them to go to **heaven**.

Most people believe in a **god** of their imagination; **not** the **God** of the **Bible**; this is **Biblical** **ignorance**.

They assign qualities to their **god** that supports their lifestyle.

Because of this, many say the **Bible / God** are **not** relevant in today's society.

That's **Biblical ignorance** also – the **Bible** states that **God never** changes – **He** is the same as yesterday and tomorrow.

In **John 3:16**, “**whosoever believes**” means:

- whosoever lives for **God**;
- whosoever has **Jesus** as the **# 1 priority** in their life;
(having **no** other **gods** - **checkbook, society, materialism, self, etc**) ahead of **Jesus**;
- whosoever obeys -- which is **only** possible by **being born again** by the **Spirit of God**;
- whosoever is a **Christian**.

John 3:16's promise is conditional upon you **being born again**; otherwise it has **no** power whatsoever.

Everyone is born as an **enemy** to **God**, due to their **sinful nature**, and is **doomed** to **hell**, unless they are **born again**.

That is a **true Biblical** fact -- a fact that everyone should learn.

Jesus replied, “**I** tell you the **truth**, unless you are **born again**, you **cannot** see the **Kingdom of God**.” John 3:3

This is **God** speaking, revealing the secret to entering **heaven**.

The key is knowing exactly what born again means.

When a person becomes **born again**, the **Holy Spirit** is activated in their soul for the first time; they receive a brain transplant to get rid of their **old** ways of thinking.

By **being born again** by our **Commander in Chief**, **Christians** are serving notice to **Satan** that **their** lives are “under construction”, a project financed by the **death** of **Jesus**.

This great spiritual event detours the **Christian** off of the **broad road of destruction** onto the narrow road of **salvation**.

This event refers to a very powerful verse in **Matthew 7:13-14**:

For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to **destruction**, and **MANY** enter through it.

But small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to **life**, and only a **FEW** find it.

These words were quoted from **Jesus** by a man who heard **Him** say them.

This is **not** an ordinary human being talking.

This is **Jesus – God Himself** warning us that only a **FEW** people will go to **heaven**.

If you were flying to New York today and the CEO of United told you the plane was going to **crash**; would you still fly on that plane?

God is speaking from **His Word** – the **Bible**.

Heaven is there for whosoever; but **sadly**, people **lack** the **Biblical** knowledge to get there.

“A person’s direction – **not** their intention – determines their destination.”

This statement is from Andy Stanley’s book, *The Principle of the Path*.

If anything is more important to you than **God**, you have a direction **problem**.

Until you experience **God**, **He cannot** be real to you.

He is only an opinion or a fact that you have heard about.

Someone may tell you that a certain pit bull is as friendly as a lamb; but until you experience a **relationship** with that pit bull, what they tell you is only an opinion.

You must experience **God/Jesus** to gain **true** knowledge of **Them**.

Jesus tells us: “**I AM** the **Way**, the **Truth**, & the **Life**; **NO** man comes to the **Father** but by **Me**.”

If a person is **not** changed into a “new creature” (new values, personality, priorities, etc) – a new person, they **cannot** go through the **sin wall** which **separates** them from **God** & **heaven**.

“**I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in**”

Revelation 3:20

This is **Jesus** asking you to open the door in your **sin wall** to allow **Him** to **save** you.

When a person is **born again**, it is obvious to everyone who knows that person.

Once your “flesh” is out of the way with its self-centered demands and time-bound outlook, the power of God can begin to flow freely.

I’m sorry, but that is the way God’s plan for salvation works, regardless of whether you believe it or not.

Look at this 2-case scenario to see which you think makes the most sense:

#1 If you don’t believe in the Bible and end up being correct, what have I lost.

Nothing, other than having lived a good life here on earth.

#2 If you are wrong about the Bible & I’m right, what have you lost?

You have lost everything; you are doomed to hell & I’m walking on streets of gold.

And I’m not talking about just 70-80 years; its FOREVER!

I didn’t believe many of these facts until my Biblical education taught me otherwise.

There are 2 ways to be fooled:

1- to believe what is not true

2- to refuse to believe what is true.

You may be asking if one has to be born again to get into heaven, why don’t many of the preachers teach this.

They don’t teach it because of the fear of losing their job.

Not many (only a few) people want to be told that they have to do anything they don’t want to do – especially when they think they have their life right.

It is the same reason the preachers of Jesus’ day had Him killed -- He was telling a different story from the one they believed.

The true Gospel goes against everything the “world” knows and wants to accept.

By “world”, the Bible states that anyone who is not a born again Christian living for God is “of this world” and are enemies of God.

One is either for God or against Him – there is NO middle ground.

I had to change my worldview of everything; even God, Jesus, and the Bible.

I was like the Pharisees of Jesus’ time.

They were the “Sunday school teachers & preachers” of the day.

If anyone had their religion correct, it should have been them.

Jesus told them they were hypocrites and they would never see the gates of heaven.

I had to unlearn what I had been taught all of my life.

Jesus’ teachings were rebel ideas to the masses.

In a nutshell, that’s why they had Him killed.

I am totally amazing that I was able to live for 50 years thinking that I was a Christian when in fact; I was not in the ballpark.

The Bible states clearly that God has blinded the minds of the non-Christians.

There are 3 responses to God:

- 1- to live in ignorance of Him
- 2- to live in defiance of Him
- 3- to live in compliance with Him.

The Holy Spirit went to work on me, changing everything about me from the inside out.

The Holy Spirit is able to open our minds and hearts to grasp previously unrecognized truths and possibilities.

My way of thinking, the people I want to associate with, my values, my desires, everything – my entire worldview of life was changed.

I had to get rid of my “unknown gods” – materialism, power, money, etc. and replace them with Jesus.

Getting rid of “unknown gods” does not mean giving everything away; it means putting your love for Jesus and what He wants of you, ahead of your agenda.

The first commandment states that God will have no other gods ahead of Him.

This one fact keeps many people from becoming true Christians.

It is estimated (by surveys) that 80% of church-goers will not go to heaven.

People think that they are good enough to go; no one is good enough.

This is such a sad situation.

To live one’s entire life under a false assumption, to discover one second after death that they had everything wrong, is so sad.

The saddest part is, at that moment, it is too late to do anything about their final destination.

There is so much to learn about the True Gospel message.

I am still learning every day.

Stage 6: 56 years of age: Romans 8:28

Every day we are in a spiritual battle between **God's** forces and **Satan's** forces in the invisible realm and also in our minds.

The invisible spiritual **war** between **good** and **evil** is the ultimate stealth **war**.

It pits the two most powerful forces in existence in a **fight** to the finish.

The prize – **your soul** – goes to the victor.

Every decision you make every day of your life moves you closer to capture.

Human beings will **fight** this spiritual **battle** to the end with some having full knowledge of the outcome, yet millions will join the **losing** side.

There is **no** dispute about the end result – **God** wins!

You have been given the freedom to choose your side:

- **God's** victory-bound army
- **Satan's** live-for-the-moment **losers**.

Your choice should be a **no-brainer**, yet **Satan deceives** hundreds of millions of people – convincing them to **reject God's** offer of eternal **love** in favor of **Satan's** offer of **pleasures in this world**.

Most people do **not** understand the intensity of the **devil's evil** nature.

Satan hates your guts.

He will search out your **weaknesses** and **exploit** them.

Every choice matters.

Americans are **not** as concerned about the outcome of this spiritual **battle** as they are about physical comfort, emotional security, **personal image**, and **material** achievement.

People are **too** busy living to even think about this unseen **battle**.

The spiritual **battle** described above is from George Barna's book, *Think Like Jesus*.

When a person makes a stand for **Jesus**, one can count on **Satan attacking** them.

My **attack** caught me by **surprise**.

I had been taking antidepressants for about 15+ years when I **passed out** one morning and was rushed to the emergency room.

After many tests, it was determined that I had a **lethal** amount of antidepressants in my blood stream.

The doctors put me through drug **withdrawal** which was followed by my thyroid having to be **killed**.

I was rocking with **double depression**.

To help with this, a new doctor put me on Romoran – a new antidepressant.

I told people that I thought my head was being **hit** with a hammer – I had to have some relief.

In my **weaken**, human state, I made a big decision **without** consulting **God**.

I opted **out** – I tried to **take** my life.

As I sat in my truck, I asked **God** “**not** to **leave** me or **forsake** me” – I wanted to be sure of going to **heaven**.

When I said “me”, I pulled the trigger of my pistol which was tapped to two cans of **poison** – **methyl bromide**.

They exploded everywhere.

The **poison** went into my mouth and covered the truck.

I sat there.

Instantly I realized that I was **not** going to **die**.

I shook my head.

What **Satan** had meant for **harm**, **God** turned into **good**.

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them. Romans 8:28

This is a Bible promise, but one must be a **born again Christian** to receive it.

Gra experienced God that day!!!

What we call **miracles** are demonstrations of God's ability to change the laws of reality.

He acted faster than a speeding bullet.

You can **only** know God by firsthand experiences.

You will **never** know how much you really believe anything until its **truth** or **falsehood** becomes a matter of **life** or **death** to you.

Let me be perfectly clear – **GOD IS IN CONTROL.**

I have **NO** need of any further proof of **God/Jesus.**

God had plans for Gra.

This letter is part of His plan in my life.

Stage 7: 56 – 57: finding my purpose

After spending time in the hospital, I was taken to a **Christian** shrink who worked with me for months to get the correct antidepressant.

Meanwhile, he told me to read *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren, which I did.

The Purpose Driven Life is a **must** read for every human being.

This is the first sentence in the book: “Life is **not** about you.”

After finishing the book, I realized that **God** created each of us with certain gifts and talents for a specific purpose in life.

It is our responsibility to discover **His** purpose for us.

I examined my passions, abilities, personality, & experiences, and discovered that I wanted to serve my **God** through my **love** of **dogs**; and I also wanted to witness to my friends as to what I had learned since I became a **Christian**.

Immediately I created **Down East Animal Refuge (DEAR)**, a 501 c(3) **non-profit, no-kill dog** shelter.

With about 5 or 6 volunteers we went to work **saving dogs**.

My second passion or purpose was much **slower** in developing.

I wanted my statement to my friends to be meaningful and believable.

After 3 years, I presented it to friends in the form of a 32 page letter.

Only one individual had any worthwhile discussion concerning what I tried to get across to them.

This has been so **disheartening**.

I do **not** believe that my job with them is over yet.

Stage 8: 62 years old: the vision

Although I had discovered **God's** purpose for my life, I was **not** content in operating Down East Animal Refuge in spite of the fact that we were helping many dogs; I did **not** feel as if I was accomplishing anything for **God**.

One day as I was driving home from Norfolk Va., I bought a lottery ticket.

As I was going down the road I asked **God** if **He** would **bless** the ticket by allowing **DEAR** to win so that we could build a small facility of some sort to better draw people to our efforts.

He immediately responded clearly to me.

He told me to get my business affairs up to date.

I knew exactly what **He** was referring to.

During the years in the **hurricane** season with constant **depression**, I had **failed** to file (**not** pay; but to **not** even file) 5 years of income **tax** records for 4 companies I had at the time.

I wanted a **blessing** for my **dog** venture, so I went to work on the **tax** situation which took approximately 2-3 years.

In September of 2010, I filed the final **tax** return.

In less than 30 days, on October 19, 2010, **God** kept me awake all night.

This fact of staying awake all day, then all night, and all the next day, is a super-natural event for me.

At my **age**, this does **not** happen naturally.

He began what has become a slow process of revealing a vision associated with my life's purpose.

A revelation (vision) is the direct action of **God** impacting your mind and understanding.

Information comes from **outside** sources.

Revelation comes from **God** within you.

This first night, **God** began by guiding me in drawing a future **dog** complex.

This first design included two 500-foot kennels surrounded by water.

I saved that first drawing.

The next week, **God** kept me awake again all night revising the plans.

This time **He** instructed me to have 11 kennels, one for each disciple **except Judas**, a cross-shaped central pond, and a cross-shaped central building.

Once again a week later, **God** kept me awake for another all-nighter.

The finishing touches were drawn into **God's** vision for a **dog-shelter** ministry.

In the months following, I tried to create a name for this vision, but could **not** come up with a name that ideally identified the project.

One day as I traveled to visit another **dog** facility, I rounded a curve and saw a huge wooden cross beside the road.

Instantly, the name hit me – **Crossdogs!**

That's exactly how **God** communicates when one is willing to **listen** to **His** "quiet" voice within.

Crossdogs rescue ministry was named.

Stage 9: The Lord of my life

This stage is critical in becoming a person whom **God** can **use** for **His** purposes on earth.

Many a man desires for **Jesus** to be their **Savior**, but **ONLY A FEW** have **Him** as their **Lord**.

Having **Jesus** as your **Lord** is **demanding** – it requires **obedience**.

The **world** around you will **not** understand why you are doing some of the things that are now important to you.

However, I have only an audience of **One** to please.

That is why I wear a bracelet on my arm that states: “I am second”.

Some people ask why do I think I have life right.

Here are my answers:

1- because of what the **Bible** says will happen has happen: the **Bible** is **true**!

The **Bible** states that when a person is **born again**, the **Holy Spirit** is activated in that person’s soul.

That person becomes a “new” person in all ways.

This has happened to me.

2- **God** has saved my physical life via a miracle.

3- because I have seen life from **both** sides now.

Like the song – *Both Sides Now*:

“ . . . but now old friends are acting strange, they shake their heads,
they say I’ve changed.

Something’s **lost** but something’s **gained** in living every day.

I’ve looked at life from both sides now,

From **win** and **lose**, and still somehow
Life has been an **illusion**, I recall,
I've learned the real **truth** after all."

Non-Christians have only seen life from **one** side.

They **don't** know about the **true Christian** side.

They **cannot** relate to something that they have **never** experienced.

Making **Jesus** the **Lord** of my life meant that I had to **surrender** every part of my being to **His** control.

Many of us try to **withhold** a small section of life for whatever reason.

Having one boot in **God's** army and the other boot in **Satan's** camp will **not** work if you are trying to live a **Christian** life.

No one can **fool God**.

He sees everything.

He knows everything – even your secret thoughts.

Do you know when you are going to **die**?

He is in control of that also.

He already knows your final destination.

Jesus stands at the door of your **heart** and knocks.

You have a free choice to open that door, but you do **not** have freedom from the **consequences** of whether you accept **Him** or **not**.

Jesus is the **Lord** of my life.

I chose a winner – **He** is undefeated and will remain so.

Stage 10: 62 – present:**Waiting on the Lord**

Now is my “time in the desert” – the most painful and frustrating challenges of being a Christian wanting to be used by God.

He has led me to several critical books to read, educating me on issues He wants me to know.

One of the books, *Kingdom Man* by Tony Evans was wonderful in explaining many of my experiences of the past few years concerning Crossdogs; especially the naming of Crossdogs.

Tony also taught me that God allows the sinners of the world to “dig the wells” for His projects; just as they did in Canaan for the Hebrews.

In another very critical book, *The Praying Life* by Jennifer K. Dean, God reveals how He finds an intercessor on earth to accomplish His purposes.

The *Praying Life* describes how God initiates prayer in us so that we pray for the things that He wants to accomplish.

Every time I think I have a good handle on God and the gospel, He reveals to me just how little I do know.

The past 20 years has been quite a ride – I wouldn’t change anything about it except the waiting.

I truly believe with all of my soul that God is very near in bringing Crossdogs into manifestation.

All of the critical pieces are now in place.

It takes time for God to work.

To be continued!!

